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*We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all.
Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through
which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.*



Quarterly Newsletter | January 2018

Pangea Legal Services Turns Five Years Old!

Happy 5-Year Anniversary to Pangea!

Dear Friends and Family,

Pangea Legal Services turned five this month! We are so excited to have reached this milestone with all of your encouragement, solidarity, and support.

We launched in 2013 with the vision that all people have a fundamental human right to move. Even though we were in a very different political climate five years ago, a huge deportation machine was already in place. Today, with immigration issues in the news on a daily basis, we find that our vision and mission ring as true as ever.

In pursuit of our vision, our work has grown tremendously over the past five years: Pangea expanded from 1.5 to 11 full-time staff; we grew our board of directors from 3 to 7 members; we opened two offices (San Francisco in 2013 and Santa Clara County in 2015); and we represented over 1700 clients, about 80% in deportation proceedings.

Despite the increased difficulties we faced this past year, we continue to be inspired and energized by our clients and community who teach us

strength and resilience by their example. We are eager to continue in the struggle together with you all, and to continue to work toward our vision and mission.

With Love and Gratitude,
The Pangea Team

**Do you believe in the #RightToMove? Monthly contributions will help sustain our work and support our community members!
Become a monthly sustainer today!**

[Enroll Here](#)

Pangea's Horizontal Structure & Key Awards

We are especially proud of Pangea's [horizontal leadership structure](#). Our model is unique but easily replicable, and we hope others are encouraged to try non-hierarchy and shared leadership. The rapid growth of [our team](#), especially in the last year and with the increasingly hostile political climate, has not come without its challenges. However, with our horizontal structure, commitment to transparency, and honest team discussions, we are ever-stronger. The shared underlying values that we live by keep us resilient as we continue forward in our goal to end detention and defend the right to move.

Pangea and its team have received a number of awards and honors in the last five years, including:

- [Pangea featured in the Daily Journal](#) (Aug. 2014)
 - [Pangea founder Nilou named a Rising Star by Ozy](#) (May 2016)
 - Pangea awarded Certificate of Honor from the late Mayor Ed Lee (Dec. 2016)
 - [Pangea named leader in the Resistance issue of SF Magazine](#) (Jan. 2017)
 - [Pangea director Luis Angel awarded the Soros Justice Fellowship](#) (Sept. 2017)
 - [Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network \(Pangea is a member\) named SVCN Change Maker for 2017](#) (Dec. 2017)
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A Snapshot of Pangea's Work in 2017



- 460 [clients](#) received full-scope services
- 425 consultations provided, 142 of which were for detained immigrants & included extensive follow-up and brief services
- 22 detained clients reunited with families in the U.S. through release on bond, parole/discretionary release, grant of asylum, or grant under the Convention Against Torture (out of 25 cases completed)
- 136 work permits received (out of 141 requested)
- 35 asylum cases granted (out of 35 litigated)
- 27 adjustment of status granted (out of 27 filed)

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- 12 appeals filed for detained clients with the Board of Immigration Appeals
 - 11 bonds and releases granted for detained clients (out of 13 litigated)
 - 7 cases administratively closed (out of 8 requested)
 - 5 T Visas granted (out of 6 filed)
 - 5 Motions to Reopen granted (out of 7 litigated)
 - 3 successful habeas petitions (out of 3 litigated)
 - 2 detained prosecutorial discretion requests granted (out of 2 requested)



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- Conducted 10+ [large scale public campaigns for clients](#), and lifted up the stories of dozens more
 - Represented 18 detained clients through [SFILDC](#): 14 clients released and reunited with their families, 4 cases pending
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- Organized 50+ KYRs and solidarity trainings
- [Helped train 2500+ allies and community members](#) with [ILM](#) and [Migra Watch](#) (a neighborhood response program to observe and document ICE misconduct)
- Helped launch Rapid Response Networks across the Bay Area, in collaboration with community partners

- Initiated bi-monthly Community Forums for clients to discuss issues they're facing & help lead Pangea's advocacy efforts
- Advocated against criminal carve-outs in Santa Clara County's deportation defense funding
- Organized and facilitated a [nationwide webinar](#) with [PLI](#) on habeas petitions for detained immigrants with 3,000+ attendees
- Partnered with [Silicon Valley De-Bug](#) to create the [First 24 for immigrants in detention](#)
- Participated in 20+ Univision, other television, and radio shows



We couldn't do it without your support!

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Pangea's Leadership in Universal Representation Advocacy in the Bay and California at Large

- [Pangea helped initiate Bay Area advocacy around universal and detained representation](#) back in March 2016, and it came to fruition this year! Pangea staff traveled to New York with Human Rights Watch to meet with the founders of the [New York Immigrant Family Unity Project](#) (offering universal representation to immigrants facing deportation in New York State) to learn from their model and build partnerships. Pangea brought these lessons learned back to the Bay Area and began conversations with nonprofits, local government, foundations, and other partners around creating a detained

removal defense program.

- The first proposal began in Santa Clara County, [followed by San Francisco County](#). Public defender offices and foundations played enormous roles in advocating, building capacity and creating these detained representation programs. Proposals and subsequent funding for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties came soon after. In July, the [state of California](#) allocated an additional \$15 million, including for the representation of detained immigrants.



#FreeHugo #FreeRodrigo rally outside the detained immigration court in San Francisco
(June 2017)

Pangea Deepens Its Community-Led Deportation Defense Work

Pangea deepened its [community-led participatory removal defense work](#), in part through its collaboration with the [Immigrant Liberation Movement \("ILM"\)](#):

- [Pangea participated in numerous legal trainings](#) throughout the year in an effort to increase and support community-led deportation defense. In the face of the 2016 election and increased immigration enforcement, Pangea committed to protecting immigrant communities [beyond direct legal representation](#) and extended its work to include political empowerment of clients and their families.
- ILM trained 30+ *promotoras* (borrowing the name from lay community members and leaders trained to provide health education in Latin American

communities) over the course of 1.5 months, 40 hours, and 5-day long trainings. *Promotoras* were all undocumented people (youth and parents), 3 formerly detained, 9 in removal proceedings. The trainings focused on how to provide community-led deportation defense to their families and communities. These *promotoras* have since helped lead know-your-rights and [public campaigns for other detained immigrants](#) in their respective communities.

- ILM has helped lead numerous complex public campaign cases on behalf of detained individuals, while providing accompaniment for a dozen more. Public campaign cases combine community organizing and lawyering strategies to expose the inhumane immigrant detention system through the use of media, public rallies, and advocacy efforts with elected officials. Public campaigns center on those directly impacted by deportation and aim to empower families and loved ones to become agents of change in their own cases in order to ultimately create the community-led movement necessary to expose and end immigrant detention all together.



Promotoras in five full-day sessions of participatory education courses through ILM (Sept. 2017)

Pangea Helps Launch Rapid Response and Migra Watch Networks

- In collaboration with community partners, Pangea helped launch [Rapid Response Networks throughout Northern California](#). Working closely with organizers, faith leaders, attorneys, and impacted community members, Pangea helped to set up and manage the [San Mateo](#) and [Santa Clara](#) County [Migra Watch](#) networks. This involved working with [Rapidresponse.io](#) to

develop the software and the hotline technology platform, creating training materials and using them to train dispatchers to answer phone calls with KYR information and legal referrals 24/7, and training neighborhood volunteers on raids response and documenting ICE misconduct.

- Pangea and its partners (Faith in Action, CIYJA, EBIYC, PACT, Sacred Heart, Stanford IRC, AILA Santa Clara Chapter, Tahirih Justice Center, CLSEPA, SIREN, among others) fielded dozens of calls on the Santa Clara and San Mateo networks, often doing same-day emergency responses to the San Francisco detention processing center. During the same-day responses, attorneys conducted consults, advocated with ICE, and coordinated with family members.
- Pangea and ILM [trained over 2,500 Migra Watch observers](#) to verify immigration raids and document ICE misconduct (1,600 in SF and San Mateo, 500 in Santa Clara County, 150 in Alameda, 100 in Marin, 125 in Sonoma and Napa, 60 in Monterey, 40 in Santa Cruz, plus 100s more by each coalition in their counties).
- Pangea led a [nationwide webinar](#) with ILRC and SFILEN on how to establish rapid response networks in other cities throughout the country. Together with ILM and Rapidresponse.io, Pangea provided resources and materials to expand the model to 15 cities in 8 states such as Boston, Orlando, Staten Island, and Austin. An additional 20 other cities are currently in the process of on-boarding to create their own rapid response networks.



Speaking with media about Yazmin Elias's case at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (April 2017)

Pangea in the News and Media

(2017 Highlights)

- [Pangea client Floricel Ramos writes an op-ed for the San Francisco Chronicle](#)
- [Pangea client Yazmin Elias writes an op-ed for The Mercury News](#)
- [Pangea client Veronica Zepeda is profiled in Mother Jones](#)
- [Pangea client Joaquin Sotelo and attorney Etan are profiled in NBC Bay Area](#)
- [Pangea director Nilou and the Bay Area community's work are featured in SF Weekly regarding our efforts toward universal representation for detained immigrants](#)
- [Pangea director Luis Angel is featured in SF Weekly regarding the Immigrant Liberation Movement's legal observer community trainings](#)
- [The New York Times profiles Pangea attorney Luis Angel and client Lizbeth Mateo](#)

You can find [more news](#) about Pangea's clients, work and accomplishments on our website in our [prior newsletters](#).

**Warmly,
The Pangea Family**

**(Nilou, Marie, Bianca, Celine, Luis Angel, Etan,
Esperanza, Jehan, Juan Camilo, Mariel & Edwin)**



Thank you for your continued support and solidarity!

Donate Here

Pangea Legal Services is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible. We will put every dollar of your generous contribution to work by providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, and legal empowerment for low income immigrant communities.

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San Francisco Office

350 Sansome Street, Suite 650 | San Francisco, CA 94104

Santa Clara Office

538A Valley Way | Milpitas, CA 95035

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