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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 2019

A Year in Review: Pangea Powers on with the People

Dear Friends and Family,

We are thrilled to share some of our many successes and wins over the past year!

We are especially proud of what we accomplished because this work came with exponentially greater challenges in 2018 than ever before. The federal government's imposition of constant new legal hurdles and its general unwillingness to cooperate increased the amount of work, advocacy, and appellate litigation required in each of our cases (sometimes by tenfold). It also affected the number of people we were able to serve compared to prior years. But we are not dissuaded; we continue onward -- strong, calm, and motivated in the midst of increased pressure.



Some of our past year's accomplishments:

- Litigated in immigration and [federal district courts](#), sending [ripples](#) across the U.S.
- Provided legal information and support to [migrants fleeing persecution](#) in Mexico and at the US-Mexico border
- Helped [shut down an ICE facility](#) in Northern California
- Informed the media and greater public [nationwide](#) about the [illegitimate and inhumane](#) treatment of our clients and their families
- Held [ICE accountable for their wrongful actions](#) together with organizers and community members

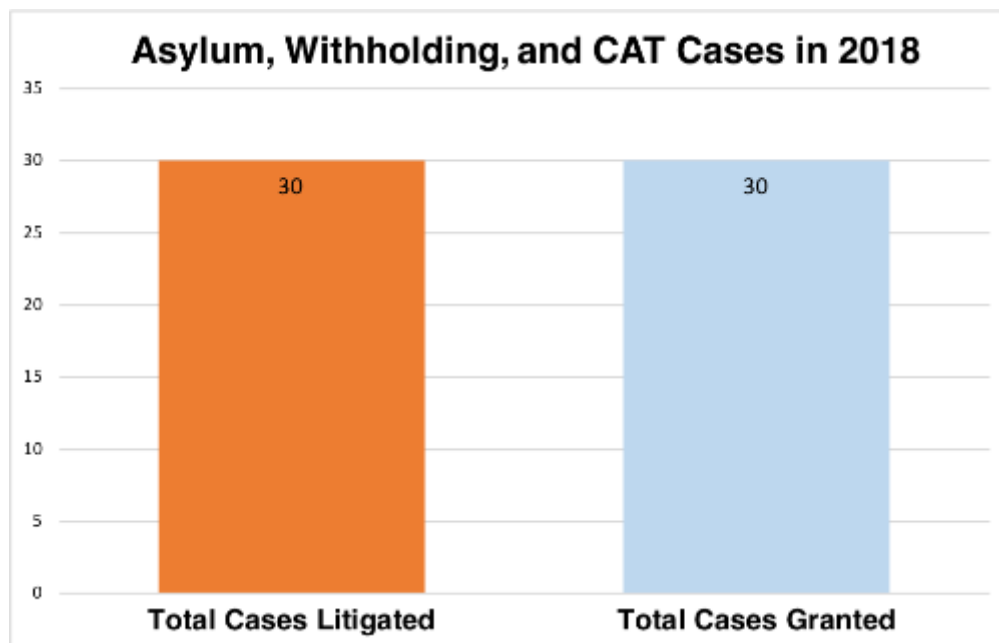
Pangea's Work in Numbers





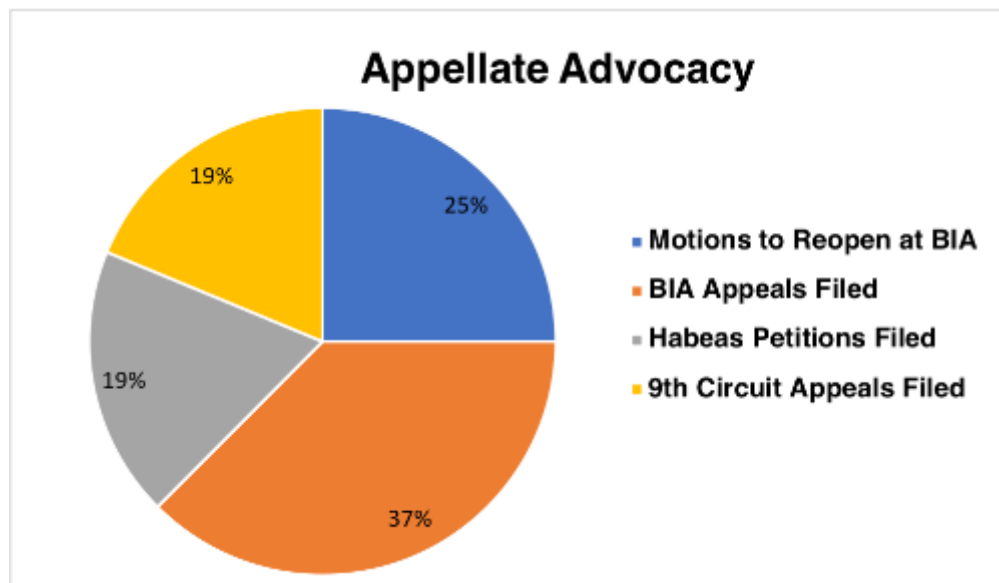
In 2018, Pangea was able to help hundreds of asylum seekers, families, and migrants:

- 485 consultations provided, 159 of which were for detained immigrants & included extensive follow-up and brief services
- 456 clients received full-scope services
- 17 detained clients reunited with families in the U.S. through release on bond, parole/discretionary release, habeas, grant of asylum, or grant under the Convention Against Torture (out of 19 cases completed)
- 16 cases filed at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), the Ninth Circuit, and the federal district court, including appeals, motions to reopen, and motions for a stay of removal
- 10+ [large-scale](#) public [campaigns for clients](#), and [lifted up](#) the [stories of dozens more](#)



- 91 work permits received (out of 94 requested)
- 60 motions to terminate filed, following the Supreme Court's decision in *Pereira v. Sessions*
- 30 asylum, withholding, and CAT cases granted (out of 30 litigated)
- 13 adjustments of status granted (out of 13 filed)
- 8 cases administratively closed (out of 11 requested)
- 6 motions to reopen granted (out of 7 litigated)

- 2 successful habeas petitions (out of 3 litigated and 5 prepared for filing)



Thank you for standing with us, especially those who make monthly contributions. Monthly donors help make our work sustainable in the long-term. We love you.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Pangea's Community Empowerment Work

At the border of the U.S. and Mexico: In 2018, six [Pangea staff](#) traveled to Mexico (Puebla and Mexico City) and the U.S.–Mexico border (Tijuana and Nogales) [to provide Know-Your-Rights presentations and legal support](#) to thousands of [Central American caravan/exodus members](#) who persist in asserting their right to safe and dignified lives/livelihoods. As the current administration aims to [deter asylum seekers](#) from coming to the U.S., Pangea is committed to furthering its work in 2019 by sending more staff to the border to help address the need for information about migrants' rights and the asylum process, before entering the U.S.

The Immigrant Liberation Movement & *Promotora* Trainings: Through its work with the [Immigrant Liberation Movement \(ILM\)](#), Pangea organized a second round of [promotora trainings](#) in San Mateo County in the summer of 2018. Over the course of five weeks, nearly two dozen undocumented immigrant families came together to learn how to liberate their loved ones from detention and deportation. The trainings

cover the U.S. immigration system and its laws, as well as concrete steps that communities can take to advocate for the release of a detained community member - practices they can put in place with or without an attorney.



Pangea Directors, Pete Weiss and Edwin Carmona-Cruz, at a special service in Sacramento, in support of Pangea client Miguel Angel, prior to his bond hearing in Colorado (Dec. 2018)

Pangea's Advocacy Work

Success: Immigration Detention Center Shuts Down in the Bay Area: After persistent protests from detained and non-detained community members in Contra Costa County, the Sheriff's Office decided to [terminate its contract with ICE](#) at the West County Detention Facility. In the wake of the announcement, community groups implored city officials and ICE to [implement a just and responsible closure](#), calling for the release of detained individuals and reunification with their families.

Continued Anti-Detention Advocacy Nationally: Following the termination of the ICE contract, Pangea and other Bay Area organizations partnered to provide representation to the detained individuals, securing release for several people. We also highlighted the injustices that persisted for our community at the Colorado ICE detention center, where many California residents were transferred. At a [cross-state press conference](#) (photo below) hosted by the West County Liberation Front, Pangea Director, Esperanza Cuautle, denounced conditions at the ICE facility and

called for an end to detention. We are excited about the [escalating nationwide movement](#) to [terminate ICE contracts](#) and [shut down immigration detention centers](#), one ICE facility at a time, in pursuit of ending immigration detention altogether.

Rally to Shut Down ICE in Santa Clara County: In a similar vein, Pangea helped organize a [rally to shut down an ICE processing center](#) in Morgan Hill, CA, after ICE was [refusing to let attorneys speak with recently arrested community members](#) who were being forced to sit in ICE vans for hours on end -- in violation of their basic constitutional rights.



Pangea Director, Esperanza Cuautle, speaking at cross-state press conference denouncing detention conditions at privately operated ICE immigrant detention facilities (Oct. 2018)

Pangea's Staff & Governance Structure Updates

Pangea [maintained a staff of 11](#) throughout 2018. We welcomed our first Equal

Justice Works Fellow and new Pangea attorney, Pete Weiss, at the end of 2018, and we wished our friend and colleague, Juan Camilo, farewell and good luck in his move back to the East Coast this month.

Pangea's South Bay office moved **from Milpitas to a bigger space in San Jose** at the start of this year! We are now located in the San Jose Unified School District building. Stay tuned for our office warming announcement!

We **turned inward** this year and dedicated a number of retreats to **building our foundation and collectively-run structure**. We created "Hubs" (or committees) for our administrative and programmatic areas of work, and distributed decision-making authority, responsibilities, and execution authority to each Hub. We are in the process of updating our [horizontal structure statement](#) with more information about our updated model; check back soon!

**With Love & Gratitude,
The Pangea Family**

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

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

San José Office

855 Lenzen Avenue | San José, CA 95126

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