

# THE IMMIGRANT ADVOCATE

TEACHING, INTERPRETING, AND CHANGING LAW SINCE 1979



## Message from ILRC Executive Director, Eric Cohen

**This is not normal.** Previous administrations have targeted immigrants and enacted harsh immigration policies, but we have never seen anything like what has occurred in the first few months of the Trump administration.

I am sure that you are following in disbelief each new attack that the administration launches against immigrants and their families. We knew things would be challenging, but I do not think that anyone could have imagined how punitive, racist, and cruel the federal government would be. The administration's anti-immigrant campaign has spread fear and anxiety among immigrant communities. It has emboldened nativists to climb out of the shadows and into the mainstream. The ILRC, and its partners across the nation, stand for a country where immigrants are welcomed and that fair and just policies govern our immigration system.




**The current administration wants you to think of immigrants as the "other." The ILRC believes that there is no "them." There is only "us."**

One unintended consequence of the administration's actions is that it has served to galvanize a movement supporting immigrants and their families. The ILRC has received an outpouring of support from people across the country compelled to invest in the work of the ILRC, with surges of support after the election in November and after the first attempt at the Muslim-targeted immigration ban in January. The ILRC **doubled** the number of contributors in this time, with many of you making your first gift ever to the ILRC. **Thank you!** You have been instrumental in helping to position the ILRC to defend and protect immigrants and their families.

In the Winter 2016 newsletter, I pledged that the ILRC

would redouble its efforts to build capacity within the legal sector and immigrant communities. You can see how we have started to do so in our article of recent hires. We are conducting more Know Your Rights campaigns for the community than ever before. More than 1.6 million of our Know Your Rights Red Cards have been distributed to the community since the election. We are increasing our efforts to defend and expand sanctuary cities and counties to even more locales. Also, we are training more advocates than ever on how to help the community protect itself and how to provide high quality legal representation in deportation hearings. Additionally, we continue to increase the work of the New Americans Campaign to help as many people as possible become United States citizens; after all, citizenship is the ultimate protection from deportation and enhances one's voice through voting and increased civic participation opportunities.

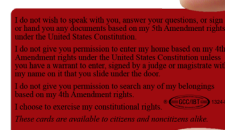
The current administration wants you to think of immigrants as the "other." The ILRC believes that there is no "them." There is only "us." Working together with our partners and our supporters, the ILRC has never been better positioned to move the needle towards fair and just immigration policies, which will benefit every one of us. 

**1,600,000+**  
RED CARDS DELIVERED SINCE THE ELECTION

The ILRC's Know-Your-Rights **Red Cards** empower immigrants to assert their constitutional rights to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other law enforcement agencies.

**FIND OUT MORE:**

[bit.ly/theredcard](http://bit.ly/theredcard)




# AB 103: Victory Halts California Immigration Detention Center Expansion

Thanks to a landmark victory in the California Legislature, budget action AB 103 passed in June. This budget action empowers California to be the first state to put a moratorium on the expansion of immigration detention facilities in public jails. AB 103 also gives the Attorney General a budget of \$1 million to monitor active immigration detention facilities. The ILRC and its partners, like Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), advocated for and consulted on this measure. California continues to demonstrate leadership in this fraught political climate. No state in the U.S. has ever had a process for the external oversight of and reporting on detention facilities in the state. These reviews will occur over the next 10 years, with findings made available to the public. The first report is due by March 1, 2019.



The budget action prevents California’s municipalities from entering into new contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any federal agency for the purpose of detaining immigrants in city or county jails. It also prevents the expansion of detention beds in publicly run facilities under existing contracts with ICE, including any facilities housing immigrant children.

AB 103 sends a strong message to detention facility operators that California will be watching to ensure that they are treating every single person in their custody with the humanity they deserve. **This is a victory for human rights.**

AB 103 perfectly complements SB 29, the Dignity Not Detention Act, which seeks to remove California’s municipalities from the business of private immigration detention altogether. With support from a statewide coalition of groups, including the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA), the Immigrant Youth Coalition (IYC), and Human Rights Watch (HRW), SB 29 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Soon the full Assembly will vote on SB 29 and we hope Governor Brown will sign it into law. SB 29 is authored by California State Senator Ricardo Lara (D - Bell Gardens) and co-sponsored by the ILRC and CIVIC. 

## The ILRC: Champions of Sanctuary for Immigrants

Since the election, the ILRC has prioritized the defense and expansion of sanctuary policies by providing legal analysis, campaign assistance, and written resources on immigration enforcement for communities in nearly half of the country. We strive to engage in policies and practices like Sanctuary that work to keep families together and avoid the devastating effects deportation has when families are ripped apart. We provided support for partners in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Vermont, and Virginia, where advocates and community members are fighting to end entanglement between their local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

We continue to provide deeper support to grassroots groups in California to advocate for the most progressive local anti-deportation policies and in Texas to ensure a strong resistance to the state’s most severe anti-sanctuary policies.

In Texas, the ILRC continues to strengthen the capacity of organizations in key cities around the state to push back on local law enforcement involvement in deportations, 287(g), and SB 4, the state’s newest anti-sanctuary law. Through our ongoing support of United We Dream’s Houston-based organizers, Harris County terminated its 287(g) agreement—an agreement that gives the Department of Homeland Security the power to deputize state and local law enforcement personnel to enforce federal immigration law—the largest in the country, in February 2017.


In California, the ILRC continues to work with our partners to implement existing anti-deportation laws like the TRUST and TRUTH Acts while advocating for adoption of the California Values Act, the most expansive sanctuary policy in the country.

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To counter the federal administration's efforts to drastically expand the use of mandatory detention and deportation, the Immigrant Justice Network—a joint partnership of the ILRC, the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP), and that National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers' Guild (NIPNLG)—prepared three joint resources in support of communities this year:

- 1 A **community advisory**<sup>1</sup> on Trump's first immigration-related executive orders, days after they were issued;
- 2 "**Dismantle, Don't Expand**,"<sup>2</sup> a report by the Immigrant Rights Clinic at the NYU School of Law and the Immigrant Justice Network that provides information to fight increased criminalization based on draconian anti-immigrant laws of 1996; and
- 3 "**The Promise of Sanctuary Cities**,"<sup>3</sup> a report by the Fair Punishment Project, IDP, and the ILRC providing eight commonsense criminal justice reforms local jurisdictions can adopt to meaningfully protect immigrant communities from deportation.


Mitigating the damaging effect of immigration enforcement on individuals, families, and communities across the United States continues to be a top priority for the ILRC. 

Links: 1. [bit.ly/commadvfaq](https://bit.ly/commadvfaq) 2. [bit.ly/dismantledontexpand](https://bit.ly/dismantledontexpand) 3. [bit.ly/promiseofsanctuarycities](https://bit.ly/promiseofsanctuarycities)

## Helping to Build the Voice of Citizens, One Application at a Time

The New Americans Campaign, led by the ILRC, and its partners continue to see an increase in the number of inquiries and applications from immigrants who are eligible to apply for citizenship. Citizenship gives immigrants a louder voice in the immigration conversation, and helps to provide context for today's immigration issues. Since 2011, the Campaign has completed over 287,000 naturalization applications and 86,000 fee waivers or reduced fee requests, and overall saved aspiring citizens and their families over \$260 million in the past six years!

The Campaign recently rolled out a newly improved website that highlights the services and support that it provides. The new site makes it easier to find information about local naturalization workshops, links directly to Citizenshipworks, and provides information about the benefits of citizenship—like voting, petitioning for family members, increasing opportunities for jobs, and an online calculator so immigrants can see if they are eligible to have the application fee waived or reduced. It also shares inspirational stories from those who have applied for citizenship through the New Americans Campaign. Visit [newamericanscampaign.org](https://newamericanscampaign.org) to learn more.

On May 30, four of the New Americans Campaign's founding funders penned an opinion article featured in the Chronicle of Philanthropy. The article made the case for investing in naturalization through a coordinated effort like the New Americans Campaign as a way to combat "anti-immigrant vitriol." 

To read the article in its entirety, visit <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/opinion-how-a-philanthropic/240194>

### OVER 6 YEARS OF IMPACT AND SUCCESS

OVER  
**287,000**  
citizenship applications completed  
since July 2011

OVER  
**86,000**  
fee waivers and reduced fee requests  
completed since July 2011

OVER  
**\$260,000,000**  
saved for aspiring citizens and their  
families in legal and application fees

OVER  
**4,800**  
naturalization events held since July 2011, including  
naturalization information sessions, volunteer trainings,  
and group application workshops



[www.newamericanscampaign.org](https://www.newamericanscampaign.org)

Led by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, the *New Americans Campaign* is a diverse nonpartisan national network of respected immigration organizations, legal services providers, faith-based organizations, immigrant rights groups, foundations and community leaders. The Campaign transforms the way aspiring citizens navigate the path to becoming new Americans. It is committed to connecting lawful permanent residents (LPRs) to trusted legal assistance and critical information that simplifies the naturalization process.

# 2017

## PHILLIP BURTON IMMIGRATION & CIVIL RIGHTS AWARDS



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**The ILRC** celebrated the 2017 Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards with over 350 sponsors, supporters, and community members. This year's awards paid tribute to former Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley and Thuy Vu, host of "KQED Newsroom", for their commitment and dedication to the advancement of immigrant rights. This year set a new record, exceeding our attendance goal and surpassing our fundraising goal by 28%.

San Francisco's Hotel Nikko welcomed guests celebrating the evening's theme of "Keep Moving Forward." Bartholomew J. Dalton, President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, presented the ILRC with the prestigious Emil Gumpert Award and a \$100,000 grant to keep the ILRC moving forward on its immigrant post-conviction relief project. Keynote speaker California Attorney General Xavier Becerra reminded the audience that, as attorney general, he would defend those moving forward against the onslaught of perilous executive orders and the divisive affront to immigration.

While the present administration ramps up anti-immigrant policies, including increased arrests, detentions, and deportations, the ILRC's fight to uphold the Constitution, legislative check and balances, as well as the norms of international diplomacy is a marathon that we expect to finish.

We stand in the belief that we will ultimately persevere. For this reason, the ILRC borrowed these words from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to inspire the 2017 Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards:

**"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."**



**Pictured:** 1. 2017 Nancy Pelosi Award for Policy Recipient, Martin O' Malley 2. ILRC Founder Bill Ong Hing and Phillip Burton Award for Advocacy Recipient, Thuy Vu 3. ILRC Board Member Lisa Lindelef, Ben Golvin, and ILRC Board Member Cynthia Alvarez 4. Honorary Co-Chair Bruce Golden, Bruce Goldstein, Markos Kounalakis, and ILRC Board Member & Honorary Co-Chair Michelle Mercer

## Lisa Spiegel

Chair, ILRC Board of Directors | Partner, Duane Morris LLP

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## Michelle Mercer

ILRC Board Member

2017 Honorary Burton Awards Co-Chair

## Bruce Golden

Investor, Accel Partners

2017 Honorary Burton Awards Co-Chair



## MARTIN O'MALLEY

RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 NANCY PELOSI AWARD FOR POLICY

Former Governor of Maryland, Former Mayor of Baltimore, 2016 Presidential Candidate

In recognition of his prolific and commendable contribution to champion and enact policies that extend immigrant rights and embrace new Americans, was bestowed the honor of receiving the ILRC's 2017 Nancy Pelosi Award for Policy. As Governor of Maryland, he not only extended driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants but also proudly passed the DREAM Act that provided access to college for young undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. During his 2016 Presidential candidacy, Governor O'Malley instituted the most comprehensive and progressive immigration platform in our nation's history calling for the end of immigration raids and the expansion of Temporary Protected Status for the Northern Triangle countries in Central America, which would provide temporary legal status for 1.2 million undocumented immigrants.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 PHILLIP BURTON AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

## THUY VU

Host of "KQED Newsroom"



Thuy Vu is a five-time Emmy-award winning journalist, anchor and program host. She emigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1975, fleeing the country with her family as Saigon fell to the communists. Her personal journey as a Vietnamese immigrant informs her work as a journalist, and particularly her coverage and advocacy of the Asian-American community in the U.S.

Thuy Vu's personal and professional journeys are not only inspirational but more importantly a testament to the strength and courage to prevail against all odds. The ILRC proudly recognizes Thuy Vu's awareness raising efforts in support of the immigrant communities in the U.S. and abroad.



**"When I get too comfortable, I am reminded of the ugly sentiment that lies just below the surface – it keeps simmering. Most recently, a comment appeared on my Facebook site that said, "Go back to where you came from." Seven words. But, they are seven words that speak volumes about hate, intolerance, prejudice, and ignorance. They are seven words that still sting. What does this sentiment do to the child of immigrants? You are here because you care, and I am encouraged by what I see in this room. We have a shared responsibility to stop this relentless dissent. I implore you to join the journey that is so critical right now – the road to liberty and justice for all."**

Thuy Vu at the 2017 Phillip Burton Awards

**Pictured: 1.** Burton Awards guests at the event photo booth **2.** Thuy Vu **3.** ILRC Board Chair Lisa Spiegel and Martin O'Malley

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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## XAVIER BECERRA

2017 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

California Attorney General

On January 24, 2017, Xavier Becerra became the 33rd Attorney General of the State of California. He is the first Latino to hold this office in the history of the state. The son of Mexican immigrants, Attorney General Becerra's stance on immigration is one of a very personal nature and of extreme importance. His parents' experience informs every decision he makes to improve the lives of immigrants. As such, he has vowed to protect California's interests against any misguided efforts by the current administration to undo the state's policies that help immigrants get driver's licenses, college financial aid, and legal assistance in fighting deportation orders.

**"The folks that we are trying to help are no different from my mother and father. They just want to work to give their kids a better life than they had. They are the absolute believers in the American Dream. These immigrants are the people who make this country work. All they want is a chance."**

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra at the 2017 Phillip Burton Awards



**The ILRC was awarded the American College of Trial Lawyers' prestigious 2017 Emil Gumpert Award for the ILRC's Immigrant Post-Conviction Relief Project. The project seeks to aid immigrants facing deportation because of unlawful criminal convictions.**

**Pictured: 1.** Keynote Speaker, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra  
**2.** ILRC Executive Director Eric Cohen and ACTL President Bartholomew J. Dalton

## Message from ILRC Executive Director, Eric Cohen

The ILRC's work is about far more than politics and immigration law. It is about keeping families and communities of all backgrounds where they rightfully belong—together. This compels the ILRC's staff to remain focused on protecting the progress made in our field to date and to continue to call for greater protections for immigrants in our country.

In 2016, we saw a rise in anti-immigrant fervor that, in 2017, feels unrelenting. We stand resolute with immigrants, immigrant advocates, and supporters to protect our democracy, the values of diversity, and the rights of all people.




# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



### MISSION

*The mission of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center is to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people.*

**“One of the biggest challenges that we’re facing in immigrant communities in this country is that the very act of moving and migrating for reasons of love, or taking care of your family or fleeing violence—that very act is a crime. And we will not stop until that act is no longer a crime, and we fully humanize and decriminalize the immigrant community.”**

Cristina Jiménez at the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards



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## 2016 POLICY ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

### Spotlight on the ILRC's Sanctuary Work

The ILRC got right to work after the election ramping up our efforts to increase the adoption of policies limiting the involvement of local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement work, sometimes referred to as sanctuary policies. The ILRC is working to promote sanctuary efforts around the country with the goal of slowing down the Administration's deportation machine. In the midst of a rapidly deteriorating political climate at the federal level, this involved educating lawmakers and the media in jurisdictions across the country on specific policy steps they could implement to protect immigrants and their families from deportations at the local level. To this end, the ILRC:


- Published "**Searching for Sanctuary**,"<sup>1</sup> a report on types of sanctuary policies, their prevalence, and their importance;
- Updated our "**National Map of Local Entanglement with ICE**"<sup>2</sup> using Freedom of Information Act data received from Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- Spread the gospel of sanctuary policies in major media outlets, including features in the *New York Times*<sup>3</sup>, *The Washington Post*<sup>4</sup>, and *Univision National*<sup>5</sup>; and
- Published "**Local Options for Protecting Immigrants**,"<sup>6</sup> a resource for community organizers, advocates, and elected officials that provides sample legal language on various sanctuary policy provisions. 

### Legislative Successes in California

The ILRC is committed to legislative and policy reform that lessens or eliminates the devastating immigration-related impact that criminal convictions can have on immigrants, their families, and their communities. In 2016, the ILRC and our allies drafted and helped pass two bills to help immigrants, Senate Bill 1242 and Assembly Bill 813. Additionally, we provided education about the immigration consequences of California's Proposition 64, the Marijuana proposition that California voters passed last year.

**Senate Bill 1242**, authored by Senator Ricardo Lara, amends a law that the ILRC drafted and helped pass two years ago. That law, Penal Code § 18.5, changed the definition of a misdemeanor in California by just one day, from having a potential sentence of 365 days to 364 days. For technical reasons, this one-day change will prevent thousands of California immigrants from becoming deportable or unable to get a green card, due to a single misdemeanor conviction. The 2017 amendment, SB 1242, applies this change retroactively to prior misdemeanor convictions.

**Assembly Bill 813**, authored by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, creates Penal Code § 1473.7. This law provides California criminal courts with a way to vacate (eliminate) a conviction that was illegally imposed. An immigrant can seek to vacate the conviction because a legal error occurred which meant that they did not understand the immigration consequences of their guilty plea. Until this law, a person who already completed probation had almost no way to get into court to challenge the illegal conviction, and would be caught up in deportation. The law also helps people challenging convictions based on innocence.

**California Proposition 64** ("Prop 64"), known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, was passed by the voters in November 2016. This law permits Californians who are 21 years or older to lawfully possess, use, share, or grow a small amount of marijuana for recreational purposes, under certain conditions. At the request of one of Prop 64's sponsors, the Drug Policy Alliance, the ILRC wrote a pre-election White Paper to educate the public about how Prop 64 would affect immigrants. The White Paper found that Prop 64 would be extremely helpful, because many immigrants receive terrible immigration-related penalties, such as deportation or ineligibility for a green card or naturalization, for even minor drug conduct, including using or possessing marijuana. The White Paper also identified continuing risks to immigrants, some of whom can be penalized for admitting to authorities that they ever tried marijuana, even without a conviction. Since Prop 64's passage on November 9, the ILRC has worked closely with the Drug Policy Alliance on how best to educate immigrants and the community on these issues. 

Links: 1. [ilrc.org/searching-sanctuary](http://ilrc.org/searching-sanctuary) 2. [ilrc.org/local-enforcement-map](http://ilrc.org/local-enforcement-map) 3. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/02/us/sanctuary-cities.html>

4. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/sanctuary-cities/> 5. <http://www.univision.com/noticias/inmigracion/ciudad-o-condado-santuario-un-informe-explica-cual-puede-protger-mas-al-inmigrante-indocumentado> 6. [ilrc.org/local-options](http://ilrc.org/local-options)

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# Joining the ILRC Family



## Ariel Brown | Law Fellow

In April 2017, Ariel Brown started as a Law Fellow to assist with manuals, practice advisories, and the ILRC's Attorney of the Day legal technical assistance program. Before this, Ariel spent five years in private practice with the Sacramento immigration firm Schoenleber & Waltermire, PC. She worked on a broad range of immigration cases including removal defense, DACA, and naturalization. Ariel received her undergraduate degree in anthropology from UCLA and her J.D. from UC Davis School of Law. She was a student advocate in the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic and an editor for the Journal of International Law and Policy.



## Manny Guisa | Development Coordinator

Manny Guisa began working with the ILRC as the Development Coordinator in July 2017. Before joining the organization, Manny worked with A Better Chance, a national educational-access organization, whose Northwest Region is based in Oakland. His background is in design and program development. As a DACA recipient himself, Manny is deeply passionate about bolstering impact for the under-served and looks forward to putting his skill-sets to use on individual giving initiatives with the ILRC. Manny holds a B.A. in Film & Electronic Media and a Minor in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach.



## Charlie Syms | Human Resources Director

The ILRC welcomed Charlie Syms as Human Resources Director in May 2017. Before working at the ILRC, Charlie spent four years at Google in various HR roles, most recently as an HR Business Partner for product teams. He also conducted research on contemporary social movements in South Korea on a Fulbright Grant. In his free time, Charlie enjoys hiking and biking throughout the Bay Area. Charlie received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Stanford University.



## Cynthia Tirado Housel | Director of Leadership Giving

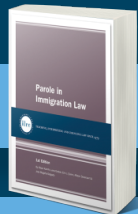
Cynthia Tirado Housel joined the ILRC as the Director of Leadership Giving in March 2017. Her focus is on developing and leading a comprehensive major gifts program. Cynthia has over twenty years of fundraising experience, including work on major gifts, capital campaigns, special events, annual funds, grant writing, and corporate partnerships. Cynthia is the proud child of immigrant parents who settled in Los Angeles. She will complete her B.A. in Organizational Leadership from Arizona State University in December 2017.

### Interns:

The ILRC welcomed its 2017 ILRC Legal Intern Class this summer - Karla Cruz (McGeorge), Fabian Coronado (UC Davis), Wesley Cheung (UC Davis), Maria Nunez (Wesleyan), Alex Sy-Quia (University of Edinburgh) based in our San Francisco office and Jasmin Keskinen (George Washington University) and McKensie Meadows (University of Illinois) based in our D.C. office. Karla, Fabian, Wesley are rising 3Ls. Jasmin and McKensie are rising 2Ls. Alex and Maria are undergraduates. Our interns were with the ILRC for 10 weeks.

## Updated Publications

In 1984, the ILRC published its first manual. Since then, the ILRC has been providing essential practical guides for legal practitioners. All publications are produced by the ILRC's expert immigration attorneys. Revenue from the ILRC publications helps support critical programs in the community.



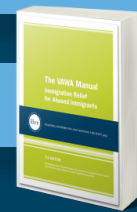
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