

THE IMMIGRANT ADVOCATE

TEACHING, INTERPRETING, AND CHANGING LAW SINCE 1979



SUMMER

2018

MESSAGE FROM THE ILRC

By Eric Cohen | ILRC Executive Director



Children forcibly separated from their families and held in cages, huddling for comfort under Mylar blankets. The sounds of an unholy choir of sobbing and crying out for family in youth detention centers. This is happening in America right now as I write this. This is intentional psychological torture on children meant to be a punitive deterrent against people seeking a better life in the United States, families escaping from violence and poverty in their countries of origin. Children are not a bargaining chip to be used by this administration as a means to get funding for a border wall.

Our nation is in crisis, but it is not the result of the actions of one man. It is the result of the actions of an entire administration that would use its control of the branches of government to strip the United States of its founding and fundamental values. Family separation is yet another heartless move by the Trump administration to impose its white supremacist agenda on the American people while corrupting this nation's spirit and destroying this country's credibility on the international stage.

We are all exhausted by the relentless onslaught of grotesque executive orders and policies, so give yourself time to mourn and to replenish your energy.

Many people are asking what they can do and how they can help. Contact your elected representatives by phoning the U.S. Capitol switchboard number at (202) 224-3121 and let them know that you will not stand for children being traumatized in exchange for funding for a border wall. After that, mobilize your networks to flood their elected officials to stand for the rights of immigrants and to reunite families. If you can, invest in organizations like the ILRC who are committed to preserving the rights of immigrants and their families so

that they can stay together in this country and thrive.

We are all exhausted by the relentless onslaught of grotesque executive orders and policies, so give yourself time to mourn and to replenish your energy. Then, jump back into the fight. You'll be joined by me, the staff and board of the ILRC, and other partners and organizations on the ground demanding that families be reunited now. We need permanent, just, and inclusive immigration policies, not human rights abuses. Our country's strength is not rooted upon whom we can impose our power, but in how we treat the most vulnerable in our communities.



SEPARATING CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES AT THE BORDER: OUR NEWEST INHUMANITY TO IMMIGRANTS (A CHILD PSYCHIATRIST'S TAKE)

By Roger Wu, MD | Member, ILRC Board of Directors



From a medical and psychological point of view, the question as to whether the current Administration's "zero-tolerance" policy of separating children from their parents is discouraging immigrants from seeking asylum or trying to immigrate to the United States isn't even the right question to be asked—especially when considering that the children included infants still breast-feeding, toddlers, teenagers, and even some children with special needs and/or medical issues.

Literally no professional medical body or psychological association has suggested that child separation as a routine policy is, in any manner, acceptable.

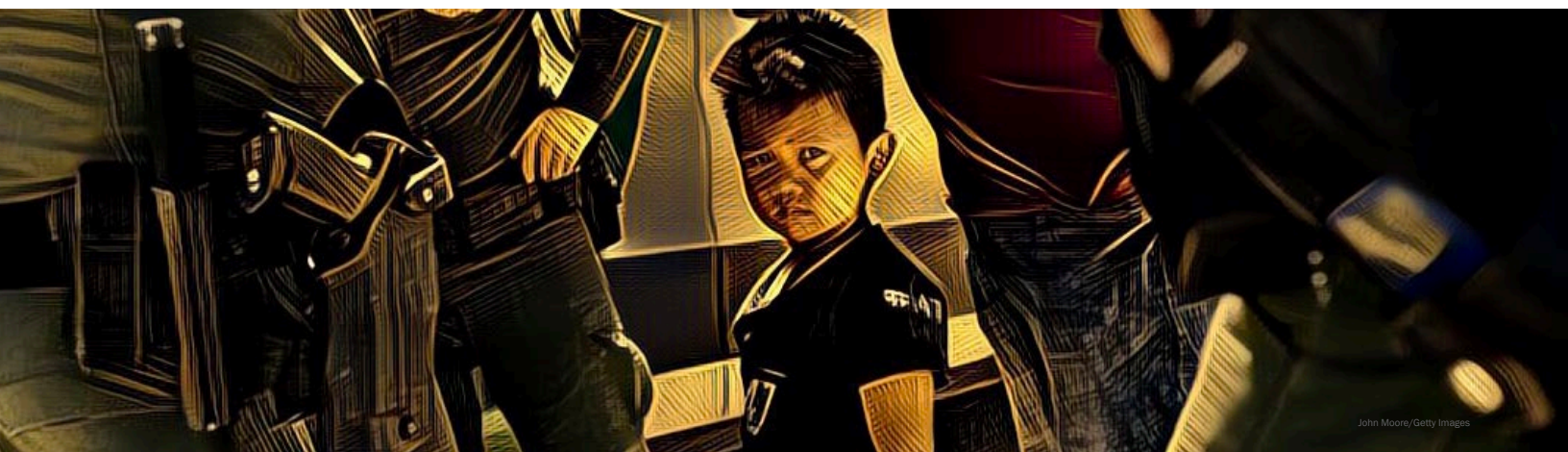
The list of professional medical and mental health groups against this policy of separation is the most complete I have ever personally seen compiled against a policy. The American Medical Association condemned separation as "doing great harm" that could "create negative health impacts that will last an individual's entire lifespan." (June 13th, 2018)¹, The American Psychiatric Association², The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry³, and an endless list of other professional groups, physician organizations⁴, mental health advocacy groups⁵, and care provider associations⁶ have all pointed out the harms of pulling children of all ages away from their parents.

Their statements have outlined the impacts on how the small children will attach to their families and then to others and the society around them; how the trauma of removal and separation will increase their sense of trauma, depression, and anxiety; how those impacts are likely to have lifelong negative consequences—are all pretty clearly understood, both at a clinical level and a human one. No one of our modern world, informed by psychology and medicine, takes nursing babies, preschool-aged, and older children from their intact and loving families for their own good unless an allegation of the most egregious abuse has occurred.

As a practicing psychiatrist who worked with foster children removed from their families by the Child Protective Services and with orphaned children, what I can say is that every single child I saw, even if placed in the most loving temporary foster home (leaving aside the question of cages in converted shopping malls), and even those who were adopted—bore scars from that separation that marked them the entire time I worked with each of them.

Literally no professional medical body or psychological association has suggested that child separation as a routine policy is, in any manner, acceptable.

We worked as hard as we could to make things better for those kids, whether they were babies, toddlers, or teens. Therapists, groups, play therapy, long reports for lawyers, agencies, judges, home visits, support programs for grandmothers, uncles, distant relatives who were willing to try and step in and help, support funds, 24-hour crisis services—and, I can sadly relate—sometimes it wasn't enough. And it still isn't. No one should be cavalier about the emotional violence of removing children from their families even when it is necessary in foster care. And, in my experience, no one is cavalier, with multiple safeguards, legal checks, and advocates—because the weight of what they are doing sits on them.






Despite those safeguards, when it did happen, what are those effects of that separation? Anxiety, depression, avoidance of engaging the world, problems with persisting at hard tasks, increased risks for substance abuse—and more. There were foster and orphaned children that I took care of that couldn't sleep more than two hours at a time, were depressed, loss control over their bowel and bladder functions at night, cried inconsolably, wouldn't eat, ate and gained one hundred and fifty pounds, who ate out of trash cans, who mutilated their own bodies, stopped speaking, bit other children and caregivers, ran away, ended up being trafficked, or were hospitalized again and again.

The issues of the children I took care of remained true even when they had been removed for literally their own lives' sake because of ongoing abuse or neglect. This remained true even if or once they have been adopted by truly loving and giving families. This remained true even when, as teenagers, they could talk about why they might not have been able to stay with their families of origin or had even started those conversations with their birth parents.

Losing your parents, even temporarily, was a profoundly deranging thing to the development of just about every child I ever took care of—even if that parent beat, abandoned, or neglected them—even if the adoptive or foster parents were a better “parent” in every possible objective way. The recent policy, taking children from families that love them and are trying to find them a better, safer world for them, then placing those children in mass incarceration settings, without maximal resources, with no family contact or reassurances as to when they will see their parents again (as though a toddler had a realistic concept of “later” or “next month”)—falls far short of the best situations I have ever seen.

Oddly, the dialogue over the children being separated at the border has become so warped I can imagine someone who wants them separated from their families saying, “Well, that's just more reason not to reunite them or take them away as they come into the country and keep them separated.” But, as a physician, if I cut your legs off as you come in the office door, I would be rather out of order to suggest that you were now a terrible prospect for successful treatment because you were bleeding too much.

It is clear that there is an argument in this country over the “deterrent” effect of this policy on family immigration, however monstrously constructed that deterrence might be. Some proportion of the voting electorate wants to “punish” people for having the audacity to come to the border and seek asylum, try to immigrate, or bring change to their culture. The mere perception of change terrifies them. Sometimes, their resistance seems to be constructed of stereotypes, clichés, boogymen, and straw men—but logic does not seem to have much impact on how they feel. Perhaps trauma from within their own lives troubles them; maybe what they read or learn in this era of channelized information is all-persuasive.

It's tiring to even think about these separations; there is a casual and yet premeditated emotional violence to the entire enterprise that has galvanized the medical and psychology communities as little else has in recent times. “Professional and expert” opinion seems out of fashion of late—but, perhaps on this issue, I might ask you to trust me: this is a terrible idea and has, had, and will wreak a terrible cost. It should not be happening to babies and children, it should not persist, and we ought not be party to such policies or actions. I know this because I've seen what happens when you have to remove children from their families in order to save their lives—and the justification for these policies falls far short of saving lives—and we should stop this and never consider it again. 

1. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/ama-calls-for-an-end-to-border-separations> 2. <https://www.psychiatry.org/newsroom/news-releases/apa-statement-opposing-separation-of-children-from-parents-at-the-border> 3. https://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/Docs/press/2018/Statement-on-Separating-Children-and-Families.pdf 4. <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/StatementOpposingSeparationofChildrenandParents.aspx> 5. <https://www.psychiatry.org/newsroom/news-releases/mental-health-organizations-urge-administration-to-halt-policy-separating-children-and-parents-at-u-s-border> 6. <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2018/separation-of-children-families/>

PHILLIP BURTON IMMIGRATION & CIVIL RIGHTS AWARDS 2018

STAND FOR UNITY.
MOVE FOR ACTION.

On May 24, 2018, the ILRC celebrated the 2018 Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards in San Francisco's Hotel Nikko with over 320 sponsors, supporters, and community members. This year, we recognized Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal & actress, author, activist, and ILRC ambassador Diane Guerrero for their commitment and dedication to the advancement of immigrant rights. They joined us for the evening and accepted their awards under this year's boldly unifying theme: **Stand for Unity, Move for Action.**

Despite the current turmoil in immigration law—both in terms of battling dangerous state and federal policies being advanced as well as responding to the reprehensible practices by which enforcement agencies operate—the ILRC and its partners know that there has never been a more critical time to become activated and engaged. The landscape has shifted in punctuated ways that we have not seen before. While we have had examples of increased deportations and xenophobic initiatives moving through Congress in the past, this era has shown us that there is a different series of challenges when an entire segment of the citizenry is emboldened with nativist and white nationalist rage born from and catalyzed by the Trump administration's distortions and flat out lies.

Our mission to protect immigrants and their families will not be slowed or demoralized. The ILRC is more dedicated than ever and the Phillip Burton Awards are a testament to the fervor and relentless energy our honorees, organization, allies, and supporters have for affecting substantive change. This was not only reinforced when we exceeded our fundraising goal, but also felt clearly throughout the room that evening. The collective sense of resolve and the tenacious grit in every one of our guests reminded us that we have unmatched strength through unity and it is that unity that will make us a nightmarish force for the Trump administration.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 NANCY PELOSI AWARD FOR POLICY

CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYAPAL

United States Representative, Washington's Seventh District

Receiving our Nancy Pelosi Award for Policy this year was Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal of Washington's Seventh District. The first Indian-American woman in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading national advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights. Congresswoman Jayapal founded the nonprofit Hate Free Zone (now OneAmerica) serving as its Executive Director for 11 years, growing the organization to be the largest immigrant advocacy organization in Washington state and one of the largest in the country. Congresswoman Jayapal went on to lead the national coalition, We Belong Together, to bring a gender lens to immigration reform. In May 2013, Congresswoman Jayapal was recognized by President Obama as a White House "Champion of Change." She has won numerous awards for her work.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 PHILLIP BURTON AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

DIANE GUERRERO

Actress, Activist, Author, and ILRC Ambassador

This year, the 2018 recipient of the Phillip Burton Award for Advocacy was actress, activist, and author, Diane Guerrero. Diane is best known for her roles as "Maritza Ramos" on the award winning, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated Netflix series *Orange Is The New Black* (for which she received three Screen Actors Guild awards), as "Lina" in CW's break-out hit, *Jane the Virgin*, and as "Sofia" a series regular on the CBS comedy *Superior Donuts*. Diane's memoir, *In The Country We Love*, details her life as a citizen daughter of undocumented parents, and her years-long struggle to deal with the consequences of the broken immigration system. She is an outspoken advocate for commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform and in 2015, was named a White House Ambassador for Citizenship and Naturalization.





PHILLIP BURTON
IMMIGRATION
&
CIVIL RIGHTS
AWARDS

Pictured: Diane Guerrero shares her heart-wrenching family separation story during her acceptance speech.





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

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ILRC Board Member | Partner, Sidley Austin LLP

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Nancy Spencer

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*ILRC Board Member

Pictured: 1. Left to right: D.C. Policy Strategist, Sameera Hafiz, Eric Cohen, and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco Chief of Staff, Dan Bernal **2.** Left to right: Burton Awards guests, José Gonzalez, Yosimar Reyes, and Sonia Soto. **3.** Left to right: ILRC Sr. Communications Mgr., Marie McIntosh, former ILRC Communications Mgr., Kemi Bello, and ILRC Staff Attorney, Grisel Ruiz. **4.** Left to right: Diane Guerrero and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal **5.** Burton Awards guests from partners at Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC). **6.** Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal **7.** Left to right: ILRC Board Member, Michelle Mercer, San Francisco Public Defender, Jeff Adachi, and Myra Chow. **8.** Director of the ILRC's New Americans Campaign, Melissa Rodgers. **9.** Diane Guerrero speaking to Univision at the Burton Awards Dinner. **10.** Left to right: Diane Guerrero, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and ILRC Founder, Bill Ong Hing. **11.** Left to right: ILRC Board Member, Alan Tafapolsky, Canice Wu, and ILRC Board Member and Awards Co-Chair, W. Hardy Callcott.



WHEN WATER IS SAFER THAN LAND: A DAY INSIDE OUR NATION'S IMMIGRATION BORDER JAILS

By Rachel Prandini | *ILRC Staff Attorney*

Last month I spent the day at a “short-term” Customs & Border Protection (CBP) detention facility on the border in California. I was there to interview children who had recently been apprehended by CBP about their treatment in CBP’s custody.

My visit was part of an effort to monitor CBP’s compliance with the Flores Settlement Agreement. The 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement sets national standards for the detention, release, and treatment of both unaccompanied and accompanied children in immigration detention. The Flores Settlement Agreement has recently received renewed media attention, with the White House and some Republicans falsely claiming it requires the separation of families at the border. In reality, Flores says nothing about family separation, but does require that certain basic requirements be met when the government detains children in civil immigration detention.

What I saw that day was disturbing, not only as an immigration attorney, but as a mother myself.

The basic needs and standards of care required by Flores were not being met in the CBP facility. Flores requires that children be held in “safe and sanitary” facilities and be “provide[d] access to toilets and sinks, drinking water and food as appropriate,...[and] adequate temperature control and ventilation.”

The children I interviewed were all teenage boys who had been held by CBP for multiple days and reported being hungry since arrival due to inadequate food. They had courageously made journeys from countries near and far, and one boy had been traveling since January. The children shared that they had only been offered one to two small burritos each day, in addition to crackers and juice. I saw one of the burritos, roughly the size of a dollar and surely not enough to satisfy the hunger of a teenage boy.

The three children I interviewed also reported being so cold since they arrived that they had been unable to sleep. Apparently, neither bad press calling CBP detention facilities “hieleras” (ice boxes), nor a federal judge ordering them to maintain adequate temperature control has prompted CBP to turn down the air conditioning. The children all wore thin t-shirts or a thin sweatshirt and hadn’t been provided any warm clothes. To keep warm while sleeping, they had only been given one metallic blanket that they said barely made a difference against the frigid temperatures. The lights in the facility were also kept on all night, making sleep even more elusive.

The children also had not had access to soap or hot water to wash their hands since arriving. Though they had access to a toilet, it was located in the room they shared with five other detained teenage boys, so they had no privacy when going to the bathroom.

The last young man I spoke with had a rash covering his body, causing clear discomfort and discoloration of his skin. Despite being in CBP’s custody for three days, he had not been offered any kind of medical treatment. He only spoke Punjabi and was unable to communicate with the guards, so he hadn’t been able to ask for help. One guard provided him a tube of ointment that he presumed was to help with his rash, but he wasn’t given any information about the



Continued...

ointment that he could understand. I requested that he immediately be taken for a visit with a doctor or nurse, to which CBP responded that it “looked like scabies,” a skin disease apparently very common in CBP facilities and for which CBP didn’t think he necessarily needed to see a doctor, as they could provide a topical treatment to control it. After reiterating that the child had requested to see a doctor, the CBP officer stated that they would arrange a visit, but I left the facility uncertain of whether that would actually happen.

As the separation of parents and children at the border continues, more and more children are being rendered unaccompanied. Those children will be sent directly to CBP facilities like the one I visited and left hungry, cold, and without adequate access to sanitation or medical care.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR, part of the Department of Health and Human Services) is responsible for the longer-term detention of unaccompanied children, as they can only be held by CBP for 72 hours under the law. However, as media outlets have been reporting, ORR is overwhelmed by ever increasing numbers of unaccompanied children, a crisis directly created by the administration’s family separation policy.


The Flores site visits have revealed that children are sometimes being held by CBP longer than 72 hours because ORR is not able to place them quickly enough. That means even more time for children in these prison-like facilities.

Whether they arrive at the border with a parent and are forcibly and traumatically separated, or they arrive at our border alone, afraid, and having fled for their lives, no child should ever have to endure such cruel conditions at the hands of a government bound by domestic and international law to provide refuge to those seeking protection. Our country’s leaders and each one of us must continue speak out in support of children like the three I spent time with last week.

As the separation of parents and children at the border continues, more and more children are being rendered unaccompanied. Those children will be sent directly to CBP facilities like the one I visited and left hungry, cold, and without adequate access to sanitation or medical care.

As my eyes welled with tears driving home from the detention facility, I thought about what I would do if my own family was being threatened or harmed by powerful gangs or other actors that the government was unable or unwilling to protect us from. I reflected on how courageous the parents are who have embarked on treacherous and dangerous journeys in search of asylum and safety for their families, only to be branded as criminals and have their children ripped from their arms.

And I wondered at what point our leaders will look their own children in the eyes and allow themselves to ask: “**What would I be willing to do to protect you?**”

I hope we’d all be brave enough to do anything we could to keep our children safe, even if it carried us across borders. In the words of Somali poet Warsan Shire, “No one puts their children on a boat unless the water is safer than the land.” 





MARK SILVERMAN: AN IMMIGRATION LAW TITAN RETIRES

By Eric Cohen | ILRC Executive Director



I have a few words to share about the retirement of ILRC Senior Staff Attorney and immigrant rights stalwart, Mark Silverman. I've had the honor and privilege to work with Mark for nearly 30 years. He's been a mentor, teacher, friend, and confidant to me and to many at the ILRC, as well as to advocates throughout the U.S. I personally feel that the success of the ILRC today is due in large part to Mark. For decades, he championed the mission of the ILRC to communities across the country. Mark put the ILRC on his back for many years to help us become a success.

During the 1980s Mark helped immigrants who fled Central America and the persecution there. He helped to lead the efforts to find free pro bono representation from big firm and other lawyers and nonprofit advocates. In the words of a major local funder in the Bay Area who has worked alongside Mark since the 1980s and in the Sanctuary movement, "Mark is a dear and exceptional advocate and human being. I hope I can have the opportunity to thank him for his tireless work for the immigrant community."

Mark was one of the very first movement lawyers helping DREAMers—long before they were called "DREAMers." Many had his cell phone number and email address. He was always available to help with strategy, do a consultation, or offer advice to anyone, no matter where he or she lived in the United States. He would answer calls and emails from all over the country—Detroit, D.C., Texas, and from throughout California—even though the caller may not have ever met him.


Mark forged the strongest relationships between an immigration lawyer and community organizers that the ILRC has ever seen. I am committed to continuing to foster and nurture those relationships. Mark invented and re-invented the immigration community meeting during his time with the ILRC. He has led over 400 community meetings for tens of thousands of people. He helped develop the Red Cards, millions of which we have distributed to immigrants to use to assert their constitutional rights when confronted by ICE. Mark is the only Jewish person I know who was a regular at Sunday Mass because Mark would go where he was needed, and many immigrants were at Mass on Sundays. Mark also helped to found Comité de Padres Unidos because so many spouses and children were left behind during the Amnesty of the 1980s that something had to be done to help them. Padres became a fierce organizing arm of the movement for many years.

During his career, Mark probably did more Spanish-speaking media engagements on immigration issues than anyone in the country. He leveraged his media work to reach out to and educate the community on important issues.

Pictured: Left to right: Executive Director Eric Cohen, Mark Silverman, and Senior Staff Attorney Kathy Brady. Mark joined the ILRC in 1983, Kathy joined in 1987, and Eric joined in 1988. In 1988, the ILRC employed four attorneys. Since then, the ILRC has grown to a staff of 45, including 22 attorneys (an increase of 550%).

A Spanish-speaking reporter was interviewing a current staff member at our offices recently. I said hello to the reporter and she immediately asked, “When are you doing something for Mark’s retirement. I want to be included. You need to celebrate his work because it has been so important.” If you ever walked down Mission Street in one of the Latino neighborhoods of San Francisco with Mark, you would often be stopped by someone who would say, “¿Usted es el abogado Mark Silverman? Tengo una pregunta para usted.” (Translated: Are you the attorney Mark Silverman? I have a question for you.)” Mark even had Jorge Ramos’ cell phone number during his coverage of the 2010 campaign for the DREAM Act. Mr. Ramos would actually pick up when Mark called. Mark has such strong connections to the media that he would often hold press conferences with the local television and radio stations to humanize hard and sympathetic cases, putting pressure on the Immigration Service to grant the relief sought. The communications director at the San Francisco Immigration Service and Mark got to know each other quite well over the years.

Mark has been a mentor and an inspiration to so many. Krsna Avila, current ILRC Andy Grove Immigrants’ Rights Fellow, worked with Mark through E4FC. Krsna shared that it was Mark who inspired him to go to law school and practice immigration law. Another former staff member told me that 12-15 years ago, Mark would go to the National AILA conference and let people make 20-30 minute appointments with him so that they could pick his brain about cases, policy work, and organizing immigrants. There would be a line of people. Mark was well known throughout the immigrant rights movement and for good reason.

I could go on about Mark’s compassion, duty, work ethic, and intelligence, but what I most value in him is his tireless commitment to the cause, the movement, and immigrants, as well as his commitment to the ILRC and to us, his colleagues. **Mark, on behalf of all of those whom you impacted, you will be missed!** 

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

By Allison Davenport | ILRC Staff Attorney




Over 330,000 undocumented residents call the San Joaquin Valley home. Undocumented immigrants represent 10% of all adults in the region’s eight counties, a higher rate than in California overall. Despite these numbers, the region faces a dire lack of immigration legal service providers. As a result, many immigrants are unaware of their legal options, unable to apply for immigration benefits, and are vulnerable to fraud.

The ILRC, a long-time ally of the region, is trying to bridge this justice gap with a full-time attorney and an outreach coordinator based in the region as well as two San Francisco-based law fellows who devote most of their time to the Central Valley work.

A key challenge in the 300-mile long region is the geography and the isolation of rural communities. Many clients report paying \$100 or more for a ride from remote areas in order to reach legal services in Fresno or other urban areas in the region. Instead, the ILRC works with local partners to provide high quality legal services in those isolated communities—including DACA renewal and naturalization assistance as well as Know Your Rights presentations and general legal consultations. These travelling law offices are held in public school cafeterias, church halls, and public libraries. Some events are conducted regularly in certain towns, allowing clients to return for follow-up services and/or bring friends and relatives for services.

While all immigrants are facing unprecedented challenges in the current climate, many low-income farmworker communities in the San Joaquin Valley face the additional barrier of hostile local governments and law enforcement officials. The ILRC tracks local policies and ICE activities in the region and participates in several local initiatives to curb immigration enforcement and respond to detentions. One particularly vulnerable group is immigrant survivors of domestic violence. In response, the ILRC leads three regional task forces to increase the network of support for immigrant survivors that brings service providers together to provide peer training, streamline referral processes, and engage with local law enforcement officials.

While challenges persist, creative advocacy and collaborative efforts are springing up all over the Valley to address the unmet legal need and strengthen access to justice for immigrants. The ILRC has long been a key source of support to immigrant communities in the Valley and our growing team in the region only deepens that commitment. 

2017

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE ILRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2017, the Trump administration used its power to issue anti-immigrant executive orders and policies, making immigrating to the United States infinitely more difficult. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was rescinded by a policy change and used as a bargaining chip for border wall funding. Thankfully, the rescission was challenged in the courts and public outcry against this action by the American people was loud and clear.



Additionally, amidst the nativism and cruelty of this administration's policies, the ILRC saw an increase in support from you and the community in 2017. We broke fundraising records and expanded our donor base. We grew our staff. Now more than ever, the work of the ILRC is needed to defend the rights of immigrants and their families to help them stay together in this country and thrive—and we have the staff, expertise, and track record to make a powerful impact.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. A. [unclear]".



ILRC BY THE NUMBERS

2017

1,411,660

An increase of **182%** over 2016

Know Your Rights
RED CARDS
Distributed

8,533



Attorney of the Day
Issues Answered for Non-Profits, Service Providers, and Pro Bono Attorneys

An increase of **12%** over 2016



528

Trainings, Webinars, Community Meetings, Task Forces, Workshops, Media Reports, and CRISP Meetings

An increase of **61%** over 2016

with more than

23,190

Attendees & Participants

An increase of **99%** over 2016

2017 POLICY ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In September 2017, the Trump Administration announced the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is an immigration option for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16. Although DACA does not provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence, it does provide temporary protection from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to apply for a social security number.

Over 800,000 young adults across the country are beneficiaries of the DACA program. Until there is a permanent and clean solution, the ILRC will continue to dedicate resources to providing the most comprehensive information that it can for immigration attorneys, community advocates, and DACA recipients to help them navigate past misinformation. **These are some of the resources and materials that the ILRC prepared in 2017 about DACA:**

- Published “**Draining the Trust Funds: Ending DACA and the Consequences to Social Security and Medicare,**”¹ a report by the ILRC and Professor Tom K. Wong that talks about the \$39.3 billion loss over the next ten years on Social Security and Medicare due to the ending DACA.
- Published “**California Driver’s Licenses Once DACA Expires,**”² a practice advisory addressing the driver’s license options for DACA holders in California, with information on what will happen when DACA expires, and step-by-step instructions on how to switch licenses if necessary.
- Published “**What Can You Do if Your DACA Renewal Application Was Rejected as Not Having Been Filed on Time?**”³ a guide prepared by the ILRC, CLINIC, and NILC to guide those who may have had their DACA renewal applications rejected and provide answers to some frequently asked questions.
- Held a teleconference for partners across the state on what the rescission announcement did, what to tell community members, what resources are available to help, what different sectors can do to inform community members and steer them to resources, what the larger campaign strategy is now, and how to get involved in larger advocacy campaign.



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES IN CALIFORNIA

The ILRC remains committed to legislative and policy reform that protects immigrants, their families, and their communities from ICE enforcement activities. In 2017, the ILRC and our allies drafted and advocated for several bills, including SB 54, the California Values Act, SB 29, Dignity Not Detention Act, and AB 208, Deferred Entry of Judgment.

SB 54 | California Values Act

SB 54 helps keep families together by limiting cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. The ILRC helped to draft the language for SB 54 and was a member of the coalition which supported the passage of this bill. Since SB 54 was signed, the ILRC has shifted resources to support implementation including writing guides, holding trainings, and engaging with key stakeholders to ensure that lawyers, organizers, and community members have the tools and knowledge they need to protect people from the threat of detention and deportation.

SB 29 | Dignity Not Detention Act

SB 29 prohibits new private immigration detention contracts and places restrictions on the expansion of certain existing private contracts. SB 29 was authored by Senator Ricardo Lara (D–Bell Gardens) and co-sponsored by Assembly Member Mike Gipson, Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), and Freedom for Immigrants (formerly CIVIC). This law aims to limit the ability of private companies from making profits off of detained immigrants awaiting their deportation hearings. The ILRC has and will continue to fight for additional reforms to immigration detention, including extra protections for certain vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ-identified immigrants in detention, the increased adoption of community-based alternatives to detention, and, ultimately, an end to all immigration detention.

AB 103

AB 103 compliments SB 29 to remove California’s municipalities from the business of private immigration detention. AB 103 includes two key provisions designed to curtail the growth of immigration detention in California and gives the state Attorney General \$1 million to monitor all immigration detention facilities in California. This law is the first in the United States to provide state-mandated oversight of immigration detention facilities. AB 103 also prohibits California’s municipalities from entering into new contracts for the purpose of detaining immigrants in city or county jails. It also prohibits the expansion of detention beds in existing publicly-run facilities. The ILRC and others consulted on this budget action.

AB 208 | Deferred Entry of Judgment

AB 208 establishes pre-trial diversion programs to eliminate immigration law consequences of certain drug offenses. In California, a process called deferred entry of judgment (DEJ) allows people charged with a simple drug possession offense (and who met other qualifications) to go into drug counseling instead of jail. They receive a clean slate after successful completion. Noncitizens, however, continued to be at risk of deportation and permanent family separation. This is because, for technical reasons, this would still count as a conviction for immigration purposes, despite the person successfully completing DEJ. AB 208 resolves this problem and ensures that those who successfully complete DEJ truly have a clean slate and do not incur additional, often dire, immigration consequences. The ILRC was a co-sponsor of AB 208 and helped to draft the legislation.

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WRITING IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

By Marie McIntosh | ILRC Senior Communications Manager



Public-interest writing helps set the tone, frame the agenda, and push forward the narratives that organizations like the ILRC help progress—helping the public understand the urgency of the times we live in without being alarmist is a big responsibility. The shift I've seen in tone and language choice in the last year and a half or so has been remarkable.


Several years ago when I left my work in textbook publishing to become a journalist, Obama's promise of hope and change had energized a nation. But the promise of change became a specter, and my work at the Center for Investigative Reporting exposed me to the underbelly of political lip service. It became my job, as a writer, to keep score—to remind the public of all the ills we still suffered as a society, despite the vigorous energy that swirled around his administration.

As a journalist, I still had to hedge, still had to remain objective—a tall order when you're tasked with revealing injustice on a massive scale. This is a frustrating quandary for writers, and the solution was for me to go to work at issue-based nonprofits seeking to move the needle within and beyond their movements. It is this work that truly turned me into a writer—using the written word to change the rhetoric around policy in America is a rewarding venture.

I was working in gun violence prevention for an American hero in her own right, whose career in Congress had been cut short in 2011 by a madman with a semiautomatic weapon. Gabby Giffords stands as a testament to the way our lawmakers had failed us by refusing to address gun violence as an urgent public health crisis. Writing that story was never an easy one, even under the previous administration, but, nevertheless, we persisted.

Then, Donald Trump was elected to the highest office in the land, and the mantle had been passed—to a shaky leader with no moral ground on which to stand. The momentum that gun violence prevention had enjoyed during the Obama administration suddenly evaporated, and we writers had to pivot—hard. Our sentences became more strident, our messaging arcs more focused.

Now, I do not shy away from calling it like I see it—the Trump administration's callous, deadly agenda has destroyed any inclination I had before to hedge my language toward cooperation, collaboration, and appeals to common sense. Now, I gear my messaging strategy both towards changing hearts and minds and exposing the immoralities of what we see in the daily news cycle.

Politically, our nation has lost sight of even the most basic of governing principles and writing this story has been one of the most verdant, if painful, subjects I have ever encountered. But the Trump administration as taught me to stop holding back when it comes to laying bare the difference between right and wrong, and my role at the ILRC gives me a megaphone with which to trumpet this message, and I am extraordinarily proud to prove, time and again, that the pen is mightier than the sword. 

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JOINING THE ILRC FAMILY



Carolina Canizales Ramirez | Texas Campaign Strategist

Carolina is the first Texas Campaigns Strategist at the ILRC. Her role is to increase power and build the capacity of Texas local groups who are fighting back criminalization and immigration enforcement. She is helping these groups pass local policies that will increase the protections for the immigrant community. Prior to joining the ILRC, Carolina spent a decade organizing for immigrant youth rights. From 2012-2016, she worked on more than 500 deportation defense cases as United We Dream's National Deportation Defense Coordinator. She also led numerous KYRs campaigns across the country, and established the first national volunteer-led hotline to track ICE activity in immigrant communities. Carolina has a B.A. in Communications from UTSA, and is currently completing her master's in public administration.



Veronica Garcia | San Joaquin Valley Law Fellow

In December 2017, Veronica Garcia started as a San Joaquin Valley Law Fellow to support the ILRC's work in the San Joaquin Valley. Prior to joining the ILRC, Veronica completed an Equal Justice Works Emerson Fellowship with Centro Legal de la Raza, helping DACA eligible clients and individuals who would have been eligible for DAPA apply for immigration relief. Veronica received a BA from the University of California, Berkeley in History and Political Science and her JD from Howard University School of Law.



Hillary Kim | Controller

Hillary joined the ILRC as Controller in November 2017. Prior to joining the ILRC, she served as a controller for several public and private companies where she directed, approved, and oversaw all accounting and finance functions. She has over 10 years of financial reporting and financial analysis experience. She has worked in various industries including non-profit organizations, investment fund management companies, a venture capital corporation, and agricultural corporations. She moved from South Korea to Vancouver, Canada where she received her Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Thompson Rivers University as well as her Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant certification from the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia. She recently emigrated to the Bay Area where she enjoys the weather and discovering new restaurants. In her free time, she loves to explore new restaurants and watch movies.



Marie McIntosh | Senior Communications Manager

Marie McIntosh joined the ILRC in April 2018 as the organization's Senior Communications Manager. She oversees strategy for the communications program at the ILRC, and provides messaging guidance and project management, as well as serves as a liaison with the media. Prior to working at the ILRC, Marie was the Editorial Manager at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, a San Francisco-based think tank committed to analyzing and advocating for lifesaving gun safety legislation. Marie also worked as a journalist for the Center for Investigative Reporting, and before that, as an editor at Pearson Education. A graduate of Emmanuel College in Boston, Marie studied history and English, and has lived in San Francisco since 2010.



Arju Nishimura | Grants and Program Coordinator

Arju joined the ILRC in December 2017 as the Grants and Program Coordinator. She works in support of grant initiatives and the Ready California program. Prior to working at the ILRC, Arju was employed as a Claims Specialist with the Social Security Administration, where she conducted application, case review, and appeal interviews with Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries. Before that, Arju was a Preventative Health Educator with the Peace Corps in Senegal, working closely with local health workers to conduct educational programming about topics such as exclusive breastfeeding, reproductive health, and agricultural best practices. Arju holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Carleton College, and is conversant in French and Wolof.



Em Puhl | San Joaquin Valley Law Fellow

In January 2018, Em Puhl started as a San Joaquin Valley Law Fellow to work on a team of three attorneys and one organizer to provide legal education and support in the California Central Valley. Before this, Em worked as an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow providing direct services in New York City and as an Attorney Advisor at the San Francisco Immigration Court. Em received an undergraduate degree in Spanish and History from Iowa State University, an MA in Latin American Studies from UCSD, and a JD from UC Berkeley School of Law. Em is addicted to travel, loves to eat, and has a very small side business knitting baby socks.



Rebeca Rangel | New Americans Campaign Manager

Rebeca Rangel joined the ILRC in December 2017 as our New Americans Campaign Program Manager. Prior to joining the ILRC, Rebeca was a Senior Vice President at Bank of the West and directed the Bank's philanthropic investments and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Rebeca has also worked in federal government as a Legislative Assistant to Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis and as a Judicial Law Clerk at the San Francisco Immigration Court. Rebeca holds a BA in Urban Studies from Stanford University, a MPP from Harvard Kennedy School, and a JD from Northwestern School of Law. Rebeca has also served on the board of directors of the Making Waves Foundation and Familias Unidas, both based in her hometown of Richmond, California.

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