Our History

For 50 years, the National Immigration Project has fought for justice for those who bear the brunt of racist and immoral immigration laws in the United States. A national membership organization of committed lawyers and advocates, we have held steadfast in our values and worked to protect the rights of all people, including those most marginalized by our immigration and criminal laws.

Our Future

In this new era, we recommit to those principles as we envision bolder, better, and more intersectional ways to do this work. We are redoubling our efforts to support and partner with those who face the greatest challenges with the fewest resources. This includes:

- lawyers, advocates, and other directly impacted people who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Muslim and South Asian;
- immigrants who have been criminalized by racist and unjust laws; and
- immigrants and their advocates who live in underserved regions.

We are continuing to build a political and legal home for our members - the place where members can get answers to a difficult legal issue, learn skills and tools, get connected to broader advocacy efforts, and enjoy the company of a like-minded community of advocates and lawyers.

Our Members & Supporters

“NIPNLG pursues the tough cases, bringing sophisticated litigation skills and training to a core of advocates on the front lines. I like that they do a lot with a little. Especially these last few years, they seem to be the tip of the spear pushing back against cruel and illegal immigration policies.”

- National Immigration Project Supporter

“NIP provides me everything I need to be my best immigration lawyer self, and I could never continue, and succeed at times, in advocacy without NIP as my ‘backup.’ I am forever grateful for spot-on incredible intellectually-inspired help for decades. The work is tough, but always, NIP members come from everywhere to help one another. I find that to be critically important for my solo practice, working with the absolute best colleagues! 1000 thanks.”

- National Immigration Project Member

“NIP staff and members are uniquely generous in time and spirit. This is the place to get nonjudgmental help on a legal issue from incredibly smart lawyers, get mentored when you’re starting out, get trained throughout your career, and get connected to the bigger picture fight. Maybe just as important, sometimes you just need a supportive space to vent about the injustices and frustrations we see and experience everyday with people who share your values. Thank you for creating that space, NIP!”

- National Immigration Project Member
Our Work

WE MAKE THE LAW ACCESSIBLE.
Immigration law is incredibly complex. Whether we wrote the law, litigated it in court, or spent years studying it, we know how to break it down for lawyers and community through resources, training, and expert advice.

WE FIGHT FOR THE MOST MARGINALIZED.
We believe achieving liberation for those most marginalized will unlock possibilities for all of us. We don’t shy away from the hard fights in our impact litigation and advocacy efforts. We focus on those who face the greatest challenges with the fewest resources.

WE BUILD BRIDGES.
We know we can achieve more by working together. Whether it’s lawyers and organizers, or different movements, we convene people and build relationships to help us get to our shared destination.

WE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.
We believe that all people are deserving of rights and that no one is disposable. We fight to win, but only in ways that lay the groundwork for a day when all our communities can live freely and thrive.

Our Impact

Over the past 50 years, the National Immigration Project has had a deep and lasting impact. We have:
• been instrumental in dozens of landmark Supreme Court and federal court decisions upholding immigrant rights;
• trained and resourced tens of thousands attorneys and advocates in cutting-edge holistic legal defense of our communities; and
• envisioned and won transformational shifts in local, state, and federal policies.

Over the past 2 years, we have been able to continue this important work while focusing on where our resources have been needed the most.
• We won legal challenges to the detention of immigrants during COVID, inadequate medical care in immigration detention, and bars to asylum.
• We coordinated challenges to the prosecution of migrants at the border, including representing individuals facing harsh consequences.
• We were a core leader in a broad coalition of organizations advocating for the passage of the New Way Forward Act, which would decriminalize migration and repeal the harshest provisions of the 1996 laws that have made immigration law as cruel and punitive as it is today.
• We have been leading advocacy to ensure that legalization bills do not exclude people who have endured racial profiling and criminalization. We also supported the development of the transformational BREATHE Act, linking efforts to end mass incarceration to those that would end detention and deportation.
• With the new administration, we have led advocacy to ensure that immigration enforcement does not rely on broad racist categories that exclude the most targeted from reforms.
• We helped our communities and their advocates navigate the barrage of legal and policy changes, and protected their right to protest, through timely and accessible resources, trainings, and advice.