

**NATIONAL
IMMIGRATION
PROJECT**

Lawyers for the Movement

**NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT
2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**



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Fighting for a world where all people are treated with dignity, live freely, and flourish since 1971.



National Immigration Project staff at a post-election strategy retreat in Washington, DC, November 2024



The National Immigration Project has provided indispensable support to our community and organization. If we did not have them as a resource and supporting partner, there is no telling how many lives would be affected.

– LAURA HERNANDEZ
**ORANGE COUNTY
RAPID RESPONSE
NETWORK**

For more than 50 years, the National Immigration Project has fought for justice for those who are most harmed by the immigration system. 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, and to imagine and work towards a future where all people can live freely and thrive.

We support and partner with those who face the greatest challenges with the fewest resources, pursue all forms of legal advocacy on behalf of immigrants, and provide technical assistance and support to legal practitioners, community-based immigrant organizations, and people working to advance the rights of noncitizens.

Cover photo:

Migration is Beautiful (where hope takes flight), 2022 Original mural located in downtown Fort Worth, Texas 20 x 35 feet

Artist: Brenda Melgoza Ciardiello

IG: @brendaciardiello.art | www.brendaciardiello.com

Photo courtesy of the artist.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I know this year has taken a toll on us all. It's hard to find inspirational words at a time like this. **But even as we acknowledge the hardship that is coming, we take solace in the beauty and resilience of our communities. Together we are ready to take on this fight, and in the end, we will win.**

This year marks my fifth as Executive Director of the National Immigration Project. During this time, I've witnessed time and again how quickly and drastically the immigration landscape can change. My goal has been to build an organization that is steadfast in its values, deep in its expertise, nimble in its ability to act quickly and strategically, and collaborative in a way that truly fosters collective power. I am so proud of what we have built together.

Over the past five years, our membership has grown to include a dynamic corps of movement lawyers, organizers, advocates, community leaders, and directly impacted people. We co-strategize in shared spaces to ensure that our work grows out of the needs and orientation of our movement. Our staff has grown to include litigators, advocates, organizers, educators, communicators. We use every tool at our disposal to create an environment in which organizing and movement leadership can flourish. We throw down to protect people from harm, but we do it in a way that builds towards the future we want.



With the challenges that lie ahead, how we approach our work is critical. We resolve not to forget to keep building while we defend.

In anticipation of the upcoming year, in 2024 we focused on bringing lawyers and organizers together to cultivate a deep bench of movement leaders. As part of that work, we piloted two innovative new trainings. The first was a three-part course for immigration practitioners to think boldly and creatively about how the legal sector can defend and support impacted communities. The second was a seven-part module for organizers and community leaders to learn the ins and outs of the immigration system and how to support people going through it. Both trainings were a great success, and provided a roadmap for the expanded outreach and community education we will be doing over the coming year. We also embarked on a project with partners to map the immigration landscape, building connections and identifying places with resource gaps. **This education, empowerment, and mapping work forms an integral part of the infrastructure we are building for the rapid response work needed in 2025.**

The road ahead is daunting, but I find hope and resilience when I look at the wins we have already accomplished together – even in the face of adversity. We are grateful for your support and partnership, and we will need you more than ever in 2025.

Together, we move forward regardless of the circumstances.



In solidarity,

Sirine Shebaya

LIBERATION
NOT
DEPORTATION



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the resilience and camaraderie of the National Immigration Project's community. Election years can be especially challenging for our movement, bringing new waves of anti-immigrant rhetoric and divisiveness across the country. I know we all feel this struggle, whether we're advocating in the courtroom, in the halls of Congress, or on the ground. I've come to realize that this is why organizations like the National Immigration Project are so critical to our movement – they play the role of bringing us together, even during times when the intensity of our work can strain our capacity and tend to keep us apart.

2024 has proven to be a pivotal year for the National Immigration Project. As Board Chair, I've been proud to witness the Project intensify its efforts to resource and empower attorneys and advocates nationwide, piloting new training programs, developing timely resources, and providing critical spaces to convene and strategize. **It is clear to me that the Project recognizes that the strength of our movement lies in our ability to collaborate and innovate together.**

Along with serving as a hub for the movement, under the leadership of Sirine, the Project has simultaneously expanded its capacity to address urgent issues and support initiatives that have the potential to provide immediate relief to immigrant communities. Through a new collaboration with IMPOWER, a group of labor unions dedicated to protecting immigrant workers' rights, the Project welcomed two new staff members to its team this year. These new staff members represent workers who have suffered or witnessed labor abuses at work and are eligible to apply for a new form of temporary immigration protection. In addition

to this work, the Project also saw the End SIJS Backlog Coalition's work expand as the Coalition's new Youth Organizer helped bring together SIJS youth from across the country to form community and advocate together.



As we look ahead, it is evident that the need for the National Immigration Project's work will only grow.

Despite the complex and ever changing immigration landscape, I feel relief knowing that the Project and its members will remain grounded in their commitment to create a world where everyone can live freely and flourish. **With 53 years behind it, the Project has a proven record of remaining steadfast in its principles and adapting its strategies to meet the moment.**

Lastly, with this particularly difficult year coming to a close, I want to say thank you to Sirine and the staff, as well as the Project's members, partners, and supporters. There is no doubt in my mind that the Project has reached new heights – and will continue to do so – because of the brilliant and committed hearts and minds behind it. Your dedication helps fuel me, even during the toughest moments, and I look forward to continuing the fight alongside you.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Barba'.

Veronica Barba, Esq.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

From litigating in the courts and advocating in DC to creating one-of-a-kind resources and teaching the courses our movement needs, this year, the National Immigration Project used every tool at its disposal to fight for our communities' rights. **In 2025, you will help create even more resources to double-down in defense of immigrant rights.**

17

attorney resources

5

digital toolkits & campaigns

17

litigation & legal representation

14

reports & community resources

20

legal & policy advocacy tools

63

trainings, webinars, & courses

13

convenings & community conversations

19

networks & collaboratives

104

DALE applications filed on behalf of immigrant workers facing exploitation

= 272 LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY RESOURCES AND TOOLS

2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This October, we gathered with more than 130 of our members in New Orleans for our annual membership meeting. With the election just a month away at the time of our meeting, our gathering felt particularly crucial. We discussed lessons learned from previous administrations, possible scenarios for 2025, and shared litigation, organizing, and advocacy strategies.

The insights and ideas generated will serve as a foundation for our work in the months ahead, and we are excited to put these strategies into action as we move forward together. Thank you to everyone who joined us in New Orleans; despite the challenges ahead, your engagement and passion are what drive our mission forward.



RESOURCING THE MOVEMENT

No matter who sits in the Oval Office, one thing is clear: building the capacity of the immigrant rights movement is critical.

This year, we took a step back to imagine new and impactful ways to do that. Along with expanding our training curriculum for attorneys, we launched two new training series: one aimed at cultivating a cohort of community defenders who can provide grassroots support and another focused on training movement lawyers to navigate the complexities of immigration law in partnership with the communities they serve. We then brought organizers and lawyers together in New Orleans to co-strategize and plan for what's to come. Through these trainings and convenings, we are continuing to build a membership that reflects all the different aspects of our movement: lawyers, organizers, advocates, and impacted people working together collaboratively and in alignment towards our shared goals.

Movement Lawyering Training Series

This year, we were pleased to offer a three-part series on movement lawyering in collaboration with Movement Law Lab. The goal of the series was to grow our membership community's movement lawyering practice. The course was

designed for immigration practitioners who have an appetite to think with creativity, boldness, and rigor about what organizers need from the legal sector. The series had 50 participants, representing 33 organizations across 18 states. "Thanks again for organizing such a great, meaningful training with Movement Law Lab," shared one participant. "Such a useful, forward-thinking training."

Removal Defense for Community Defenders: Navigating Immigration Court as a Non-Lawyer

This year, we piloted our first training series for community defenders. This seven month long virtual series was hosted in English and Spanish and included seven modules and one review session. We had a total of 47 participants selected out of almost 400 applicants, including two participants who were detained while participating in the course and other formerly detained individuals, representing 40 organizations across 20 states. "I feel like the ideology behind the course is really powerful and so replicable," said one participant. "I would highly recommend this course and really applaud the National Immigration Project for designing such an informative course."

National Immigration Project Membership Meeting, October 2024



KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

This year, as the election cast a shadow of uncertainty over the future of immigrant rights, we made a concerted effort to ramp up our initiatives aimed at expanding and implementing existing protections for immigrants. We increased our capacity to support deferred action for labor enforcement (DALE), saw the End SIJS Backlog Coalition expand its youth organizing strategy, and wrapped up critical litigation aimed at protecting unaccompanied immigrant youth.

Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement (DALE)

Since January 2023, when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) first announced its process for deferred action for labor enforcement (DALE), we ramped up our capacity to support this new form of relief, hiring staff dedicated to DALE work as well as creating resources and running clinics for practitioners and community members. By the end of this year, through our new collaboration with IMPOWER (a group of labor unions dedicated to protecting immigrant workers' rights) the National Immigration Project will have filed more than 100 DALE applications. Looking into 2025, we are ready to defend against attempts to take this protection away from people who have it..

End SIJS Backlog Coalition

Along with continuing to create critical resources and advocating directly with USCIS, ICE, and EOIR, this year, the End SIJS Backlog Coalition launched a robust youth organizing strategy to build a national base of empowered, impacted SIJS youth. Through virtual and in-person gatherings, the Coalition convened approximately 300 youth, building a supportive community for them, equipping them with leadership training, and helping them advocate for their own protection. The Coalition also launched two campaigns, The Right to Education Campaign to advocate for Federal Student Aid

for SIJS youth, and the Right to Travel Campaign to push USCIS to create a SIJS Advance Parole Policy. The Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act, a bill that would end the SIJS backlog, was reintroduced in the House with bipartisan support and introduced in the Senate for the first time. As we look ahead to 2025, we have shifted our focus to defending youth from harm and holding the line on existing protections.

J.O.P. et al. v. Department of Homeland Security et al.

On November 25, 2024, a settlement agreement was granted final approval in *J.O.P. et al. v. Department of Homeland Security et al.*, a certified nationwide class action filed in July 2019 to challenge a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that would have limited the ability of certain children who arrived in the country alone to seek asylum. The settlement gave unaccompanied children who are part of the class a renewed opportunity to seek asylum.

Photo Credit: Stephanie Kenner | shutterstock.com



TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS

Over the past year, as anti-immigrant laws, policies, and harmful narratives seemed to surge across the United States, we multiplied our efforts to fight back, recognizing the urgency of transforming the systems that perpetuate these injustices. The looming threats of the Trump administration have made it clear that we must act quickly to prevent a return to regressive policies that harm immigrant communities. Through policy advocacy, litigation, legal advocacy, and shifting the broader narrative on immigration, our goal is not only to undo the immediate harms of the criminal and immigration enforcement systems but also to build a more compassionate, humane, and inclusive immigration system that expands opportunities and dignity for all.

Fighting to End Detention in Pennsylvania and Virginia

According to the government's own policy, detained immigrants who win asylum or withholding of removal should be released promptly, but attorneys tracking these cases in Virginia and Pennsylvania discovered that ICE often detains people in this situation for at least three additional months. The National Immigration Project and its partners sued ICE for this arbitrary detention. We settled the case in Virginia on July 30, 2024, ensuring that people who win their immigration will immediately be considered for release by ICE. We are continuing to pursue the case in Pennsylvania. Since the Virginia settlement went into effect, over a dozen people have been released.

Supporting the Southeast

Louisiana has the second highest total number of detained immigrants. On top of this, most detention centers are located in remote places, and all but one are run by private companies. Recognizing the critical need for support in



Photo Credit: Creative Commons

Louisiana and the Southeast, over the past five years, the National Immigration Project has prioritized resourcing, capacity building, and direct advocacy in the region. With staff in both Louisiana and Georgia, we are continuing to deepen our presence in the area, working with local groups in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Alongside our coalition partners, we co-authored a report documenting widespread abuse and inhumane treatment at nine immigration detention facilities across Louisiana, ultimately calling for an immediate and independent investigation into the New Orleans ICE Field Office; provided legal rights presentations at the detention centers; litigated habeas actions to get people released; published community explainers when new anti-immigrant policies were issued; and participated actively in local coalitions advocating for protections and fighting back against anti-immigrant legislation. Understanding the increased threats this region will face during a second Trump administration, we are determined to continue deepening our work in this area.

CLIENT STORY: MILIYON ETHIOPIS

Miliyon Ethiopis was born in Ethiopia, but because his father was born in Eritrea during an ongoing war between the two countries, he was tortured in an Ethiopian prison for three months. When he was finally released, Miliyon fled the country for his safety but was then forced to spend decades navigating the complexities of obtaining legal status in the United States as one of an estimated 200,000 stateless people in the country.

Working with our partners at the Free Migration Project, the National Immigration Project represented Miliyon in his fight to avoid removal to Ethiopia, which included reopening the deportation order.

In July 2024, after a long legal battle and decades of uncertainty, the immigration court

finally granted Miliyon's asylum request. "Like many stateless people I have been in legal limbo since I arrived in this country, terrified that I would be sent to Ethiopia, where I was tortured, and unable to move on productively with my life. If ICE enacts broader policy changes, which I hope they now do, other stateless people could also clear up their status and move on with their lives. I am grateful to the team of people who supported me beyond words," Miliyon shared.

Miliyon is a founding member of United Stateless, a national organization led by stateless people whose mission is to build and inspire community among those affected by statelessness, and to advocate for their human rights.

Miliyon Ethiopis (center) and his counsel, David Bennion and Michelle Méndez | **Photo Credit:** United Stateless





Photo Credit: Stephanie Kenner | www.shutterstock.com

BAMEMSA CONVENINGS

In the immigrant rights field, issues impacting Black, African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asia (BAMEMSA) communities can sometimes feel siloed or overlooked. As an organization situated within the immigrant rights movement but with a longstanding history of focusing on those who are most impacted and targeted, we believe in the critical importance of ensuring that the needs of all impacted communities are integrated into the broader movement for immigrant justice.

Since 2022, with the generous support of the Pillars Fund, the National Immigration Project has been hosting annual virtual convenings focused on the intersection of immigration

enforcement and BAMEMSA communities. This September, we hosted a pre-election scenario planning session focused on identifying key threats and opportunities at the intersection of immigration enforcement and BAMEMSA communities for a Trump or Harris administration, and identifying core areas of priority and response needs. Following the election, we hosted a post-election strategy session focused on identifying legal and advocacy priorities and strategies, as well as rapid response needs in light of Donald Trump's election.

RESIST



OUR MEMBERS

NONPROFITS

ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
 ACLU Southern California
 Adelante Mujeres
 Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
 African Communities Together
 Afrikana
 Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice
 Alameda County Public Defenders
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Immigration Council
 Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
 Arizona Center for Empowerment
 Arkansas Immigrant Defense
 Ascentria Care Alliance, ILAP
 Asylee Women Enterprise
 Bethany House of Hospitality
 Black Alliance for Just Immigration
 Brooklyn Defender Services
 California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice
 Caribbean Center for Community Outreach, Inc.
 Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc.
 Casa Marianella
 Casa San Jose
 Catholic Charities Community Services
 Catholic Charities of Dallas
 Catholic Charities of Oregon
 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.
 Center for Appellate Litigation
 Center for Immigration Law and Policy
 Center for Social Justice-Seton Hall University School of Law
 Church World Service - Lancaster
 Clearing the Path, Immigration & Refugee Services Inc.
 Cleveland Jobs with Justice
 Co Counsel NYC
 Colorado Hosting Asylum Network
 CWS Lancaster
 Detention Watch Network
 Familias Unidas en Acci3n
 Families For Freedom
 Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
 Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
 Grassroots Leadership
 Greater Boston Legal Services
 Haitian Bridge Alliance
 Home is Here NOLA
 Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
 Immigrant Defenders Law Center
 Immigrant Defense Project
 Immigrant Hope - Greeley
 Immigrant Legal Center
 Immigrant Legal Defense
 Immigrant Legal Help Center Inc.
 Immigrant Legal Resource Center
 Immigration Equality
 Immigration Law & Justice Network
 Immigration Law & Social Advocacy Service, Inc
 Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley
 Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy
 Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
 Interfaith Committee on Latin America
 Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
 International Refugee Assistance Project
 Juntos
 Justice Action Center
 Justice For Our Neighbors Michigan
 La ColectiVA
 La Resistencia
 Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
 Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
 Legal Aid DC
 Legal Aid Justice Center
 Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
 Macomb Immigrant Service Center
 Mariposa Legal
 Mekong NYC
 Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
 Migrant Justice
 Minnesota 8
 Mobilization for Justice
 Mutual Aid East Boston / Mutual Aid Eastie
 National Immigrant Justice Center
 National Immigration Law Center
 National Immigration Litigation Alliance
 National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
 North Carolina Asian Americans Together
 Neighborhood Defender Service Of Texas
 New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
 NJ Consortium For Immigrant Children
 New Mexico Immigration Law Center
 NorCal Resist
 North Carolina Justice Center
 Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
 NY Lawyers For The Public Interest
 NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic
 Opening Doors International Services, ODIS & Refugee Support Services, RSN
 Organized Power in Numbers
 Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation and Empowerment
 Pacific Refugee Support Group
 Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
 Prisoners' Legal Services of NY
 Project South
 Puente
 RAICES
 Restoration Immigration Legal Aid
 RFK Human Rights



2024 Lisa Brodyaga Award Reception honoring Marta Delgado, Chicago, June 2024

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
RSHM LIFE Center
Russian-speaking Community Council, Inc
Safe Passage Project
Sanctuary for Families
Somos Indivisible
South Bronx United, Inc.
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southeast Asian Defense Project
Southern Center for Equity Advancement and Immigrant Refuge
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
The Bronx Defenders

CLINICS

Duke Law Immigrant Rights Clinic
Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program
Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, Yale Law School
Cornell Law School Asylum Clinic
CUNY School of Law
Immigrants' Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School
Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Mills Legal Clinic, Stanford Law School
Michigan State University College of Law

LAW FIRMS

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The Law Office Of The Cook County Public Defender
The Legal Aid Society
The Mami Chelo Foundation, INC
The Migrant Alliance
Thrive International Programs
TN Justice For Our Neighbors
Vermont Asylum Assistance Project
VIDAS Legal Services
Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY
Washington Defender Association
Woori Juntos
Workers Defense Project

PCC Legal Resource Center/CLEAR Clinic
Rutgers Immigrant Rights Clinic
Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic
University of Minnesota - Law Clinics
University of Tulsa
DePaul University Legal Clinic

Covington & Burling LLP
DLA Piper US LLP
Van Der Hout LLP
aLegal Law
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COMMUNITY

SUPPORTERS

The National Immigration Project is enormously grateful to all of our foundation, law firm, and individual partners and donors, including over 440 donations received from private individuals in 2024. Together we are building a world in which everyone can live freely and flourish.

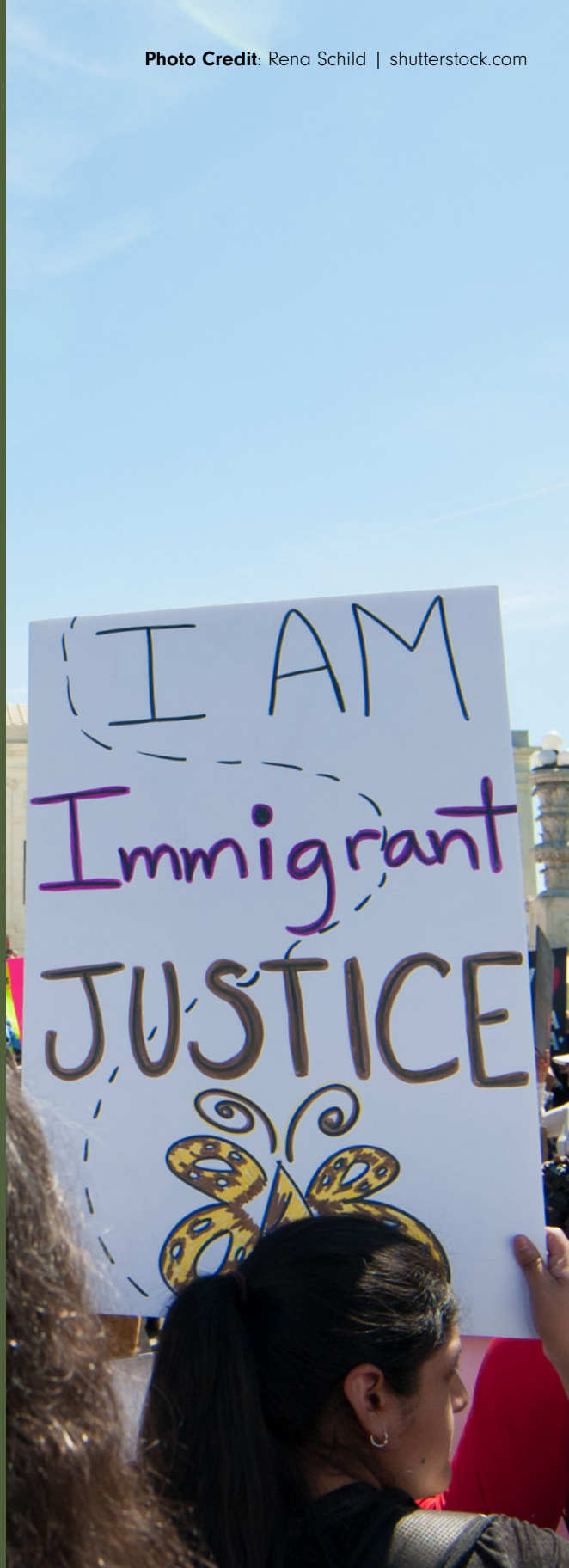
Thanks to you, the National Immigration Project remains a beacon of hope and justice.

FOUNDATIONS

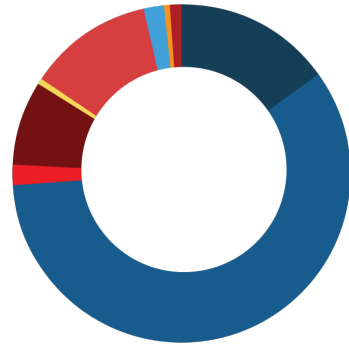
Abundant Futures Fund
Anonymous
Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation
Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund
FJC – A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds
Ford Foundation
Four Freedoms Fund of NEO Philanthropy
The Grove Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation
Koster Foundation
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
Pillars Fund
The Younger Family Fund
Tides Foundation

SPONSORS

AILA Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter
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AILA Southern CA Chapter
AILA Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico Chapter
AILA Washington DC Chapter
Grossman Young and Hammond LLC
Jenner & Block LLP
Kazan McClain Partners Foundation
Perkins Coie LLP
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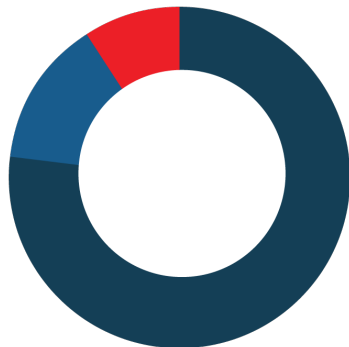


FINANCIALS



2023 REVENUE

- foundation grants **59%**
- individual donations **15%**
- seminars **11%**
- member dues **8%**
- consulting fees **2%**
- royalty income **2%**
- attorney fees **1%**
- publications **1%**
- other **1%**



2023 EXPENSES

- programs **77%**
- management & general **14%**
- development **9%**

OUR REVENUE & EXPENSES

Income in 2023 derived from individual and foundation contributions, membership dues, book royalties, consultant work, and seminar tuition.

2023 expenses reflect continuing investment in expanding our programmatic work, and management and institution-building for the organization's future.

The National Immigration Project is a non-profit charitable organization under Internal Revenue Services code 501(c)3. All contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

To learn more about supporting our work, contact development@nipnlg.org.

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.



The National Immigration Project plays a mission-critical role in the immigrants' rights movement. Whether by providing the highest level of technical expertise on issues of immigration law, or coordinating the immigration bar's amicus work in the Supreme Court of the United States, or serving as counsel and amicus in the most important immigration cases in the federal courts, NIPNLG punches above its weight class.

– CECILIA WANG
ACLU

STAFF



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Monica Ashiku
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Caitlin Bellis
Policy and Community
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Alejandra Cruz
Youth Organizer, End SIJS
Backlog Coalition



Rachel Davidson
Director, End SIJS Backlog
Coalition



Alan Dicker
IMPOWER Staff Attorney



Ann Garcia
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Pamela Goldstein
Senior Donor Relations
Specialist



Lily Hartmann
Legal Program Manager



Jazmine James
Operations and Events
Manager



Yulie Landan
Justice Catalyst Fellow



Joseph F. Lin
DALE Staff Attorney



Michelle Méndez
Director of Legal Resources
and Training



Ramiro Murguía
Membership and Events
Manager



Victoria Neilson
Supervising Attorney



Rebecca Scholtz
Senior Staff Attorney



Matthew Vogel
Supervising Attorney



National Immigration Project staff members in Montgomery, AL, December 2023

BOARD



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Board Chair



Sanaa Abrar



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Luis Cortes Romero



Andrea Garcia



Shruti Garg



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