

# PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | July 2015



*The mission of Pangea Legal Services is to stand with immigrant communities and to provide services through direct legal representation, especially in the area of deportation defense. In addition to direct legal services, we are committed to advocating on behalf of our community through policy advocacy, education, and legal empowerment efforts.*

## **Pangea Opens Second Office in South Bay! Office Warming Save the Date: 9/23**

We are thrilled to announce that Pangea has opened a second office in the South Bay! On July 1<sup>st</sup>, [we opened our doors to the community](#) at the [Milpitas Sobrato Center for Nonprofits](#).

The need for an office in the South Bay became clear to us after representing many individuals in removal proceedings who had to travel great distances to access Pangea's services - from San Mateo and Santa Clara counties all the way down to the San Joaquin Valley. Now, thanks to a generous in-kind grant from the [Sobrato Foundation](#), and the support of the [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#), Pangea will be able to provide services a little bit closer to home for South Bay residents.

*We are excited to share our new space with you! Please save the date and join us for our **office warming party** in September.*

**September 23, 2015**

**4-7:30pm**

**Pangea Legal Services  
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits  
600 Valley Way, #538A (Building 3, Second Floor)  
Milpitas, CA 95035**



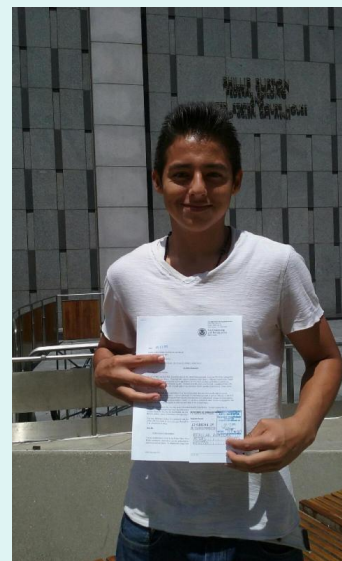
Pangea attorney Celine in front of the new South Bay office with our first community visitor

## Legal Services: Pangea Successes

We are thrilled to report that this quarter, **23 Pangea clients were granted immigration relief** (including 10 asylum grants and a complex DACA grant in removal proceedings); and 2 detained Pangea clients were released and reunited with their families.



Celebrating a family reunification win for a successful removal defense case.



Celebrating a recent asylum win for one of our Bring Them Home participants.

## Legal Services Spotlight: Pangea Attorney Spends Week Representing Moms and Children in Family Detention Center



View outside the Dilley South Texas Family  
Detention Center

Pangea attorney [Marie Vincent spent one week this July representing detained women and children in Dilley, Texas](#) (see [LA Times article](#)).

Thanks to the work of the [CARA Pro Bono Project](#), Marie and a group of volunteers from all over the United States met with detained women around the clock, screening them for immigration relief and assisting them in bond hearings, credible fear determination reviews, and master calendar hearings.

At Pangea, Marie has represented many survivors of rape and gender-based violence; however she was surprised by the pervasiveness of this experience among Central American women detained in Dilley. Her observation correlates with statistics that at least [88% of all detained women and children are asylum seekers](#) fleeing violence in Central America.

Marie was also struck by the number of women who had been torn apart from their families at the border. ICE's current practice is to separate families upon crossing, sending women and some of their children to "family" detention centers, and husbands, grown children, adult siblings, and other relatives to separate adult detention facilities, causing further traumatization. In some instances, children as young as 5 were separated from their fathers upon crossing and sent to a different institution than their mothers and fathers, resulting in families detained in 3 different locations. Many women described the anguish of not being able to communicate with their spouses or other children while being detained; and in some cases, receiving the devastating news that their loved ones had already been deported.

Although the [recent decision by a federal district court judge](#) finding that family detention centers are unlawful is a step in the right direction, Marie's observations at Dilley remind us that we need to stop detaining all immigrants and treat our families who are fleeing violence with dignity and compassion.



Pangea attorney, Marie, with other CARA Pro Bono volunteers in Dilley, TX

## Policy Advocacy: Pangea Lifts Up Client Stories to Help Shape Dialogue Around Immigrant Rights

Pangea was deeply saddened by the tragic shooting of Kathryn Steinle this month - and by the anti-immigrant media frenzy that ensued. As extreme voices seek to exploit the tragedy for political purposes, we urge lawmakers to engage in thoughtful dialogue and recall how sanctuary policies uphold the Constitutional rights of all, protect crime victims and witnesses, and build community confidence in law enforcement.



Vigil in the wake of tragic shooting and call to uphold due process policies

Moments like these remind us that we must be vigilant and continue to push for policies that are inclusive, provide systemic care and services for our communities, and strengthen due process.

Pangea's policy advocacy efforts this quarter were aligned with some of

these goals:

- Pangea joined hundreds of immigrants and advocates from across California to participate in [Immigrant Day](#) this May. In partnership with the [California Immigrant Policy Center](#), Pangea staff and interns met with Sacramento lawmakers to advocate for positive, inclusive, and immigrant-friendly bills including [SB4](#) (Health for All), AB 1343 (giving defendants a right to receive advice on the immigration consequences of a conviction), and AB 622 (limiting the misuse of E-Verify).



Pangea and VIDAS members advocating in Sacramento

- Pangea participated in [AILA's National Day of Action](#) in Washington D.C. this April. As AILA NorCal's Advocacy Co-Coordinator, Pangea attorney Nilou coordinated a team of lawyers to lobby federal lawmakers on the Hill [to end family detention](#). Pangea attorney Bianca was also able to join the day of action thanks to the generous support of an AILA NorCal scholarship.



Pangea attorneys and AILA NorCal members advocating on the Hill

- As part of the [FREE-SF coalition](#), Pangea continued to work with San Francisco Sheriff Mirkarimi to fine-tune the SF Due Process Ordinance that separates police from immigration, creating a model policy for cities around the country.



Pangea DreamSF Fellow in front of the State Capitol on Immigrant Day

## Legal Empowerment Snapshot: Phone Banking, Workshops, Poetry and More!

Here's a quick snapshot of our education and legal empowerment activities this quarter:

- Shared information with Univision viewers about employment-based U visas for victims of workplace crime, and answered the community's questions during a [phone bank](#).



Pangea interns and OCEIA DreamSF fellows at Univision 14 headquarters

- While the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit heard oral arguments in New Orleans regarding the DAPA/DACA+ programs, we presented our own mock arguments and poetry at the **"Our Day in Court"** event organized by the [SCC Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#), which

allowed community members to share how they are impacted by the delay of DAPA/DACA+.

- Began **free, bi-weekly legal orientation sessions** with family members of **detained immigrants** via phone, explaining the detention process and their rights while incarcerated.
- Provided free **legal consultations at a forum** hosted by AG Kamala Harris and SEIU at the Mayfair Community Center in East San Jose.
- **Presented** on DAPA/DACA issues along with [PACT](#) leaders, and SCC's District Attorney's Office in San Jose.



Pangea intern Ana Avalos reads an original poem at "Our Day in Court"



Community members using artwork to persuade the panel of judges in "Our Day in Court"

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## Pangea Welcomes DreamSF Fellow Irma Gonzalez

Pangea is excited to host our second [DreamSF Fellow](#): Irma Gonzalez. Irma is a graduate of San Francisco State, and will be working with Pangea for the upcoming year.

Thank you to the [San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs](#) for selecting us as a host organization for a second year in a row!



Irma Gonzalez,  
DreamSF Fellow  
2015

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**Thank You for Your Support!**

Pangea's second office, case wins, legal empowerment work, and advocacy efforts were supported by your collaboration and collective contributions.

We raised over \$3,000 during [Silicon Valley Gives Day](#). Thanks again to everyone who supported! Special thanks as well to the [City of San Francisco](#), [San Francisco Foundation](#), Grove Foundation, [Sobrato Foundation](#), [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#) for your renewed and generous support this year.

Our tremendous growth and successes are only possible with the support of our partners, friends, mentors, interns, and our greater community. We are grateful to all of you.

Warmly,  
Pangea Family



Pangea staff and interns enjoying a team fun day this June.



Pangea staff and interns enjoying a team fun day this June.

*We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all. Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.*

[Donate Here](#)



Pangea Legal Services is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax-deductible. We will put every dollar of your generous contribution to work by providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, and legal empowerment for low income immigrant communities.



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