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# PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | July 2013

## Community Impact

### An Overview of Pangea's First Six Months

We are thrilled to share our community impact with you since Pangea's launch in January 2013. In this newsletter, you will see some of the details of Pangea's work and commitment to its threefold mission of 1) direct legal representation, 2) community education and empowerment, and 3) policy advocacy to advance immigrant rights. This newsletter is the product of the tireless work of our Community Impact Intern this summer, Kathy Khalvati.

### Pangea's Mid-Year Impact

<b>TOTAL HOURS OF LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED</b>	<b>3,300+</b>
<b>TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS OF SERVICE PROVIDED</b>	<b>400+</b>
<b>TOTAL LOW BONO HOURS OF SERVICE PROVIDED</b>	<b>2,900+</b>
<b>NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVED LEGAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>*220/85 +</b>
<b>COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH JOINT LEGAL EMPOWERMENT EFFORTS &amp; IMMIGRATION CLINICS</b>	<b>450+</b>
<b>LOCAL, STATE, &amp; NATIONAL POLICY ADVOCACY HOURS</b>	<b>260+</b>
<b>TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF SERVICES DONATED</b>	<b>\$500,000+</b>

\*Includes direct legal beneficiaries and derivatives

Data from January-June 2013

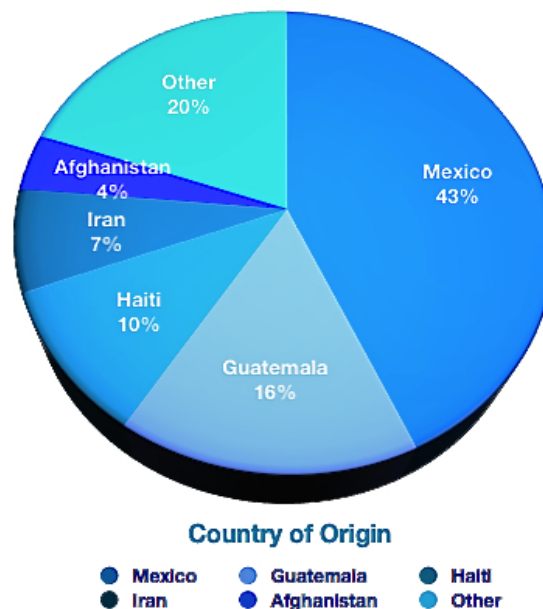
## Our Global Community

Serving clients from six of the seven continents, Pangea Legal Services has become part of the global family in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our services are performed mostly in Spanish, French, and Farsi. Approximately **80%** of our clients are originally from Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, and Afghanistan, while the **other 20%** are from the following countries:

**Australia | Algeria | Brazil | China  
 DRC | Ethiopia | Fiji | France  
 Guinea | Honduras | Ivory Coast  
 Lithuania | Mali | Nicaragua  
 Nigeria | Peru | Philippines  
 El Salvador | Syria**

### Demographics of Clients Served



Data from January-June 2013



## Direct Legal Representation: Keeping Families Together

We are excited about the recent success for our client, [Reylla Ferraz Da Silva](#), who we represented and helped reunite with her nine-month-old baby on May 22, 2013 ([see videoclip](#)). Reylla was detained by federal immigration authorities despite being a nursing mother to an infant son and fearing religious and political persecution in Brazil. With tireless

work by Pangea's attorneys and support from Pangea's partner organizations, community-members, and the media, Reylla was reunited with her family and stopped from deportation.

Pangea's direct legal representation is focused on defensive and affirmative casework in the following areas: asylum, cancellation of removal, DACA, U Visa applications, family-based petitions, consular processing, naturalization and more. Approximately **58%** of our work is in **deportation defense**.

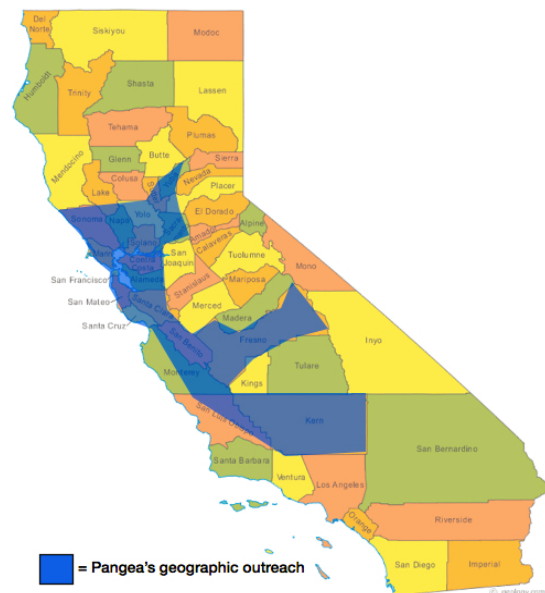
*Most of our clients are able to pay low fees. Some Pangea clients, especially those who do not have a strong support network like Reylla, are unable to pay even low fees and need representation on a pro bono basis. **With expanded capacity through grants and donations, Pangea plans to double its current pro bono hours within the next six months to create even greater access to legal services for persons in need.***

## Community Education and Empowerment

In addition to providing direct legal services, Pangea empowers community members through legal immigration clinics, media advocacy, education, and rallies.

In the last six months, Pangea attorneys and volunteers attended 12 legal clinics and collaborated on various advocacy projects with the following partners:

- African Advocacy Network (AAN)
- Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS)
- Causa Justa-Just Cause (CJJC)
- Centro Legal de la Raza, Oakland
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (ALC)
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- PICO National Network (PICO)
- Marcos Gutierrez and Michelle White (1010 AM Radio)
- National Lawyers Guild-SF Bay



**Pangea's geographic outreach** to date expands across a geographic range that reaches

Yuba County in the Northeast, Kern County in the South, and Marin County in the West.

***Our goal is to expand our geographic outreach through clinics and direct representation into rural California, where there is significant need for and very limited access to legal services for immigrant communities.***

## Advocating for Policy Change

Our clients and the faces we see on a daily basis motivate us to participate in greater policy change for an improved immigration system on 3 levels: local, state, and national.

### Local:

Pangea is an active member of a coalition called, "San Francisco Immigrant Rights Defense Committee" (SFIRDC). Most recently, Pangea worked with SFIRDC and San Francisco Supervisor, John Avalos, to introduce the "Due Process Ordinance."

This ordinance will eliminate ICE holds for all individuals in San Francisco, and address the negative impact of S-Comm, a massive federal detention and deportation program that has torn apart communities, left children as orphans, and destroyed families. The Due Process Ordinance offers a powerful example of a "ceiling" as one of the nation's strongest policies addressing the problems with S-Comm. In saying "no" to all ICE holds, our local ordinance says "yes" to equal treatment under the law for all.

Pangea's commitment to policy advocacy continues through lobbying, drafting legislation, educating, and working closely with our coalitions and community members.



Due Process for All Ordinance Press Conference and Rally at City Hall, San Francisco

### State:

Working on the state level, Pangea engaged in lobby visits and advocacy efforts in Sacramento to move forward the TRUST Act, a state policy that addresses S-Comm by limiting the costly and potentially unconstitutional immigration holds in our local jails.

While the Due Process Ordinance (described above) creates a "ceiling" as the nation's

potentially strongest policy, locally, the TRUST Act creates an important "floor" to limit abuses against immigrant communities across the entire state of California.

### National:

While representing an asylum-seeker who lost his leg to a targeted mine explosion in Afghanistan, Pangea experienced the suffering that extensive delays in U.S. security background checks can cause. As a member of San Francisco Bay for Comprehensive Immigration Reform ("SFBayforCIR"), a coalition of advocates working for national immigration reform, Pangea lifted up the stories of this Afghan man as well as other clients who suffered unreasonably long delays due to security background checks to advocate for national policy change. With its coalition partners at SFBayforCIR, Pangea met with Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein's office, and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren to highlight our coalition's priorities for immigration reform. After these meetings, Pangea began drafting and will submit a legislative memo for these leaders, putting forth amendments to the proposed national immigration reform bill and addressing the issues faced by our clients and greater community members.

***Our long-term goal is to expand our policy advocacy efforts to the international level and lift up some of our client stories to the Inter-American System or other international bodies.***

## Support Pangea's Mission

Pangea's current funding comes from below-market, sliding-scale payments from our clients, according to their ability to pay. We sincerely welcome your support to help us grow and continue our mission.

As we look into the future, Pangea hopes to embark on the following goals:

- **Double our Pro Bono service hours;**
- **Provide outreach and access to justice for rural communities who have limited access to legal resources;**
- **Take our policy advocacy to the international level by beginning to engage international partners and agencies.**

Thank you for your support and love for Pangea.

Warmly,

Niloufar Khonsari  
Founder and Executive Director  
Pangea Legal Services

## Contribute Now

Be one of the first to join our summer fundraising efforts. By clicking the link

above and donating \$25/month, Pangea will be able to **serve indigent and rural communities, advocate for more humane immigration policies, and further empower people to know their rights.**

## Stay Connected

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