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's Points of Unity & First Friday Tea Time

After a whirlwind year of growth and successes, Pangea started 2015 with some introspection. We reflected on our past, our collective identity, and our shared values for the future. With the help of Kiran at AORTA (Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Alliance), we came up with **13 Points of Unity** that get at the heart of what we believe in as an organization. Here are a few of our favorites:

- We believe in the oneness of all people and we embrace the common humanity of every person; our interactions are guided by love.

- We are positive and solution oriented. We value fresh attitudes, innovation, and creativity. We challenge conventional thinking in order to redefine what is possible.

- We practice humility. We listen, learn, reflect evaluate, and grow.

Having looked inward, we're opening our doors and hosting an **open house every first Friday of the month** at 3:30pm for anyone who is interested in learning more about Pangea and our team in person. Come join us for tea and conversation!

**RSVP to Alejandra if you'd like to join!**
Please Mark Your Calendars & Please Support: 
Silicon Valley Gives Day is on Tuesday May 5th!

This Cinco de Mayo, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation will be crowd funding for hundreds of South Bay nonprofits, including Pangea!

Check out our efforts here, forward to your friends, and consider making a donation! **Our goal is to raise $5,000** in this spring fundraising effort, and we value every dollar that you can contribute.

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**Spotlight on Pangea's International Human Rights Advocacy**

Eleanor Roosevelt, drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said that "the destiny of human rights is in the hands of all our citizens in all our communities." At Pangea, we take this obligation seriously, and we are committed to advocating for our community's human rights on multiple levels.

In this spirit, Bianca Z. Santos recently provided recommendations at the [U.S. Human Rights Network Universal Periodic Review Dialogue](https://www.ushumanrights.org) in Washington, D.C., where she urged foreign embassies and consulates to hold the U.S. government accountable on issues of immigrant detention and protecting asylum seekers. This came in advance of the U.S.'s second [Universal Periodic Review in Geneva](https://www.un.org/en/udhr/), where UN countries will have the chance to critique the U.S. on its human rights track record. Pangea and other nonprofit organizations made sure that our partner countries have the on-the-ground information they need to make smart, relevant and impactful recommendations to the U.S. in Geneva.

Go Bianca!
Pangea Wins its First 2 Cases as Part of S.F. Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC)

This quarter, the city of San Francisco allocated funds for a collaborative of nonprofits to represent children and families living in SF who are in fast-track deportation proceedings. Pangea is happy to report that we've won our first two cases under this grant! Our most recent win was on behalf of Jessica,* a 16-year-old asylum seeker from Central America. Jessica had to flee her country because she received death threats from dangerous gang members who wanted her to transport drugs. Her father also beat her severely and regularly.

When Jessica arrived in the U.S., she was held in a hielera (a freezing cold room) by immigration for 6 days, along with 80 other female migrants. The hielera was cold and cramped; the lights were kept on 24-hours a day; there wasn't a shower; and Jessica was barely given any food. Sadly, this experience is an all-too-common experience for refugees crossing the border - including for pregnant women and children.

Luckily, Jessica was able to win her asylum case with the help of Pangea's attorneys and support of SF funding. Jessica is excited to have more time to play soccer (her favorite sport) and focus on school.

*Client's name has been changed.

Pangea Reunites Two Families Separated as a Result of Immigrant Detention

In the past two months, Pangea attorney, Marie, successfully advocated for two clients in detention, reuniting them with their families. Here is a recap of their stories:

Jorge* is a boy from Central America who came to the U.S. at age 16 to
escape severe abuses he suffered. He missed one court hearing and was ordered deported by the judge. As a result, ICE picked him up and detained him.

Pangea filed emergency motions to stop Jorge's deportation and reopen his case. Both motions were granted but ICE refused to let Jorge out. Pangea advocated with help from partners and eventually succeeded in getting Jorge released and reunited with his family. Now Jorge has a second chance to see his case through and request protection in the U.S.

Miguel* is the father of 3 U.S. citizen children and the sole breadwinner for his family. A U.S. resident for 17 years, he was picked up by ICE as he was leaving his house to go to work. Pangea quickly sprang into action and worked with his family to request a bond for Miguel in just seven days. The judge granted a low bond and Miguel was able to reunite with his wife and children.

We hope to expand our capacity to take more detained cases like Jorge and Miguel's in the coming year. Please support us in this work and stay tuned for updates.

*Names have been changed.

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Education and Legal Empowerment: Moving Forward with Administrative Relief

Despite efforts to delay admin relief for millions of immigrant families, Pangea continued to move forward in preparation of the program and we continue to educate our community.

In collaboration with grassroots partners such as SFOP/PIA, PACT, and CCISCO, Pangea provided presentations and support for legal empowerment workshops for potentially eligible parents and youth in Redwood City, San Jose, East Palo Alto, and Concord.

The over 4 million people who will be eligible for this relief motivate us to continue working with out community organizing allies to show lawmakers
that we are strong, unafraid, and will continue to push the envelope for our community's human rights.

Pangea attorney, Nilou, engaging the crowd with Adriana Guzman from SFOP/PIA in East Palo Alto

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More Fun Updates

- Check out Nilou's latest piece on social justice and affordable fee work, "The Low Down on Low Bono." Pangea presented on this topic in April at the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) Annual Education Conference in Chicago.

- Thank you to S.A.H.E. (Students Advocates for Higher Education) for inviting Pangea to speak at your immigration forum! Céline shared real-life stories to highlight the injustices of immigrant detention and family deportation. Over 90 engaged San Jose State University students came out to discuss the way forward on various immigration issues.

- Pangea co-presented for a national webinar on representing unaccompanied children seeking asylum. Over 70 legal professionals around the country tuned in to hear from Pangea, CGRS, KIND, and ILRC on this topic.

- Pangea led an administrative relief phone bank with great support from BASF's Legal Referral Service. Thank you to Univision 14 for helping educate the community on immigration topics and giving us the opportunity to speak with your viewers!
Help Us Grow our Fan Base

One of our goals for 2015 is to make more friends! If you know of people who might be interested in our work and immigrant justice issues, please forward them this email and ask them to subscribe to our newsletter.

And don't forget, our doors will be open for visits every first Friday of the month - come by and say hello!

Warmly,
Pangea Family

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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Read our prior newsletters here!

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