

PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | July 2016



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.

We must be more organized than ever, with DAPA on hold

The split Supreme Court decision in [U.S. v. Texas](#) left us with heavy hearts. It made us remember the challenges that we face in advocating for immigrant justice, but also the resolve with which we push forward. We now stand together with the community and lift up the call for a moratorium on deportations. Please join us in the call for [#Not1More deportation!](#)

Legal Services Spotlight: Pangea continues to advocate for DACA to be applied fairly, as part of the larger struggle to halt deportations

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision blocking DAPA for millions of immigrants, we must ensure that our ongoing DACA program continues fairly and impartially, as part of the broader struggle to halt deportations. This quarter, Pangea represented community activist, recent law graduate, and DACA applicant [Lizbeth Mateo](#). Lizbeth came to the U.S. at the age of 14. She became a key organizer for the federal DREAM Act, California's AB60 license campaign, and participated in the [Bring Them Home Campaign](#) as one of the [Dream 9](#).

Lizbeth is now studying for the California bar exam, but her promising legal future is left hanging in the balance. Despite its discretionary authority to grant her case, USCIS has indicated its intent to deny Lizbeth's DACA application. This is extremely concerning, given recent [denials of other DACA activists' applications](#). When social justice activists are targeted, we all lose.

Lizbeth, Pangea, and Santa Clara School of Law held a joint press conference this month, urging USCIS to grant Lizbeth's case and allow her to use her law degree fully to serve the greater immigrant community.



Lizbeth speaking out at her press conference along with her Pangea attorney, law professors and fellow students.

Detained immigrants, their children, and families are among the most negatively impacted by our system, and the most in need of representation

Being unrepresented in detention has real consequences - something Pangea client Saul knows first-hand.

Saul came to the U.S. at the age of five. He grew up in a low-income neighborhood and experienced violence regularly at a young age. Lacking support from his parents or teachers, Saul dropped out of school and turned to alcohol and economic crimes to survive. Saul was eventually detained by immigration. Without a lawyer to advocate for him, he was deported to Mexico. Just days later, he was targeted and tortured by Mexican police.

Pangea met Saul this March while he was in immigration detention. He was terrified of being returned to Mexico again. His partner and two U.S. citizen children had just been evicted from their home.

Pangea worked tirelessly on his case. After three months of hard work, preparation and legal research, Saul won withholding of removal in court and walked out of detention a free man.



Saul enjoying a post-detention family outing with his partner and two U.S. citizen children.

We believe that all immigrants deserve the right to counsel and to live a life free from immigration detention. We continue to [work with our partners statewide](#) to report on and advocate for universal representation for all detained immigrants!

Advocacy Spotlight: From San Francisco to Sacramento - Immigrant Rights Now!

Did you know that in the Bay Area, [detained immigrants with legal representation avoid deportation 83% of the time](#)? That number plummets to 11% for detained immigrants who lack access to counsel, according to the Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (NCCIJ) [Report](#). Pangea envisions a world in which all immigrants have the right to move and their unique story heard. Here are some of the things we've done to make that vision a reality:

FREE-SF successfully advocates to uphold due process rights for immigrants in San Francisco

Pangea is a member of the [Full Rights Empowerment & Equality Coalition of San Francisco](#) (FREE SF), a San Francisco-based coalition of over 14 organizations working at the intersection of immigrant rights and criminal justice reform. After months of work to update our local Due Process ordinance to address changing ICE tactics, in May 2016, we won an astounding unanimous vote from the Board of Supervisors affirming our update.



FREE SF rallies at City Hall for Due Process for All

In line with our commitment to advocate for greater protections for the immigrant community, Pangea is excited to share that we have become the fiscal sponsor of this leading voice in the city, FREE SF.

Pangea advocates for immigrant friendly statewide bills on Immigrant Day

This May, Pangea joined hundreds of advocates from across the state to lift up the voices of the immigrant community at the state capitol in Sacramento for Immigrant Day 2016. Together with other organizations, we met with seven legislators and their staff members to advocate for [pro-immigrant bills like the TRUTH Act](#) to limit the entanglement of local law enforcement with ICE and [SB 1289 \(Dignity Not Detention Act\)](#) to end the abuses of privatized detention facilities.



Pangea team in front of the state capitol on Immigrant Day



Pangea team volunteering at the Univision studios

Between the DAPA Supreme Court decision and our advocacy for universal representation of detained immigrants, Pangea had a busy quarter of educational and legal empowerment activities. Here's a quick snapshot of our work:

- Presented on detention and deportation issues at the Free The People Network Statewide Conference in Los Angeles
- Gave a Know Your Rights training to immigrant parents on protecting yourself against detention, in partnership with [Sacred Heart Community Service](#)
- Participated in a community forum with [SFOP/PIA](#) on the night that the Supreme Court decided to block DAPA
- Appeared on Univision 14 to discuss topics including [asylum](#) and [what to do if approached by ICE](#)
- Connected clients with media outlets to speak in support of [universal representation](#) and the harsh consequences of immigration law



Pangea attorney Luis Angel participating in a rally in L.A. with the Free the People Network

In Other News...

Kudos to our board member, Elaine Orr, for being chosen as a [top 30 altruistic investor](#) in Trusted Insight magazine and for promoting Pangea and the right to move!

Curious to learn more about Pangea's fee-for-service model? [Visit our website to see how our fee structure works](#), how it helps us stay autonomous, and how it helps us leverage grants and individual donations.

Check out this [Ozy Magazine video](#) featuring Pangea's executive director, Nilou, speaking about her inspiration to do deportation defense and why due process for immigrants is necessary for a better America.



Pangea ED Nilou sharing her passion for Pangea and immigrants

Thank You to this Quarter's Volunteer and Honoree, Leo Kurtysh!

Every year, there are people in our community that help us in extraordinary ways. This quarter, we want to recognize [Leo Kurtysh](#), a math and excel genius who spent dozens and dozens of hours on creating a tailored revenue plan tool for Pangea. Thank you, Leo, for your hard work and contribution!

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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