tired
poor
huddled
masses

Annual Report 2018
“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

- Emma Lazarus, poet, Statue of Liberty

Staff Report
2018

Immigrant Legal Services was founded in 2016 and was designed to help clients navigate the complex immigration system through high-quality and affordable legal representation.

2018 was a very busy year for us as we saw the need for our services grow each month. Our services provide a key component to supporting what the country was founded on. After all, unless we are Native Americans, we are all immigrants that had relatives come through one channel or another, from one coast or the other, crossing many borders or bodies of water.

Many people over centuries have sought refuge on American shores. Some come hoping for a better life for themselves and their children. Others flee religious or political oppression. Still others are in search of the unique American dream.

There is a perception in the country that those seeking asylum are breaking the law. This is not true. By coming to the border and requesting asylum, these individuals are following the law that is laid out before them, just as it has been since our nation’s founding.

Many of our clients are fleeing violence in their own countries. According to Amnesty International, "migration from Central America to the U.S. is not a new phenomenon, however the reasons, or push factors that are causing people to migrate or flee have changed. The Northern Triangle of Central America ("NTCA"), composed of El Salvador, Guatemala, and
Honduras, is considered one of the most dangerous places on earth, which has caused unprecedented levels of migration. The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees has called this a humanitarian crisis. Many Central Americans are refugees who like Syrians, are fleeing for their lives."

Women and children are the most vulnerable, especially as they try to escape from the violence in their country and then endure more violence and harsh conditions as they cross countries in an effort to offer their children a safe environment. Something every parent would do for their child. Imagine what kind of danger you and your family must be in if you are willing to walk across thousands of miles without provisions, risking more violence just to find a place of refuge.

The staff at Immigrant Legal Services work here because we view this work as critical to the country and humanity. We look at immigration law as the only area of the law where you make a difference for generations. Helping people gain legal status can change lives and families for the better, forever.

One of our attorney's stated quite eloquently that "the reason I stay doing immigration law is because I didn’t do anything to deserve or earn the luck of being born in the United States. It was complete chance and so it doesn’t make sense to turn my head the other way when people who didn’t have the same luck are in trouble. They’re me just born across a border. If I were in their shoes, I would need this kind of help and I can’t walk away from that concept. They did nothing to deserve the pain and suffering they’ve endured that led them to flee and need help. Everyone deserves a chance at a life free of fear of death."

Much of what we do at Immigrant Legal Services falls on the hopeless side. This is because the bar of success is so high and at times unattainable. But giving people their best chance of success is what we strive for every single day.

Gina Crezee, Executive Director

Kate Barber, Attorney

Kendall Mortarty, Attorney

Corinne Hone, Office Manager
The ILS Mission

Our mission is helping clients navigate the complex immigration system through high quality and affordable legal representation.

We are an organization not motivated by profit with a goal to provide immigrants access to legal help regardless of their ability to pay or the complexity of their case.
Victims of crime and persecution and their families were helped through the many applications that ranged from asylum to citizenship.

The cases that were handled free of charge ranged from asylum, requests for citizenship, and standalone cases, among many others.

Using only two attorneys, ILS was able to unite 94 families in 2018.
Asylum
The granting of asylum means giving someone permission to remain in the U.S. because of the risk of persecution. Asylum cases take a long time to go through the immigration process. Asylum seekers differ from refugees. People requesting asylum are in the U.S. seeking protection. Refugees have already been granted protection by the United Nations and are brought to the U.S. to be resettled.

29 asylum cases

DACA
DACA was granted to children in the U.S. who are not citizens but came with their parents and have lived here most of their lives. They receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit in the U.S. Currently, they are not eligible for permanent residence.

12 DACA cases

U-VISA
This is a visa that is set aside for victims of certain crimes (and their immediate family members) who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse while in the U.S. and who assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.

12 individuals with U-Visas

VAWA
The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), allows one to become a lawful permanent resident (get a green card) if they are the victim of violence by a U.S. citizen spouse or former spouse; a U.S. citizen parent; a U.S. citizen son or daughter; a lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouse, former spouse or parent.

8 VAWA protections
**Waivers**
An Immigration waiver is a “pardon” for a specific immigration violation. For example, when a person is applying for a US visa or a green card, an immigration (or consular) officer has to determine if the person violated the US or other laws and is inadmissible. We then help people apply for these and obtain these "pardons."

22 waiver applications

**AOS**
Adjustment of status (AOS) is the process used to apply for lawful permanent resident status (also known as applying for a green card) when the person is present in the United States. This means that they can get a green card without having to return to their home country to complete visa processing.

57 AOS cases

**Citizenship**
Citizenship in the United States is a status that entails specific rights, duties and benefits. Citizenship is understood as a "right to have rights," it serves as a foundation of fundamental rights derived from and protected by the Constitution such as the right to freedom of expression, vote, due process, live and work in the U.S., and to receive federal assistance.

17 citizenship cases filed

**ILS Work**
Immigrant Legal Services helped over 1,160 people, if not more, through actual cases and free legal clinics. We helped clients in 15 states, as well as 18 counties in Utah.

All of this work was done with just two lawyers, four volunteers and one part-time employee.

1,160 people helped
Davit* was a client that came to us after being denied asylum and was in the deportation process. Davit was a gay man from eastern Europe. He had been very politically active in his home country, jailed on multiple occasions, and was beaten severely for his political beliefs and for being gay. The last time he was beaten started as a home invasion by the police looking for political fliers. With our help his application for asylum was granted in the immigration court. Now, one year later, he has applied for permanent residence. His status was approved last month!

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Javi*, along with his wife and two children escaped from Venezuela. He and his wife were politically active in parties that opposed the dictator Nicolas Maduro. After attending a political rally Javi was arrested and detained by President Maduro's security forces. He was not breaking any laws but the police did not care. He was tortured for three days and finally released only to then be harassed by a government armed motorcycle gang that tore through their neighborhood and threatened their home while firing weapons at the family. With the help of Immigrant Legal Services, the family was able to file for political asylum. Happily, their asylum request was granted this year!

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Alex* is a gay man from Brazil. The LGBT+ community has struggled for years in Brazil, especially under its current political leaders. Currently, Brazil is considered one of the deadliest countries in the world for the LGBT+

All of the names and countries have been changed in order to protect the individual's identity.
community. Unfortunately, Alex attracted the unwanted attention of law enforcement and became a victim of sexual assault. With no one to turn to for support or help, due to the corrupt practices of the police, he fled to the United States. With ILS's, help, he was able to apply and receive asylum. He’s now learning English so he can further his education and go to law school.

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Sione* is a man that has been a permanent resident in the United States for over 20 years. He is married and his wife and children are all U.S. citizens. He decided it was time to become a citizen as well, but he had a problem with his application. He'd been falsely accused of sexual assault years before. The case was dismissed then expunged. However, in order to apply for U.S. citizenship Immigrant Legal Services had to prove that the case had been dismissed before being expunged.

Because of the tremendous knowledge and expertise of our attorneys, he was able to get the documents required and was approved for his U.S. citizenship!

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John* and his wife are a Canadian couple that had been renewing their temporary work visas in the U.S. for almost 25 years. Every year they would go through the long and tedious process to renew their work visas. There was constant anxiety because they never knew whether their visas would be renewed and they would be able to continue living in the U.S. Their youngest child was born in the U.S. and survived cancer in her late teens. The stress of the cancer compounded the stress of their temporary visas. With assistance from ILS attorneys, she applied for her parents to receive legal status in the United States. Now, after 25 years of uncertainty, this couple can finally call Utah and the U.S. their home.

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Susan* had come from South America to be with a man she met online. Once she met her husband face to face and had a lovely courtship, they got engaged and married. As soon as she became his wife, her husband became very controlling and abusive toward her. The abuse peaked after she decided it was time to leave him for her safety. He trapped her in his home for hours, beat her, and threatened to kill her. After numerous hours trying to negotiate her release, he finally let her leave the room she had been in to get a drink of water. She escaped with no clothes, shoes, or help and quickly called the police. After giving her statement she was taken to the hospital for treatment. Because of Immigrant Legal Services, she was able to apply for a victim based VISA and her case is successfully moving forward.

All of the names have been changed in order to protect the individual's identity.
FINANCIALS

### REVENUE
- Client Service Fees: 191,455
- Donations: 24,650
- Grants: 43,230

**Total Revenue:** 259,335

### EXPENSES
- Program Costs: 171,900
- Fundraising: 7,668
- General: 36,792

**Total Expenses:** 216,360
Thank You

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