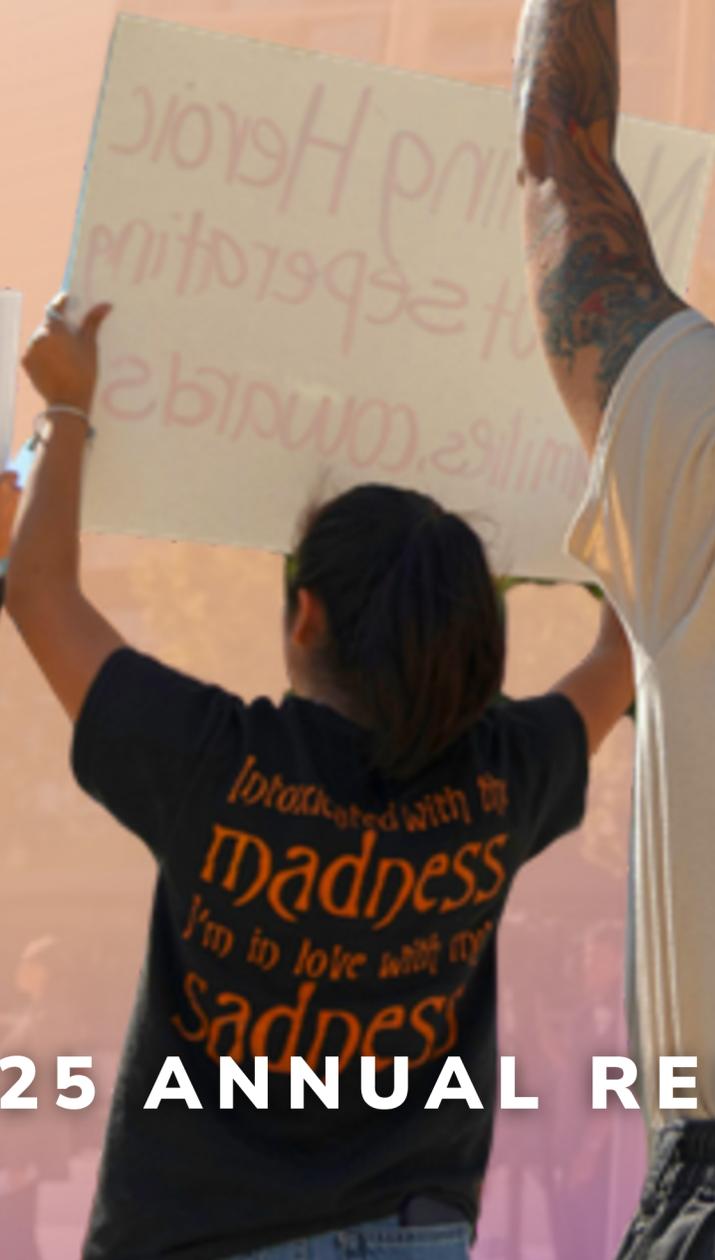




Immigration
Law & Justice
Network



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A WORD FROM OUR CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Partners,

It is with great pride and humility that we share the Immigration Law & Justice Network 2025 Annual Report. As we confront a profoundly difficult time, we offer our reflections on a passionate and focused year of responding to crisis and scaling up to expand the impact of our work.

This past year has demanded that every one of us fight harder, hold immense outrage and pain, and keep showing up even when we are bone-weary and heartbroken.

The current administration is flagrantly violating our Constitution and international law. They continue to dismantle the immigration legal system. They are targeting children, families, community members, legal observers, law firms, foundations, and organizations like ours. At the same time, we are witnessing an aggressive and coordinated effort to silence dissent and expand immigrant detention.

Yes, these grim realities have tested us. But ILJ Network was built for this moment, and we responded with clarity and determination.

We welcomed Vital Immigrant Defense and Advocacy Services (VIDAS) of California's Northern Bay Region into our network early in the year. As seasoned advocates and legal service providers, VIDAS has extensive experience serving the most marginalized immigrants in their communities since its founding in 2014. In addition, their legal work focuses on deportation defense, arguably one of the most critical areas of immigration law at this moment. Our network and our national office is stronger with VIDAS by our side.

ILJ Network recognized the immediate need for quality legal information and expertise as President Trump returned to the White House. We swiftly developed a bilingual Immigration Policy & Know Your Rights Toolkit that is continually updated, and we created a new Trump Policy & Removal Defense Consulting Attorney position. This consulting attorney helps staff across our network keep up with rapidly changing immigration laws and policies and helps strengthen their removal defense practice.

Now, more than ever, we stand strong in our promise to help deliver justice and due process *for all*. We insist on a future where no person—whether immigrant or born within our borders—faces the vast and too often brutal immigration system without expert, client-centered, and zealous legal counsel and representation.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alba Jaramillo".

ALBA JARAMILLO
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

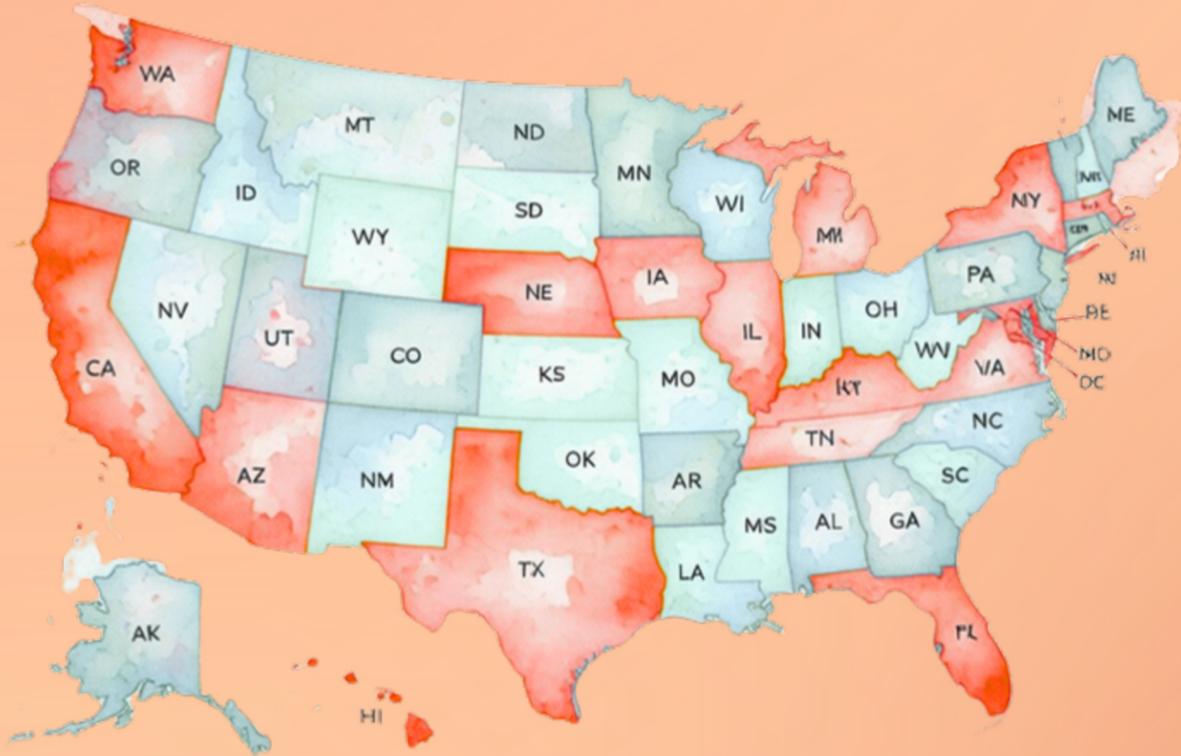


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Bowe".

MELISSA BOWE
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT US

2025 Footprint



Vision

A nation where every immigrant has access to justice in an anti-racist immigration system that honors the dignity of all people.

Mission

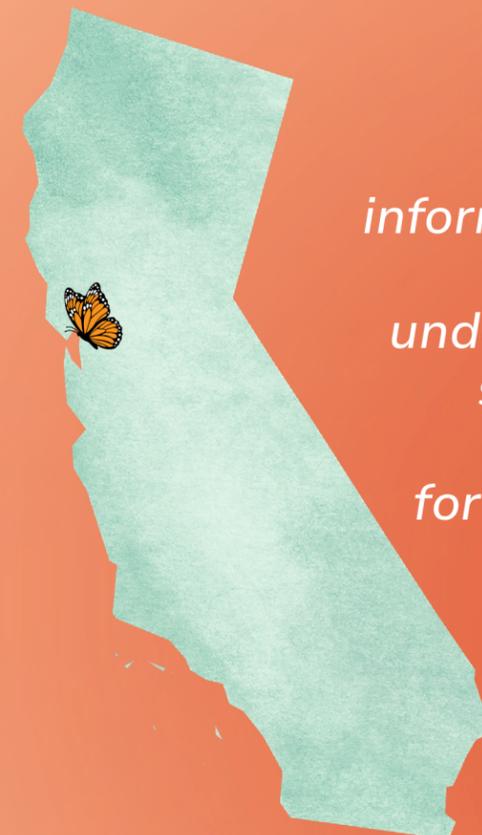
Immigration Law and Justice Network is passionately engaged in serving immigrants as they seek legal status in the United States, by providing free or low-cost expert legal counsel, advocacy, and support services. Through 19 affiliated sites across the country, we pursue justice for all those we serve, while offering a sense of safety, trust, and belonging.

ILJ NETWORK EXPANDS TO CALIFORNIA

VIDAS (Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services) of California's Northern Bay Area joined the ILJ Network on January 1, 2025.

As passionate advocates and legal service providers, VIDAS has been an essential part of the region's immigrant communities since its founding in 2014. They currently serve clients at five offices—in Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Vallejo, and on the Santa Rosa Junior College and Napa Valley College campuses—with a total of 22 legal and other staff members.

VIDAS attorneys take on an array of case types, with a particular focus on deportation defense, unaccompanied minors, college students, and agricultural workers.



“We are deeply aligned with ILJ Network’s anti-racist, trauma-informed immigrant advocacy approach. ILJ Network’s leadership genuinely understands the need for infrastructure support, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have our programs fortified by their expertise, experience, and thoughtful care.”

*-Monica Julian
Executive Director, VIDAS*

ACROSS OUR NETWORK

In 2025, the immigration legal services field faced unprecedented backlogs, severe funding disruptions, and the systematic dismantling of critical legal pathways. Yet, our network remained steadfast, continuing to serve over 6,000 clients in their pursuit of safety, stability, and justice.

18,914

Cases

6,017

Clients

142

Legal Staff

TERROR IN CHICAGO: TOBI'S STORY

A hard-working father is violently abducted in broad daylight during ICE's "Operation Midway Blitz" in Chicago

The two heavily built ICE agents did not have a warrant when they threw Tobi to the ground. They did not have probable cause when they pressed their knees against his back and pushed his head into the pavement. He was not on any list. He was just a young brown man in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The agents took Tobi to the infamous Broadview processing center outside of Chicago. Ricardo Torres, his attorney from Immigration Law & Justice of Northern Illinois, visited him there.

"Tobi has a pending asylum case," says Ricardo. "He's never missed a check-in or a hearing. He's followed every rule, instruction, and directive ICE has ever given him. He doesn't have so much as a parking ticket."

As Ricardo began building Tobi's case—challenging his unlawful detention and seeking his release—he sought guidance from one of our ILJ Network Consulting Attorneys. When Tobi was transferred to a remote ICE detention facility in Michigan, our ILJ affiliate in that state stood ready to provide on-the-ground support if needed.

That is the strength of our ILJ Network. Our clients are never left to fend for themselves, and neither are our attorneys.

While Tobi remained in custody, wondering when and if he would see his daughter again, Ricardo was already preparing the next steps to secure his freedom.



"From the very beginning," says Ricardo, "I promised Tobi we would pursue every avenue available to us to get him home and reunited with his family. And that's a promise we intend to keep."

CASE NUMBERS

3,479

 Family Reunification

4,056

 Work Authorization

633

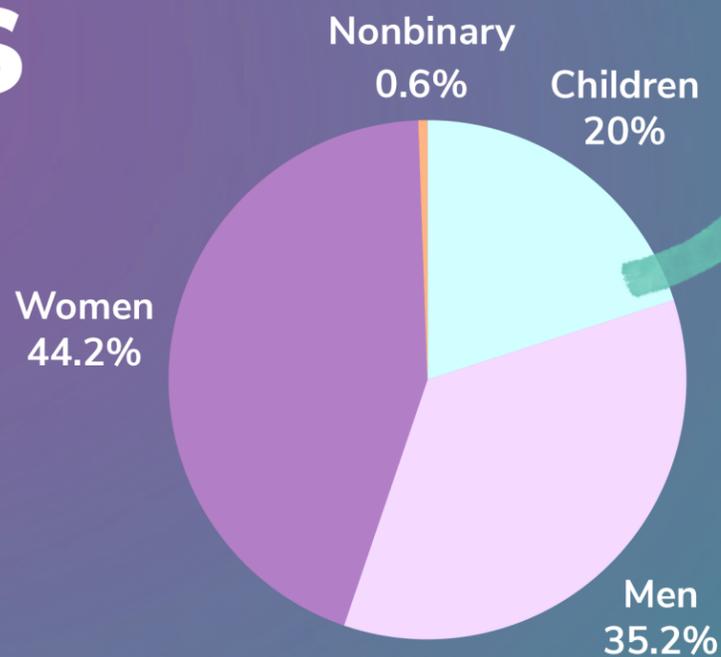
 Citizenship

6,292

 Escaping Violence

4,454

 Advice & Counsel



TOP 20 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

129 Total Countries of Origin

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Mexico | 11. Congo (DRC) |
| 2. Honduras | 12. Haiti |
| 3. Guatemala | 13. Peru |
| 4. El Salvador | 14. Ecuador |
| 5. Afghanistan | 15. Dominican R. |
| 6. Venezuela | 16. Philippines |
| 7. Ukraine | 17. Myanmar |
| 8. Colombia | 18. Jamaica |
| 9. Cuba | 19. Thailand |
| 10. Nicaragua | 20. Ethiopia |

A PATHWAY TO HOPE

Raquel was 13 years old and living in an extremely abusive home in Honduras. She knew it was only a matter of time before the gangs came for her, just as they had for so many of her classmates. And she knew there would be no one there to protect her.

Raquel left Honduras for a new life in Boston. She found legal assistance through our affiliate, New England Justice for Our Neighbors, and its Pathway to Hope program for unaccompanied and vulnerable children. Her attorney, Valerie Napier, worked for the better part of the year to build Raquel's case—an exceptionally strong one, too—so that she could stay with her family in Massachusetts.

Children like Raquel, who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents, and who cannot return safely to their home country, are eligible to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile status.

“I’ve been practicing immigration law for 14 years, and nothing has been as rewarding as working with these children.”

**-Valerie Napier
Legal Director
New England JFON**

Created by Congress in 1990, SIJ status provides an eventual pathway to lawful permanent residency for undocumented children and, critically, protects them from deportation proceedings.

These long-established protections for youth came under attack in 2025, when the Trump administration stopped granting deferred action designations and began deporting SIJ status holders.

ILJ attorneys and their young clients persevere.

Whatever the administration throws at us, our attorneys will not stop pursuing SIJ cases. Neither will our network ever abandon the hundreds of children—like Raquel—who have found the legal counsel and unbroken representation they need to create a safe and secure life here in the United States.



KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Know Your Rights

ILJ Network created a living, bilingual, know-your-rights resource that provides clear, reliable, and accessible information for immigrant communities and their allies. Permanently housed on our website, the document is regularly updated and is available for download and wide distribution.

We also led more than 48 in-person and virtual Know-Your-Rights trainings, educating over 3,000 participants on their rights and responsibilities in a rapidly changing immigration landscape. These efforts included:

- In-person workshops for farmworkers in rural Arizona and immigrant business owners in Tucson.
- An informational session for doctors, nurses, and medical staff in New Jersey, focused on protecting their immigrant patients and maintaining safe hospitals and clinics.
- Conozca Sus Derechos workshops for immigrant congregations and community forums in Arkansas, Maryland, Delaware, and Wyoming.
- Allyship trainings for faith communities, universities, and justice-centered organizations in Colorado, Nebraska, Greater Washington, and across the nation.

Webinars

We continued our efforts to educate, inform, and inspire the public and faith communities through a series of online webinars. We led or collaborated on call-to-action webinars to end immigrant detention and family separation and to encourage faith-driven advocacy.

Advocacy Base Building

Through monthly advocacy calls, we provide a space for staff and board members across the network to discuss federal immigration policy changes, local advocacy initiatives, resources, and opportunities to collaborate.

4,861 MILES FROM HOME

ICE moves immigrant detainees from the US mainland to Hawai‘i.

Juan, a Venezuelan national living in Miami, had never been in trouble before. He had never been charged with a crime. He was a student with a lawful student visa. But tuition was so expensive that he’d been forced to temporarily withdraw from college.

On the day the police stopped him for allegedly speeding, his lapsed enrollment was sufficient reason for ICE to initiate removal proceedings. Over the course of the next six weeks, he was sent to five different ICE facilities on the mainland—from Florida to Louisiana to California and back again—before they finally shipped him to a federal prison in Honolulu.

Transporting detainees from the mainland to Hawai‘i is both costly and impractical. But Hawai‘i’s low federal crime rate means there are many unused beds at the Honolulu facility, and ICE needs beds to continue its single-minded deportation agenda.

Neribel Chadon, Senior Staff Attorney for The Legal Clinic, our ILJ site in Honolulu, meets weekly with immigrant detainees from the mainland. She and her team work to identify clients who are eligible to apply for asylum or other forms of immigration relief from removal.

Unfortunately, there was no viable option for Juan. He chose voluntary departure in hopes of returning to the United States someday to complete his studies. Neribel worked diligently to ensure he wasn’t sent back to Venezuela—or worse—but to his mother living in Mexico.

It wasn’t the happiest outcome, but it was the safest available. And Juan didn’t have to face any of it alone.

“We will never forget your kindness,” Juan’s mother wrote to Neribel, once mother and son were reunited. “It is because of you that my child is safe and with me. Thank you, thank you, with all my heart.”



Honolulu's Federal Detention Center

MEETING THE MOMENT

Consulting Attorney Program

We drew upon our community of legal experts to deliver a unique and comprehensive legal support model for attorneys and Department of Justice representatives throughout our network. We pair each ILJ site with a highly experienced network consulting attorney who assists legal staff in expanding their knowledge and expertise through case strategy guidance, legal updates, one-on-one mentoring, and support in building an effective and trauma-informed law practice.

Added Removal Defense Expertise

Our network now has access to a new, resident expert on removal defense and changing immigration law and policies. Their work includes the creation of weekly email digests on updates in our field, as well as keeping monthly open office hours to answer any practitioner questions on legal strategy. This position also conducts quarterly trainings for our network and partners on issues such as detention trends, how to start a removal defense practice, and advanced topics on removal defense.

Support During Federal Funding Freeze

Trump administration policy changes have severely impacted service delivery, particularly through the abrupt termination of federal programs affecting nearly half of our sites. Through our partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, we facilitated bridge funding to sustain critical representation for unaccompanied children at six sites. This ensured 484 children continued on with their attorneys to receive uninterrupted services.

Rev. Lupita Language Access Fund

The Rev. Lupita Alonso-Redondo Language Access Fund was established in 2023 to help meet the high cost of expert interpretation and translation services for hard-to-reach languages primarily spoken by Black, Indigenous, and Southeast Asian clients across the ILJ Network. In 2025, we funded 85 cases for interpretation and translation, offering language access for clients speaking K'iche', Gujarati, Kreyòl, Tongan, Wolof, and more. Without these critical services, attorneys and clients would face significant barriers in building a successful case.

Survivor Support Fund

We allocated nearly \$35,000 to support the immigration cases of 32 immigrant survivors of persecution, torture, cartel violence, ethnic cleansing, human trafficking, and serious crimes across the United States.

Attorneys across our network used these funds for mental health assessments to substantiate their clients' trauma, detailed country condition reports, and other documents that provide vital and indisputable evidence in immigration court.

BIPOC Professional Development Scholarships

We provided over \$17,000 in funding to 20 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color staff members across the network for training, university classes, certification programs, conferences, and other professional development opportunities.



ROUNDTABLE

For our annual in-person conference, we bring together attorneys, staff, and board members from all ILJ sites for a robust program of trainings and workshops. Sessions cover a wide range of key topics, such as responsive legal strategies amid evolving asylum policies, the continued expansion of immigrant detention and deportation, and lessons learned from rapid-response advocacy.

Beyond professional growth, our Roundtable creates space for meaningful connection, celebrates our host city, and serves as a source of joy, encouragement, and solidarity for our network.



OUR STAFF & BOARD



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Co-Executive Director



Alba Jaramillo, J.D.
Co-Executive Director



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Ayanna Noice
Fundraising Manager



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OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE
GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF UMCOR



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