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Our Mission:

The Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project helps low-income immigrants improve their legal status and works for more just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants.



Immigration Reform, p. 6

Trafficking Victim Finds Safety in Maine

A story of survival, community and compassion.

After fleeing civil war and surviving years of indentured servitude, Halima has finally found safety and security in Maine. With ILAP’s help, she now has legal status and the ability to move on with her new life, without fear of deportation to a country where her traffickers have threatened to kill her.

Halima was an infant when her family fled Somalia because of civil war and moved to a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

Several family members were killed and she was vulnerable as a young girl living in a refugee camp. At the age of ten, she was sent to live with a friend of the family in exchange for working as a maid. The family treated Halima as a slave and refused to feed her, to let her leave the house without their permission, or to have any contact with her family. She worked around the clock and endured constant insults and abuse. She was forced to sleep in a closet and had to scavenge the kitchen for food after everyone went to sleep. This abuse went on for years.

Years later, the father in the family got a job offer in Washington D.C.

and they moved to the United States, bringing Halima along to continue as their maid. The abuse continued in the U.S. and Halima was isolated as she did not speak English and knew nobody here. Eventually, a neighbor discovered what was happening and one day she helped Halima to escape. After leaving the house, Halima eventually met a woman from Maine who sympathized with her situation. The woman brought Halima back to Maine with her and let her stay at her house.

People from the community brought Halima to ILAP to explore her options for legal status. Halima could not return to Ethiopia because the family

Continued on Page 2

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ILAP welcomes the following new board members:



Amy Donahoe Bruning



Gloria Aponte Clarke



Maxwell Chikuta



Strength through collaboration. This is how we maximize ILAP’s impact with a staff of only nine. How else could we serve more than 3,000 clients per year, educate hundreds of individuals on immigration issues, and advocate for policy changes that will improve the lives of immigrants in Maine?



SUSAN ROCHE
Interim Executive Director

ILAP has a staff with extensive expertise in immigration law, and we are the only organization in the state that provides low-income immigrants with comprehensive help in their immigration cases. To ensure that we are as effective and

efficient as possible, we focus on building collaborations and working on issues where our expertise is needed and where, together with our partners, we can have a collective impact.

First, we work with volunteers. We train and supervise volunteers who help us with intake screenings, and who assist clients in filling out immigration applications for permanent residency, work authorization, and citizenship. We have law student interns who help our attorneys on full representation matters and who, in turn, learn important legal skills. We have recruited over 120 attorneys in Maine to volunteer on our *pro bono* panel to represent

individuals in their asylum cases. Working with volunteers allows us to expand our direct services and assist more clients.

When working with clients, we coordinate with other legal aid agencies, social service and health care providers, teachers, and local, state and federal government agencies, among others. Having permanent legal status is a baseline need for our clients and helping them to achieve that status is our work, but we cannot act in isolation and we often need to coordinate our efforts to ensure success. A family law attorney for an unaccompanied minor needs to make sure his client’s child protective order meets immigration requirements to obtain legal permanent residence, the Department of Health and Human Services needs to understand the client’s status in order to grant him benefits, and a school guidance counselor can’t help the client get into college until he has a social security number and legal status to qualify for financial aid.

Trafficking

continued from cover



that brought her to the U.S. has connections to powerful people in that country and they had threatened to kill her in the past. She could not return to Somalia because the civil war continues and her family is no longer living there. ILAP attorneys recognized that Halima would

qualify for a “T” visa for trafficking victims. This is a special visa that Congress created in order to help law enforcement in prosecuting traffickers, and to protect trafficking victims who are often afraid to come forward for fear of deportation. ILAP represented Halima in her application, which was recently approved by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. In three years she will be able to apply for

“We have recruited over 120 attorneys in Maine to volunteer on our *pro bono* panel to represent individuals in their asylum cases.”

Sometimes we build more formal collaborations. In 2012, ILAP developed a partnership with the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law, and we now refer clients to the Clinic and, in coordination with the Clinic’s Director, we provide technical assistance and mentoring to students on their cases. We have collaborated on projects including a Pro-Se Asylum Manual for individuals who need to apply for asylum on their own, and students have worked with ILAP’s Detention Project to assist with intake screenings and Know Your Rights presentations at the Cumberland County Jail.

We also continue to collaborate on advocacy issues. As founder of the Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition (MIRC), ILAP has worked with MIRC partners on policy changes that improve the lives of immigrants in Maine. This year we have worked closely to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. While that fight still continues in

the House, we are proud of Maine’s Senators for voting in favor of the Senate Immigration Bill S.744.

Strength through collaboration. That is how we get our work done. ILAP staff are currently members of the following coalitions and work groups: Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Work Group; Justice Action Group’s Advisory Committee of Providers; Maine State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Human Rights First’s Asylum Working Group; Judicial Branch LEP Advisory Committee; Refugee Service Providers; Maine Seasonal Farm Workers Health Council; Latino Advisory Council; and We Belong Together.



Susan Roche
Interim Executive Director

permanent resident status, and later for citizenship.

Since Halima came to Maine and started her legal process with Immigration, she has begun to rebuild her life. She went to school for the first time, learned English and now volunteers in the community. Halima has developed a strong group of friends for support and she also fell in love and recently

got married. She looks forward to building a family of her own here in Maine. Halima is finally able to have control over her own life, without fear of threats, abuse or deportation. She is grateful to live in safety and she is happy to be a contributing member of our community in Maine. ■



Save The Date

CeleSoirée 2014

Friday, April 4, 2014

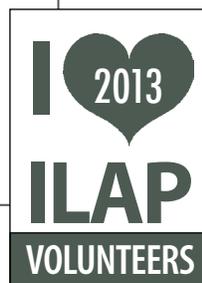
CeleSoirée, ILAP’s annual celebration of immigration through the arts, will dazzle in Portland on Friday, April 4, 2014 at Hannaford Hall on USM’s Portland campus. **Mark your calendar NOW for performances, art, special guest speaker, an auction and more** to celebrate social diversity through the arts and support the important work ILAP does every day.

Volunteer Appreciation

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

ILAP operates with the help of more than 150 volunteers annually. We will honor the work they did this year on

February 11, 2014, with our **annual Volunteer Appreciation Event** at The Local Buzz in Cape Elizabeth. Stay tuned for details. Volunteers, please save the date. We hope you can join us so we can say Thanks!



— Thank You —

Thank you to everyone who participated in the “reverse auction” at CeleSoirée for our new phone system! As this issue goes to print, we are in the process of restructuring our office space and the **new phone system** will follow closely behind. Our clients are the big winners from this upgrade!

BIENVENUE!

A hearty welcome to new ILAP staff members!



INDIA STREET SOCIETY

ILAP has established a circle of friends who provide crucial support for our mission. Named for the place where so many immigrants have started a new life in Maine, the India Street Society is an informal association of individuals and families.

Your entrance into this circle signifies an understanding of ILAP's role as the only agency in the state that provides legal assistance to low income immigrants. It means you value the cultural diversity and economic benefits immigrants bring to our community. And it means you care about social justice right here where we live.

Become a member today starting with just a \$300 annual donation:

Society Membership	\$300
Silver Circle	\$500
Gold Circle	\$1,000 +

Please use the enclosed return envelope to make your donation today. *Thank you!*



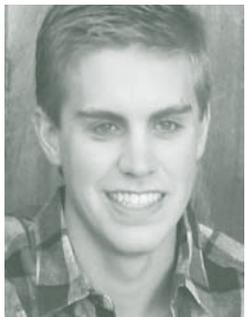
Loretta Prescott

WELCOME ABOARD!

ILAP welcomed two new faces to our offices over the summer, **Development Director Loretta Prescott** and **Legal Program Associate Zachary Anderson**.

Loretta's nonprofit background includes development work at the former YWCA of Greater Portland, YMCA, Girl Scouts, and Special Olympics. Loretta's mother, a naturalized citizen, and her family were immigrants to the US from Italy, so the work at ILAP is very close to her heart.

Zach comes to ILAP as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) and is ILAP's third JVC staffer. As our legal program associate, Zach is responsible for front desk management, volunteer supervision, and intake coordination. He attended a Jesuit high school, and was placed with ILAP following college graduation. He is from the Denver, Colorado, area and plans to attend law school.



Zachary Anderson

FAREWELL AND MUCHAS GRACIAS!

ILAP was fortunate to have the assistance of several interns this summer, and we are thankful to: **Julia Bialek**, UMASS Amherst; **Lauren Nevin**, Williams College; **Olivia Ramos Granja Reed**, Bowdoin College; **Jill Cramer**, University of Maine Law School

ILAP staff provided training and the interns expanded their skill sets assisting the legal staff. Their work was rigorous, their humor well received, and their commitment to ILAP's mission admirable.

The best of luck to all our exiting intern staff!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Mohamed Mohamed

Born in Mogadishu and raised in Portland, Mohamed understood the value of ILAP's work from his family experience, and wanted to start giving back to the community.

He started volunteering at ILAP last year, while an International Studies major at USM.

He was trained as an Intake Screening Specialist and now assists with work permits and other forms. Mohamed finds it "surreal" to meet people from the regions he's

researched, as it puts a human face on his studies. "Every time I leave ILAP, I feel like I did something important."

With his sights set on a job at the United Nations, Mohamed will most likely take a route through a nongovernmental agency internship after graduation. He says "So many people want to be part of ILAP because of the great staff. You want to help that effort as much as possible."

Thanks to Mohamed for his invaluable volunteerism at ILAP!

ASYLUM CASES GRANTED

Congratulations to **CINDY ARN**, of Landis, Arn & Jaynes, who successfully won a grant of asylum in immigration court for her client, who fled ethnic violence in Burundi. She and her client are now working on bringing to the U.S. her client's wife and two young children, whom he was forced to leave behind in Burundi when he fled.

Congratulations to **MEG MORAN** who won asylum on behalf of her client who was threatened by Rwandan officials for presenting on a topic critical of the Rwandan government at a conference in the U.S. Meg's client can now remain safely in the U.S., where the right to speak out against the actions of our own government is one we take for granted.

NEW PRO BONO PANEL MEMBERS

Tawny Alvarez, Esq.,
Verrill Dana
Andrew Bernstein, Esq.,
Law Offices of Joe Bornstein
Matthew Caton, Esq.,
Meridien 361
Emily W. Mundy, Esq.,
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Michael Schowalter, Esq.
Cassandra Shaffer,
Wheeler & Arey

PRO SE MANUAL

a manual that provides a step-by-step guide to applying for asylum in the United States

Through the tireless work of our Pro Bono Panel, ILAP has significantly increased its capacity to provide quality, *pro bono* legal representation to individuals residing in Maine who are seeking asylum in the United States because they fear persecution in their home countries.

The number of asylum-seekers coming to ILAP, however, still greatly outweighs ILAP's ability to meet the demand. As a result, many asylum-seekers who are unable to obtain *pro bono* assistance through ILAP but do not have the means to hire private attorneys are forced to prepare and submit their asylum applications *pro se*, without the advice and expertise of an attorney to guide them.

Recognizing that this option is far from ideal, especially given the dramatic difference in success rates between represented and unrepresented asylum-seekers, ILAP has partnered with the University of Maine School of Law's Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (a program within the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic) to create a manual that provides a step-by-step guide to applying for asylum in the United States for individuals without lawyers.

Written with the goal of being accessible to persons with limited English proficiency, the Pro Se Manual will cover an overview of U.S. asylum law and procedure, including instructions on completing and submitting an asylum application to the U.S. government, tips on preparing for the asylum interview and guidance on what to expect during the process.

The English version is expected to be completed during the Fall of 2013 with foreign language translations to follow.

VIDEO RECORDINGS OF TRAININGS

Over the past year, ILAP has held two successful trainings for current and prospective *Pro Bono* Panel members. **The first, in November 2012, covered representing individuals in affirmative asylum proceedings** (i.e. individuals who are not in removal/deportation proceedings before an Immigration Court).

The second, in May 2013, covered defensive asylum proceedings (i.e. individuals who are in removal/deportation proceedings before an Immigration Court). Faculty included Jennifer Archer, shareholder at Kelly, Rimmel & Zimmerman and current president of ILAP's Board of Directors; Noël Young, ILAP's Asylum Attorney; Anna Welch, Director of the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at University of Maine School of Law; the Honorable Paul M. Gagnon, an Immigration Judge at the Boston Immigration Court; Robert Halpin, Court Administrator at the Boston Immigration Court; and several current *Pro Bono* Panel members.

Both of these trainings were videotaped and the recordings are finally available for ILAP's *pro bono* attorneys! The training is highly recommended for new Panel members, and has been approved for CLE credit in Maine. Please contact Noël Young at nyoung@ilapmaine.org or (207) 780-1593 x 105 for access to the video(s).

Immigration Reform Hits Roadblocks in the House

ILAP joins advocates across the country in our disappointment over roadblocks that immigration reform has met in the House of Representatives.

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S.744), which was passed by the Senate with bipartisan support on June 27, 2013, was a negotiated agreement supported by advocates, business, labor, and faith groups. While not perfect, the Bill would provide a path towards citizenship for the 11 million undocumented individuals in the country; improve our asylum laws to give better protection to those fleeing persecution (including the elimination of the one-year filing deadline); remove backlogs and make some changes to reflect the importance of family reunification; and provide more due process and make some improvements to better meet humanitarian and human rights standards. Unfortunately, the momentum has stalled in the House.

House Speaker John Boehner has refused to take up the Senate Bill in the House and instead plans to address immigration reform with a piecemeal approach. What does the piecemeal approach look like? Five bills have been approved by the House Judiciary Committee, none of which provides a path to citizenship or fixes the problems with our broken immigration system. The House bills include:

- The Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act, (H.R. 2278) is modeled after Arizona's SB 1070 and would force local law enforcement to act as immigration officials and would encourage racial profiling.
- The Border Security Results Act (H.R. 1417) focuses on arbitrary and impractical border security goals without correcting the problems with our broken immigration system.
- The Agricultural Guestworker Act (H.R. 1773) would replace the current program for temporary workers with one that has fewer protections and does not include a path towards citizenship.
- The Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 1772) would mandate that E-Verify (electronic worker verification system) be used by all employers, without safeguards to ensure that workers are not erroneously denied employment due to government error.

■ The Supplying Knowledge-Based Immigrants and Lifting Levels of STEM Visas Act (The SKILLS Visa Act) (H.R.2131) would provide more worker visas, but would reduce the number of family-based visas and eliminate the ability of U.S. citizens to sponsor their siblings, even in cases where the petitions have already been approved.

As this newsletter goes to press, a group of House Democrats has introduced a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It is reported to be a modification of the bipartisan Senate bill.

ILAP continues to work along with partner organizations in the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition to support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform.

Asylum-seekers' Benefits Extended While They Wait for Lengthy Government Backlogs

Asylum-seekers have fled their home countries because they have been persecuted by their governments, and they come to the U.S. seeking protection.

Unlike refugees, they do not arrive with permanent status that allows them to work. They must file their applications with immigration authorities and wait for long periods, often years, to get a decision. Recently, the waits have grown even longer due to backlogs at asylum offices nationally and in the immigration courts, and could be 3-4 years.

During the time period that asylum-seekers are waiting for decisions on their cases, they cannot receive federal benefits, and they cannot work until their applications have been filed and pending for 180 days.

These restrictions make basic survival a challenge for this vulnerable population. In Maine, individuals can get state-funded benefits under the Food Supplement Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program while their asylum applications are pending. Until recently, those benefits ended as soon as individuals received their work permits, regardless of whether they had found employment. The legislature recently changed the law so that, starting on August 1st, asylum seekers now continue to receive these benefits until they actually find work and become employed. This will impact the lives of many asylum seekers in Maine.



■ BLUEBERRY WORKERS OUTREACH

ILAP attorneys **Jennifer Bailey** and **Noël Young** traveled to Downeast Maine for an annual outreach visit with migrant blueberry rakers.

In August, Jennifer and Noël gave immigration presentations to seasonal blueberry workers in the Millbridge area including information on legal rights and immigration law. Jennifer and Noël worked over two days to connect around the rakers' work schedules. They also spoke with workers at the Rakers' Center, a centralized resource center. ILAP worked with partners Pine Tree Legal Assistance and Maine Migrant Health to plan these outreach efforts. Thanks also to Mano en Mano for their help in coordinating activities.



More than 70 Maine residents became U.S. citizens on September 17th (Citizenship Day) in a beautiful ceremony at Ocean Gateway in Portland

■ REMEMBRANCE VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE



ILAP helped to plan a Remembrance Vigil for Immigrant Justice on Friday, October 4th. The event was organized to coincide with events taking place across the country to celebrate a National Day of Dignity and Respect and to call on Congress to pass common sense immigration reform.



■ **Congratulations to ILAP Staff Attorney, Jennifer Bailey** who has been appointed to the Maine State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR). The Commission informs the development of national civil rights policy through investigation, research, and analysis on issues of fundamental concern to the federal government and the public. The State Advisory Committee advises the Commission about civil rights issues in their states that are within the Commission's jurisdiction.



■ **Congratulations to ILAP Board President Jennifer Archer** who is the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Summer 2013 *Pro Bono Hero* for the Northeast region. Jen works tirelessly on behalf of her clients as a *pro bono* lawyer and for ILAP as Board President.

■ CHELLIE PINGREE MEETING

ILAP's Interim Executive Director, Sue Roche, along with other advocates from the Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition, met with Representative Chellie Pingree to discuss the importance of comprehensive immigration reform and the impact that it would have in Maine.

ANNUAL REPORT

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 Maine Community Foundation
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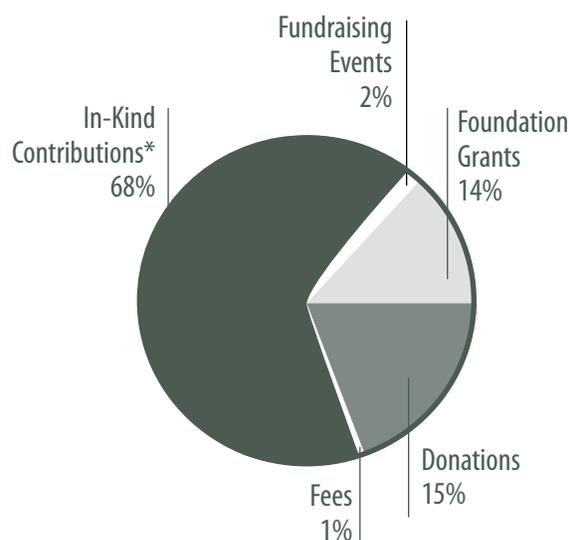
2012 REVENUE & EXPENSE REPORT

From ILAP's audited financial statement. Year ended 12/31/2012.

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

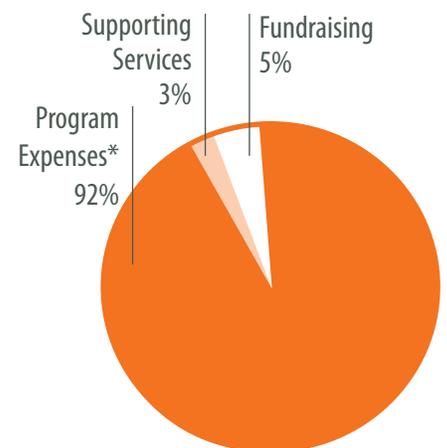
Foundation Grants	335,435
Donations	348,924
Fees	12,577
In-Kind Contributions	1,636,126
Fundraising Events	39,870

Total Revenue \$2,372,932



EXPENSES

Program Expenses	2,192,802
Supporting Services	77,170
Fundraising	108,323
Lobbying	0
Total Expenses	2,378,295
Change in Assets	(5,363)



* In-Kind Contributions and Program Expenses include the value of donated hours of *pro bono* attorney time.



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT
309 Cumberland Avenue, Suite 201
P.O. Box 17917
Portland, ME 04112

ph 207.780.1593
fax 207.699.2313
email: info@ilapmaine.org



HOW YOU CAN HELP ILAP

Immigrants enrich and enhance our life experience in Maine everyday. ILAP serves immigrants who want to improve their legal status so they can work, bring their families together, travel freely and apply for college financial aid. These are the same things you and I want. When you support ILAP, you support diversity in our communities, a brighter economic outlook for our state and social justice for all Mainers. We can't do what we do without you! Here are some ways for you to fuel ILAP's essential work in Maine:

■ **Our Annual Fund appeal** is underway. When you receive your letter, consider a stretch gift, something 10-20% higher than what you gave last year. The more you give, the more we can help.

■ **ILAP is a United Way partner agency** and your support of United Way during the workplace campaign season can be designated directly to ILAP.

■ If you are in the process of estate planning, consider making a **planned gift of a tax-deductible donation to ILAP in the form of a bequest, donation of stock or other**

instruments. Your planned gift is an important legacy for Maine's multicultural future.

■ **Join ILAP's India Street Society**, a special group of ILAP donors who provide critical financial support with leadership gifts and multi-year pledges. Meet interesting, like minded people in support of a great cause.

We wholeheartedly appreciate the ongoing support of our individual, foundation and corporate partners. Through their generous contributions, ILAP can continue to provide vital legal assistance to Maine's low-income immigrants.



CONNECT ON FACEBOOK
Like us for the latest news, events, and immigration policy developments.

GIVE ONLINE
Help us fulfill our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all. Make a secure online donation right now.

Visit www.ilapmaine.org and click "Donate Now" or contact Loretta Prescott, Development Director, at 207-780-1593 x107, or lprescott@ilapmaine.org

ILAPmaine.org