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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.



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New Project Helps Next Generation

Immigrant youth, like all youth, have dreams of going to college, branching out on their own, or getting their first jobs. But unlike many of their peers, to do so often requires navigating an increasingly unjust and complex immigration system.

“Special Immigrant Juvenile Status” (SIJS) can open doors to life-changing opportunities at a critical time in a young person’s life. SIJS is a pathway to permanent residency (commonly known as a green card) for children and youth under 21 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both of their parents. For anyone, and especially young people, a green card opens doors and provides access to financial aid for college, the safety and stability to build their lives in the U.S., resources to start a career, and protection from deportation.

As in all immigration cases, the government does not provide children with legal representation. Yet pursuing SIJS is complicated, requiring hearings in state court and a federal immigration process—with their future at stake. Because of the legal complexity, and their young age and often significant trauma, eligible youth need expert legal guidance to pursue SIJS.

Kids and youth also face systemic barriers. There are currently thousands of youth who have been granted SIJS but are still at risk of deportation because of a years-long green card backlog (learn more at sijbacklog.com). And because structural racism is central to our criminal legal and immigration systems, Black and Brown kids are stopped and arrested more often by law enforcement than their white peers, resulting in harsh immigration consequences and complications.

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... there is much work to be done to keep the pressure on the administration and Congress to rebuild and reconstruct ...



SUE ROCHE
Executive Director

After four years of unrelenting attacks on our immigration system, it is a fresh start as we welcome 2021 with feelings of optimism and hope. Here at ILAP, we are encouraged by the immediate steps taken by the Biden-Harris Administration to reverse many of the harsh policies put into place under the previous administration. And we are supportive of the immigration reform bills that have been proposed to address some of the problems that existed long before that.

But we know there is much work to be done to keep the pressure on the administration and Congress to rebuild and reconstruct our increasingly unjust immigration system. Current immigration laws are a web of complex rules and procedures that have been cobbled together over many years through piecemeal legislation, often reflecting racist policies and agendas. While we work to change these laws, the demand for legal services continues to grow as those caught in the system need legal guidance and representation.

Recognizing both these challenges and opportunities, ILAP recently completed a five-year strategic plan with priorities that include increasing access to justice by providing more immigration legal assistance and strengthening outreach; making ILAP's services equitable for immigrants statewide; and advancing racial justice and equity for immigrants through advocacy and federal litigation. While we focus on our external programming and advocacy, we are also turning inward to become a more equitable and anti-racist organization. Read more about our strategic plan on page 7.

We have already begun taking action to achieve the goals in this bold strategic plan. In the following pages, you can read about the launch of our "Immigrant Children's Project" and a new initiative to help asylum seekers who missed their one-year filing deadline avoid deportation under the Mendez Rojas settlement agreement. Read more about our evolving legislative, policy, and advocacy work in this newsletter and follow updates as they happen @ILAPMaine on Facebook and Twitter.

To stay informed on immigration news, get updates on how to make an appointment at ILAP while we are working remotely, and find our new advisories and self-help materials, visit our website at ilapmaine.org. As always, you can also sign up for our monthly "Golden Door" email newsletter at signup.ilapmaine.org.

Thank you for supporting our work through these challenging times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Roche".

SUE ROCHE
Executive Director

Next Generation

Continued from Cover

Recognizing a growing need in Maine, **ILAP launched the Immigrant Children's Project last fall to increase access to legal representation for vulnerable immigrant children and youth.**

The Project's early focus has been raising awareness about SIJS, including among youth who are applying for asylum and do not realize they may have other legal options, and connecting SIJS-eligible youth with lawyers ready to help.

It also builds on ILAP's past advocacy work. In 2019, we joined with Maine Law and other partners to align state and federal law so that older immigrant youth can pursue SIJS.

Maggie Loeffelholz, a recent graduate of Boston University School of Law with ties to Maine, joined ILAP's team to spearhead the Project. "In her first six months, Maggie has helped develop and implement systems to ensure that no young person slips through the cracks," said ILAP Supervising Attorney Melissa Brennan.

Although a formalized Immigrant Children's Project is new to ILAP, Maggie is quick to point out that "there has been a ton of work in the community and at ILAP to lay the groundwork." People like Toby and Lucky Hollander, Tori Stenbak, and the professors and law students at Maine Law have been supporting immigrant youth alongside ILAP attorneys for years.

Now, there is another partner on the team: Preti Flaherty. Building on ILAP's long history of engaging private attorneys in *pro bono* work, we began training and mentoring a cohort of Preti Flaherty attorneys last fall. "They were able to take a batch of *pro bono* cases for 17 young people, seriously reducing our waitlist, and have done great work," explained Maggie.

For Preti Flaherty's Michael Messerschmidt, the decision to volunteer as a *pro bono* attorney was an easy one. He comes from a family of immigrants and said, "my family was welcomed here, so I wanted to return the favor." Michael helped his client, a charismatic 20-year-old at risk of aging out of the SIJS requirements, complete the first phase of their case in state district court. Now, ILAP will help Michael's client with the second phase of their case. "Like many of these children, they have a sad story to tell," reflected Michael, "but they have a wonderful attitude and are full of hope."

Helping immigrant youth find safety and build their lives in Maine has been a central part of ILAP's work over the last 25 years. And as Maggie looks to the future, she expects this Project will continue to grow. "SIJS right now is a huge part, but the Project is more broad than that in that we are really trying to be conscious of all the needs of vulnerable immigrant children."

Thank you to Androscoggin Bank's MainStreet Foundation for being an early supporter of the Immigrant Children's Project!

SIJS ELIGIBILITY The SIJS requirements, while specific, are often broader than people imagine. For example, a child may be eligible if one or both of their parents have passed away. If you have questions or think you or someone you know may qualify for SIJS, contact ILAP at 207-780-1593 or visit our website to fill out an online intake request form.

BIENVENUE!

Wilkommen, Welcome!



ILAP welcomed **Jenny Beverly, Esq.** to our Board of Directors this spring. Jenny is an immigration attorney who specializes in political asylum cases at her firm, Beverly & Terison, LLC. Jenny is a graduate of the University of Maine School of Law, where she volunteered her time and earned the Maine State Bar Association *Pro Bono* Student Award. She has since been recognized as a Katahdin counsel for her *pro bono* work in Maine.



ILAP also recently welcomed **Deanna Harnett** to our Board. Deanna works as a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley, where she leads client relations and drives efforts in sustainable and impact investing strategies, among other responsibilities. She brings extensive financial and non-profit experience, having worked in senior management roles in both sectors and volunteered on many non-profit boards.

BANKWANA!

Farewell & Well Wishes!

ILAP recently said goodbye to two amazing Board members: **Lisa Scali** and **Rebecca Klotzle**. Lisa shared her time and talent on our Board of Directors for more than five years, chairing the Development Committee for much of that time. Rebecca served as our dedicated Secretary and also supported our fundraising efforts and events. All the best and thank you both!

As ILAP builds equity and anti-racism into all aspects of our work, a key area of learning and growth has been through the Community-Centric Fundraising (CCF) movement.

The CCF movement **re-imagines fundraising, nonprofits, and philanthropy by offering a model grounded in racial and economic justice.** This model prioritizes the community over individual organizations, amplifies BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) voices, and challenges traditional fundraising “best practices” that uphold white supremacy and intensify wealth disparity.

The movement is guided by a set of ever-evolving core principles and shares resources that build upon decades of work by fundraisers and activists of color. We are excited about the movement because it lays a roadmap toward a **future with more mutual support and less wealth inequity.** ILAP has adopted the CCF principles and embraces the movement because it aligns with our organization’s values and provides a framework to actively move toward anti-racism.

Development Director Laura Simocko joined other Maine fundraisers to present about Community Centric Fundraising at the Maine Philanthropy Center’s conference, *Centering Equity: Shifting Power, Building Community* in May. If you would like to connect with CCF’s chapter in Maine, please email maineccf@gmail.com.

The movement requires action at every level – personal, organizational, community, state, and systemic. We are excited to continue learning and talking with you. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or suggestions!



Read CCF’s 10 grounding principles and find out more about the movement at communitycentricfundraising.org.

More

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Keep Learning

The immigrant justice movement is inseparable from other liberation movements, including the Movement for Black Lives. To stand against injustice of any kind, we need to educate ourselves and then put our values into action.

Check out these resources that we’ve found useful. This is by no means a complete list. Consider compensating educators and organizations for their teaching and reporting.

■ **Edgar Villanueva: *Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance***

Indigenous remedies for the “dysfunctional colonial dynamics at play in philanthropy” (book)

■ **Studio ATAO: *Understanding Structural Racism in the U.S. Government: Immigration Law***

A detailed look at how racism drives our immigration policies and laws, from the 1800s to today (article)

■ **Michelle Shireen Muri: *Ethical Rainmaker***

“Authentic conversations grappling with the questions that we don’t often ask in the nonprofit world” (podcast)

■ **Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center: *We Are Not a Stereotype***

A series breaking down Asian Pacific American bias (videos)

■ **New America: *American Immigration Laws Have Always Been About Preserving Whiteness***

Interview with author Alina Das about the history of our country’s immigration system (article)

PRO BONO PANEL & ASYLUM UPDATE

Community Education and Legal Support

Asylum Outreach Attorney Felix Hagenimana has continued to offer community workshops every Thursday afternoon on Facebook Live. The workshops cover a variety of topics important to asylum seekers, from asylum eligibility to filing a work permit application. We provide interpretation in French, Lingala, Portuguese, Spanish, and Kirundi/Kinyarwanda and all sessions are recorded. Find past videos on ILAP's Facebook page and a schedule of upcoming workshops at ilapmaine.org/uaw.

Asylum Program Attorney Michelle Gentry recently updated the Self-Help Asylum Manual, created in partnership with the University of Maine's School of Law. The manual is now oriented to applicants filing their applications with the USCIS Boston Asylum Office and the Boston Immigration Court. It has new appendices and user-friendly language, making it an invaluable resource.



Interpreter Ricardo Cabezas joined ILAP's Felix Hagenimana for a 5-part Spanish series for asylum seekers.

Mendez Rojas Settlement Presents New Opportunities

Attorney Karen Bay Fox is heading up an exciting project to support asylum seekers who can benefit from a national class action settlement, known as Mendez Rojas.

The settlement provides a legal remedy to asylum seekers who crossed the border into the U.S. and did not file for asylum within one year of their entry because their cases did not appear properly in the immigration court system.

With Karen's help, dozens of asylum seekers in Maine have been able to finally file their asylum applications in court and will soon be eligible for work permits.

If you believe you are eligible, please contact ILAP at 207-780-1593 ext. 0 to leave a message or visit ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help.

Pro Bono Panel Navigates Ongoing Changes

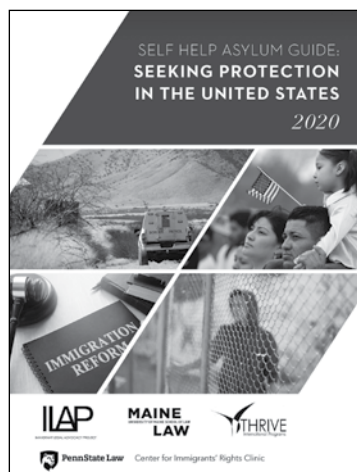
The Immigration Court in Boston has opened again with judges appearing on rotating schedules. Several *pro bono* cases are now onto their final asylum hearings and volunteer attorneys are working hard to update filings and submit persuasive legal briefs.

The court system remains overwhelmed, however, and several *pro bono* attorneys and their clients have had to weather the crushing disappointment of last-minute cancellations and continuances.

Michelle hosted a **Zoom Lunch & Learn** in April with *pro bono* attorney and ILAP Board member Jenny Beverly to discuss current practices at the Boston Asylum Office, including new interpreter rules and video appearance options.

Join Our Work!

An asylum seekers if five times more likely to win their case in immigration court if they have a lawyer. To find out more about providing life-changing asylum representation, visit ilapmaine.org/pro-bono-panel.



Updated Asylum Manual Now Available!

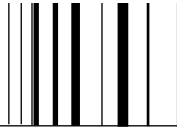
ILAP recently updated our self-help asylum manual to better serve the needs of Maine's asylum seekers.



You can find the updated manual and other asylum resources on our website: ilapmaine.org/asylum-self-help



LEGAL



Welcoming a New Administration

We cannot overstate the trauma and suffering experienced by immigrant Mainers and their families over the last four years. The Trump administration's white supremacist ideology, culminating in an attempted coup on January 6, infected every part of immigration law and policy, large and small.

Much of ILAP's every day work continues to be impacted by the policies and backlogs created under the previous administration, but the historic election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the country's first woman and first woman of color Vice President, is a bright light after four years of relentless attacks.

Upon taking office, the **Biden-Harris administration ended many anti-immigrant policies**, such as the Muslim and African travel ban and the cruel public charge rule. A full list, along with other critical priorities in need of immediate action, can be found at ilapmaine.org/policy-priorities-2021.

A System Rooted in Racism

Racism and racial violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and other communities of color is a symptom of white supremacy and is inseparable from the immigration system's history of race-based exclusion. For example, the origins of immigration law are directly tied to the enslavement and control of Black people and the first major U.S. law restricting immigration, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, barred immigration from China, among other restrictions.

ILAP knows the flaws in our immigration system run deep and are rooted in systemic racism. **Creating a new immigration system founded on equity will require bold action and an unrelenting commitment to racial justice.** We are committed to this work so that we may one day have a system that welcomes all those who come to the U.S. seeking safety, reuniting with family, or pursuing a better life.

Expanding Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

In March, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a status provided to individuals from designated countries experiencing events like civil unrest or natural disaster, was extended to nationals in the U.S. from Venezuelan and Myanmar. This spring, **ILAP joined over 300 organizations in demanding that the Biden administration designate an additional 18 countries for TPS.**

ILAP Joins Partners in Lawsuits Against USCIS and ICE

ILAP, the ACLU of Maine, and Maine Law's Refugee and Human Rights Clinic filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in November 2020. This lawsuit is in response to a **marked decrease in asylum approvals**, particularly for applicants from Central Africa, from the Boston asylum office (8% versus 30% nationally). We are demanding more information to investigate whether their Boston office is discriminating against asylum seekers from Central Africa.

ILAP partnered with the ACLU of Maine again in March of this year to file another FOIA lawsuit against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We are **seeking information about ICE's detention activities in Maine**, specifically their detention and transfer practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. The lawsuit comes as ICE proceeds with plans to open a new facility in Scarborough, with little transparency or consultation with the local community. A coalition of local activists are protesting ICE's plans.

Trump-Era Public Charge Policy Permanently Blocked

In March, the Biden administration dropped its defense of Trump's anti-immigrant public charge regulations. Federal courts dismissed the appeals, ending the policy immediately. The Biden administration's actions recognize that we must take care of everyone in our country. **It is now safe for immigrants and their families to use health, nutrition, and housing programs they qualify for.**

Continued on next page

Take Action Today! There are easy, meaningful ways you can make your voice heard and advance justice and equity for immigrants. Visit ilapmaine.org/take-action to learn how! Thank you for making a difference!

New Proposed Pathways to Citizenship

The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 was introduced in Congress this February. A comprehensive immigration reform bill, it would be a significant first step toward rebuilding our immigration system. **We thank immigrant youth activists and immigrant-led organizations for their persevering work to make immigration reform a top priority of the Biden-Harris administration.**

The Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act both passed the House in March with bipartisan support. These bills, now facing the Senate, would establish a pathway to citizenship for millions. ILAP recently signed onto a letter demanding the removal of harmful criminal bars included in this relief and will continue advocating for inclusive immigration reform.

Maine Legislative Priorities

U.S. immigration law is governed by the federal government, yet state law and policy can have a big impact on Maine's immigrant communities. This spring, ILAP has been busy testifying on several bills before Maine Legislature committees to **defend the rights of immigrants, advance bold racial and criminal justice legislation, and advocate for the passage of policy that will benefit Maine's future.**



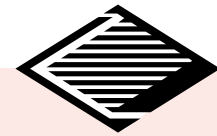
Read ILAP's testimonies and learn more about state and federal legislation at ilapmaine.org/legislative-priorities.



Advocacy & Outreach Director Julia Brown testified in support of LD 718, An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, before the Maine Legislature's Committee on Health and Human Services.

STAY INFORMED:

- Visit signup.ilapmaine.org to receive ILAP's Golden Door monthly email updates on laws and policies affecting immigrants in Maine.



2021-2025

STRATEGIC PLAN

This spring, our staff and board, together with client communities, laid out a roadmap for the future:

a strategic plan that will guide ILAP over our next five years. Our plans include bold new initiatives, deliberate internal changes, and the strengthening of our core immigration legal services for thousands of Mainers every year.

WE COMMIT TO:

- Centering our work in equity and anti-racism;
- Expanding outreach and collaborations with Maine's immigrant communities;
- Expanding our statewide presence;
- Turning away fewer people who need immigration legal assistance;
- Advancing racial justice and due process for immigrants through advocacy and federal litigation; and
- Growing and sustaining ILAP's fiscal health, infrastructure, and human resources.

Our plans for growth would not be possible without the community support and funding that helped ILAP become the organization that it is today.

Thank you!



Read ILAP's full Strategic Plan at: ilapmaine.org/impact

ILAP is honored to be part of Noel "Paul" Stookey's new album release

JUST CAUSES

Noel "Paul" Stookey, of the seminal 1960s folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary, continued his lifetime of social activism this spring with the release of a new album called JUST CAUSES. The album features fifteen new and familiar songs, each bearing a theme of social concern and paired with a nonprofit beneficiary.

ILAP is proud to announce that we are among the nonprofit partners for this exciting project!

With JUST CAUSES, Stookey continues his commitment to creating socially relevant music and to giving back. Stookey plans to donate all of the album's proceeds to the chosen nonprofit partners. "Every songwriter eventually

realizes that his art is meant for service: to entertain, inform and in a best-case scenario, to inspire," he explains. "As I look over the fifty plus years that I've attempted to capture 'lightening in a bottle' – a moment realized in a song that transcends time – I recognize that some musical creations seem to have a longer life because they address issues that still challenge us, no matter the generation."

On the album, ILAP is paired with the song "Familia Del Corazon," a musical dedication to the hopes of immigrant communities and a reminder that we are all citizens of the heart. We are also the only Maine-based organization to be featured. Other beneficiaries include First Nations Development Institute, Oxfam America, and Southern Poverty Law Center, among others.

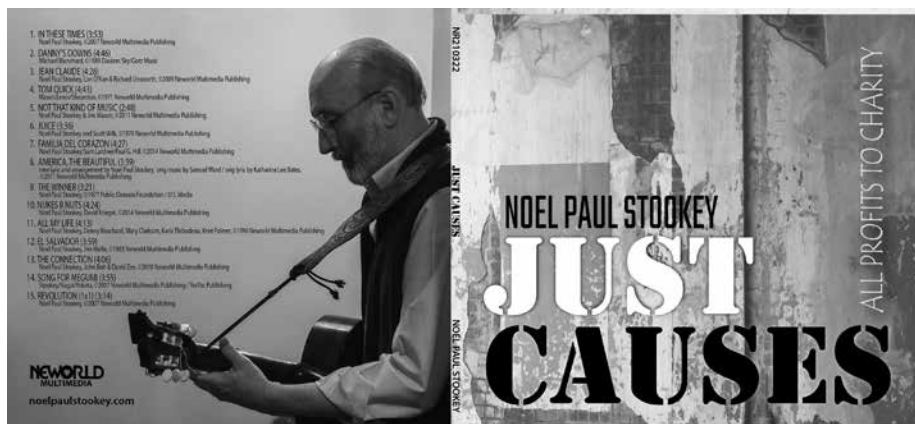
"The song that I wrote, 'Familia Del Corazon,' is more about the promise that sits out there in New York Harbor to all people who want a fresh start, who believe in equality, who are seeking justice and equity. So it's written from a compassionate point of view," Stookey said about the song in a 2015 Bangor Daily News article.

Here at ILAP, we are thrilled to be part of Noel's latest album! Executive Director Sue Roche reminds us that, "It's the strength of our community that allows us to push for a more just and equitable immigration system, and generous and engaged supporters like Noel help make this work possible. ILAP is honored to be one of the beneficiaries of the JUST CAUSES album alongside so many other inspiring organizations."

LOOKING BACK: One Light, Many Candles

Noel and his wife, Reverend Betty Stookey, have been long-time supporters of ILAP and Maine's immigrant communities. In June 2016, they performed their "One Light, Many Candles" program at Congregation Bet Ha'am in South Portland to benefit ILAP. The event was an intercultural awareness performance that included music by Noel and readings by Betty to engage the audience in the concepts of one world, a unified human purpose, and working together.

The Stookeys brought "One Light, Many Candles" to venues around the globe and it was received with the same acclaim as here in Maine.



Noel "Paul" Stookey's latest album, Just Causes.



From left to right: ILAP Board member Ron Stegall, Executive Director Sue Roche, Reverend Betty Stookey, and Noel "Paul" Stookey at Congregation Bet Ha'am in June 2016.



Listen to *Just Causes* today!
 Receive a free album or digital download with any donation of \$30 or more by June 30. Visit ilapmaine.org/justcauses to learn more.

FAMILIA DEL CORAZON

We have sailed this sea of dreams forever
 Una familia del corazon
 Brother and sister together
 Believing in that promise set in stone:
 The lady of liberty still calls us
 And lifts her lamp beside the golden door
 "...send to me your huddled masses
 Give to me your tired, your poor..."

And so...we've come to build a nation
 Forged by many hands through many years
 With justice as a firm foundation
 And compassion to rescue us from fear
 And who among us is not thankful?
 Who among us would not choose
 To share what we've been given freely...
 Who among us would refuse?

No se'olvide: remember we are family
 No se'olvide: we are never alone
 No se'olvide: remember we were meant to be
 Una familia del corazon
 Una familia del corazon

And though the darkness closes 'round us;
 Storm clouds drive us from our home
 The light of Love still surrounds us;
 Las familias del corazon
 And though we may be separated
 'Family of my family' torn apart
 Remember we have been created
 To be a family of the heart

No se'olvide: remember we are family
 No se'olvide: we are never alone
 No se'olvide: remember we were meant to be
 Una familia del corazon
 Una familia del corazon

2020



ILAP

by the Numbers

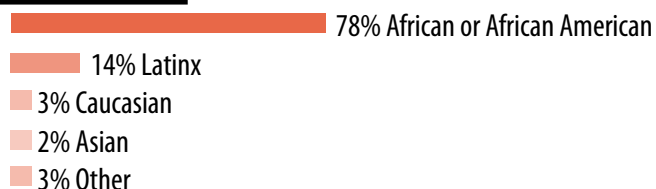
ILAP reached **3,076** people through direct legal services and community legal education in 2020.

A closer look at ILAP's impact:

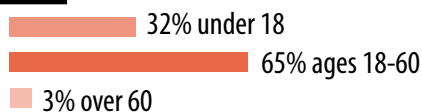
- ILAP's 175-member *Pro Bono* Panel donated **3,781 hours** to represent **190 asylum seekers**
- ILAP staff and volunteer attorneys provided **full representation to 388 people** in the most complex cases, maintaining a success rate of 96% for cases that reached a final decision
- **1,396 people attended 62 community legal education events**, held mostly online
- ILAP was **quoted in the media on 32 occasions** about a range of immigration issues
- From May-December, ILAP's online legal resources received **28,000 unique page views, seen by more than 12,500 users**
- Language volunteers provided **100+ hours of interpretation and completed 92 translations projects in 6 different languages**

A closer look at ILAP's clients:

Race/Ethnicity



Age



Top Countries of Origin

Democratic Republic of Congo	Rwanda
Angola	Guatemala
Burundi	El Salvador
90+ other countries	

Most Common Languages Spoken at Home

French	Lingala
Portuguese	Spanish
30+ other languages	

Continued Legal Support for the Lewiston/Auburn Community



ILAP'S LEWISTON OFFICE continues to provide support to immigrants and asylum seekers in Androscoggin County in the remote environment. Nolwenn Robison, a new Legal Program Assistant we welcomed last summer, has been guiding clients through our intake process, providing French language interpretation, and assisting more people through our immigration forms assistance program.

In March, Lewiston's Supervising Attorney Alice Kopij gave a **virtual presentation to the New Mainers Community Collaborative (NMCC)**, a group of providers serving immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the Lewiston and Auburn community. The presentation focused on the positive changes to immigration law and policy since the start of the Biden-Harris administration and priorities for the future.

Supporting Seasonal Workers and Looking Ahead

ILAP'S RURAL MAINE PROJECT spent last fall continuing to reach out to seasonal workers, particularly those in Maine's wreath-making industries. **ILAP was able to collect, collate, and package over 500 information packets in three languages for distribution to seasonal workers.** Packets included public health alerts on COVID-19 prevention, symptoms, and treatment, as well as legal updates from us and fliers for Maine organizations offering support services.

ILAP is continuing to work with other service providers to expand and coordinate services and technology for the upcoming seasons as in-person contact continues to be limited. ILAP anticipates a large increase in inquiries and outreach as Biden's new immigration bills, including one for farm workers, move forward. In this effort, we are creating a number of short videos in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole that will provide an overview of changes and answer common questions.

■ ILAP and the YWCA of Central Maine partnered to host a screening of the documentary short "The Undocumented Lawyer" with a panel featuring ILAP staff.

■ Advocacy and Outreach Director Julia Brown met virtually with Maine's congressional delegation in April for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) National Day of Action.

■ ILAP teamed up with Pine Tree Legal Assistance to host a virtual community education workshop about taxes and immigration. The session was recorded in English and Spanish and is available on our Facebook page.

■ ILAP joined organizations and individuals across the state to support a shared "Vision for an Equitable Maine." To learn more, visit visionforequitablemaine.com

■ C. LOVE COOKIE PROJECT selected ILAP to be one of the beneficiaries of their cookies sales this winter and spring. Although they're currently taking some time off to work on their baking academy, we hope you'll check them out when they re-open!

■ Rockland's Good Tern Co-op and the Portland Food Co-op supported ILAP through their register round up programs, raising over \$3,000 in spare change. We are grateful for their customers' support!



Julia Brown and Felix Hagenimana joined YWCA staff for a live panel discussion on Zoom about immigration and advocacy, following the screening of The Undocumented Lawyer.

Our Lewiston Office is Moving!

ILAP's Lewiston office will be moving to a new office space! We are excited about this new location, as it centrally located, larger, and will allow us to further expand our services in the area. We look forward to welcoming you once it is safe to do so. Stay tuned for more information later this year!

STAFF NEWS



ILAP staff (and our pets) had a special message for our volunteers and community partners. [Check out the full video at ilapmaine.org/volunteer.](http://ilapmaine.org/volunteer)

OUR VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS make ILAP who we are, and we are deeply grateful for their generosity and commitment to our clients and mission. Our work would not be possible without the support of countless partner organizations, language volunteers, *pro bono* attorneys, administrative and legal volunteers, board members, grassroots fundraisers, committee members, and other supporters. Each individual effort together makes a powerful collective impact!

Join us in congratulating ILAP's awardees for 2020!

Advocacy Heroes Award
Maine Equal Justice

Business Partner Award
Antione's Formal Wear
East Fork Mask Collective
Sailor Rose

Community Partner Award
Trinity Jubilee Center

Development Volunteer of the Year
Lisa Scali

Grassroots Fundraising Award
Orson Horchler

ILAP Hero
Amy Titcomb

Language Volunteer Award
Nadine Pembele
Gretchen Stanton

Outstanding Advocate Award
Welcoming Immigrant
Neighbors-Bangor

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year
Eileen Frazier, Esq.

Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year
Preti Flaherty

Supporting Immigrant Youth Award
Lucky and Toby Hollander

Thank you!

Nadine Twagirayezu celebrated her five-year anniversary at ILAP and has recently become a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representative, allowing her to represent clients before USCIS. ILAP and our clients are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated advocate!

Maggie Loeffelholz passed the Maine Bar exam and Emily Burns marked her one-year (remote) anniversary with ILAP and has been promoted to Legal Program Associate. Congrats to you both!

ILAP Board member Blanca Santiago was awarded Maine Law's 2020 Courage is Contagious Award, presented at this year's Justice for Women Lecture, for her amazing work over the years supporting the Latinx community. We are grateful for all you do for Maine's community, Blanca, thank you!

Felix Hagenimana became a U.S. citizen in January 2021! We are so happy for you, Felix.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Pass along your copy of The Immigrant Beacon after you've enjoyed it, and remember to recycle.



Update

ILAP remains committed to helping keep our communities safe and healthy.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel CeleSoirée this year.

While we will miss coming together in celebration, we look forward to re-connecting when it is safe to do so.

We'll share updates on CeleSoirée 2022 as soon as we have them—thank you for your understanding and support!



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Get Legal Help

ILAP staff are working remotely and we are here to help!

To get legal help while our offices are closed to the public, you can:

Call (207) 780-1593, ext. 0

Leave a voicemail message. Please include your full name, contact information, and a brief description of your legal problem.

Fill out our online intake request form.

You can find the form at ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help. It is available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

We will do our best to contact you within three business days.

Please note that ILAP is a small organization and we are not able to help everyone who asks for assistance.

We are monitoring public health guidelines and **we will share information on re-opening our offices to the public on our website and social media when it is safe to do so.**

Thank you for your understanding.

SUPPORT ILAP

Advance the cause of justice for immigrants in Maine by supporting ILAP today:

- **Visit ilapmaine.org/donate** to give online or begin a monthly gift
- **Sign up to volunteer** at ilapmaine.org/volunteer
- **Transfer a gift of stock** to ILAP or **make a legacy gift**. Contact Laura for more details at LSimocko@ilapmaine.org
- **Send a gift** via check to:
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
P.O. Box 17917
Portland, ME 04112
- **Members of the Maine Bar** can contribute to ILAP's work by donating to the Campaign for Justice, a special collaborative fundraising effort by Maine's legal community to support legal aid. Visit campaignforjustice.org