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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.



Mendez Rojas Project: Helping Asylum Seekers Failed by Immigration System

“One of my biggest joys was when I arrived in the U.S.,” recalls Grace*, a mother from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite her relief at finally finding safety, she and her young son faced a long road to getting the immigration protections they deserved.

The immigration system requires immigrants to be precise, accurate, and timely. But Grace’s case was made longer and more complicated because of mistakes made by the federal government. And she is far from alone. In fact, the *Mendez Rojas v. Wolf* class action lawsuit revealed that the **immigration system does not live up to the standards it sets for those who must navigate it.**

The *Mendez Rojas* lawsuit was filed by brave asylum seekers in partnership with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. Their case showed that the federal government had categorically failed to advise them of the one-year asylum filing deadline. And often, did not follow through on recording cases with any immigration court, leaving them and other asylum seekers **in limbo without a way to file their applications.** “Without a pending asylum application, individuals cannot obtain permission to work, throwing their families and communities into financial turmoil,” explains Karen Bay Fox who spearheaded ILAP’s *Mendez Rojas* Project.

Through the power of litigation, the government admitted that its failures had violated asylum seekers’ due process rights. The resulting settlement agreement, finalized in fall 2020, provided a rare opportunity for asylum seekers across the country. It offered a filing extension to people who otherwise would have been barred from applying for asylum and provided a second chance to those whose applications had been unfairly denied.

* This client’s name has been changed to protect their identity.

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Those fleeing Ukraine and other war zones today face a deeply flawed, unjust, and inhumane asylum system



SUE ROCHE
Executive Director

As events unfold in Ukraine, we follow the unspeakable human toll of horrific attacks on civilians, communities destroyed, and lives lost. **Like those fleeing violence and persecution in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, El Salvador and many other places outside of news headlines, people suddenly find themselves refugees, forced to leave everything behind to seek protection outside of their country.**

In one of the greatest refugee crises since World War II, we are reminded of the global institutions and international laws put into place in that war's aftermath so those fleeing war, persecution, and genocide would have a lawful way to seek protection in other countries. Despite this history and our obligations to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees, those fleeing Ukraine and other war zones today face a deeply flawed, unjust, and inhumane asylum system when they arrive in the United States to seek protection.

Our asylum laws and procedures have been damaged by decades of racist and anti-immigrant policies, which were accelerated during the Trump Administration. Children held in cages, families forced to stay in dangerous and unsanitary camps at the border, and so many other atrocities await those seeking asylum in the U.S.

Some of these injustices were uncovered in *Lives in Limbo: How the Boston Asylum Office is Failing Asylum Seekers*, a report by ILAP in collaboration with the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law, ACLU of Maine, and Dr. Basileus Zeno. In this newsletter, you can read more about that report, the devastating human impact on asylum seekers in Maine, and how you can advocate for improvements to our asylum system.

To stay informed on immigration news, get updates on how to make an appointment at ILAP, 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 and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Thank you for your support and solidarity.

SUE ROCHE
Executive Director

Mendez Rojas Project

Continued from Cover

To preserve their rights under the *Mendez Rojas* settlement, immigrants had to go through yet another complicated process and many did not even know they qualified. **To ensure Mainers understood and could take advantage of this time-bound opportunity, ILAP quickly launched the Mendez Rojas Project.** “In a short time, ILAP coordinated a monumental effort to help immigrants in Maine who had been misled and harmed by our asylum system,” explains Executive Director Sue Roche.

In Grace’s case, the government had failed to give her proper paperwork when she arrived in the U.S. and denied her the opportunity for a “credible fear interview,” without which she could not file for asylum or apply for a work permit. Grace worked with ILAP staff for nearly two years to decode her complicated case, submit her asylum application to immigration court, and most recently, file for *Mendez Rojas* class membership. “ILAP oriented me and showed me step by step what I needed to do,” remembers Grace.

As of the settlement deadline on April 22, **ILAP had helped more than 150 Mainers through the Mendez Rojas Project.** In addition to filing asylum applications and notices of *Mendez Rojas* class membership, staff worked with community members to understand their immigration documents, gather necessary evidence, complete Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and more.

For Grace and others, they have finally received some good news after years of complications and setbacks. Just last month, Grace applied for her work permit and looks forward to the independence that comes with getting a job. **“My case was really complicated and it’s thanks to ILAP that I’ve been able to apply for asylum and even my work permit now,” she says. “I finally feel so much more at ease.”**

Grace’s case is on track to be heard by a federal immigration judge. Although the process will likely still be arduous and slow, the result could be that Grace and her son will be safe—permanently—for the first time in their lives. “People like Grace enrich our communities,” reflects Karen. “ILAP is proud to stand for the principle that our immigrant clients should enjoy the full and equal benefits and responsibilities that all U.S. residents and citizens share.”

ILAP is grateful to Karen Bay Fox for her steadfast leadership on the Mendez Rojas Project. From all of us and ILAP’s clients, thank you!

BIENVENUE!

Wilkommen, Welcome!



Leah Glowacki, Esq.

We are excited to welcome **Leah Glowacki, Esq.** to ILAP’s team as a new Staff Attorney focused primarily on removal defense cases. Leah came to Maine by way of Austin, Texas, where she previously worked as a Staff Attorney at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. She brings a wealth of legal expertise from this position and her previous role as an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at the Central American Refugee Center. Welcome to New England and to ILAP, Leah!

BANKWANA

Farewell & Well Wishes

ILAP bid farewell to two staff members this winter: Legal Director **Phil Mantis** and Advocacy and Outreach Director **Julia Brown.** Phil’s leadership as ILAP’s Legal Director was pivotal in the organization’s growth and success over the last 5+ years. Julia’s steadfast work building ILAP’s advocacy and community outreach during some of the toughest years of immigration law will have an impact on ILAP and Maine’s immigrant communities well into the future. We are deeply grateful for the passion, knowledge, and leadership Julia and Phil brought to ILAP. All the best to you both and thank you!

Earlier this year, ILAP said goodbye to longstanding Board members **Adele Ngoy** and **Ron Stegall**, who generously dedicated their time and talent to the organization for more than a decade. Adele is a steadfast community leader, always advocating for immigrant community members to have the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Ron is deeply committed to building a stronger state of Maine for future generations and we are thrilled to have him staying on as a member of our Development Committee.

ILAP mourns the passing of Nan Heald, long-time Executive Director of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, fierce advocate for access to justice, and respected leader in civil legal aid. Nan helped thousands of people throughout her career and was always a dedicated partner in ILAP’s work and steadfast supporter of Maine’s immigrant communities. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all who knew her.

STAY INFORMED:

- Sign up at signup.ilapmaine.org to receive ILAP’s Golden Door monthly email updates on laws and policies affecting immigrants in Maine.



End of Title 42

Just weeks after its two-year anniversary, the Biden administration announced plans to finally **end its use of Title 42 this spring**. Title 42 is a heinous policy based in racism that uses an unjustified public health rationale to expel people seeking refuge at our border without considering their asylum claims. It was first invoked by the Trump administration and continued by the Biden administration. In total, the policy has resulted in the **expulsion of over 1.7 million people and has disproportionately harmed Black and Brown immigrants**.

The termination of this inhumane policy is long overdue. Its end serves as a critical step toward restoring access to asylum and serves as a testament to the sustained advocacy of many immigrant-led and allied efforts across the country. Challenges to Title 42’s termination are currently underway. ILAP will continue advocating for its definitive end and for an asylum system that welcomes everyone with dignity.

New Proposed Asylum Rules Sacrifice Due Process

The Biden administration issued a major change to the U.S. asylum system, proposing that people seeking refuge at the U.S. border have their claims decided by asylum officers instead of immigration judges. While prioritizing non-adversarial hearings through the use of asylum officers is a positive step, **the proposal sets unreasonable timelines that threaten due process**.

Previous attempts at forcibly speeding up the asylum process without other necessary changes have resulted in decreased access to legal representation for asylum seekers. The deadlines proposed under this rule will significantly restrict asylum seekers’ ability to prepare their cases and obtain legal representation – likely resulting in wrongful denials of vital protection. Rushing cases through a deeply flawed system does not result in justice.

The public comment period is open until May 31st. Head to our Facebook page to learn how to ensure the rights of asylum seekers are protected!

New Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Announcements

TPS is a temporary status provided to individuals from countries the U.S. government designates as unsafe for return. This spring the

U.S. announced **TPS designation and re-designations for several countries, including Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Cameroon**.

Amid many global crises, TPS is a critical tool for keeping people safe when natural disaster, conflict, or unrest makes a country unsafe for return. We will continue advocating for the bold and broad use of TPS, especially to advance the freedom and rights of Black immigrants. And we will not give up pushing for a pathway to permanent protections for TPS holders and others.

New Rules Protect Vulnerable Youth, Do Not Fix Backlog

In March 2022, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced new regulations and policy changes that will positively impact many of ILAP’s young clients. As part of these changes, youth with approved Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) applications who have been caught in the years-long backlog waiting for green cards will now be eligible for “Deferred Action,” which provides protection from deportation and access to a work permit. This means **more youth who have been stuck in legal limbo can safely build their lives in the U.S.**

This change is a critical step toward upholding the permanency Congress intended when creating the SIJS program. However, the policy does not solve the backlog itself, which continues to grow. We join the End SIJS Backlog Coalition and other advocates in once again calling for immediate legislation to end the backlog. *Learn more about ILAP’s work with immigrant youth on pg. 8!*

Take Action Today! There are easy, meaningful ways you can make your voice heard and advance justice and equity for immigrants. Visit ILAP’s Take Action Page at ilapmaine.org/take-action/

Access to Work Permits for Asylum Seekers

A federal judge's ruling in February **eliminated two senseless Trump-era rules that had been delaying and blocking access to work permits for people seeking asylum since 2020**. This ruling means that asylum seekers can once again apply for an initial work permit after their asylum application has been pending for 150 days.

Maine's Representative Chellie Pingree and Senators Angus King and Susan Collins have been working on ways to speed up the process even more, introducing legislation in the House and Senate. Like our representatives, ILAP believes our communities are stronger when everyone has access stable, safe, and meaningful work and we will continue advocating for the right to contribute through work for all immigrants.

2021

ILAP BY THE NUMBERS

ILAP directly supported **3,199** people and **1,263** of their family members through direct immigration legal services and community legal education

OUR IMPACT:

- ILAP staff and volunteer attorneys **provided full representation to 450 people** in the most complex cases, maintaining a success rate of over 98%
- ILAP's *Pro Bono* Panel **donated 4,000 hours** of their time to represent 181 immigrants seeking asylum and provide representation to immigrant youth in more than 80 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases
- **1,666 immigrant community members and service providers** across the state attended **83 virtual or in-person outreach events**
- ILAP worked with community partners to **distribute nearly 2,500 translated information packets** for seasonal workers to share critical legal updates
- ILAP was **quoted in the media on 71 occasions** about a range of immigration issues



ILAP's strength comes from our community, and we are so grateful to everyone who works together to advance justice and equity for immigrants in Maine.

Join us in congratulating ILAP's 2021 Volunteer & Partnership Awardees:

Business Partner Award:

Noel Paul Stookey and Newworld Multimedia

Community Partners Award:

Afghan Community of Maine
Catholic Charities of Maine Refugee and Immigration Services
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)
University of Maine School of Law Refugee and Human Rights Clinic

Development Volunteer of the Year:

Maura Melley

Language Volunteers Award:

Melissa Albert & Anne-Marie Wolf

Learning & Engagement Partner Award:

Seth Goldstein with Atlantic Black Box

Outstanding Advocate Award:

Mufalo Chitam

Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year:

Rich Bayer & Robyn March

Supporting Immigrant Youth Award:

Tori Stenbak & Elyse Segovias

To celebrate our volunteers, community partners, and supporters this April, ILAP hosted a screening and discussion of the documentary, *Five Years North*. The film follows an undocumented Guatemalan teenager who faces joys and challenges similar to those experienced by youth in Maine.

The April event highlighted our 2021 Volunteer and Partnership Awardees and included a panel discussion moderated by Immigrant Children's Project Attorney Maggie Loeffelholz, featuring Teen Services Caseworker Jerome Muhirwa from Preble Street and ILAP's Managing Attorney Melissa Brennan. **Thanks to those who joined us and to all who support ILAP!**



Watch the panel and learn more about how the immigration system impacts children and youth at: ilapmaine.org/thanks

ASYLUM UPDATE

ILAP Collaborates on Report Revealing Injustices at Boston Asylum Office

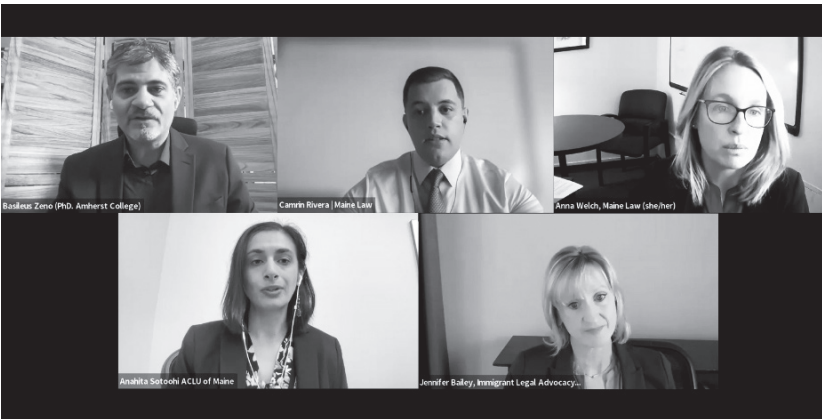
The Boston Asylum Office reviews asylum claims for Mainers and for years has been approving applications at a rate far below the national average, at times **having the second-lowest average grant rate of any asylum office in the country. ILAP joined our local partners to figure out why.**

We collaborated with the the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law, ACLU of Maine, and Dr. Basileus Zeno to investigate the practices of the Boston Asylum Office. We released our findings this spring in a report called *Lives in Limbo: How the Boston Asylum Office is Failing Asylum Seekers*.

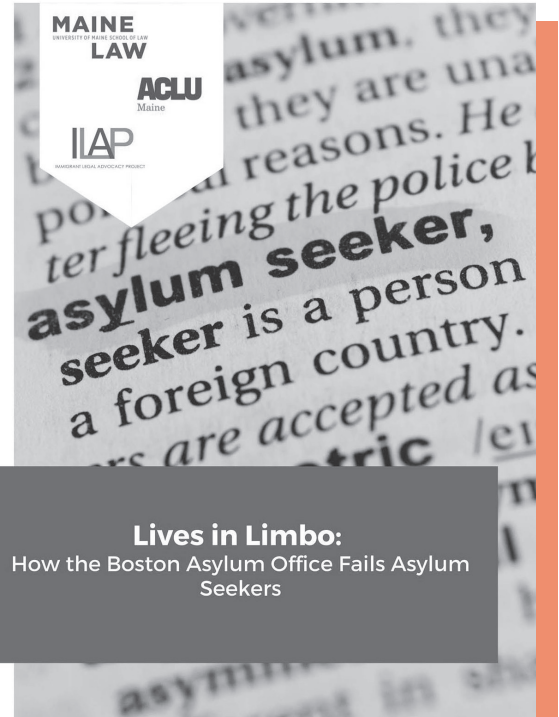
The *Lives in Limbo* report reveals that practices used by the Boston Asylum Office to review asylum claims violate international and domestic law. Specifically, the report's findings suggest that the Boston Asylum Office is dominated by a culture of distrust toward asylum seekers and undue pressure from supervisors, among other concerns. Our evidence shows that these practices are resulting in due process violations, discrimination, and very low approval rates.

“The human consequence is that *bona fide* refugees are being sent before a judge to plead for protection when they **could have and should have been granted asylum in the first instance by the Boston Asylum Office,**” explains ILAP’s Senior Program Attorney Jennifer Bailey. “The long case delays and prolonged family separation compound trauma and erode mental health.”

These trends are causing disproportionate harm to the most vulnerable and historically marginalized immigrants. The report shows evidence that asylum seekers from certain countries,



The authors of the *Lives in Limbo* report, including ILAP’s Jennifer Bailey, presented their findings at a press conference on March 23.



Lives in Limbo: How the Boston Asylum Office Fails Asylum Seekers

including central African countries and El Salvador, as well as those who do not speak English, are much less likely to be granted asylum.

The report includes recommendations for improvement including providing asylum officers sufficient time to review and adjudicate cases, increasing transparency, and prioritizing training on cultural competency and anti-racism. Jennifer says the improvements are aimed at “ensuring asylum applicants receive the fair, legal, and timely adjudications as contemplated under our laws.”

This report focuses on the Boston Asylum Office, but serves as a window into the systemic racism and injustice of our federal immigration system. **ILAP undertakes this work as a way of advocating for all asylum seekers in Maine, and to push for changes to our flawed and unjust system that impacts immigrants across the country.**

We are incredibly grateful to all who supported this report, including the many asylees, asylum seekers, former asylum officers and immigration attorneys who shared their stories.

Continued on next page

Report Background

In 2019, we joined the ACLU of Maine and Maine Law's Refugee and Human Rights Clinic to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Following the government's lack of response to the FOIA, we filed a complaint in federal court seeking to compel a response. Finally, USCIS produced database information from 2015-2020 and documents, many heavily redacted. This information was used in tandem with interviews to form the basis of our report.



Read the full report and learn more at:

ilapmaine.org/impact-litigation

Grant and Referral Rates by Asylum Seeker's Country of Citizenship

Country of Citizenship	Boston Asylum Office		Newark Asylum Office	
	Total Decisions	Grant Rate	Total Decisions	Grant Rate
Angola	253	2%	75	17%
Democratic Republic of Congo	163	4%	141	33%
El Salvador	1539	13%	4386	25%
Rwanda	86	20%	17	35%
Uganda	469	21%	87	38%
Burundi	53	26%	24	83%
Syria	32	34%	221	67%
Egypt	151	44%	1593	72%
Cameroon	64	48%	217	44%
Afghanistan	17	59%	32	50%
Turkey	167	59%	1666	86%
Iran	29	69%	71	58%

This table included in the report compares the asylum grant rate at the Boston Asylum Office with the grant rate at the Newark Asylum Office, based on country of origin, from 2015-2020. As the authors explain, the data "corroborates the Boston Asylum Office's bias against asylum seekers from certain countries."

Leave a legacy ... make a meaningful difference

Maine's economic and cultural future is dependent on the diversity, vitality, and growth that comes with increased immigration. Planned giving to ILAP is my way, at age 83, to have a positive impact on my beloved state of Maine, even when I am not here to help, while ensuring I have adequate resources while I'm still kicking around! — Ron Stegall, long-time ILAP supporter

In this section, we share often overlooked giving options that can reflect your charitable goals and make a meaningful difference.

What is a QCD? Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are a planned giving option that allow you to transfer assets directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to charitable entities of your choosing, excluding Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) and private foundations. QCDs are sometimes called the "IRA charitable rollover." You must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD and you may make up to \$100,000 in total QCDs each year.

Why a QCD? In 2018, Federal tax legislation nearly doubled the standard deduction and eliminated or restricted many itemized deductions. As a result, there are now far fewer taxpayers who benefit from itemizing. And, because the tax deduction for charitable contributions is only available to those who itemize, an unfortunate result is that the charitable deduction is now available to far fewer taxpayers.

QCDs present a tax-planning opportunity for charitably inclined taxpayers who itemize or take the standard deduction.

At age 72 ½, you are required to begin taking distributions, called Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), from traditional IRAs. Because RMDs are included in your taxable income, you may find yourself in a higher tax bracket when you begin taking them. There are many reasons you may wish to keep your taxable income below a certain threshold. For example, you may not want

the additional income to adversely impact your Social Security income or Medicare benefits.

QCDs count towards your RMD and are excluded from your taxable income, allowing you to save on taxes while supporting your favorite organizations.

Contact your financial advisor or IRA custodian to find out more and decide if a QCD is right for you. ILAP also welcomes the opportunity to talk with you about your charitable goals—contact Development Director Laura Simocko any time at lsimocko@ilapmaine.org, or call 207-699-4407.



Learn how your gift to ILAP makes an impact: ilapmaine.org/impact

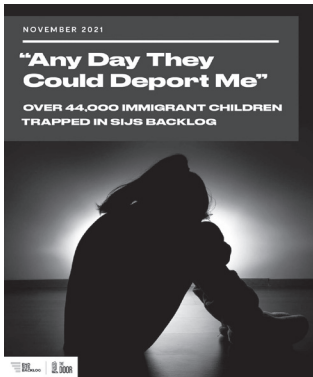


Mobilizing Support for Maine's Immigrant Youth

The Immigrant Children's Project is continuing to expand access to legal representation for vulnerable immigrant children and youth across Maine. As part of this work, we are training, coordinating, and supporting a growing team of *pro bono* attorneys. In 2021, volunteer attorneys donated **1,180 hours of their time to provide representation on more than 80 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases.** Check out the next page to see the impact of this *pro bono* work!

Immigrant Children's Project Attorney Maggie Loeffelholz and Managing Attorney Melissa Brennan led a training for Child Protection Assistant Attorneys General on addressing the immigration needs of noncitizen children and youth in state care.

ILAP is a member of the End SIJS Backlog Coalition, a national group of directly impacted youth and allied advocates working to uphold the promise of permanent protection for immigrant youth. One of their recent reports, "*Any Day They Could Deport Me: Over 44,000 Immigrant Children Trapped in SIJS Backlog*," featured a quote from ILAP Attorney Maggie Loeffelholz.



The "*Any Day They Could Deport Me*" report was released in November 2021 by The Door and the End SIJS Backlog Coalition. The report focused on the negative impacts of the immigration backlog on SIJS-approved youth, legal services attorneys, and the immigration court system, and highlighted changes needed to better protect immigrant children and youth. Learn more at sijsbacklog.com.

Unwavering Commitment to Legal Support and Advocacy for Afghans

Since August 2021, **ILAP's Afghanistan Project** has been working alongside local and national partners to respond to the urgent legal needs of Mainers with loved ones in Afghanistan and to welcome Afghan evacuees coming to Maine. Far too many people remain trapped in Afghanistan or stranded in third countries. **Only several hundred of the 40,000 humanitarian parole applications filed to date have been approved by the U.S. government.**

Of those who were able to evacuate, Maine has welcomed over 200 people for resettlement and expects 40 to 50 more later this year. ILAP is helping provide legal support as most will need to apply for asylum in order to access a green card or have any chance at reuniting with family members.

Traditional immigration options have failed to meet the urgency of the situation, so ILAP is also working with partners to advocate for better solutions. Afghanistan Project Attorney Catherine Lindgren sits on the Evacuate Our Allies coalition, which is spearheading advocacy for proposed federal legislation. As she explains, ILAP is working hard **"to ensure Afghan evacuees can start their lives in the U.S. confident about their futures and with a clear path to citizenship."**

Catherine was also appointed to AILA Afghan Response Task Force, which mobilizes *pro bono* attorneys, provides public access to resources, and engages in direct advocacy.

STAFF NEWS

■ We welcome **Melissa Brennan and Alice Kopij** as ILAP's new Co-Managing Attorneys for the Portland and Lewiston offices, respectively. The organization is grateful for their leadership and vision!

■ **Kate Chesney** took over for Julia Brown as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) Liaison to support AILA members communicate effectively with the local USCIS office.

■ **Chelsea Russell** became a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representative in February and was promoted to ILAP's Forms Program Paralegal. Other staff to receive promotions include: **Nolwenn Robison** to the role of Legal Program Associate and **Sarah Barton** to the role of Development & Communications Lead. Congratulations to all!

ILAP WINS!

ILAP's staff and volunteers work hard every day advocating for our clients. Each legal victory is a step toward change, made possible by our clients' resilience combined with the support of our expert staff, *Pro Bono* Panel attorneys, partners, and supportive community.

With the help of ILAP's *Pro Bono* Panel:

- A client from Afghanistan won their case at the Boston Asylum Office under very challenging circumstances and will now be safe here in the U.S. Congratulations to *Pro Bono* Panel attorneys **Jennifer Atkinson** and **Kim Sullivan** and their client!
- A young man got his green card and is safe from deportation. Thank you to the staff and students at Maine Law's Refugee and Human Rights Clinic for their extraordinary work on this case.
- Several immigrant youth secured state court orders, allowing their young clients to move forward in applying for SIJS. Congratulations and thank you to the team of *pro bono* attorneys from Preti Flaherty, including **Shana Solomon, Spencer Hoffman, Laura Lee Barry Wommack, Adam Shub, Sig Schutz, Jon Mermin,** and **Laura Rideout!**
- Two immigrant youth secured SIJS wins with the help of *pro bono* attorney **Dan McDonald** and a dedicated volunteer interpreter.

"ILAP's mentorship made it easy. I want to encourage other *pro bonos* that it's not hard work, with ILAP's help!"
- Dan McDonald, *Pro Bono* Panel member

With the help of ILAP staff:

- A client who won her asylum case filed a petition for her child to join her in the U.S. The child's petition was finally approved and, after almost four years apart, they were reunited.
- A young woman from Burundi won her case and received a green card based on her status as a Special Immigrant Juvenile.
- At least 8 people attended their oath ceremonies and became naturalized U.S. citizens in just the month of March!
- 32 individuals from Haiti filed Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applications.

Thank you to everyone who made these long-awaited moments possible!

An asylum seeker is five times more likely to win

their case in immigration court if they have a lawyer. To find out more about providing life-changing representation, contact Michelle Gentry at mgentry@ilapmaine.org or visit ilapmaine.org/pro-bono-panel.

ILAP is also looking to place Afghan cases with *pro bono* attorneys. Contact Catherine Lindgren at clindgren@ilapmaine.org if you are interested in learning more.

MELTING POT

■ ILAP participated in **Access to Justice Day** and joined our partners in advocating for increased investment in civil legal aid in Maine. As a result, the Maine Legislature approved funding for civil legal aid in the state's budget. ILAP is grateful for the Justice Action Group's advocacy and the partnership of our fellow civil legal aid providers.

■ ILAP testified in support of an amended bill (LD 1999) to **explicitly ban racial profiling in Maine.**

■ Executive Director Sue Roche joined friend of ILAP, **Stephanie Cotsirilos**, for the launch of Stephanie's debut novella *My Xanthi* at an event hosted by the Portland Public Library and Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance.

■ Sue met with the **Rotary Club of Lewiston/Auburn** and the **Satellite Club of West Bay Rotary in Camden** to share about ILAP's work.

■ ILAP attorneys Melissa Brennan and Kate Chesney met virtually with Maine's Congressional delegation in April for the **American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) National Day of Action** to push for fairer and more compassionate immigration laws.

■ 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.

■ The UU Church of Brunswick **selected ILAP as one of the beneficiaries of their 2022 "Concerts for a Cause"** series. Thanks for your support, UUCB!



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Get Legal Help

ILAP staff are here to help!

To request an appointment with ILAP:

Call (207) 780-1593 & 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.

ILAP aims to connect as many Maine immigrants with legal support as possible. We are a small organization that receives many new requests each week and are unable to help everyone. Thank you for your understanding!

We have legal resources in many languages available on our website as well as information about other organizations who can help. **Learn more at ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help!**

SUPPORT ILAP

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