## **IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT**

**FALL 2023** 

### Inside this issue:

A Message from Our
Executive Director 2
Staff & Board2
Love for Lewiston 3
Legal News & Advocacy 4
Supporter Spotlight 5
Celebrating 30 Years 6
Meet ILAP's 2023 Summer
Interns 8
Legal Program Highlights 9
Asylum Assistance10
Bienvenue! Bankwana!11
Get Legal Help & Support
II.AP12



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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.



#### **JOURNEY TOWARD JUSTICE: Celebrating 30 Years**

On a winter evening in 1993, the Honorable Peter Darvin invited Beth Stickney to come up from Boston to meet. Peter, then an attorney with Pine Tree Legal Assistance, had seen a large increase in requests for immigration legal aid and knew that existing services would not be able to meet the demand. By the end of the meeting, ILAP was born and our journey toward justice had begun.

What began as the seed of an idea led to the start of a volunteer-led initiative which has grown into a staff of 30 serving thousands of immigrants and their families every year. For three decades, ILAP has been working to build a world where systems are rooted in justice and where everyone belongs and thrives.

## **Celebrating a Milestone Together**

On the evening of October 19th, we were honored to mark our 30th anniversary with hundreds of supporters of Maine's immigrant justice movement at the University of New England's Portland campus. Together, we connected with our history, enjoyed globally inspired food and music, committed to the journey still ahead.

"ILAP started with a small group of *pro bono* attorneys and has grown into the organization it is today because of the community behind it— Maine's incredible immigrant communities, our staff and board, along with volunteers, donors, funders, and businesses who recognize the value of having immigrants come to Maine," reflects Executive Director Sue Roche.

"Our steadfast community support gives me hope as we look to ILAP's future and the possibilities of an immigration system that reflects our values of justice and equity."

## **Inside ILAP**

## A Message From Our Executive Director

#### **BOARD of Directors**

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Maggie Loeffelholz, Esq. (she/her) Immigrant Children's Project Attorney

Emily Nault Massell, Esq. (she/her) Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow

Emma Morgenstern, Esq. (she/her) Staff Attorney

Danny Muller Senior Information Systems and Operations Specialist

## Community and volunteer support, together with our staff and board, have made ILAP what it is today



**SUE ROCHE Executive Director** 

s we celebrate ILAP's 30-year anniversary Aand look towards the future, this is an **opportunity to reflect** on how ILAP became the organization it is today and how it can grow into the organization it needs to be for the future we envision. That future is a world where everyone can thrive without barriers related to immigration status, race, or other identities.

ILAP started in 1993 when Founding Executive Director Beth Stickney brought her decades of immigration law expertise to Maine, with the support of a small group of pro bono attorneys and supporters

who believed in ILAP's mission. Today, ILAP is a statewide immigration legal aid organization drawing national attention, with 30 staff and over 250 volunteers, offices in Portland and Lewiston, and a traveling Rural Maine Project. We help 3,000 clients each year and are at the forefront of several national immigration policy initiatives.

Over the years, we have expanded and adapted to meet emerging needs and changing immigration laws and policies. We have grown our capacity and piloted new projects to help more of the thousands of new immigrants coming to Maine, many of them asylum seekers and unaccompanied immigrant youth. We have developed new collaborations with the growing number of organizations and immigrant-led groups who are working together to change our flawed immigration system.

It's the community and volunteer support, together with our staff and board, who have made ILAP what it is today: an organization recognized locally and nationally for its immigration law expertise, innovation, and powerful advocacy strategies.

We thank you for being part of that community and for being with **us on this journey.** As we look forward to the future, we will continue to help immigrants navigate the system we have, while we also work alongside our partners, especially immigrant-led groups, to help create an immigration system that reflects our values of justice and equity.

Thank you for your support and solidarity.

SUE ROCHE **Executive Director** 

## **LOVE FOR LEWISTON**

As this newsletter goes to print, the Maine community is reeling from the tragic loss of our neighbors in Lewiston during yet another mass shooting in the United States. Eighteen people lost their lives, more than a dozen were injured, and the pain of this tragedy touches everyone in Maine and beyond. On the Sunday following the shooting, more than thousand people gathered at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston for One Lewiston Vigil and Community Remembrance.

Our thoughts and love are with those who were killed, injured, their families and friends, Maine's Deaf community, the Lewiston/Auburn community, and our entire, united Maine community. **This unacceptable and devastating violence must end.** 

At ILAP, we support those who have come to the United States seeking safety, security, and the chance for a better life. Yet far too often, those fleeing violence come face-to-face with it here in the United States alongside their neighbors. Our country and our policies can and must do more to provide safety and security – for everyone.

We know that the Maine community will get through this, but we should not have to. No community should. ILAP urges all members of our community to seek the help and support they need during this painful time, recognizing that past experiences of violence and trauma can re-surface in times like these.

## Our hearts are with all of you as this trauma reverberates across our state, our home.









#### STAFF CONT.

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Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow



# ILAP and Partners Launch #LetAsylumSeekersWork National Campaign

In October, ILAP and partners from across the country unveiled a **new national campaign aimed at reducing the amount of time asylum seekers have to wait for work permits**. The campaign seeks to build additional bipartisan support for Representative Pingree's Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act, which would make all asylum seekers eligible for work permits in 30 days after they've filed their applications and reduce barriers to help people keep their jobs.

"This campaign is a priority for our clients in their pursuit to find stability and security in their new home state of Maine and it must be a priority for all of us," says Executive Director Sue Roche. "When asylum seekers are allowed to work, we all win."

## TAKE ACTION!



#### **Tell your member of Congress**

to support H.R. 1325 The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act. It's time to #LetAsylumSeekersWork

Scan the QR code or visit <u>letasylumseekerswork.org</u> to learn more & take action.

# Mills Administration Proposes Maine Office of New Americans

**ILAP cheered Governor Mills' August Executive Order announcing plans to establish a statewide immigration agency in Maine.** ILAP has submitted feedback and recommendations to the team at the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), which has been tasked with fleshing out a proposal for the Office of New Americans by January 19, 2024. Following the Governor's approval of a proposal, it is expected to be voted on next year in the second half of the 131st Maine state legislature.

If successfully established, Maine would be the 19th state in the nation to create an Office of New Americans. One of the goals of the Office would be to help achieve the Mills' administration's stated goal of **adding 75,000 people to Maine's workforce by 2029.** A key step in achieving this goal will be increasing access to quality immigration legal services in Maine, an effort ILAP is leading through its Asylum Assistance and Legal Orientation Project (AALOP), with funding from Maine State Housing. *Read more about AALOP on pg. 10*.

## Women's Refugee Commission Releases Key Policy Brief Featuring ILAP

The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), a leading national organization specializing in research and policy solutions for refugee populations, visited Maine to learn about work being done to welcome and support asylum seekers here. Following their research trips to Maine and New York City, WRC released a policy brief with their findings.



Welcoming and Supporting People Seeking Asylum: Lessons Learned in New York City and Portland, Maine

One of the report's top takeaways was that **pro se legal assistance** is an "indispensable force multiplier" in achieving longterm stability and security. The brief stated, "immigration legal assistance for new arrivals is not only the most salient service need next to shelter, but also a fundamental tool for helping people move out of shelter and into permanent housing." WRC cited ILAP – Maine's only statewide immigration legal services organization – as crucial in

# **ILAP Welcomes Recent TPS Decisions**

meeting this need.

ILAP supports the broad and bold use of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to safeguard human life and applauds Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas for key extensions and redesignations over the summer and fall, including extending and redesignating **TPS** for Cameroon, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, and Ukraine.

ILAP calls on Secretary Mayorkas to also extend and redesignate TPS for Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador and to newly designate TPS for Guatemala and Democratic Republic of Congo, among other countries where protection is warranted and needed.

## Path to Citizenship for DACA Recipients Remains Urgent

In September, **District Judge Hanen again found the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program unlawful**, but permitted renewal applications to continue for the time being. As has been the case since 2012 when the program was first announced, Congress must act to provide permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship.

## Legal Limbo Persists for Afghan Evacuees More Than Two Years After Taliban Takeover

Since the August 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover, nearly 80,000 Afghan evacuees have been pursuing paths to long-term stability in the United States.

ILAP joins a diverse coalition of leading Afghan American organizations, 30 veteran service organizations, American commanders from the 20-year war in Afghanistan, and faith-based and human rights organizations in calling on Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA).

The bicameral and bi-partisan AAA, reintroduced last summer, provides a pathway to permanent legal status for Afghans resettled in the United States, expands eligibility for the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, and creates an inter-agency task force to better facilitate the relocation of at-risk Afghans abroad.

Urge your representatives to support and ensure passage of the AAA. FMI: maine-vets-for-afghans.org.

# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

## THE CLOWES FUND



ILAP Executive Director Sue Roche stands with Megan Reilly and Juan Galeano of the Clowes Fund in Portland this fall.

15 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

ILAP is proud to have supporters who have invested in our work and mission for years and even decades. The Clowes Fund, a family foundation enhancing the common good by encouraging organizations and projects that help to build a just and equitable society, has been **supporting ILAP since 2008**, **contributing directly to our organizational growth and expanding programs**.

Megan Reilly, Executive Director of the Fund recalls a Fall 2015 meeting with Sue Roche, where they talked about where ILAP was and where it was going. And now, she sees ILAP's leadership role in the state and in the country in immigrant legal services and advocacy. "Each time there's been a need to step up, ILAP has stepped up."

Recently, we asked Program Officer, Juan Galeano about how ILAP aligns with the Fund's work and priorities. "Each state has a unique ecosystem, and we try to figure out where to make an investment. ILAP has state-wide coverage and has a very inclusive approach to different types of immigration legal needs." He added that he sees ILAP as "the backbone of our [the Fund's] strategy in Maine" and often talks about ILAP's work as a model with partners in other states.

One of the best parts of the Fund's support of ILAP is that it comes via multi-year grants for general operating expenses, which means less time on the application and reporting process and more focus on long term planning knowing that the funding is secure. Galeano agrees, "We understand that the best laid plans can flip, whether because of a pandemic or a global event affecting migration. And **if we believe in the organization enough to award them a grant, then we trust them to use the funds and adjust as needed.**"

As ILAP marks our 30th anniversary, Reilly shared some of her hopes for the future of Maine's immigrant community, including that ILAP's policy work bears fruit so that some areas of our work are no longer needed: "Of course, ideally ILAP wouldn't need to exist at all." That's ultimately what ILAP's work is all about, creating a world where systems are rooted in justice, where everyone belongs and thrives.

Thank you to the Clowes Fund for believing in our mission and partnering with us as we continue to push forward.

# Thanks for helping us celebrate our 30th anniversary!









#### **Continued from Cover**

Our Journey Toward Justice event brought us together to celebrate three decades of ILAP. Event attendees created art with Adinkra symbols with Ebenezer Akakpo of Akakpo & Co., helped kick off the national #LetAsylumSeekersWork campaign, while connecting and reflecting on ILAP's history.

The evening ended with an amazing performance by the Bilad El-Sham Ensemble. "The musical guest was spectacular and their message both timely and fitting for ILAP's mission," remarked one event attendee.

Ensemble members shared their message of unity and peace while celebrating the best of Arab traditions and Syrian hip-hop. Assasi founded Bilad El-Sham with the late Khaled Arnaout, AKA Big-K. "We hoped to revive the historical relationships and rich culture of the Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan) and project a positive image on behalf of Arab youth, hip-hop, and the Middle East," explains Assasi.

## JOURNEY TOWARD JUSTICE

1993 — 2000 — 2002 — 2005 — 2012 — 2015

ILAP founded as a project where *pro* bono attorneys represent 15-20 asylum seekers each year. ILAP becomes a standalone organization with Beth Stickney as Executive Director and opens its first office on India Street. In collaboration with the Center for Prevention of Hate Violence and Maine Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, ILAP launches the "Preserving the American Dream" Project to respond to high levels of surveillance and bias against Maine's Muslim and Arab communities.

Maine Immigrants'
Rights Coalition (MIRC)
is established by
immigrant community
leaders, ILAP, and
Maine People's
Resource Center with
20 members.

Membership in ILAP's *Pro Bono* Panel surpasses 100 attorneys, donating more than \$850,000 of their time. ILAP joins with MIRC and Maine Equal Justice to successfully defend access to emergency and safety net benefit eligibility at the state and local levels for asylum seekers and other immigrants.

The event also celebrated the successful conclusion of ILAP's first ever impact campaign to fund the expansion of our core services and special initiatives. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to everyone across Maine and beyond who believes access to justice shouldn't depend on where you were born or how much

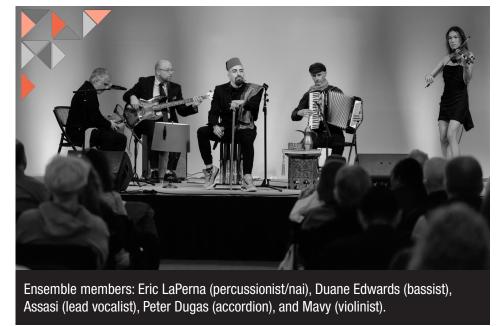
Funds raised at the event were generously matched by the George J. and Theresa L. Cotsirilos Family Foundation in honor of ILAP's 30th anniversary!

money you have.

Founding Executive Director Beth Stickney captured the feeling in the room in her video message from Chile: "We knew that ILAP needed to exist and we knew that it needed to be able to exist long-term. I am delighted that it is now 30 years from when we incorporated ILAP and ILAP has indeed endured and that's because of the commitment of so, so many people."

"ILAP has made an immeasurable difference to the legal landscape for immigrants in the state of Maine," said event attendee Carolyn Graney. "Their expertise, experience and compassion have been instrumental in creating a welcoming environment for all immigrants to our state and we are all incredibly grateful."

Thank you to everyone who helped make ILAP's 30th anniversary possible!









See more pictures, a full timeline of ILAP's history, and a list of event partners at <u>ilapmaine.org/ilap-30</u>.

2022

2016 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

ILAP launches the Washington & Hancock County Project, which has since grown into the Rural Maine Project and reaches immigrant communities in all 16 counties.

ILAP opens a full-time office in Lewiston after serving the Lewiston/Auburn community for more than 15 years. ILAP joins with MIRC and other partner organizations to welcome hundreds of asylum seekers who arrive in Portland from the southern border in summer 2019.

2019

ILAP launches the Immigrant Children's Project to increase legal representation for immigrant children and youth across Maine.

2020

ILAP joins Maine Law's Refugee & Human Rights Clinic, ACLU of Maine, and Dr. Basileus Zeno to co-publish the *Lives in Limbo* report, which uncovers bias and due process violations at the Boston Asylum Office, leading to formal review of the office.

ILAP celebrates 30 years!

## **2023 SUMMER INTERNS**

WRITTEN BY SUMMER INTERN EMMY TINKHAM

This summer ILAP hosted three summer interns – two through our new Racial Justice Fellowship program and one through the Goodwill VISTA Summer Associates program. These internships allow students to learn about ILAP's work while supporting the Maine immigrant community.

#### **Meet Emmy**

My name is Emmy and I served as the AmeriCorps VISTA intern.



I graduated from Cheverus High School in June. I wanted to intern at ILAP because I am an immigrant myself, born in Ethiopia.

My first project was creating a timeline about ILAP's history to celebrate the 30th anniversary. This taught me about how ILAP has changed people's lives, and their impact on the community.

I also attended an asylum workshop. One thing that stuck with me was when the attorney giving the workshop encouraged the attendees to tell their stories, "Everyone has a story, and you wouldn't have made this journey if your story wasn't worth sharing."

This fall, I'm attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. I'm looking forward to more opportunities to continue my experiences in immigration advocacy.

#### **Racial Justice Fellowship Program**

The Racial Justice Fellowship is ILAP's new paid internship opportunity for law school students who identify as immigrants or having lived immigrant experience. The pilot was supported by a grant from the Maine Justice Foundation's Racial Justice Fund. **ILAP welcomed Abby Khanal and Paula Esteves as the inaugural 2023 Racial Justice Fellows.** 

#### **Meet Abby**



When Abby was 12 years old, her family relocated from Nepal to Virginia. The process of gaining status here in the U.S was long and difficult for her family, partly due to the lawyers they had. **She wanted to become the immigration lawyer she wished her family had**.

During Abby's 10-week internship at ILAP, she learned about full representation. She worked on putting together the index deck of evidence for gender-based violence in Honduras and how the conditions in the country impact asylum. She also helped write the declaration for the case, which is a crucial part of the index deck of evidence.

This year will be Abby's second year of law school at Pennsylvania State University. All the work she did at ILAP will help her when she participates at the immigration clinic at school.

#### **Meet Paula**



Paula is a Brazilian foreign national who moved to the U.S. when she was 15 and became a citizen when she was 18. She's moved many times in her life but found a deep feeling of home in Maine that will keep her here for a long time - and one that she wants to share with all her clients!

Paula's favorite thing she did during her fellowship at ILAP was help launch the Asylum Assistance & Legal Orientation Project's (AALOP) *pro se* workshops.

"The cherries on top of the whipped cream of the AALOP workshops, though, were definitely

the attorneys in charge of the project, Catherine Lindgren and Jennifer Bailey," Paula said. "They are my upmost inspiration for everything immigration law, and I treasured every moment I got to spend laughing and learning from them."

Paula started her third year at the University of Maine School of Law and is working in its Refugee & Human Rights Clinic. She is excited to be joining ILAP as a part-time staff member to support the AALOP workshops!

Read more at <u>ilapmaine.org/intern2023</u>.

## **LEGAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

## Rural Maine Project: Updates from the Road

ILAP's Rural Maine Project was on the road this summer, connecting with partner organizations across the state serving farmworkers and immigrant communities in rural Maine.

"We hope to be a source of information for these immigrants who live in remote areas and have little or no access to information, serving as support to the community," says ILAP's new Rural Community Liaison, Lourdes Trujillo.

As part of the Rural Maine
Project, ILAP works with partner
organizations to **address labor trafficking and exploitation across Maine**, thanks to funding
from the Howard G. Buffett
Foundation. Over the summer, ILAP
played an integral role in responding
to a continuing situation, assisting
workers in connecting with legal and
other assistance.

# Forms Program: By the Numbers

ILAP's Forms Program provides support completing and filing critical immigration forms. Since May 2023, the Forms Program has:

- Helped 15 Haiti Temporary
   Protected Status (TPS) holders
   renew their TPS status.
- Screened and assisted 56 new Haiti TPS clients. Twenty have already been approved!
- Held an El Salvador TPS
   renewal clinic in Portland and
   Milbridge, helping 17 people.
- Filed Change of Venue motions for nearly 60 people at our monthly clinics, ensuring they avoid orders of deportation for not being able to attend court hearings in other states.



Rural Community Liaison Lourdes Trujillo sits at ILAP's table during a resource fair at Mano en Mano's Welcome & Resource Center in Milbridge.

## **ILAP Launches New Legal Resource Library**

ILAP sees firsthand how complicated the immigration system is. Through community legal education and online resources, ILAP works to help immigrants better understand how to navigate it.

As part of this work, **ILAP re-organized the Get Legal Help** section of our website to make our robust collection of digital resources and information easier to find and accessible in more languages. The result is a new, multilingual legal resource library, organized by immigration topic.

ILAP's website now includes sections with information and helpful guides on topics including applying for asylum, immigration court, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), changing your address, checking in with ICE, and more. All pages are available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Lingala, and Haitian Creole, with additional information available in Somali, Amharic, Dari, Pashto, and Arabic.

#### "Knowledge is power,"

says Communications and Development Lead Sarah Barton. "We believe everyone, regardless of what language they speak, should have access to information that makes them feel empowered to navigate the U.S. immigration system."

We're encouraging feedback and have included a "Help Us Improve" form on the bottom of every page. Please share your thoughts with us! Land here compared on grantested with all order desting and framework of the control of the cont

ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help

# Expanding Critical Asylum Assistance Through Community Workshops

#### The Challenge

Applying for asylum - a deeply complex legal process - is often the first step on a path toward long-term security and stability. The U.S. immigration system makes it so people need lawyers to be successful, yet most recently arrived people seeking asylum have extremely limited or no financial resources and, without work authorization until *after* their application is already filed and pending, have no ability to hire a private immigration attorney.

This flaw and injustice in the federal immigration system greatly impacts Maine. ILAP knew we needed to expand access to information and support people in preparing and filing asylum applications.

#### **Working Together to Find a Solution**

As you read in ILAP's 2023 Spring newsletter, our Asylum Assistance and Legal Orientation Project (AALOP) began piloting *Pro Se* Asylum Assistance Workshops in June. "In the months since, we have expanded our partnerships, expanded the program, refined the workshop process, and, in turn, expanded capacity to serve more people in need of asylum assistance," says Catherine Lindgren, AALOP Senior Project Attorney.

ILAP's monthly two-session asylum workshops, held at the University of Maine School of Law in downtown Portland, include a thorough legal orientation session so applicants can better understand the immigration system. *Pro bono* attorneys, accredited representative, and volunteer interpreters then join us to work one-on-one with the applicants to properly prepare their asylum applications. After a second workshop session, ILAP staff file the applications and follow-up to confirm applicants are on track to accumulating the 180 days necessary to receive a work permit.



The American Bar Association Commission on Immigration (ABA COI), key collaborators on this project, say they are "excited to collaborate with ILAP to bring this innovative model to other populations to help meet the needs of Maine's local community and uplift the critical service that ILAP provides."

Bill Lundin, Senior Associate and *Pro Bono* Coordinator in Fragomen's Boston office, recently volunteered as a *pro bono* attorney at one of AALOP's asylum

workshops and agrees about the project's current impact and future potential. "ILAP's *pro se* asylum assistance program is innovative, collaborative, and well-developed...

**ILAP** is empowering individuals to take ownership over their immigration processes, with helpful resources and guidance provided in an accessible format. Given the demands for pro bono counsel for recent arrivals to the U.S., this program can serve as a great starting point for expanding access to counsel for underserved and vulnerable populations."

If you would like to join our expanding team of asylum workshop volunteers as a *pro bono* attorney or interpreter, please contact Catherine Lindgren at <a href="clindgren@ilapmaine.org">clindgren@ilapmaine.org</a>.



The AALOP team: Eric Munyentwari, Catherine N. Lindgren and Paula Esteves!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The basic steps of preparing an asylum application takes an estimated minimum of **50 to 75 hours**, a timeline often complicated by factors including detention, language barriers, and navigating trauma.

To learn more, check out AILA's High-Stakes Asylum: How Long an Asylum Case Takes and How We Can Do Better 2023 report.

## **BIENVENUE!**

## Wilkommen, Welcome!



ILAP is thrilled to welcome **Eric Munyentwari** as a Legal Program Assistant for the Asylum Assistance and Legal Orientation Project (AALOP). Eric was born in Burundi as a Rwandan refugee and has experience in education and law, most recently serving as a professional mediator at the Supreme Court of Rwanda. He is also a Reverend Pastor.



We are also excited to welcome **Paula Esteves** to the AALOP team. Paula is a third-year law student at the University of Maine School of Law and started as a summer Racial Justice Fellow before joining ILAP staff. Originally from Brazil, Paula has worked in both non-profit and private practices of immigration law.



ILAP is thrilled to welcome **Manuchca Alcime** as Portland's office Legal Program Assistant. Manuchca has a background in healthcare, working previously for a non-profit organization strengthening healthcare facilities in northern Haiti. Upon moving to the U.S., Manuchca worked in homecare and environmental services.



We are also excited to welcome **Elizabeth Schwartz** to ILAP as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She will be working primarily with ILAP's Forms Program as well as the Immigrant Children's Project. Elizabeth is a recent graduate of Saint Louis University, where she studied Environmental Science and Political Science.



We are proud to welcome Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow **Emily Massell**. Emily is a recent graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and will be working with ILAP's Immigrant Children's Project. She completed a Fulbright fellowship in Jordan and worked as a student attorney in Northeastern's Immigrant Justice Clinic Practicum.



ILAP is also proud to welcome Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow **Kate Weaver**, a recent law school graduate from Duke Law who will be working with our full representation team. Kate worked abroad in Switzerland and France, researching immigration topics and worked directly with immigrant communities throughout law school.



We are thrilled to welcome **Barbara Leen** to ILAP's Board of Directors. Barbara serves as a Senior Corporate Counsel with Microsoft's U.S. Immigration group. Previously, Barbara worked at the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Senate Judiciary committee where her work focused on immigration policy, legal operations, and litigation.

## **BANKWANA**

## Farewell & Well Wishes

ILAP said goodbye to **Semhar Yehdego**, who played an integral role in welcoming client's to ILAP and connecting immigrants across the state with legal support. Best of luck at law school in London, Semhar!

We also bid farewell to long-time staff member **Jennifer Bailey**. ILAP was lucky to benefit from her expertise, leadership, and humor for over a decade. Jennifer is, to her core, a tireless advocate for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers here in Maine and around the world. Our deepest appreciation goes out to you, Jennifer. ILAP is the organization it is today in many ways because of your passion and dedication.

ILAP was sad to see **Lauren Abrams'** Jesuit Volunteer Corps year come to an end this spring. Among other work, Lauren assisted with over 100 Forms Programs cases during her year here and the impact of her work will be felt for years to come. Thank you, Lauren!

Thank you also to Immigrant Justice Fellows **Abby Khanal** and **Paula Esteves** and development and communications intern **Emmy Tinkham**. To learn more about our interns' incredible work this summer, see pg. 8!



Sue Roche presents a card and gift from ILAP staff to Lauren on her last day as a Jesuit Volunteer.

## **Stay Informed:**



Get our monthly email updates! Sign up at signup.ilapmaine.org, or scan the QR code.



#### IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

P.O. Box 17917, Portland, ME 04112 ph 207.780.1593

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## **Get Legal Help**

#### **ILAP** staff are here to help!

For multilingual immigration help and resources, including how to request an appointment with ILAP, visit ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help!

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



## SUPPORT ILAP

Help ILAP celebrate our 30th anniversary and advance the cause of justice for immigrants in Maine:

- Visit **ilapmaine.org/donate** to give online or begin a monthly gift.
- Transfer a gift of stock or remember ILAP in your will or trust. Contact Laura at <a href="mailto:lsimocko@ilapmaine.org">lsimocko@ilapmaine.org</a> to explore giving options.
- 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.

**Make a gift today!** Scan the QR code to make a donation.

