

Inside *this issue*:

A Message from Our Executive Director..... 2

Board of Directors 2

CeleSoirée 2018 3

Legal News & Advocacy..... 4

Pro Bono Panel Update 5

Melting Pot..... 6

How You Can Help 7

Bienvenue! Bankwana! 8

Donor Spotlight 9

ILAP Services 10



CONNECT ON FACEBOOK

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

CONNECT ONLINE

www.ILAPmaine.org

CONNECT ON TWITTER

@ilapmaine

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.

© The Hornbills Studio/Shutterstock



A Matriarch Finds Peace

Asylum seekers tend to be young.

MG is a remarkable exception.

No one knows MG’s age (her name is withheld for her privacy); her family guesses that she’s about 90. There are no birth records where she’s from, a village of subsistence farmers in the mountains of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where her community endured decades of attacks and discrimination. MG brought up five of her own children amid this violence; after her daughter-in-law died, she raised seven grandchildren as well.

Life In A Refugee Camp

MG and her family were separated in 2004 while fleeing an attack. She made her way to a refugee camp in Rwanda; they wound up in the Gatumba camp in Burundi.

On the night of August 13, 2004, armed men massacred 166 people at the Gatumba camp. MG’s grandson and his family survived. When a horrified international community offered Gatumba survivors refugee status, the family relocated to the United States.

MG remained in Rwanda, unaware of her family members’ whereabouts, searching for them while fearing that they had been killed in the massacre. Nearing or in her 80s, she became a mother figure for the third time, adopting and raising seven orphaned children from her community in the Congo.

The Search Continues

The grandson, meanwhile, repeatedly sent his cousin to the area to search for MG. The cousin scoured Rwanda and Burundi, traveling from refugee camp to refugee camp by train, bus and foot. He found her in 2010. He called the grandson on his cell phone and handed it to MG, and she heard his voice for the first time in six years. “I jumped for joy!” she says.

BOARD of Directors

Leslie Silverstein, Esq.
President

Gloria Aponte Clarke
Vice President

Amy Donahoe Bruning
Treasurer

Alicia Curtis, Esq.
Secretary

Eben Albert, Esq.

Ken Farber, Esq.

Lindsay Kay

Anne Kemper

Peter Landis, Esq.

Robyn March, Esq.

Riikka Morrill, Esq.

Priya Natarajan

Adele Ngoy

Shafaat Qazi

Zoe Sahloul

Lisa Scali

Ronald Stegall

Caroline Teschke, M.D.

ILAP Staff

Jennifer Bailey, Esq.,
*Asylum Attorney/
Pro Bono Coordinator*

Julia Brown, Esq.,
*Advocacy & Outreach
Attorney*

Kate Chesney, Esq.,
Staff Attorney

Treva deMaynadier,
Legal Program Assistant

Alice Kopij, Esq., Lewiston
Staff Attorney

Philip Mantis, Esq.,
Legal Director

Olivia Orr,
Operations Coordinator

Nick Pangakis,
Legal Support Associate

Loretta Prescott,
Development Director

Susan Roche, Esq.,
Executive Director

Laura Simocko,
Grant Writer

Christina Starr,
*Clinic Supervisor / DOJ
Accredited Representative*

Nadine Twagirayezu,
Paralegal

The country, and the state of Maine, is built upon the successes of immigrants and their families.



SUE ROCHE
Executive Director

Families are a cornerstone of our immigration history.

Most of us are here because a family member decided to pick up and leave everything they knew in order to pursue a new life in the United States. The country, and the state of Maine, is built upon the successes of immigrants and their families. Walt Disney, Madeline Albright, and Steve Jobs are just a few children of immigrants who have made significant contributions.

Sadly, the harsh political rhetoric and accompanying policies of the last eighteen months are eroding this foundation. Family immigration, now being framed as “chain migration,” is the target of many new policies that hurt the very families they are meant to protect, especially those that are Muslim or poor.

The changes started with travel bans and amplified enforcement. Travel Ban III, which remains pending at the Supreme Court, prevents family reunification for individuals from certain Muslim-majority countries. ICE enforcement has increased, and prosecutorial discretion has been eliminated, even for those with a U.S. citizen spouse or children. Families are being separated and detained at the border, and families who have been living in the United States for decades are being destroyed by deportation.

The Administration has terminated programs meant to provide humanitarian relief to families, including protections for children under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and for those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Sudan, Nepal, and Liberia. Many impacted individuals have been living legally in the United States for decades, have U.S. citizen children, and have become embedded in their communities.

Recently, the Administration announced plans to change “public charge” regulations to make it even harder for U.S. citizens to petition for family members if they are poor. Many other changes have been quietly implemented through agency memoranda and internal guidance that circumvent Congressional action.

Although deportation, unfair immigration policies, and family separation are not new, current attacks on the foundation of our immigration system are unprecedented. ILAP and other immigration advocates remain vigilant, as we advocate for our clients and the laws that protect them. If you would like to be kept informed about the latest immigration news and what advocacy actions you can take, please read the Legal News & Advocacy in this issue and sign up for our Golden Door Email Updates at www.ilapmaine.org.

SUE ROCHE
Executive Director



CeleSoirée 2018

Nearly 400 ILAP clients, staffers, board members, donors, volunteers and other guests gathered at Portland's Ocean Gateway on March 23 for ILAP's 14th annual CeleSoirée fundraiser. **The event raised a record \$83,000** from sponsorships, a reverse auction, raffles and a new text-to-give option. But that financial support is only one of the reasons ILAP development director Loretta Prescott was ebullient about the night. "The community-raising was just as successful as the fundraising," she says.

ILAP drew on support from two-dozen volunteers, including volunteer coordinator **Isa Beaulieu** and 10 students from **Casco Bay High** (recruited by **CBH teacher Priya Natarajan**). And Prescott points out that 49 people attended with "community tickets"—tickets purchased by donors to be given to community members—while 15 more used tickets that sponsors had given back. "All told, 64 people came who might not have been able to attend otherwise," says Prescott. "It made this night an amazing opportunity to bring together our whole community."

Attendees were treated to scrumptious food from **Babylon, Maiz** and **Tacos del Seoul**; hauntingly beautiful tango music by **violinist Aban Zirikly** and **singer Christina Wilson**; and inspiring videos featuring ILAP clients and donors, produced by **videographer Alex Bertoni** and sponsored by **Oak Hill Beverage**. Coordinating all the action was emcee **Adam Burk**, director of the **Treehouse Institute**. "I want to express my gratitude to Adam," says Prescott.

"He's very genuine, both as a human being and in his support of ILAP, and people really responded to his authenticity."

The goal of CeleSoirée is not only to raise money, but also to celebrate ILAP's community and to cultivate connections within it. The 2018 event was a home run on all counts, empowering ILAP to pursue its mission even more effectively in the months ahead. And, in the words of Loretta Prescott, **"It was a lot of fun, too."**

Photographs clockwise from top: 1. Guest Olivier Manirankunda, 2. Volunteer Coordinator Isabella Beaulieu and Orson Horchler, 3. ILAP Board Members Lisa Scali, Leslie Silverstein and Gloria Aponte Clark, 4. Guests Heather Alden and Cecely Conrad, 5. Emcee Adam Burk, 6. Guests Mohamed Nur, Amanda Atkinson-Lewis and Salim Aymen Salim, 7. Guests Zaineb Saleem and family. **Credit:** Dave Dostie



Administration Decimates Temporary Protected Status Program

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a legal status provided to immigrants from certain countries experiencing a natural disaster or civil war. While the program has “temporary” in the name, many of the countries have had TPS for decades, with several administrations renewing the program many times.

The current administration has terminated TPS for seven countries: El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Sudan, Haiti, Liberia, and Nepal. Between terminating these TPS programs and DACA (currently continuing because of an injunction), nearly one million immigrants will lose work authorization and legal status if this administration succeeds.

ILAP has helped dozens of Salvadoran and Honduran TPS holders renew their TPS status for decades. TPS holders from those countries have lived here an average of over twenty years, and many have US citizen children and have worked for the same employers for years.

State Legislature Success

The 128th second session of the Maine State Legislature (the “short session”) ran from January 3 to May 2 of this year. We were disheartened to see a variety of anti-immigrant bills introduced, but pleased that none of them passed. These included an anti-sanctuary city bill, a bill to cut immigrants from vital anti-poverty programs, and a bill to require

all employers to use E-Verify (a computerized system set up by the Department of Homeland Security for employers to verify an applicant's immigration status).

ILAP testified against the anti-sanctuary city bill, the only bill of those three to make it to the floor. The bill would have forced local and state employees to act like federal immigration agents, and charged fees of \$500 a day (\$182,500 a year) to towns and cities that choose not to divert their law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws. Over 800 people signed the ACLU of Maine's letter in opposition to the bill. The bill made it out of committee, but died on the House floor.

Not only did those anti-immigrant bills fail, but ILAP testified in support of LD 1740, a bill establishing the crimes of criminal forced labor and aggravated criminal forced labor. The bill passed over the governor's veto and is now law. LD 1740 added labor trafficking to Maine's criminal code, which will lower the hurdles faced by immigrant labor trafficking survivors in their applications for humanitarian immigration relief.

Courts Block End of DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, is a program started by President Obama in 2012. DACA provides temporary work authorization and protection from deportation for children



©clipart.com

who entered the United States at a young age and meet other requirements, like education and lack of a significant criminal record. The president has the authority to set enforcement priorities, and can “defer action” for certain individuals.

President Trump announced the termination of DACA in September 2017, setting March 5, 2018, as the end date. However, on January 10, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction temporarily reinstating DACA for anyone who has had DACA in the past. Since that opinion, other federal courts have agreed -- one even went further and ruled that the government must accept new applications. That broader decision has been stayed 90 days in order for the administration to respond.

Meanwhile, in January, ILAP sent a sign-on letter, signed by 34 Maine organizations and faith-based groups, to each member of the Maine congressional delegation, urging them to act swiftly on behalf of Dreamers. Congress failed to pass legislation that would provide DACA recipients with a pathway to permanent status in the United States, but there is currently movement in Congress to possibly attempt passing this legislation again. *(Continued on next page)*

At least one hundred Maine residents are DACA recipients. ILAP has helped many clients apply for and renew DACA. DACA recipients have used this opportunity to go to college, start careers, and have families. They are integral members of our communities. We hear firsthand from our clients the daily fear and anxiety they feel while waiting for Congress to act on their behalf.

Travel Ban Update

Lawyers argued *Trump v. Hawaii* on April 25 in the Supreme Court. *Trump v. Hawaii*, No. 17-965, involves the third travel ban from September 2017. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled against the ban in November 2017, but the Supreme Court allowed the ban to remain in effect until it had made its decision.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, the United States has prevented people in certain categories from Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, and Venezuela from entering the country while the case remains pending (Chad was originally on the list but has been removed). While individuals from those countries are technically eligible for waivers, a report found that only 100 waivers have been granted after at least 8,400 applications in the one month between December 8 and January 8. ILAP has clients who have applied for a waiver and remain waiting for a decision so that they may be reunited with their family members.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision in June. ■



We've Moved!

In December, ILAP moved to new offices on the 3rd floor of **489 Congress Street in downtown Portland**. We now have more square footage than our previous location, including several dedicated spaces for confidential client meetings and ample room for educational and partner workshops.

On May 17, we hosted an open house to welcome friends to the new space and celebrate our move.

ILAP's phone number and mailing address are the same!
You can contact us at 207-780-1593 and P.O. Box 17917, Portland, ME 04112.

■ Changes to Asylum Processing Policy

Until recently, individuals seeking asylum in the United States have waited several years for their cases to be reviewed and adjudicated by USCIS due to significant backlogs in the system. In January 2018, however, USCIS announced that it is changing the way it schedules asylum interviews to a "Last In First Out" (LIFO) basis. This approach means that new applicants will have their cases reviewed very quickly, while those with pending cases will remain stuck in limbo for even longer. As a result of these changes, ILAP will adjust our intake process to prioritize individuals who have not yet filed for asylum. Attorneys on the *Pro Bono* Panel who have pending cases will have the option of making a special "short list" request to USCIS, which asks to have their client's interview scheduled rather than having them wait indefinitely in the backlog.

■ Pro Bono Panel Asylum Grants

Congratulations to Bill McCue and his client from Burundi for their victory in a defensive case won in Immigration Court! Bill has been representing this ILAP client since 2012, first before USCIS and then in court. Despite the long and arduous process, they received a same-day decision from Judge DeAngelo and the client was able to leave the courtroom secure in his safety and future in Maine. Although the current environment is incredibly hostile to asylum seekers, these types of results remind us of the importance of zealous advocacy on behalf of our clients. Thank you to Bill and all of the dedicated members of the *Pro Bono* Panel!

■ Pro Bono Panel TRAININGS

- On April 26th, ILAP held an **asylum training** with the legal team at **IDEXX in Westbrook**, including attorneys, experienced administrative and project management staff. ILAP is very excited to welcome IDEXX to our *Pro Bono* Panel, which will add critical capacity and benefit several families that are seeking asylum in Maine.
- On May 3rd, ILAP hosted a **training in Lewiston** on the **representation of asylum seekers in affirmative cases** before U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. Participants heard best practices and valuable insight on successfully advocating for their clients.
- On June 1st, ILAP hosted a training at **Pierce Atwood** in Portland on the **representation of asylum seekers in defensive cases** before the Boston Immigration Court. Attorneys earned CLE credit for their attendance.

■ Despite the snowy winter (and spring!) weather, **ILAP conducted know-your-rights presentations** across the state from Portland to Farmington and beyond. In this era of shifting immigration policies at the local, state and federal levels, these sessions have provided timely and factual information to hundreds of members of Maine's immigrant communities.

■ In March, ILAP teamed up with Pine Tree Legal Assistance to present **workshops on how taxes can affect immigration status** and applications for family members. Thank you to Portland Adult Education and Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston for hosting these sessions!

■ **ILAP's Legal Team travelled to Milbridge** in February, April and June to provide consultations and educational outreach to individuals who would otherwise be unable to access our services due to transportation and time barriers. Mano en Mano continues to be a fantastic partner in this initiative, providing office space and supporting community members to get the help they need to adjust their legal status. The administration's termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for seven countries has been the top concern among area residents, with dozens of long-time Maine residents anxious about losing work authorization and legal status. ILAP has been working with them to identify options for remaining in the country legally, but many are forced to live in limbo and fear of being separated from family members.

■ **ILAP was proud to be a community partner for the Cumberland County District Attorney Candidate Forum** on May 24th at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. The event included all five candidates for the contested seat, with a panel including ACLU of Maine advocacy director Oami Amarasingham, the Portland Press Herald's Greg Kesich and Professor Thea Johnson from Maine Law. Questions covered a range of issues, including mass incarceration, juvenile justice, equal treatment under the law, poverty, public health, and transparency and accountability.

■ Advocacy & Outreach Attorney **Julia Brown** travelled to Washington D.C. on April 12 for the **2018 American Immigration Lawyers Association's National Day of Action**. While there, she met with Senators King and Collins and Representative Poliquin,

as well as staff from Representative Pingree's office. She and other immigration attorneys spoke to the congressional delegation about the urgent need for a pathway to permanent status for DACA recipients and TPS holders, as well as the need to combat the attacks on asylum seekers and immigrants from the current administration. The New England Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association awarded Julia with a scholarship to attend the event.



■ At the **March Forth Film Series**, ILAP facilitated a discussion on immigration policy changes and the impact of deportation on families following a screening of two short documentaries – **Sin País** and **New American Girls**. The event took place at the Maine Irish Heritage Center in Portland on May 8th.

■ **ILAP announces the opening of a new office at 11 Lisbon Street in Lewiston.** “With this exciting expansion, ILAP is responding to the growing demand for legal services in Lewiston, especially related to asylum, and a troubling trend of individuals turning to non-attorneys for assistance,” explains Executive Director Sue Roche. “When people in vulnerable situations get legal advice from someone without training in immigration law, they are unfortunately more likely to make errors that will lead to a denied application and deportation, even if they have a compelling claim for asylum.” *(Continued on next page)*

2017 | ILAP By the Numbers

1,791 immigrant community members and service providers attended **42 ILAP outreach events**.

ILAP clients originated from **15 counties in Maine**.

160 pro bono attorneys donated **4,275 hours** of their time, valued at \$881,903 representing asylum seekers.

ILAP staff and *pro bono* attorneys provided full legal representation **services that benefited 340 individuals**.

1,638 individuals were served through ILAP's Immigration Clinic.

ILAP provided direct **legal services to 3,159 individuals**.

ILAP began providing monthly consultations and educational outreach in Lewiston more than ten years ago, and has been generously hosted by the Lewiston Adult Learning Center. In 2016 and 2017, we began offering weekly office hours for asylum seekers and additional outreach events and workshops. Even with this growth, community members repeatedly asked us to establish a full-time presence to increase access to much-needed legal services. The City of Lewiston estimates that 29 new asylum seekers arrived each month in 2017.

Several committed donors and businesses have partnered with ILAP to help us open the doors of our space, including **Lamey Wellehan, Androscoggin Bank** and **Geiger**. Special thanks goes to the **Next Generation Fund**, which provided three years of sustained funding for ILAP's Lewiston location; and to **Berman & Simmons**, which has provided multi-year funding to ensure that ILAP's Lewiston office is sustainable. **Bates College** also provides work-study students for French translation and five attorneys at the law firm Berman & Simmons are members of our *Pro Bono* Asylum Panel in Lewiston.

Appointments for the Lewiston office can be scheduled by calling our main office line at 780-1593. Please note that appointments may take place in Portland or Lewiston based on staff availability. We will be hosting an open house of our new space in September. More details to follow!

A Search for Peace and Safety, *Continued from cover*

MG finally had a chance to reunite with her family in 2015, when she received a tourist visa to attend her grandson's college graduation. The trip involved more than 24 hours of travel. Afraid to ask for anything—she speaks only her native language and a bit of Swahili—MG went the entire trip without eating.

The Application Process

She arrived in the United States, and for the first time in decades experienced life in a country at peace. She told her grandson that she wanted to try to stay. After an intake screening at ILAP, her case was put on a list that ILAP sends regularly to *pro bono* attorneys. One was Alicia Curtis, ILAP's *Pro Bono* Attorney of the Year in 2017. "Her story resonated with me," says Curtis. "It's extremely unusual for someone to seek asylum at her age. And having grown up on a little farm in rural Maine, I felt a certain kinship given her very traditional background."

Curtis met repeatedly with MG, earning her trust, learning her story and sifting through it for the details that were legally relevant to the asylum request. The process was difficult for MG. "It made me sad to remember everything that happened to me and my family," she says.

The application process tested Curtis, too. "I had to take a crash course in the history of the Congo so I could put MG's experience into context," she says. "And ordinarily we try to support a claim with as much documentation as possible—work records, hospital records and so on—but MG came from an oral culture where no aspects of her life were recorded." Instead, Curtis gathered extremely detailed witness statements from MG's grandson and a son living in Texas. She submitted the application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in March 2016.

A Breakthrough

Then they waited for an interview with an asylum officer. At the time there was a four-year backlog. "It felt like a very long time," MG says. "I grew discouraged."

Curtis engineered a breakthrough, getting MG on a list of applicants to be called in the event of a cancellation. The call came on Friday, September 15, 2017; Curtis was given 20 minutes to say whether she, MG and an interpreter could be in Boston at 8:00 a.m. the following Monday. After a mad scramble, she was able to say yes. "She was nervous, but she was very excited that she could finally tell her story to a decision-maker," says Curtis. "And she did a spectacular job."

After another six-month wait, MG was called in for a follow-up interview. Four weeks later she received asylum.

Looking Forward

MG now lives with her grandson's family. She relishes watching her three great-grandchildren grow, but she worries about the members of her community back home and in refugee camps. She's looking forward to starting a new application process—this time to try to bring the children she adopted in Rwanda to live with her, in peace, in the United States. ■

How You Can Help ILAP

It's never been more important to support justice for immigrants in Maine.

To donate, use one of these options:

- Make a check out to ILAP and mail it to us in Portland
- Donate through our secure link online: www.ilapmaine.org
- Make your online donation to ILAP recurring, by the month, quarter or year
- Transfer a gift of stock to ILAP; contact Olivia Orr at oorr@ilapmaine.org
- Call Loretta Prescott about an estate gift, at 207-699-4407

BIENVENUE!

Willkommen, Welcome!



Julia Brown, Esq. joined ILAP as our new Advocacy & Outreach Attorney in December 2017. The addition of this full-time staff position

became increasingly necessary in the face of shifting immigration policies locally and nationally over the last year. Julia will monitor federal immigration issues that impact Maine's immigrant communities, analyze state and local laws and policies, and conduct outreach to ensure immigrants and service providers are informed of their rights and legal options. Julia holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law and, prior to joining ILAP, represented indigent death-sentenced Georgia prisoners in habeas corpus proceedings challenging their capital convictions and death sentences.

Julia's position is generously funded by a group of dedicated donors who acted quickly when the need arose. Thank you!



Alice Kopij, Esq. is ILAP's newest Staff Attorney and will operate our Lewiston office. Alice's work will include providing consultations

to asylum seekers and growing the Lewiston-based membership of our *Pro Bono* Panel, as well as providing outreach and education on various legal issues. As a resident of Lewiston, she is looking forward to connecting with the community. Alice holds a Master's in Social Work from Columbia University and a J.D. from Northeastern University. Her professional experience spans directing a refugee resettlement department, serving as an attorney

advisor for the Boston Immigration Court and practicing immigration law at Landis & Arn.

Laura Simocko has re-joined ILAP as a part-time Grant Writer. Since leaving her role as Office & Development Associate five years ago, she has earned a Master's degree from



Trinity College Dublin and worked as Director of Development at a Latino youth organization in Boston. Laura will primarily write proposals and reports for grant funders, and will support with other fundraising and communications projects as needed.

Alicia Curtis and **Lindsay Kay** are the most recent additions to ILAP's Board of Directors. Alicia (pictured left) is an Associate at Berman & Simmons in Lewiston, and



she has significant experience in both law and social work. In 2011 and 2012, she was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in the area of products liability litigation. Lindsay is a finance professional with expertise in 501(c)(3) best practices, operating and capital budget development, managerial finance and financial administration of grants and contracts, among other areas. She is currently the Manager of Research & Grant Accounting at Maine Medical Center.

This summer, ILAP welcomes a corps of talented interns to support our legal team. **Jorge Martinez** from the University of Maine School of Law, **Emma Morgenstern** from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, **Gillian Coyne** from Bates College and **Elise Morano** from Bowdoin University will bring their expertise and energy to the office while learning more about immigration law.

BANKWANA!

Farewell and Well Wishes!

After nearly four years as a Paralegal/DOJ Accredited Representative at ILAP, **Sean Douglas** has taken an exciting new position at New York Legal Assistance Group. Sean brought significant capacity and unequaled compassion to our legal program and he handled cases spanning a range of legal issues. ¡Felicidades!

Meg Moran left her role as a Staff Attorney to pursue an opportunity with the immigration unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. She has been instrumental in the expansion of ILAP's services in Lewiston, and plans to remain connected to ILAP as a member of our *Pro Bono* Panel. Best of luck in Boston, Meg!

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In March and May, **ILAP and the University of Maine School of Law** provided workshops for asylum seekers who are representing themselves. More than 80 participants joined us for the March session, which focused on the new "LIFO" processing policy and how to file an application for asylum. In May, participants learned how to prepare for their asylum interview, a pivotal moment in the application process that can determine if a case will be approved or referred to Immigration Court.

These education and outreach activities are increasingly important as ILAP works to support the individuals whom we lack the capacity to represent. Thank you to the Maine Law students for their hard work preparing and presenting the workshops and to Portland Adult Education for hosting these sessions!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Perfect Blend: Costa Rican Farmers



Mainor, owner of La Pastora farm



Donors Susan, Tom, Annee and Richard with Kevin Gaspardi of CBD



"Cupping" or repeatedly testing the coffee for quality and taste

Susan Schraft and **Annee Tara** planned a vacation together the first time they met. The occasion was *CeleSoirée 2017*; Susan and her husband Richard were the high bidders for a special auction item, a six-day trip to La Minita coffee plantation in Costa Rica, donated by Coffee by Design (CBD). Annee and her husband Tom were the second highest bidders, but CBD owners Mary Allen Lindemann and Allen Spear decided on the spot that two couples should have the experience of this normally "industry-only" trip. Lindemann agreed to send both couples if Annee and Tom matched Susan and Richard's bid—instantly doubling CBD's commitment. "Mary Allen was

CeleSoirée 2017; Susan and her husband Richard had won the auction item, a six-day trip to the La Minita coffee plantation in Costa Rica, donated by Coffee By Design (CBD).

astonishingly generous," Tara notes.

The trip was eye-opening. "I used to wonder how anyone could charge \$5 for a cup of coffee," says Schraft. "After seeing how involved and professional the process is, I'm amazed it doesn't cost more. It was a fascinating trip. And I was happy that the cost went to support ILAP—I'm thrilled we have a group like ILAP in the community."

By bidding on and winning this unique auction item, Annee and Tara earned themselves a one of a kind experience and made a generous gift to ILAP. Their bids raised \$11,000 in total, all of which went directly to our legal services, educational outreach and advocacy efforts.

"It was wonderful to know that our trip was benefiting ILAP," concurs Tara. "Immigrants add a lot to our communities and make our country stronger. We want to make sure they continue to have ILAP's support." ■

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

On February 20th, ILAP toasted our valuable and passionate volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. ILAP is supported by nearly 250 dedicated volunteers that add valuable capacity to all of our programs, from working with clients to complete complex forms in the Immigration Clinic to providing full representation to asylum seekers through our *Pro Bono* Asylum Panel. With their support, ILAP is able to reach significantly more clients than we would be able to through paid staff alone and create a network of caring and supportive community members dedicated to welcoming immigrants in Maine.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

Molly Haley

Development Volunteer

Jane Makela

Forms Volunteer

Gretchen Stanton

Intake Volunteer

Erica Schair-Cardona

Asylum Intake Volunteer

Yves Van Damme

Volunteer Interpreter

Barbara Taylor

ILAP Hero

Alicia Curtis

Pro Bono Attorney

Berman & Simmons

Pro Bono Firm

Mano en Mano

Community Partner

Norway Savings Bank

Business Partner



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

489 Congress Street, 3rd Floor

P.O. Box 17917

Portland, ME 04112

ph 207.780.1593

fax 207.699.2313

email: info@ilapmaine.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 64
PORTLAND, ME



ILAP Services

INTAKE for new clients, or former clients with new matters, takes place every Friday by appointment.

Appointments for Friday Intake can be made any weekday except Wednesday by calling the ILAP office at **207-780-1593** or by coming to the office between 9 and 5. Friday Intake appointments can be done in person or by phone. **Everyone must first have an Intake appointment** before consulting with an ILAP attorney or getting help in our Forms Clinic.

■ ILAP offers extended attorney consultations on immigration legal issues each month in Portland and Lewiston, as well as bi-monthly in Milbridge, for those who have gone through Intake. For those who cannot travel to those locations, we offer consultations by telephone or Skype. ILAP also offers emergency consultations for clients referred by other service providers and for those with pressing issues of safety. ILAP attorneys may also provide full representation to vulnerable clients with complex cases before Immigration hearing officers and courts.

■ ILAP's Forms Clinic helps people to understand, fill out, document, file and follow the progress of their immigration applications. The Clinic also assists applicants who must progress through additional complicated steps on their way to a final result.

■ ILAP assists asylum seekers to find lawyers through its asylum *pro bono* panel. ILAP also collaborates with the University of Maine School of Law to offer regular classes for asylum seekers who have no lawyer and are filing their own asylum applications.

■ ILAP offers education and outreach programs, by request, to organizations and service providers on a range of immigration topics. We take part in training programs for legal, medical, law enforcement or other personnel who work with immigrant communities. We also participate in advocacy to improve laws and policies that affect Maine's immigrants.

ILAP Office:

489 Congress Street, 3rd Floor
Portland, ME