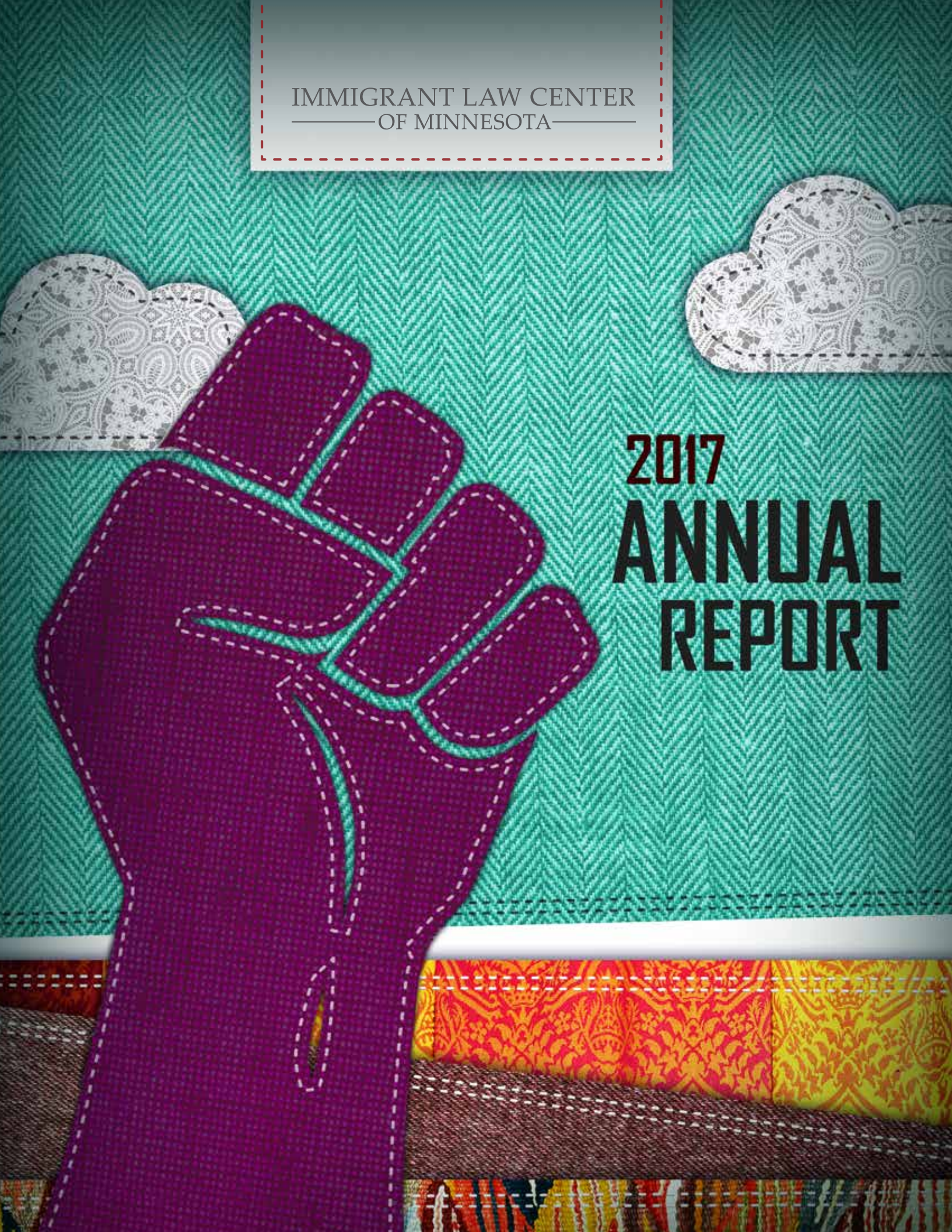


IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER
— OF MINNESOTA —

2017
ANNUAL
REPORT



STANDING UP FOR DIGNITY AND WELCOME

The year 2017 brought enormous challenges. Anti-immigrant campaign sentiment led to policies grounded in exclusionism, racism, and fear. Throughout the year, we joined you and other allies to stand up against echoes of the era of the Know-Nothings, and to welcome and to defend the dignity of all immigrants and refugees.

The fight began in the first week of the new administration, with the three immigration executive orders. The first Muslim ban stranded a four-year-old refugee child in an airport in Uganda. Her mother and two older sisters were here in Minnesota. We stood up and fought to reunite that family, and for thousands similarly, summarily excluded by the stroke of a pen. That first victory was part of a nationwide struggle that still continues.

Representing dwindling numbers of refugees allowed into the United States, as well as whipsawed DACA recipients is also part of that struggle. So is signing on to amicus briefs in court challenges to these new repressive policies. The struggle for immigration justice took us to church basements, crisis-line phone intakes, county jails and detained deportation court, the offices of federal, state, and local elected officials, to business and agricultural leaders, and to forums and meetings in every corner of the state.

In the midst of this year of unprecedented attacks on the immigrant and refugee communities, I have felt unwavering support from you and the broader community. From our amazing pro bono attorneys calling us to ask for more cases, to the small businesses of Restaurants Rising raising support, to every individual who donates or responds to our Action Alerts, your efforts have never failed, and have only grown stronger. I feel your support wherever I go and that support sustains all of us every day.

Every school, community, and faith group that invites us to learn more deeply about the importance of immigrants is standing up for justice and building welcome. Every person who commits to visiting, emailing, and calling elected officials is delivering a message clearly held by the majority: that we need to reform our laws to build permanency and paths to citizenship for DREAMers, their parents, TPS and DED holders, and others—not build walls or arrest parents and separate families.

These times that we are living are not the ones any of us expected or would have ever wished on our most bitter rival. Nevertheless, very early on after the election I realized that we are exactly who these times demand to serve, to resist, to educate those who've been misled by fear and mistruths. We must gather ourselves to protect, empower, and fight like hell for each person, family, community, and targeted religion.

Thank you to each and every person who has offered support, whether through volunteering, donating, sharing our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram posts, or simply through a call or a hug. We will continue to stand strong throughout the days and months ahead. Together, we will win. Together we will build a more welcoming Minnesota and United States.

John Keller

Executive Director, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

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WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota enhances opportunities for immigrants and refugees through legal representation for low-income individuals, and through education and advocacy with diverse communities.

Our Services

Legal Services

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provided immigration legal services in 4,582 unique cases in 2017. Some 229 pro bono attorneys donated over 3,500 hours of service to ILCM clients and their families.

Education

ILCM provided in-person immigration expertise in over 200 information sessions and presentations reaching 9,241 individuals, as well as reaching countless others through radio and television appearances.

Advocacy

ILCM worked for immigrants' and refugees' access to healthcare, drivers' licenses, education, and fair-wage employment through testimonies, coalition-building, and impact litigation.

NOTE: Throughout this report, we have changed the names of clients when telling their stories. While the stories are real, and while clients have agreed to let us use their stories, we choose to protect their privacy by not using their real names.

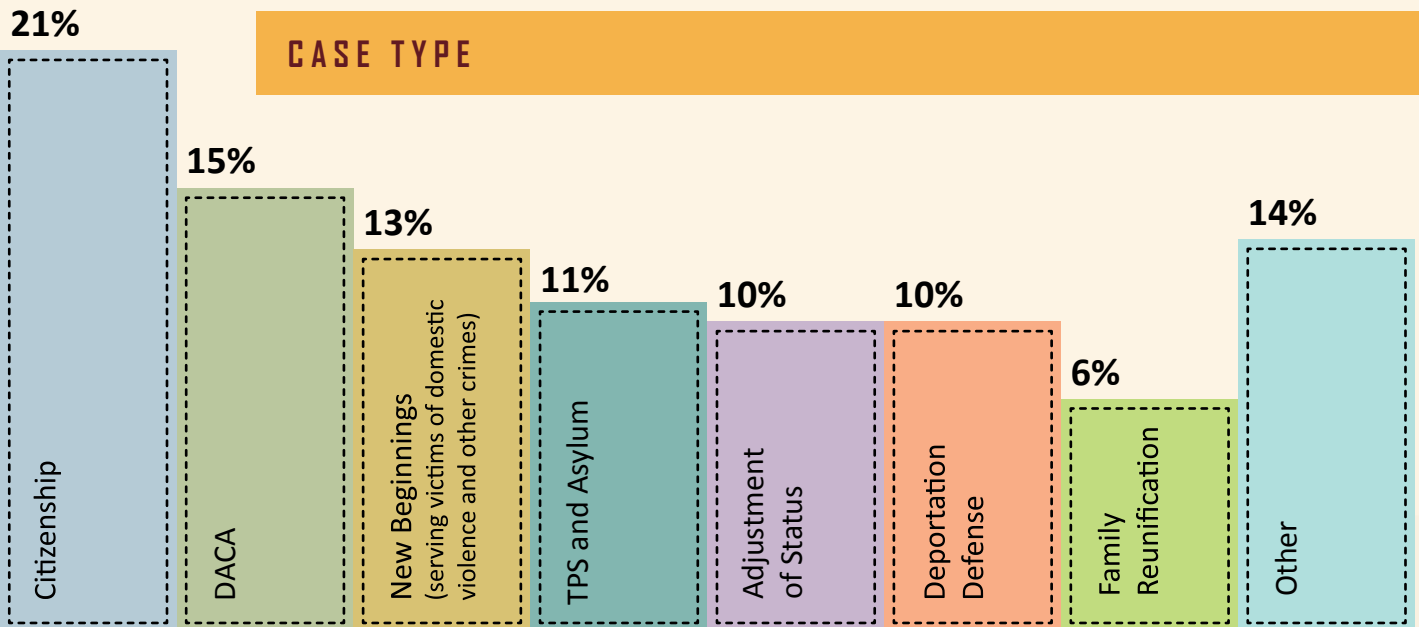


OUR WORK

ILCM has two offices in St. Paul, as well as satellite offices in Moorhead, Worthington, and Austin, making legal services more accessible to all immigrants in Minnesota. All program staff are bilingual, including native speakers of Burmese, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish.

64% of clients served reside in the 7-county metro area, while 36% reside outside of it. That’s not too far from the statewide population distribution: 55.1% of Minnesota’s population is in the 7-county metro area.

Clients came from 113 different countries from around the world.



ADVOCACY

ILCM supports comprehensive immigration reform that respects the fundamental human rights of immigrants and refugees, recognizes the needs of our economy, and protects security. Comprehensive immigration reform requires Congressional action, which is a long-term goal. In the short-term, we work for state legislation and administrative remedies, such as improved access to health care and drivers licenses.

ILCM's advocacy activities, overseen by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors, include work directly with government officials, communities, coalitions, labor unions, religious organizations, professional groups, and grassroots and immigrant and refugee organizations.

In 2017, we faced a new anti-immigrant agenda in Washington. That started with the Muslim and refugee bans in January and continued through the attempted rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in September, with continuous regulatory moves targeting not only prospective immigrants but also permanent legal residents. Joining with allies, we stood up for the rights and dignity of immigrants and refugees.

Sometimes advocacy takes place behind the scenes, as we provide information and legal background to public officials. Advocacy includes testifying in legislative hearings on health care or drivers licenses for immigrants. Sometimes advocacy means signing on to lawsuits as an *amicus curiae*, challenging the rescission of DACA or the suspension of refugee rights. Sometimes it means joining with every available ally and contacting Senators and Congress members on behalf of a single refugee child.

A four-year-old's refugee story

A four-year-old girl made headlines around the world when President Trump's first travel ban stopped her at an airport in Uganda. She had been separated from her mother since she was five months old. Her mother was forced to leave the baby behind in order to get her two older daughters to safety in the United States.

Shortly after the baby was born, her mother and sisters got their refugee visas. That process takes years, and the outcome is always uncertain. Now the new baby would have to begin the application process.

The mother faced an impossible choice: Could she give up the visas just granted to her and her seven- and eight-year old daughters to wait with the baby? That would have put the seven- and eight-year-old girls at risk: first, through spending more years in the refugee camp where the mother had lived after leaving Somalia in 2005, and then, because they might never get another chance at a visa.

The mother made the difficult choice to leave her baby behind with a family friend while she and her seven- and eight-year-old daughters moved to Minneapolis. She was told that getting a visa



for the new baby would take less than a year. Instead, it took more than three years.

In January 2017, that baby, now four years old, was finally approved to join her family and immigrate to the United States as a refugee. She arrived at Kampala airport in Uganda—just in time to be turned away by Trump's travel ban. Wearing a new dress, hair braided, and hands decorated in henna, the four-year-old girl was left sobbing in the airport as she spoke to her mother, half a world away, on the phone. An empty room and welcome gifts at the family's apartment in Minneapolis remained untouched.

That's where the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) came into the picture. ILCM joined forces with some of the most experienced immigration experts and litigators in the state, marshalling legal resources to reunite the child with her mother and sisters. Their efforts paid off on February 2 when, finally cleared for travel, the four-year-old girl arrived at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota teamed up with the University of Minnesota Law School's Center for New Americans, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, University of St. Thomas School of Law, pro bono lawyers at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, Advocates for Human Rights, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota offices on two continents, and Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken to find a pathway to humanitarian consideration.

"If this is what it took to get clearance for a four-year-old refugee girl, we are horrified to consider what awaits thousands of other children and families," said ILCM Executive Director John Keller on the day she arrived in Minnesota.

LEGAL SERVICES From Dreamers to Citizenship

Naturalization and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—DACA—made up the two largest groups of clients represented by ILCM in 2017. These clients stand at two ends of a continuum, from undocumented and threatened immigrants to naturalized U.S. citizens with the full rights and protection of that status.

DACA was at the center of heated national controversy over immigration in 2017, with President Trump alternately praising and threatening Dreamers, the young people who came to the United States as children and grew up here. In September, Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded DACA, meaning that when DACA recipients' two-year protected status ran out, they would have to leave the country. The president and Congress both said they would act to protect Dreamers, and then didn't. Lawsuits challenging the DACA rescission order began making their way through federal courts, with initial, limited success.



DACA was offered to undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the United States by 2007, were 15 years old or younger when they came, and were at least 15 and not yet 31 years old when they applied for DACA. They had to be in school or have completed high school, and pass background checks. They had to pay a \$495 application fee, and then pay the same fee every two years to renew DACA status. DACA offered temporary protection from deportation (deferred action), and a work permit—but no path to legal permanent residence or citizenship.

Even this limited protection changed lives. Our clients completed college and graduate degrees, got better jobs, bought homes, and contributed to the economic and cultural enrichment of Minnesota and the United States.

At every step of the way, ILCM stands with and fights for Dreamers: representing individual DACA recipients, lobbying Congress, joining in legal challenges to rescission, providing educational forums, and rallying supporters with action alerts.

We fight for a future where Dreamers will have a path to citizenship, so that they too, can join the immigrants who choose the United States and contribute their talents as citizens.

Eh Mwee's Story

From ILCM's Austin office, ILCM's Sara Karki works with Southeastern Minnesota's growing immigrant and refugee population—immigrants like Eh Mwee, who shared her story.

Eh Mwee grew up as a refugee, born in Burma but fleeing with her mother to a refugee camp in Thailand when she was just two months old. She was five when her mother died. Growing up without a home or country, Eh Mwee knew she wanted both—and more.

Refugees were restricted to the camp, not allowed to live or work outside the camp, and always considered illegal in the rest of the country. Their choices are to live and die inside the camp, to win resettlement in a third country, or to return to their home country. People of Karen and Karenni ethnicities still face persecution in Burma, so return was not an option.

Eh Mwee wanted more than a life behind fences. She wanted an education, a real home, even a car. She decided to seek resettlement. Waiting to turn 18, when she could apply for resettlement, she finished high school and studied English in the camp. Along with 250 others, she applied for one of 20 spots in the English Immersion Program, and got into the 10-month program.

Getting permission to come to the United States took years. Like all refugees who apply to enter the United States, she filled out applications, was interviewed by U.S. officials, waited for background checks and medical checks, and then had even more interviews. Finally, after 22 years in a refugee camp, she was approved for a U.S. visa.

Eh Mwee speaks Burmese and Thai, as well as two Karen languages—Po and Ska—and English. Today, at Austin's Workforce Development Center, she interprets, sits in on meetings with employers, finds resources, and helps her clients fill out forms and prepare resumes and applications. Once a client is hired, she may go with them to the job orientation and help them to understand expectations and safety procedures.

Now 30, Eh Mwee has accomplished many of her dreams, including her first car, a job, and buying a home, where she lives with her husband and four-year-old daughter.



Camila's story

Camila was trafficked, abused, living in fear—and then her life got worse. By the time she met the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Camila was sitting in jail, separated from her children, and in danger of deportation.

Her story began in Tamaulipas, Mexico, where Camila was raised by her grandmother. When she was just 16, her grandmother sold Camila to a 29-year-old man. That began a saga of physical and emotional abuse that continued through two abusive partners, four children, and moving from North Carolina to Florida to Minnesota to Kansas. Along the way, she learned to use food shelves and made one friend, Rosita, who helped out when she could. Camila got welfare benefits to help feed her U.S. citizen children, but then got in trouble because of her mistakes on the application form.

When beatings put Camila in a Minnesota hospital, she cooperated with police, who put her partner in jail for domestic assault. That made Camila eligible for the U-Visa Program, which helps undocumented crime victims who cooperate with police. Although eligible for a U-Visa, she had to wait: there's a cap of 10,000 U-Visas per year, and hers is one of more than 200,000 approved applications pending.

When her partner got out of jail, he threatened Camila and took her and the children to Kansas. Desperate, she turned herself in to Kansas police, who sent her back to Minnesota on the old welfare fraud charges. Camila sent her daughters to Rosita, where they would be safe and loved, while Camila waited in jail.

The public defender representing Camila on Minnesota welfare fraud charges called on ILCM for help. We provide assistance to public defenders across the state when federal immigration law gets tangled up in Minnesota criminal cases. The Minnesota charges against Camila were dismissed, but she was left in immigration detention and in deportation proceedings.

Five days before Christmas, an immigration judge set a bond of \$1,500 for Camila. That's a low bond, but it might as well have been ten times as much: neither Camila nor the friend caring for her daughters had any money.

ILCM attorney Susan Jorgensen Flores found help from the Minnesota Freedom Fund. As the Freedom Fund website explains, making bond "makes a huge difference.... It is the difference between the possibility of being reunited with family, gaining a chance

to stay here, or being returned to jail for months or years while your case works its way through a thoroughly broken immigration system." The Minnesota Freedom Fund paid Camila's bond and, on December 22, Camila was released and reunited with her daughters for Christmas.

While Camila's case goes on, reuniting her with her daughters counts as a pretty big win. Her complicated story illustrates the need for legal representation to protect the lives and futures of our clients and their families.



EDUCATION AND RECOGNITION

In 2017, ILCM reached 9,241 people through more than 200 in-person advocacy, education, and informational presentations across the state.

Topics included DACA, possible routes to permanent resident status, naturalization, the U-Visa program for victims of violence, Violence Against Women Act, healthcare, driver's licenses, and immigration policy in Minnesota and nationally.

Audiences included immigrants, pro bono attorneys and legal experts, advocates, social workers, teachers, parents of immigrant children, students, judicial actors, law enforcement, elected officials, policymakers, and the general public.

In addition to in-person education, ILCM offered online resources, including health care and Know Your Rights information, and provided information through appearances on media outlets such as Minnesota Public Radio, network television news programs, Spanish-language news media, and interviews with print and broadcast media.

During 2017, we saw increasing requests for information and presentations. We also set up a helpline to respond to questions about crises as they arose: travel bans, DACA rescission, and other areas of concern. As questions came in on the helpline, they were routed to pro bono attorneys for answers.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Years Ended December 31

2017

2016

ASSETS

Cash	\$1,088,672	\$815,299
Prepays	47,498	42,538
Receivables	524,920	422,672
Furniture and Fixtures (less Accumulated Depreciation)	48,841	48,174
Total Assets	\$1,709,931	\$1,328,683

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	56,078	150,751
Capital Lease Obligation	3,566	8,003
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	868,314	678,647
Temporarily Restricted	781,973	491,282
Total Net Assets	\$1,650,287	\$1,169,929
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,709,931	\$1,328,683



The figures on pages 8 and 9 are taken from our 2017 audited financial statements, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. The statements are available upon request.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Years Ended December 31

2017

2016

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Support:

Contributions	\$1,479,121	\$791,676
In-kind Donations	780,848	585,097
<i>Total Support</i>	<i>\$2,259,969</i>	<i>\$1,376,773</i>

Revenue:

Government Grants and Contracts	886,756	706,889
Other Contracts	109,010	94,083
Earned Income	18,089	28,328
Events (less Direct Costs)	39,118	56,389
Miscellaneous	328	725
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$1,053,301</i>	<i>\$886,414</i>

Total Support and Revenue**\$3,313,270****\$2,263,187****EXPENSE**

Program Services:

Legal Assistance	2,409,023	1,829,471
Community Education	106,808	223,539
<i>Total Program Services</i>	<i>\$2,515,831</i>	<i>\$2,053,010</i>

Support Services:

Management and General	106,500	117,686
Fundraising	210,581	207,356
<i>Total Support Services</i>	<i>\$317,081</i>	<i>\$325,042</i>

Total Expense**\$2,832,912****\$2,378,052****CHANGES IN NET ASSETS****\$480,358****\$(114,865)****Net Assets - Beginning of Year****1,169,929****1,284,794****NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR****\$1,650,287****\$1,169,929**

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Victor Cedeno

Ambar Hanson

In honor of the work of
John Keller and all the staff
at ILCM

Patrick Ness

Taylor Rub

Hosted by Davis/Dobson

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Erin Hocking and Matt
Huggins

Leah Tabbert

Institutional donors

Institutional donors play a crucial role in supporting our work for immigrants and refugees. This year, more than 30 Twin Cities restaurants and some bookstores and galleries joined together as Restaurants Rising to support the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. They explained: "With so many people in our community threatened by the divisive and discriminatory stance the new administration has taken on immigration, many of us are looking for ways to stand up in support of Minnesota's immigrant community."

Donating a percentage of their March 15 sales, these small businesses raised more than \$30,000. Together they showed a way to stand up for immigrants and refugees.



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The Jack Lightner Charitable
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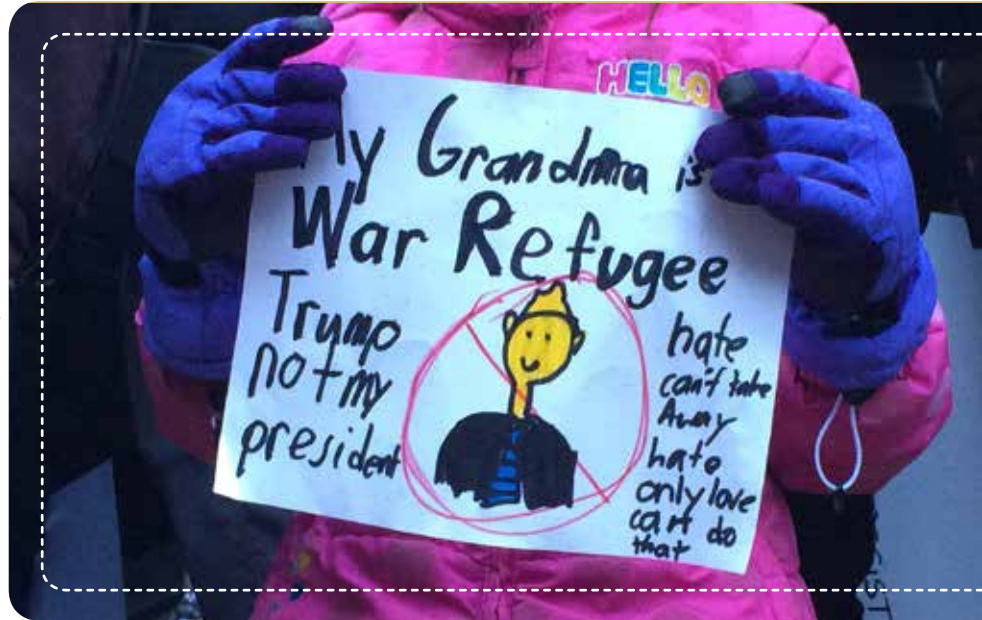
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 S. Radosevich, "We are all
 immigrants" event
 Benjamin Bruno
 Jacquelyn Cole
 Keith Dawson
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 Elizabeth Kilburg
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 Egohsa Awaah
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 Kristen Berkas
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ILCM staff worked alongside Mexican consular officials to do ten workshops at the Mexican Consulate and with the mobile Mexican Consulate in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The workshops focused on dual citizenship/doble nacionalidad, providing information to Mexican nationals who are permanent legal residents on becoming U.S. citizens. ILCM staff offered screening and assistance to people who want to become U.S. citizens. Consular staff offered information on what immigrants needed to do to maintain their Mexican citizenship as they became U.S. citizens.

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Fall benefit

On October 12, community members, leaders from Minnesota's legal community, corporations, foundations, legislators, and other public servants joined us at the Minnesota History Center for a reception and program featuring national guest speaker, Joseph Levin, Jr., co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Following Mr. Levin's remarks, MinnPost reporter Ibrahim Hirsi facilitated a lively panel discussion with Joseph Levin, Jr., John Keller, ILCM Executive Director, ILCM Board Member Maya Salah, and Senator Patricia Torres Ray.



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#LoveFromMatt
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Abigail 2001, Betty 1966
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Mackenzie Carter
In honor of Anand and
Courtney Balasubrahmanyam
Rosemary and Tom Caspar
In honor of Kathy Klos
and all ILCM staff for your
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Kathryn and Yohann
Charlet
In honor of people who are
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as a last resort, and love,
compassion, and maybe one
day setting our priorities
straight
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In honor of ILCM's
excellent work on behalf of
immigrants, and in honor
of Trump and those who
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In honor of Mara
and Conrado Badilla
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fleeing war and persecution
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In honor of the Noard Family
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Keep up the good work
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In honor of my immigrant
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In honor of Knox Mahowald
who made this donation
in lieu of receiving gifts for
his 5th birthday – "I want
to help people come to the
United States."
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In honor of my Jewish ancestors who were immigrants to this country only a few generations ago
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In honor of Genie and Joe Dixon
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Gabriel Pereira

In honor of John Keller
Naomi Perman

In honor of The Minnesota 8, may they join their families in 2017
Margaret Peterson

In honor of Sara McGarraugh's 30th birthday
Shona Ramchandani and Matthew Sherman

Thinking of everyone at ILCM, abrazos
Meghan Pierce

In honor of Kyla Rathjen
Rebecca Rathjen

In honor of Jordan St. Charles
Angela Riffe

In appreciation for the work that you do, I am very proud of my sister Sharon Jacks and her involvement with your organization.
Susan Sander

In honor of Carlos Roach
Brynne Satrom

In honor of staff attorney Jess Riemer, who is working tirelessly in Worthington, MN to provide hope and kindness to immigrant families

Amy Schwarz
and Tyler Teggatz

In honor of MN Small Businesses United and their support of the ILCM
Mary Seabloom

In honor of all of the immigrants and refugees in Minnesota that make our state strong. Immigrant rights are human rights
Graham Sutherland

In honor of Kyle Smestad and the great work of your whole team. We need you now more than ever, thank you
Graham Sutherland

In honor of Nichole Castillo
Rachel Tellez
and Carlos Tellez

In honor of Syreeta Wilkins and John Oleksowicz
Katie Tholkes and Gabriel Pereira

In honor of Anna Van Sice on her birthday
Autumn Van Sice
and Scott Fabozzi
In honor of ILCM, you are amazing and your work matters
Mary Wetherall

In honor of Not My President
Stacie Weeks

In honor of my students, who live in fear every day and are my heroes
Angela Wilcox

In honor of Maranda Williams
Aislinn Williams
and Patrick Purdy
Linda Williams

In honor of John Getsinger
Liza Xanthopoulos

In honor of Betty Tisel
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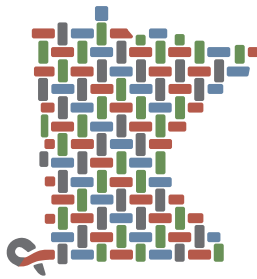
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Rising to the Challenge

Our country fundamentally changed during 2016, with a vitriolic political campaign season stoking hostility toward immigrants. That poses a challenge to all of us who care about immigrants and refugees and believe in their essential place in this country.

Immigrants and refugees contribute work, energy, and imagination to their chosen country. They are entrepreneurs, taxpayers, and consumers. Their economic importance grows every year as U.S. baby boomers retire, increasing labor demand and the need for more workers to contribute to social security and to maintain the social safety net for all of us. Yet their safety and status in the United States are threatened by the rise of anti-immigrant politicians and sentiment.

We need to rise to the challenge, to be the best of America, not the worst. We need to fight to turn the tide of hate. This is a task that will take years and all of us.

Rising to the challenge means coming together, working together, sharing the struggle and supporting one another. The struggle takes many forms. We invite you to join us by:

- **Subscribing to ILCM Action Alerts**
Subscribers get a notice about each new issue that ILCM highlights, and suggestions on which officials to call or email about the issue.
- **Following us on Facebook**
Click “Like” and watch your Facebook feed for the latest on immigration and ILCM.
- **Volunteering at ILCM**
We need lawyers and photographers, file clerks and legal assistants, law students and writers — and that’s just a beginning.
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THE IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA is a unique nonprofit 501(c)3 organization; in addition to providing high-quality legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota, ILCM educates immigrant and non-immigrant communities about immigration matters, and is a leader in legislative advocacy. To learn more about ILCM, please visit our website at <https://www.ilcm.org>.