Overcoming Pandemic Shutdowns: Shall Ber’s Last Ordeal on the Road to Citizenship

On an April day in 2009, an airliner carrying 18-year-old Shall Ber and her older sister Sine touched down at an east coast airport. The city was either Washington, D.C. or New York; Shall says she was too exhausted to pay attention. The two young women had never traveled beyond their home in the rugged country along the Burma-Thailand border. Now they were half-way around the world.

Shall remembers that a Karen representative from their sponsorship organization met them at the airport. Soon afterwards, the organization helped Shall and Sine reach Syracuse, New York, where a community of Karen refugees was already established. While visiting a neighbor, Shall met a Karen refugee named Aung who soon became her husband.

In 2017, Shall’s new family, now with two young children and expecting a third, joined her father, brother, and sisters in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

In November 2019, when Shall was six months pregnant, she and Aung began the citizenship process together. Shall says it was confusing at first, but they were lucky to find Maylary Apolo, a case handler at the ILCM’s Austin office. Maylary answered questions about what forms were required, how to fill them out, and where to send them. She knew which supporting documents were needed and how to get them, and she provided advice and encouragement.

The couple submitted their forms at the same time, and in a few weeks received notice of a “biometrics” appointment, where their fingerprints and other identifying data would be recorded. They attended together, almost like a couple on a date: “Together, together,” Shall says, “Always we start everything together.”

As the interview drew near, Maylary called and invited Shall to her office to practice the tests:

“So I go there, and she asks me the 100 questions, and — oh my god! — I know more of them, but some made me confused, so I don’t get it. And then she wanted me to do the writing test, but I told her I’m not good at writing. I said, ‘You talk, I understand; I talk, you understand—Okay! But I’m not good at writing.’ Then Maylary told me, ‘Try!’”

On the day of the interview, Shall’s whole family plus her good friend Emily traveled with her to the courthouse in Minneapolis. When Shall’s turn came, she and ILCM pro bono attorney Thomas Lovett from Ballard Spahr entered and sat together. The family waited in the lobby.

Returning to the lobby, Shall says, “I was going to pretend to my family that – ‘Aww, I didn’t pass,’ but my husband already saw me and was like, ‘She’s good. She passed.’ I was laughing, Emily was happy, and my husband was smiling. They were all so happy!”

A few months later, a letter arrived that said Shall needed to appear at a Naturalization Oath Ceremony scheduled at the Minneapolis federal courthouse at noon on June 23, 2020. By now the Covid virus was circulating everywhere, so instead of the usual courtroom venue, the event was scheduled outside in Courthouse Plaza to reduce chances of spreading the virus. Due to Covid and the weather, they decided that Aung would stay with the family while Shall’s friend Emily drove her to Minneapolis for the event.

When they arrived back in Albert Lea, the whole family ran out to greet Shall with cheers and congratulations. People were dressed up, and “the kids were like, ‘Yay, Mommy, you’re home now! We’re so proud of you – you’re a citizen now!’

Full story here
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ILCM works with state, local, and national organizations to advocate for more just immigration policies. We joined more than 200 organizations in sending a message to federal policymakers demanding inclusion of immigrants in the next round of COVID-19 legislation. On a state level, we joined in asking foundations to fund emergency relief for immigrant families.

*ILCM Executive Director Veena Iyer speaking at a "No Ban Rally" outside the Federal District Court building in February 2020.*
Dear Friends and Allies—

Together, we made it through 2020 in the face of COVID-19 and its toll on our communities. We developed new ways of collaborating, while physically separated. We connected virtually when we were unable to meet clients in person. We fought unceasingly to reunite families, to prevent removal, to renew DACA status, and more. We worked with our amazing team of pro bono attorneys to support clients to become citizens in time to vote in their first Presidential election—even when naturalization celebrations were repeatedly delayed and finally took place at social distance on courthouse steps.

As we enter 2021, attacks on our communities continue, but at least those attacks no longer come from the White House. Make no mistake, however, that the end of attacks on immigrants does not equate to progress. We must continue to demand that promises be kept. The promise of a path to citizenship for young Dreamers, TPS holders who have lived here for decades, and immigrant essential workers who sustained the country during the pandemic. The promise of reopening our doors to refugees and asylum seekers. And the promise of reforming the crimmigration system to address decades of systemic racism against BIPOC immigrants.

In 2021, ILCM celebrates 25 years of work for and with immigrant communities in Minnesota. I am more grateful than ever to each of you for your unwavering support. Together, we will continue to work for a state and a nation that welcome and celebrate immigrants and refugees.

In solidarity,

Veena Iyer – ILCM Executive Director

Board of Directors – 2020

Rodolfo (Rudy) Rodriguez, Board President
Maya Salah, Vice President
Katheryn M.T. Wasylik, Secretary
Gregory Schultz, Treasurer
Sharon Jacks
Glenn Leitch
William Mahlum
Ciaran McDonnell
Brittany Michael
Sarah Radosevich
Maha Tahiri
Walter J. Zuniga

ILCM closed our physical offices for the safety of our clients and staff at the beginning of the pandemic. We have remained available via phone and video calls, and have taken multiple steps to increase our accessibility, including conducting immediate intakes for victims of violence, expanding our phone intake hours, and having an attorney-of-the-day provide immediate, brief advice. We have also created COVID Updates and COVID Resources pages on our website. Living our mission in a way that promotes and protects the safety, security, and privacy of our clients, community, and staff remains a top priority.

An ILCM development and communications team meeting via Microsoft Teams.
Compassion, Commitment, and the Extra Mile: Isbely McKeen’s Work with Immigrant Women Survivors of Crime

Isbely grew up in Venezuela, earned a law degree there, and worked with low-income clients before coming to the United States. She began an internship at ILCM in 2011 and later worked Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other immigration cases. In 2015, she earned Department of Justice accreditation to advise and represent immigrant clients in certain situations.

Partly because of what she had seen in Venezuela, Isbely was drawn to specializing in serving immigrant women who are survivors domestic violence or other crimes. In that situation, immigrant women here without legal documents can feel especially vulnerable and trapped. They may be financially dependent on their abuser, reluctant to go to local authorities for fear of being deported or of losing their children, and become isolated, fearing their abuser's threats to punish or betray them if they try to leave or even talk to others.

Isbely says these clients usually need more than legal help. She helps them qualify for social services that can make it possible for them to leave their abuser, and she gives them hope that they can have a good life here in the future. Ultimately, she says her goal is to help them become financially independent and to gain legal status in the United States.

The Spotlight Award acknowledges her success in achieving that goal, and she credits the support she has received from her colleagues at ILCM. The work is "not easy," Isbely says. "It's not happy every day, but I like a challenge," and she appreciates the good example set by her coworkers. When she first heard of the award, she says, "I was taken by surprise, because I felt like I've been awarded for doing my job. I really like what I do, and it feels good to get good news for our clients, so I'm like, okay, I love my work, and I get paid to do this, and then you give me an award — and this is my job?! All right!"

Full story here
ILCM Celebrates Ten Years in Worthington

Joyce Bennett Alvarado’s favorite part of her work as ILCM’s attorney in Worthington is “seeing my clients get their green cards, their work authorizations, etc. Especially, when they shyly ask if they can give me a hug after I hand them their approval letters!”

Personal connections have been part of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota’s (ILCM) practice in Worthington since the beginning. In 1996, ILCM began establishing roots in the Worthington immigrant community when tragedy struck in the form of one of the largest workplace raids in history.

Four years later, Kathy Klos moved to Worthington to open ILCM’s first full-time office in Greater Minnesota. The first order of business, she recalls, was to find office space so that she did not have to work out of her apartment. The Hedeen Hughes & Wetering law firm welcomed ILCM to Worthington and has housed ILCM’s Worthington office since March 2010.

Worthington is a city of immigrants, with a population growing from a low of 9,977 in 1990 to more than 13,000 today. The small city’s population is about 41 percent Hispanic or Latino, ten percent Asian, and 7 percent African or African American, according to U.S. census figures.

In many small towns, vacant storefronts abound on once-thriving main streets and populations decline year after year. Not in Worthington, where immigration has boosted population over the past 30 years and keeps main street thriving. Mexican-American and Mexican workers were among the first to arrive, soon joined by a large Guatemalan immigrant population, as well as Hondurans, Salvadoreans, and a few Nicaraguans. Today, Worthington’s Ethiopian community has grown large enough to begin building Tsadkane Mariam Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Other substantial immigrant groups include Karen and Karenni refugees from Burma/Myanmar and Hmong immigrants who came to the United States after the 1970s U.S. war in Southeast Asia.

Over the years, ILCM staff in Worthington have included Kathy Klos, Enrique Tellez, Sara Karki, Maylary Apolo, Jess Riemer, Joyce Bennett Alvarado, and Erin Schutte Wadzinski. They have represented immigrant clients in matters ranging from deportation defense to naturalization.

Today, Joyce Bennett Alvarado, originally from Honduras, staffs ILCM’s office. “Working in Worthington has taught me a lot,” she says. “Being a lawyer is so much more than having a degree, doing research, interpreting the law or filing forms. It also means being able to open people’s minds, to communicate, and helping and empowering clients.”

Andrea Duarte-Alonso also worked half-time in the Worthington office in 2020, thanks to a fellowship through Lead for America and the Southwest Initiative Foundation. A Worthington native, Andrea interned at ILCM when she was a student at the College of St. Catherine and created Stories From Unheard Voices, a website sharing immigrant stories from Worthington. Her work is emblematic of ILCM’s efforts to identify and recruit homegrown talent to staff our Greater Minnesota offices.

Full story here
Being detained is always harrowing, but it is particularly agonizing during the holidays, especially the first holiday during a historic global pandemic. Unfortunately, these were the circumstances faced by a client of ours who had been detained in late 2019 and was still detained in the Spring of 2020 as COVID-19 ravaged the world, especially detention facilities. He told his attorney at ILCM that he hoped to be home for at least part of Ramadan. Our Community Defense Team identified a basis for terminating the deportation proceedings against the client. After researching the complicated laws at issue and submitting comprehensive briefing, the immigration judge granted ILCM’s motion to terminate, a rare outcome during the Trump administration. The client was ultimately released from detention in time to break fast with his family.

Turning 21 is normally a time for celebration, but not always for immigrant families. Under certain circumstances, a child of a lawful permanent resident who turns 21 while in the process of immigrating can suddenly face a years-long wait for a green card. One of our clients faced this exact situation in the midst of the pandemic. She was a survivor of a serious crime and we had previously assisted her in obtaining a U visa and a green card. She turned to us for assistance for reuniting with her two sons, who were still in her home country.

With assistance from Senators, the National Visa Center, and the consulate, ILCM was able to get the older son’s case expedited and get him an interview at the consulate despite COVID-19 and the shutdown of most consulates except for the most dire cases. In the late summer of 2020, the older son arrived in Minnesota as a lawful permanent resident a few weeks shy of his 21st birthday! ILCM continues to assist the client with the process of bringing her younger son to the United States as well.
What we’ve accomplished this year

3,793 total cases
Clients came from 105 countries
35% from Mexico
19% from countries in Central and South America
20% from countries in Asia
20% from countries in Africa
The remainder of the clients immigrated from countries in Europe, Oceania, and North America.

Case type by percentage
- DACA: 14%
- Deportation Defense: 11%
- Family Reunification: 8%
- Adjustment of Status: 10%
- Citizenship: 27%
- U Visa and VAWA: 14%
- TPS, Asylum, Miscellaneous: 16%

Pro bono figures for 2020:
- 146 attorneys
- Total hours: 3,461

ILCM served clients living in 73 counties in Minnesota

ILCM conducted outreach through 43 presentations and online events
Over 24,362 reached through our virtual educational immigration presentations
Advocacy and Education

ILCM signed on to 25 advocacy letters, including a letter with recommendations on the implementation of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (LRIFA), a letter requesting inclusive and quality translation and interpretation services for immigrants in Minnesota, and a letter demanding the creation of a White House Task Force on Black Immigrants that is representative and made up of Black immigrants and experts on Black immigration issues.

ILCM filed 17 public comments opposing anti-immigrant changes in Federal Regulations proposed by the Trump administration, including proposals to eviscerate asylum protections, to water down immigration court procedures, to collect invasive personal data about immigrants, and to revise the citizenship test.

On October 8, 2020, ILCM launched our new event series “Perspectives: Writers on Migration.” The series features various authors whose work focuses on immigration. For our inaugural event, we were proud to host Deputy National Editor at the New York Times, Jia Lynn Yang. She discussed her new book, “One Mighty and Irresistible Tide: The Epic Struggle Over American Immigration, 1924-1965” with local writer and journalist Ibrahim Hirsi. Jia Lynn Yang (Photo by Larin Klaris)

In 2020, ILCM took nine various legislative actions at the State and local level, including providing testimony to various committees and organizing and hosting a meeting for immigrant and other advocates with Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan regarding our asks for special session.

In 2020, we recorded 88 media interactions, including online, print, radio, and television interviews and requests for information from journalists. Requests came from a wide variety of media outlets, large and small, national and local. We often get requests for interviews and information from the Sahan Journal, MPR, Star Tribune, and other statewide media. We also fielded calls from PBS News Hour, Univision, CNN, and other national outlets, as well as the Kerkhoven Banner, Worthington Daily Globe, La Matraca, and other local media across the state.

Our board policy committee continued to advocate for justice for immigrants through virtual meetings.
## Audited Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Position

**Fiscal Years Ended December 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$1,563,152</td>
<td>$898,463</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid</td>
<td>58,902</td>
<td>83,368</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>492,816</td>
<td>927,308</td>
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<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>37,776</td>
<td>53,260</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,152,646</td>
<td>$1,962,399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                        |             |             |
| **Liabilities and Net Assets** |             |             |
| Liabilities            | 130,790     | 88,303      |
| Capital Lease Obligation | 5,355     | 9,304       |
| **Net Assets**         |             |             |
| Unrestricted           | 1,520,737   | 1,051,045   |
| Temporarily Restricted | 495,764    | 813,747     |
| **Total Net Assets**   | $2,016,501  | $1,864,792  |

|                        |             |             |
| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** |             |             |
| **Total Assets**       | $2,152,646  | $1,962,399  |
**Statement of Activities**

Fiscal Years Ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,232,891</td>
<td>$1,564,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind Donations</td>
<td>860,227</td>
<td>1,259,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>1,486,691</td>
<td>1,210,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Support</td>
<td>$3,579,809</td>
<td>$4,035,035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contracts</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>4,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>4,972</td>
<td>12,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events (less Direct Costs)</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>2,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$29,513</td>
<td>$20,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Support and Revenue</td>
<td>$3,609,322</td>
<td>$4,055,687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expense**

Program Services:
- Legal Assistance 2,949,433 2,920,594
- Community Education 93,882 443,011
Total Program Services $3,043,315 $3,363,605

Support Services:
- Management and General 167,447 216,469
- Fundraising 246,851 201,072
Total Support Services $414,298 $417,541

Total Expense $3,457,613 $3,781,146

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS $151,709 $274,541
Net Assets - Beginning of Year $1,864,792 $1,590,251
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR $2,016,501 $1,864,792
Individual Donors
Karina Abramowski
William Adamski
Katie Agnew
Rakesh Agrawal
Sheri Ahl & Eric Haugen
Dianne Aisenbrey & Bruce McBeath
Marty Aleman
Barbara Allan
Nancy Allen
Linda Alter Capell
Jeffrey Alversen
Jessica Ammons Flynn
Leslie Amundson
Amy Anderson
Gabriela Anderson
Tracy Anderson
Farrand Anderson
Rojainaina Andriamihaja
Anne Andrus
Anonymous
Tracy Armstrong
Laura Arneson
Mark Arneson
Cynthia Atsatt
Anne Attea
Lesley Atwood
Jeffrey Austin
Gus & Deb Avenido
Egehso Awaha
Guilzar Babaeva
Emily Back
Joanne Backer
Patricia Baeehler
Leah Bailey
Sharon & Douglas Bakker
Steven Balogh
Kelsey Bank
Mary & Richard Baquero
Kate & Roger Barr
Mary Ann Barrows Wark & David Wark
Sara Barsel
& Randy Neprash
Sarah & Michael Barsness
Karen Bartig
Joy Bartscher
Charles & Lee Bass
Sam Bauman
Karen Baumgaertner
Bridget Bayley
Jeffrey & Karyl Beeman
Kathleen Behrens
Betty & Fred Beier
Margaret Belew
Austin & Jocelyn Bell
Constance Bell
Jennifer Bellmont
Mary Bendtson
Amelia Bennett
Kathleen Bennett
Mindy Benowitz
James & Marsha Benshoof
Akos Beres
Anna Bergreen Nielsen
Steven Bergseth
Sara Berndt
Jolana Bernhardt
Jacquelyn Betsworth
Emilio Bettgalio
Sarah Beuning
Lucie Biros
Jennifer & Patrick Bisenius
Tori Blakeborough
Andrew Blazer & Stephanie Weber
Prairie Bly
Gail Bohr
Andrea Bond
Peter & Sarah Borgen
Steve & Iris Borowsky
Camille Bourret
Emily Bowman
Sadie Bowman
Kenneth & Joanne Bozeman
Bev Braasch
Brent Braga
Elizabeth Branca
Steven Brandt & Lynda McDonnell
Phyllis Brashier
Bernice & Bob Braun
Jess Braverman
Jeanette Bray
Maria Brekke
Brenna Breie
Maura Bremer
Peter Brickwedde
Marilyn Brissett-Kruger & Al Kruger
Andrea Brockmeier
Christina & Michael Broeker
Jennifer Broman
Beth Brown
Carolyn Brown
Penny Brown
Fatuma Buko
Andy Burns
N. Jeanne Burns & Elizabeth Oppenheimer
Stacey Burns & Jason McGrath
Sarah Busch
Mason Butler
Laura Butterbaugh & Steve Lindeman
Ed & Jane Butterfoss
Kathryn Byrd
Alexandra Byrne
Jane Byron
Hannah Calhoon
Karen Calidcan
Alina Campana
Charmagne Campbell-Patton
Tyler Candee & Jessica Intermill
Oscar Cardenas
Alena Carl
Marissa Carl
Kara Carlisle
Jennifer Carlson
Julie Carlson
Mary & Donald Carlson
Paul Carlson
Sara Carlson
Terry Carlson
Mark Carlton
Gina Carpenter
Michael Carpenter
Louise Carpenter
Dawn Caruso
Margaret Casey
Ann Caspar
Teresa Caspar
Jason Cassidy
Andrea Cecconi & David Zaffrann
Christine Cecconi
Janet Ceja-Orozco
Jill Chamberlain
Andrea Champaloux
April Champion
Juan Chanco
Robin & Julie Chattopadhyay
Jaime Chismar
Beth Christensen & Wendell Arneson
Susan Christensen
Joshua Christensen
Maureen Christiansen
Jessica Chung
Kathleen Clarkson
Steve & Christine Clemens
Julie & Tomkin Coleman
Shaun Collier
& Kaitlin Johnson
Carolyn & John Collins
Sherry Collins
Riley Conway
Tegan Conway
Josh Cooper
Graham Coppin
Daniel Cornejo
Lucy Cournell
Ronald & Joan Cornwell
Catherine Cory
Sara & Doug Cowles
Sam Crossley
Abigail Crouse
Karyn Crouse
Kristina Cruz
Helena Cruz Sanchez
Gretchen Cudak
Alana Cuellar
& Paul Howe
Kevin Cuunneen
Judith Custer
Stephen & Betsy Custis
Joanna Daggett
Amy Dahl
Jake Dalbec
Valerie Darling
Amanda Davidson
Beth Davies & Mark Saarinen
Jill & David Davies
Alan Davis
James Dawolo
Heather & Noah Day
Emma De Santiago
Patricia DeBoer
Beth Decker
Argenis & Derek Deets
Katie Degrio Channing
Olivia DeGruchy
Tea Dejanovic
Karyn Demers
Enes Demirel
Karin Dension
Christopher Deppa
Geoffrey Derks
Vincent Dezutti
Nancy Diekmann
Cathy Diers
Dennis & Nickie Dillon
Rebecca Ditsch
Joe & Genie Dixon
Lynn Dixon
Ginette Dobbins
Jake Doepeke
Chris Dokken
Julie & Zach Dolan Johnson
Kathleen Doll
Rebecca Dosch
Katy Drahos
Jillian Drewes
Gregory Duhl
Chris Duncan
Georgia & Mel Duncan
Cecilia Duplessis Erickson & Peter Erickson
Mary Durand
Paul Durrant
Greg & Jill Dvergsten
& R Scott Dyer
Barbara Lordi
Amy East-Glenn
Christine Edison
Erica Edwardsen
Lynn Eggers & Len Yaeger
Stacy Eichman-Cardwell
Louise Edsmeoe
Samuel Eiseneg
Patricia Eliason
Natalie Ellertson
James Ellingson
Meghan Elliott
Kevin Ellis
Katherine & James Emery
Maggie Emery
Andrew Ennestvedt
Karen Engel
Elizabeth Engelking
Jill Engeswick
Shannon & Andy Engstrom
Kurt & Sarah Erickson
Kathryn Erickson Kline & Patrick Kline
Barbara Erlandson
Ayanu Eto Baylor
Donor List and Volunteer List

ILCM Celebrates a Former Client’s Graduation

One of our former clients graduated from U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Training in April 2020. He and his family arrived in the United States as refugees when he was 12 years old. In 2015, ILCM assisted him and his family in their naturalization process. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 his family could not celebrate with him in person, but they were able to watch the ceremony over video.

U.S. Marine Corps by Brooke C. Woods CC by 2.0
Living our mission in a way that promotes and protects the safety, security, and privacy of our clients, community, and staff remains a top priority.

ILCM attorney Kerry McGuire outside of the Immigration Court building.
Cali Mastny
Teri Mathews
Andrea Matson
Fred Mayer
Mary Jo Maynes
Lydia McAmney & John Orrison
David McCarthy & Anne Mahle
Sarah McCarthy
Ann McCaughan
Jennie McCollums
Richard McCormick
Roderick McCulloch
Ciaran McDonnell
Brigid McDonough
Mary McDonough
Erin McHenry
Barbara Mcilquham
Reid McLean
Deborah & Dick McNeil
Jennifer McNertney
Lauren McPherson
Anne McShane
Carson Medcalf
Rajvi Mehta
Tina Melanson
Marine Melin-Johnson
Laura Melnick & Mark Dahlager
Mariana Mendoza
Kim Mesun
Heidi Meyer
Susan Meyer
Timothy Meyer
Aye Mi San
Theresa Mielke
Deborah Miller
Judith Miller
Katherine Miller
Rebecca Miller & Kari Jones
Richard & Sheila Miller
Elizabeth Mills
Anna Mirkin
Angela Mitchell
Steve & Jan Mitchell
Brittany Mitchell Michael
Raka Mitr
Allie Moen Wagstrom & Peter Wagstrom
Sokhavuddh Moeun
Hodan Mohamed
Sumrma Mohammad
Shariff
Leah Montgomery
David Moody & Mary Catherwood
Maribel Morales
Daniel Moreno
Hiedy Morey
Julia Morgan
John Morrison
Grace Mortenson
Anne & Jim Morton
Kimpa & David Moss
Jennifer Moyano
Julie Mueller
Diana & Bob Mulcahy
Steve Mullaney & Joe Danielson
Cindy Mundahl
Benjamin Munson
Gerald Murray
Jeremy & Tracie Myers
Mary Myers
Lisa Nadeau
Paula Nancarrow
Guillermo Narvaez & Kathryn Quick
Brenda Natala
Wendy Naughton & Ervin Rudenick
Rajesh Nayak
Joan Naymark
Paul Neiman
Amanda Nelson
Blaine Nelson
Dennis & Marybeth Nelson
Drew Nelson
Joy & Randy Nelson
Kerri Nelson
Kristen & Douglas Nelson
Nicholas Nelson
Raw Ner & Ler Paw
Cathy & Emily Newman
Joanne Ng
Margaret Nichols
Sally Nichols
Benjamin Nicola
Rueben Nilsson
Michael & Patsy Noble
Doug Nopar
Sylvia OBrien
Brian OBrien
Kaitlyn Obryan
Willis & Emma O’Connor
Kari O’Connor
Maureen O’Connor
Susan Offting & Virginia Webb
Erin Oglesby
Katie O’Keefe & Craig Shaffer
David Olheiser
Jennifer Olivarez
Anthony & Romy Olkon-Larsen
Ann Olsen-Samms & Kris Samms
Kelly Olson
Lynn Olson
Melissa Olson
Linda & Dennis O’Malley
Leon Orman
Jeneann & Nathan Oppedahl
Joseph Orner
Fabio Ortiz Corredor
Anthony Oslund
Emily Palmer
Diana & Vidhu Pandey
Philip Pankonin & Ursula Pankonin
Nathaniel Paradise
Tom Parent
Manju Parikh
Insun Park
Anne & Bill Parker
Pamela Parker & Dennis Wynne
Aneesa Parks
Julie Parsonnet
Robert Patient
Mary Patterson
Paul Petzschke & Janet Mayer
Meghan Paul-Cook & Mike Davey
Thomas Peacock
Brittany & Ben Pearson
Lauren Peck
Kathryn Pederson
John & Lyn Pegg
Lauren Pellerite
Emily Percy
Roseanne Pereira
Daniel & Kendra Perez
Naomi Perman
Hemant Persaud
Lucy Petermeier
Benjamin Petersen & Julie Wahlstrand
Gloria Peterson
Kai Peterson
June Petrie
Mackenzie Petrie
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Thank you to our 36 student and community volunteers who donated 3,314 hours of their time in support of ILCM and our clients. Grace Smith joined ILCM as a citizenship intern for our Pro Bono Project in January 2020. She has returned each term since then – spring, summer and fall of 2020 as well as spring and summer of 2021. We are so grateful to Grace and all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to justice for immigrants.
Two of ILCM’s pro bono attorneys, Peter Gorman and Mary Rice, were named Minnesota Attorneys of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer. Peter and Mary represented over one hundred DREAMERS to renew their DACA status! We are grateful for their dedication in ensuring equal access to justice and opportunity.

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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.

Your support provided immigration legal services in 3,793 unique cases in 2020. Some 146 pro bono attorneys donated over 3,461 hours of service to ILCM clients and their families.

You and ILCM staff together provided in-person immigration expertise in 43 information sessions and presentations reaching over 24,362 individuals, as well as reaching countless others through radio and television appearances.

Advocacy

We filed 17 public comments opposing anti-immigrant changes in Federal Regulations proposed by the Trump administration. We do not always see the impact of these comments, but one court decision halting a rule increasing fees, for which ILCM submitted a comment, cited comments as a reason for the decision.

“[W]hen multiple legal service providers raised the alarm that increased filing fees would adversely impact their organizations and would depress their capacities to provide pro bono and low-cost legal services, the [Administrative Procedure Act] required EOIR to acknowledge those concerns and respond to them in a meaningful way, not blithely dismiss them as ‘outside the limited scope of this rulemaking.’”

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