IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER - of MINNESOTA -

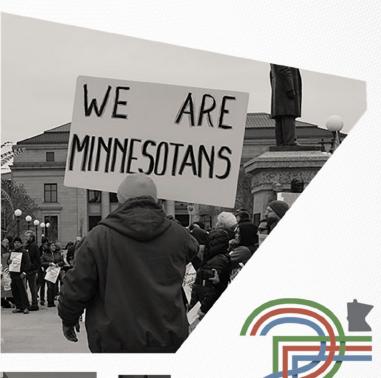


2021 ANNUAL REPORT













REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS | EDUCATING COMMUNITIES | ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

One Story, 25 Years

Written by Chang Lau, Assistant Public Defender, **ILCM Board Member**

Mr. Vang was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after his family was forced to flee Laos. He was six months old when his family resettled in St. Paul. In his youth, Mr. Vang had a run-in with the law and took responsibility for his actions. But because he was not a U.S. citizen, he was still put in deportation proceedings and faced separation from his family and exile to Laos - where he had never even lived. Luckily, Mr. Vang found ILCM—which had just been established—and former ILCM Executive Director Karen Ellingson.

Although the immigration court ordered Mr. Vang deported, Karen showed that the conditions in Laos were so dangerous for the Hmong that Mr. Vang would be tortured if he returned and was therefore entitled to a stay of deportation under the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

But CAT isn't a status. It's limbo. For almost 20 years, Mr. Vang lived and worked in St. Paul, got married, and had four children. At the same time, he had to check in with immigration officials annually. Then he learned of plans for Hmong refugees with old deportation orders to be deported to Laos. Mr. Vang reached out to ILCM's community partners at the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) and Release MN 8, who again connected Mr. Vang with ILCM in September 2020.

After significant research and analysis, ILCM staff attorney Evangeline Dhawan realized there might be a way to reopen Mr. Vang's criminal and immigration cases and enlisted the help of the Appellate Defender's Office, where I am an Assistant Public Defender. Together, Evangeline and I were able to show that Mr. Vang's convictions were unconstitutional and should be modified. In October 2021, Mr. Vang's deportation proceedings were terminated, and his green card restored.



Looking back, Karen Ellingson says, "I'm proud to be part of Mr. Vang's story - and happy that ILCM could again step in for him 20 years later. As ILCM celebrates 25 years of service to Minnesota's immigrant and refugee community, I'm happier than ever to have been part of its history."

I am also proud to have been part of Mr. Vang's journey, which would not have been possible without your support for ILCM. You ensured that ILCM was there to secure Mr. Vang protection from deportation in 2001 and that ILCM was able to harness changes in the law to reopen his immigration and criminal cases 20 years later and keep him with his family.

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Our Mission



159 pro bono professionals donated over 3,131 hours of service to ILCM clients and their families in 2021. Thanks to a generous ticket donation from Minnesota United FC, ILCM Pro Bono Manager Tim Sanders Szabo and ILCM Executive Director Veena Iyer were thrilled to thank several of our amazing pro bono attorneys with an evening of soccer. And the Loons won!

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Dear Friends and Allies,



In 2021, ILCM celebrated 25 years of work for and with immigrant communities in Minnesota. We also celebrated daily wins with each family reunited, with each survivor of violence granted a U visa, with each individual granted a green card, and with each new U.S. citizen.

As we enter our 26th year and look to 2022 and beyond, we affirm our continuing commitment to this work.

We will be here for the more than 20,000 low-income undocumented Minnesotans who will need assistance to navigate the pathway to citizenship when Congress finally passes that immigration reform.

We will be here for the 5,000 Minnesotan DREAMers and their families. We will be here if the DACA program ends and they need representation in deportation proceedings. We will be here to support them in two-year renewals if nothing changes. We will be joyfully here to support them in moving toward citizenship when Congress finally acts to open that path.

We will be here assisting immigrant survivors of crime and domestic violence, refugees seeking lawful permanent residence and citizenship, and immigrants and refugees of color facing deportation because of injustices in our criminal legal system.

We will be here, with our allies, fiercely advocating for more just immigration laws and policies that benefit immigrants and all of us.

We will be here for everything in between, because you support ILCM so we can support immigrants and refugees, whatever the circumstances may be.

In solidarity,

Veena lyer
ILCM Executive Director

Board of Directors - 2021

Rodolfo (Rudy) Rodriguez, Board President

Gregory Schultz,

Board Vice President

Katheryn M.T. Wasylik, Board Secretary

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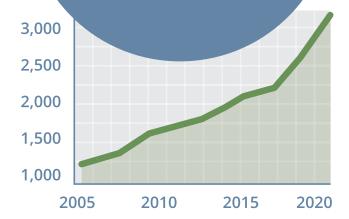


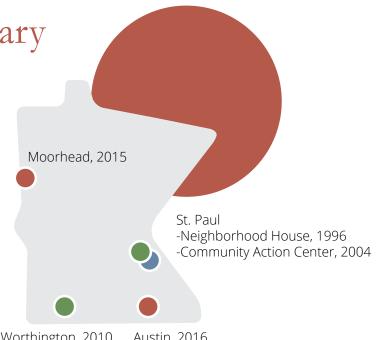
"Immigrants get the job done for us. Let's get the job done for immigrants." — Veena lyer

ILCM's 25th Anniversary

Over the last twenty-five years, ILCM has become Minnesota's premier provider of comprehensive immigration legal services to low-income clients of all nationalities. We assist thousands of immigrants and refugees in Minnesota. We advocate for just immigration policies. We educate our community about immigration.

In 2006, ILCM provided legal services in 1,266 cases. Since then, our caseload has grown. In 2021 ILCM worked on **3,092** cases.





Worthington, 2010 Austin, 2016

> Since 1996, ILCM has provided legal services in approximately 46,000 cases, impacting over **138,000** individuals.

ILCM's 25th Anniversary



1976

ILCM was founded as Oficina Legal, a program of Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS).



1996

Oficina Legal became a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit due to federal restrictions on legal aid offices. Due to the increasing diversity of Minnesota's non-citizen population and the clients our organization served, we changed our name to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

1990

We responded to the aftermath of the increased criminalization of immigrants and the resulting deportations. We assisted refugee populations – particularly Cambodians, Hmong, and Somalis – along the pathway to citizenship.

2000s

We responded to the aftermath of 9/11 and the increased crackdown on immigrants. We expanded our "New Beginnings Project" and assisted with TPS applications, particularly for the Liberian community.





2006

In response to the immigration raid in Worthington, we further expanded our services in rural Minnesota. After the immediate crisis, ILCM continued its Worthington involvement, sending attorneys to see clients there twice a month



2012

We celebrated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) and assisted individuals with applications.

2010

The Padilla decision led to the creation of our "Public Defender Project."

Late 2010s

We worked in coalition for driver's licenses for all, fought the Muslim ban, public charge rule changes, an uptick in the detention of immigrants, and more.

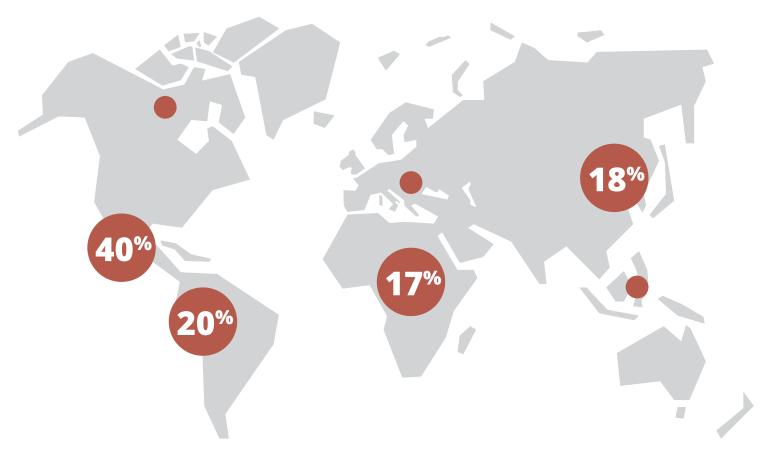


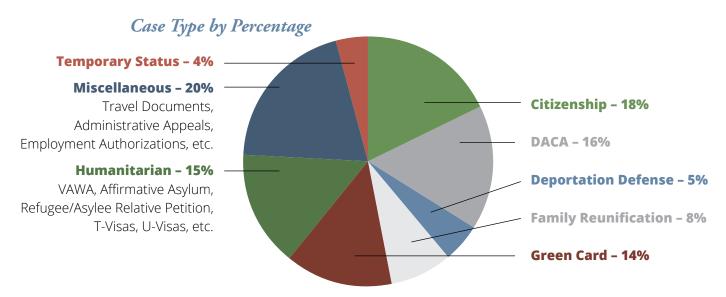
2021

We celebrated our 25th anniversary and look forward to our next 25 years.

ILCM's 25th Anniversary

Over 25 years ILCM has served clients coming from 163 countries, with 40% from Mexico, 20% from countries in Central and South America, 18% from countries in Asia, 17% from countries in Africa, and the remainder from countries in Europe, Oceania, and North America.





Parallel Lives: Paola and ILCM

Written by Paola Irazoque, ILCM Receptionist

Like ILCM, I was born in 1996. That same year, my mother brought me as a newborn baby to ILCM to apply for my green card. Now, I work at ILCM as the receptionist.

My family's relationship with ILCM began back in 1992, when my newly wedded mother arrived in the United States with my father. She applied for permanent residency at ILCM, then known as Oficina Legal, with her attorney, Karen Ellingson.

My older sisters were born in the United States in 1993 and 1994. In 1995, my family travelled to Mexico and my mother became pregnant with me while there. She was unable to make it back to the United States and gave birth to me in January 1996 in Mexico. One month later, we crossed the border.



As soon as she arrived back in the United States, my mother called her attorney, Karen. Immediately, Karen suggested adding me to my mother's permanent residency application.

My mother updated her permanent residency application in March 1996, and in 1998, both my mother and I received our green cards.

Growing up, I wasn't aware of the politics surrounding immigration, but I knew that I was born in Mexico and therefore different from my sisters. As a child, I watched



a lot of movies about Mexico. Through the movies I saw the beauty of Mexico, but I also saw the difficulties of undocumented Hispanics living in the United States. I saw that people were afraid of the police, running when immigration police appeared. I started to wonder, 'Do I need to run as well? Do I need to be worried about my status?' I wasn't undocumented, but I also wasn't a citizen – I was right in the middle.

In 2013, my mother applied for U.S. citizenship. She wanted to be able to visit her parents in Mexico freely. Luckily, my mother became a U.S citizen five days before I turned 18 years old which meant I was automatically a U.S citizen. I just needed proof of my status. I applied for that proof in 2014 with ILCM pro bono attorney Tom Gilde. I finally received proof that I was a U.S. citizen in 2016.

I now work at ILCM as a receptionist, and I feel like ILCM is my home. The people who come in are family. They are people like me, and I want to give a helping hand to people just as ILCM, "Oficina Legal," helped my mother. ILCM has assisted not only my mother, but me as well, my aunts and uncles, my cousins, and my grandparents. ILCM has done so much for my family, so I also want to help people in return. Even on a simple call, I know that I'm doing good work.

2021 Advocacy and Education Highlights



Equal Justice Works Fellow Mackenzie Heinrichs and Pro Bono Manager Tim Sanders Szabo hosting an online presentation on DACA.

ILCM conducted outreach through 61 virtual presentations and events, reaching more than 1,974 individuals.



Pathway to Citizenship press conference

ILCM signed on to 50 advocacy letters in 2021, including letters to President Biden supporting changes in public charge and to enforcement priorities; letters to federal officials on expanding TPS, including specific letters regarding Cameroon and Mauritania and Haiti; and letters urging Congress to open a path to citizenship for Dreamers, essential workers, and other undocumented immigrants.

We filed public comments on proposed changes to Federal Regulations on refugee and asylum processing, on T visa regulations affecting victims of human trafficking, and on proposed changes to DACA.



Evangeline Dhawan, Damu Vang, and Veena Iyer

In 2021, ILCM testified before Minnesota legislative committees, worked in coalition with other organizations, and provided information and testimony to state and local government bodies. The Minnesota legislature passed important legislation safeguarding the rights of immigrants who are survivors of crime. Local government and civic organizations supported legal defense for immigrants in the Twin Cities metro area and in southeastern Minnesota.

In 2021, ILCM signed onto three amicus briefs, joining with other legal organizations in defending immigrant rights in cases before the Supreme Court including a challenge to the Remain in Mexico rule.

2021 Mission Moments



Roseline Sackor (1.29.2021 Sahan Journal Photo by Jaida Grey Eagle)

In January 2021 Roseline Sackor, LRIFA recipient and ILCM client, was interviewed by the Sahan Journal.

"Amidst a new pandemic in August—this time, COVID-19—Sackor applied for a new program that would grant a green card to Liberians living in the U.S. since 2014, and, subsequently, a chance to immediately apply for citizenship. By November, Sackor and her two children received their green cards.

"I was happy, I was hopeful,' Sackor said. 'That I could be living here and not looking over my shoulder. That I will have access to all the opportunity that is here."

Liberians in Minnesota have until December to start pursuing permanent U.S. citizenship. Some can't believe the opportunity is real. (1/29/2021—Hibah Ansari—Sahan Journal)

A Family Reunited!

ILCM began working with a family several years ago to assist the father to obtain citizenship and eventually, to assist him in sponsoring his son to join him in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed his processing, but finally, in June 2021,

we received an appointment notice for the interview at the consulate and had to quickly update his paperwork and prepare him for his interview. The son was approved and received his U.S. immigrant visa, and the family is now reunited and living together in Minnesota!





Photo by Oliver Quinlan CC by NC 2.0"

When We Work Together

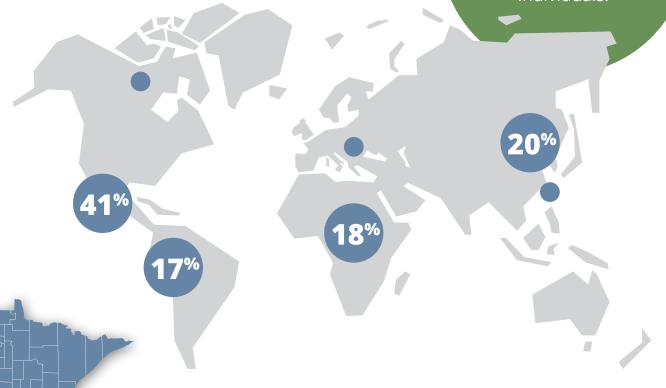
One of our clients who had been detained by ICE for over a year was finally granted bond in February 2021. Our staff attorney filed a motion for bond reconsideration. The Minnesota Freedom Fund agreed to pay his bond, and Conversations With Friends provided transportation for the client. The client was released that same week and returned home to their family!

2021 Accomplishments

Clients immigrated from 102 countries

In 2021 ILCM served clients coming from 102 countries, with 41% from Mexico, 17% from countries in Central and South America, 20% from countries in Asia, 18% from countries in Africa, and the remainder from countries in Europe, Oceania, and North America.

In 2021, ILCM provided legal services in **3,092** unique cases impacting approximately **9,276** individuals.



ILCM served clients living in 68 counties in Minnesota.

Case Type by Percentage

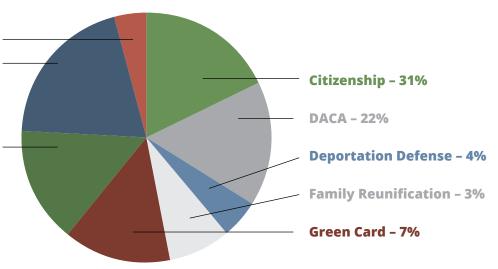
Temporary Status - 1%

Miscellaneous - 12%

Travel Documents, Administrative Appeals, Employment Authorizations, etc.

Humanitarian - 20%

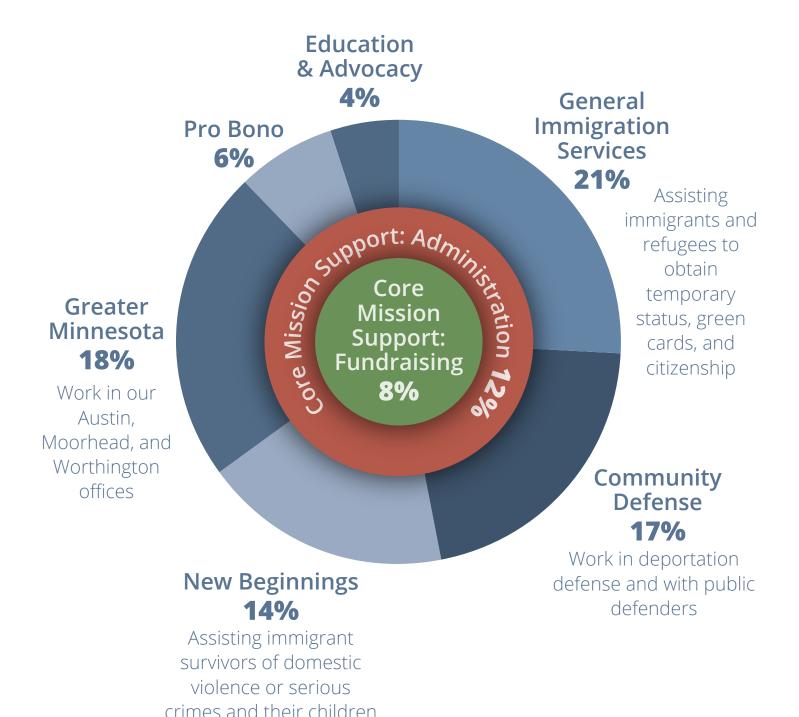
VAWA, Affirmative Asylum, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition, T-Visas, U-Visas, etc.



2021 Financials

Fiscal Years Ended December 31	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash	\$2,304,939	\$1,563,152
Prepaids	20,004	58,902
Receivables	535,003	492,816
Furniture and Fixtures (less Accumulated Depreciation)	75,400	37,776
Total Assets	\$2,935,346	\$2,152,646
T. 1.1		
Liabilities and Net Assets	* 450.254	±100 700
Liabilities	\$150,254	\$130,790
Capital Lease Obligation	23,949	5,355
Net Assets: • Unrestricted	2,427,406 333,737	1,520,737
 Temporarily Restricted Total Net Assets 	,	495,764
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,761,143	\$2,016,501
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,935,346	\$2,152,646
Support and Revenue		
Support: • Contributions	\$1,502,776	\$1,232,891
• In-kind Donations	1,118,632	860,227
Government Grants and Contracts	1,636,440	1,486,691
Total Support	\$4,257,848	\$3,579,809
Revenue: • Other Contracts	0	2,190
• Earned Income	1,500	4,972
 Events (less Direct Costs) 	108,315	22,000
 Miscellaneous 	4,908	351
Total Revenue	<u>\$114,723</u>	\$29,513
Total Support and Revenue	\$4,372,571	\$3,609,322
Futomsa		
Expense Program Services: • Legal Assistance	\$3,041,616	\$2,949,433
• Community Education	98,576	93,882
Total Program Services	\$3,140,192	\$3,043,315
Support Services: • Management and General	293,885	167,447
• Fundraising	193,852	246,851
Total Support Services	\$487,737	\$414,298
Total Expense	\$3,627,929	\$3,457,613
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	\$744,642	\$151,709
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	2,016,501	1,864,792
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	<u>\$2,761,143</u>	\$2,016,501

ILCM's Budget Breakdown



2021 Donors and Volunteers

Individual Donors

Individual donors listed below gave over \$250 in 2021

Anonymous (3)

Karina Abramowski

Joan and Rick Ahmann

Dianne Aisenbrey and Bruce McBeath

Alexandra Allaire

Barbara Allan

Jeffrey Alverson

Tracy Anderson

Katherine Anthony and Ben Rasmussen

Kate Arneson

Robert Aronson

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Kathleen Doll

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Meghan Elliott

Darrell Ellsworth

Maggiy Emery

Angela and Geo Farrell

Sandra Feist

Patricia and David Fenrick

Betsy Fisher

Sam Fouts

Ann and William Fox

Staff Awards

ILCM Executive Director, **Veena lyer**, was awarded the 2021 Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award and the Hennepin County Bar Association 2021 Excellence Award.



Ron Fraboni

Charlotte Frantz

Jane Freeman and Jeffrey

Leppink

Kathryn Freeman

Amy and Harry Funk

Susan Furr

Meg and Dan Georgevich

Barbara and Wayne

Gilbertson

Joel Gillespie and Molly Poganski

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and Ernesto Ruiz

Peter Gorman and Diane Dube

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Elizabeth Grant

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Duane and Karla Hansel

Jason Harris

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Dann Heilman

Dianne Heins

Robin Hemenway

Tricia Hendren

Janice Hepola

Sarah and Michael Hewitt

Tom and Bea Hoffmann

Ari Holloway-Nahum Carol Hovey

Paul Howe

Christopher Hughes and Christy Timm-Hughes

Theresa and Thomas Hughes

Janet Humphrey

Mary Hunstiger and Bill Blazar

Scott Ikeda

Raja and Vasanthi Iyer

Sharon Jacks

and Kevin McDonald

Warren and Barbara Jeffers

Juana Jiron

Daniel Johnson

Nancy Joseph-Goldfarb and Alan Goldfarb

Leah and Jacob Jurss

Phil and Alissa Kaasa

Maria Kannankutty

Aseem Kaul John and Maria Keller



In 2021, we recorded 54 media interactions, including online, print, radio, and television interviews and appearances, and requests for information from journalists. Requests came from a wide variety of media outlets, large and small, local, national, and international.

2021 Donors and Volunteers

Max Keller and Rowzat Shipchandler **Gregory King** Mark Kjolhaug Kristin and Benjamin Klas Susan Koberstein Flizabeth Kreibich Amy Lange and Jane Newman Mark Lasoff **Bruce Lauber** and Andrea Lachance Tim and Suzanne Lauer Kacia and Willy Lee Eric Leill Glenn and Tori Leitch Mitchell Levin Kathryn Lien Michael Lien Gordon Loery Richard Lundy and Lucille Goodwyne David Macdonald and Sarah Radosevich Bill Mahlum and Donna Allan Rhoda and Donald Mains Mary Jo and Martin Malecha Connie Manske

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Amy Taber Maha Tahiri Amanda and Mark Tempel Ben Thietje Jen Thorson Kim and Jack Thumser Mark Traynor and Jen Peterson Jessica Tritsch and Tim Jung Mary Turck Tolga Umut Panhia Vang Shelby Vaske Paula Vesely Mary Rose Ward Jane and John Wardell Mary Ann Barrows Wark and David Wark Kate and Michael Wasylik Clayton Watercott Kathy and Steve Wellington Benjamin Whalen Wade and Alison Zander Bianca Zick

Marcy and Mark Syman



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

New Delhi, INDIA August 20, 1974

Honorable Walter F. Mondale United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mondale:

In the absence of the Ambassador, I wish to answer your letter of July 29, 1974, addressed to the Department of State, concerning the immigrant visa application of Vasanthi Iyer.

It is my pleasure to inform you that we issued an immigrant visa to Mrs. Iyer on August 5, 1974.

David T. Schneider Minister-Counselor

Sinderely,

In an April op/ed in the Star Tribune, marking the death of Walter Mondale, ILCM Executive Director Veena lyer reminisced on Mondale's role in her mother's immigration, "'America's founding principle [is] welcoming those most in need,' Mondale said. President Biden simply needs to make this principle a reality once more."

2021 Donors and Volunteers

Institutional Donors

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American Immigration Lawyers Association, Minnesota-Dakotas Chapter

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Hennepin County Bar Foundation

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Foundation

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Holthues Trust

Holy Ground catholic Community

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Hormel Foundation

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Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation Karam Law

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The Ann Martinson Fund

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Marx Family Fund

Alice Greene McKinney and E. Kirk McKinney, Jr. Fund

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Minnesota Association of Professional Employees

The Minneapolis Foundation

Minnesota Justice Foundation

Minnesota Nurses Association

Minnesota State Bar

Foundation

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Moxie Consulting LLC

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Ramsey County Bar Foundation

Robins Kaplan LLP

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Foundation

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Carondelet, Justice Office

Sitaraman Family Foundation Nancy Somers Family

Foundation
Smarte Carte, Inc.

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Stephanie Williams Fund of The Minneapolis

Worthington Area Foundation at SWIF

Foundation

Harry and Belle Yaffe Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation

Zimmer Law Group



Staff Awards

ILCM Legal Assistant, **Maylary Htoo Apolo**, was awarded the 2021
Minnesota Department of Human
Services Outstanding Refugee Award –
Civic Engagement.

Hannah R. Anderson

Jennifer Arbuckle

Tinzing Artmann

Bonnie Berezovsky

Allira Bailey

Maggie Baum

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Staff Awards

ILCM Staff Attorney, Kathy Klos (Left), was awarded the Minnesota Justice Foundation's (MJF) 2021 Direct Legal Service Award and ILCM Law Clerk, Brenda Pfahnl (Right), was awarded MJF's 2021 Law Student Award.











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.



ILCM Intake Hours

Please call our intake line during intake hours to schedule an appointment to speak to a legal staff member.

1-800-223-1368

Our intake hours can be found on our website. We do not take walk-in appointments. Contact ILCM as soon as you become aware of a legal issue. There may be a waiting list for services.

Detention Intake

ILCM operates a detainee assistance phone line. If you are detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or calling on behalf of someone in the custody of ICE, please call 651-641-1011. Our intake hours can be found on our website. Individuals being detained by ICE, as well as their families, can call to get general information about court proceedings and the services the project provides at a first court hearing. Volunteers operating the phone line are not attorneys, and cannot provide legal advice.



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Every dollar donated to ILCM goes to support our mission of providing the highest quality legal services, education, and advocacy to meet the needs of low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota.



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