



# WHO WE ARE.

A brief overview of our work, program areas, and impact.

The **Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)** uses policy advocacy, capacity building, and civic engagement strategies to help immigrant families be together and thrive. Through our efforts immigrants can more easily obtain green cards, United States citizenship, permission to stay and work in the United States, and protection from deportation. As a national nonprofit resource center, we provide immigration legal trainings, technical assistance, and legal educational materials, as well as engage in advocacy and immigrant civic participation, outreach, and education to advance immigrant rights. The ILRC's work ensures that immigrants can be more active in civic life and influence the issues that affect them. The ILRC is headquartered in San Francisco and has offices in California's Central Valley, San Antonio & Austin, Texas, and Washington DC.

The ILRC was founded in 1979 by Professor Bill Ong Hing who recognized an unfulfilled need for legal services to represent immigrant clients and to supply legal advice to community-based and legal services organizations. Since then, the mission of the ILRC has been to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people.



## POLICY & ADVOCACY

Our policy advocacy work focuses on addressing inequalities in the immigration system, particularly for individuals who have had contact with the criminal legal system; expanding laws and policies to offer greater protections to immigrants; and ensuring more immigrants can access legal services and engage in the political process. ILRC attorneys and strategists are experts in the field of immigration law and immigrant rights campaigns. Through our advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels, we work to achieve the ILRC's mission of a more inclusive and democratic society.

An example of the ILRC's policy advocacy efforts include successfully campaigning county officials in Texas to ensure defendants receive effective counsel in compliance with *Padilla v. Kentucky*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that criminal defense attorneys have a duty to inform their clients about the immigration consequences of their cases. In addition, the ILRC has been advocating for federal legislation that would ensure immigrants who have had contact with the criminal legal system are treated with dignity and given opportunities to seek relief from deportation.



## IMMIGRANT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, & EDUCATION

We engage immigrants in mobilizing and raising their voices on issues critical to their communities.

The ILRC believes that one of the most important ways immigrants can protect their rights and the rights of their families is to naturalize. The ILRC leads a national project called the New Americans Campaign. Founded in 2011, the New Americans Campaign has helped over 420,000 people complete naturalization applications and held over 7,500 naturalization workshops across the country.

Other crucial projects of the ILRC are the Red Card program and the Know Your Rights (KYR) program. The ILRC's Red Cards help undocumented immigrants assert their constitutional rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home. Since 2007, over 6.1 million Red Cards have been produced and distributed by the ILRC and its partners. The high demand for Red Cards has substantially increased since 2016. The ILRC also hosts KYR presentations. These presentations give immigrants, their family members, companies employing immigrants, and others information essential to protecting themselves in an era of increased immigration status scrutiny, immigration enforcement, and deportations.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

We provide technical legal assistance, trainings, and publications to immigration law practitioners, legal services organizations, and community-based organizations. The ILRC produces, updates, and publishes expert immigration practice manuals used by legal services providers nationwide. Our catalog consists of 20 manuals. Our unique Attorney of the Day consultation service provides case-specific technical assistance to attorneys, nonprofit organizations, public defenders, and other immigration advocates. Our staff attorneys also conduct immigration law trainings on emerging issues, policy updates, and effective practices. One of our goals is to bolster the capacity of the immigration law field so that the field is better prepared to protect and defend its clients and the community.



# DELIVERING ON OUR MISSION

The ILRC believes that immigrants and their families should be kept together. Period. To this end, we have focused our programs, resources, and partnerships toward assuring that the immigrant community, legal practitioners, and community-based organizations are educated, prepared, and engaged in the discourse around law and policy. Since 1979, the ILRC has become a central hub for various coalitions of experts and leaders working to build a more just landscape for our diverse immigrant communities. Whether we are developing new manuals or producing large stakeholder convenings around the state, that growth has never been more tangible than today. With immigrants increasingly in the crosshairs of draconian measures and xenophobic legislative initiatives, our victories have evolved in meaning and impact. People's rights do not stop once they cross a border and it is our collective duty to see to it that fair protections be set for everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

## ILRC POLICY HIGHLIGHT

In 2019, the ILRC helped ensure California's **Assembly Bill 32** (AB 32) was signed into law. AB 32, which takes effect in January 2020, will shut down private prisons and immigration jails in California. This law is a major step towards dismantling systems of mass incarceration of immigrants and catapults a national conversation on abolishing immigration detention.



## ILRC PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

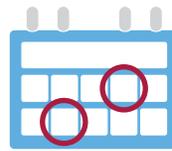
The **New Americans Campaign** is a nonpartisan, groundbreaking national network of legal-service providers, faith-based organizations, businesses, foundations, and community leaders that is paving a better road to citizenship.



## THE ILRC'S FOUNDER

**Bill Ong Hing**

Bill Ong Hing founded the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in **1979** and served as volunteer Executive Director for its first two decades. A Professor at the University of San Francisco, School of Law, he is the author of *American Presidents, Deportations, and Human Rights Violations: From Carter to Trump*; *Deporting Our Souls—Values, Morality, and Immigration Policy*; *Defining America through Immigration Policy*; *Handling Immigration Cases*; *Making and Remaking Asian America through Immigration Policy*; and co-author of numerous ILRC publications. He has extensive experience in working with immigrants of varied nationalities and is a nationally-recognized expert in immigration and naturalization law. Bill has volunteered on several Boards, including the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center and the ILRC.



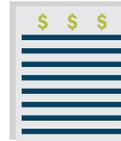
**OVER 7,500**

NATURALIZATION EVENTS HELD BY *NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN* PARTNERS SINCE JULY 2011, INCLUDING NATURALIZATION INFORMATION SESSIONS, VOLUNTEER TRAININGS, AND GROUP APPLICATION WORKSHOPS.

**OVER 6.1 MILLION**

RED CARDS DELIVERED SINCE JULY 2007—PROTECTING THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY FROM UNCONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS BY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE).

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**



**OVER \$428 MILLION**

SAVED IN LEGAL AND APPLICATION FEES FOR ASPIRING CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH THE *NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN*.

**OVER 420,000**

CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS COMPLETED SINCE JULY 2011 THROUGH *NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN* NETWORK EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS.



**ALMOST 8,000**

ATTORNEY OF THE DAY ISSUES ANSWERED FOR NON-PROFITS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND PRO BONO ATTORNEYS IN 2018 ALONE.

## THE ANATOMY OF AN ILRC MANUAL



The Immigrant Legal Resource Center publishes expert immigration law practice manuals for new and experienced practitioners. These practical, hands-on resources save time and help win more cases.

All of our publications incorporate:

