



Keeping Families Together

IMPACT REPORT 2017

The Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition strives to ensure equal justice for all immigrant men, women and children at risk of detention and deportation in the DC metropolitan area and beyond through direct legal representation, know your rights presentations, impact and advocacy work, and the training of attorneys defending immigrants in the immigration and criminal justice arenas.



Dear CAIR Coalition Friends and Supporters,

As I celebrate my 11th year with CAIR Coalition, I could not be prouder of our terrific staff or more grateful for all of our wonderful pro bono attorneys, volunteers and donors who dedicated their time, talent and treasure to helping defend the human and civil rights of our immigrant neighbors. During much of 2017, the words of poet Adrienne Rich echoed through my head:

*My heart moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed
I have to cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,
with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.*

That is what we do here at CAIR Coalition; we reconstitute the world for our detained clients - immigrant parents who have been ripped from their children, unaccompanied immigrant children fleeing horrific violence in Central America, immigrant youth who have grown up in the United States and know no other country. We defend them in court with some of the most creative, aggressive lawyering you will find anywhere. We win cases that other attorneys would give up as hopeless causes. We keep families together.

We also work to change the system by challenging unjust laws and policies, including those that are used to condemn longtime residents of the United States to detention and deportation for non-violent crimes, some of which are decades old. Launched in 2017, the Immigration Impact Lab is CAIR Coalition's first concerted appellate impact litigation project. In collaboration with our pro bono partners, we experiment with cutting-edge impact litigation in courts throughout the entire Fourth Circuit, including Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Carolinas.

In addition, we educate immigrants not currently in detention about their rights during encounters with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in an effort to reduce the likelihood of their being detained. Through our Community Conversations Project we provide "Know Your Rights" presentations across DC, Maryland and Virginia in partnership with congregations, schools and community centers.

Together with our pro bono attorneys, volunteers and donors, we are working to create a more just and welcoming community for all who call our region home.

With much gratitude,

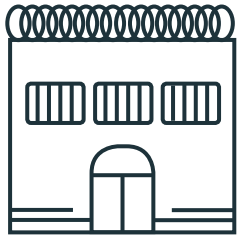
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Doan", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Kathryn M. Doan
Executive Director

CAIR Coalition Impact

January-December 2017

Legal Assistance



Conducted

197

visits to jails and juvenile facilities to provide the over

1400

immigrant men, women and children detained each month in Virginia and Maryland with access to information necessary to make informed decisions about whether to proceed with their immigration case or accept an order of removal and reduce the amount of time they spend in detention



Provided

139

consultations on immigration consequences to criminal defense attorneys in Virginia representing non-U.S. citizens thereby reducing the possibility that their clients will become part of the criminal-immigration pipeline.



Provided

2181

detained immigrant men, women and children with individual legal screenings to assist them in determining their eligibility for an immigration benefit.



Held

35

pro se workshops in area adult detention centers to better equip the

274

participants to represent themselves before the immigration court in cases where we were not able to secure full pro bono representation for them.



Secured pro bono representation for

195

detained immigrant men, women and children (in-house or with a volunteer attorney) greatly improving their chances of winning their cases.

Prepared

5

asylum seekers for their Credible Fear/Reasonable Fear interviews. In addition, we followed-up on/tracked the CFI/RFI interviews for

68

additional individuals, reading their transcripts and following-up either with placement for the individual hearings on the merits, or consideration for negative fear decision review.



Provided legal screenings, brief counsel and advice and referrals to over

400

non-detained immigrants in DC, MD and VA partnership with members of the DMV Immigration Alliance.

Education and Training



Held **18** trainings for over **350** prospective pro bono attorneys interested in representing detained immigrants.

(This included attorneys in private practice as well as in-house counsel at two major corporations.)



Held **13** trainings for criminal defense attorneys on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

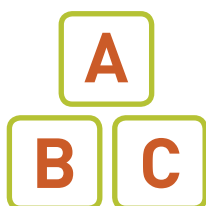


Gave **62** “Know Your Rights” and Family Safety Planning presentations to schools, churches and community groups in DC, MD and VA reaching **2210** non-detained immigrants with vital information on their rights in an encounter with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in their homes, workplaces or in public. The presentations also provided parents with information and resources on how to provide for care and custody of their children in the event of a parent’s detention.

Advocacy and Coalition Building



Members of the private immigration bar as well as non-profit organizations continued to have **access to the resources they need** to help ensure better outcomes for their clients including regular liaison meetings with local USCIS officials and access to the CAIR Coalition listserve.



CAIR Coalition continued to play a leadership role in the **Children's Collaborative and the Crim-Imm Collaborative**.

99
members

Under the leadership of CAIR Coalition, **the DMV Immigration Alliance grew to 99 members**, including legal service providers, law firms, law schools and public defenders offices. Current activities of the Alliance include monthly large scale consultation clinics for non-detained immigrants, a shared list serve and community calendar, and monthly meetings to network and share information. A current area of concern is the potential loss of Temporary Protected Status for over 35,000 Central American immigrants in the Washington area, making them immediate targets for immigration enforcement. Alliance members are working with national organizations on advocating for a continuation of the program while at the same time brainstorming what defensive measures the community can take if the program ends.



CAIR Coalition supported the efforts of the National Immigrant Justice Center and other national immigrant advocacy groups opposing increased funding for detention and removal.

Additional 2017 Highlights

Increased Appellate Advocacy Efforts: During 2017, the CAIR Coalition program formerly known as the Virginia Justice Program, was expanded to cover all states within the jurisdiction of the 4th Circuit and re-branded as the “Immigration Impact Lab.” The goal of the Lab is to secure favorable decisions at the appellate level that will benefit broad classes of detained individuals in DC, MD, VA, WV, and the Carolinas.

Joined National Safe Cities Network: In November 2017, CAIR Coalition significantly expanded its ability to provide direct representation to detained adults in Maryland by becoming a partner organization with the Vera Institute of Justice’s Safe Cities Network. The Safe Cities Network brings together 14 local jurisdictions nationwide that have committed public dollars to fund local legal service providers to represent detained immigrants from these jurisdictions. The public dollars are then matched by private funders. There are two local jurisdictions participating in the Safe Cities Network: Baltimore City and Prince George’s County. CAIR Coalition will be partnering with both of these localities with the goal of providing legal representation to an additional 75 detained immigrants in 2018.

Ana

Ana (name changed) was born in Honduras where she was physically and emotionally abused by her mother who eventually kicked her out of the house. Her uncle promised to bring her to the US, but rather than protecting her, he sexually assaulted her and abandoned her in Mexico where she was trafficked for sex before finally escaping. Upon return to Honduras, she was preyed upon once again by the uncle, who sexually assaulted her. Ana fled Honduras a second time, successfully making it to the United States border where she was detained and placed in a juvenile facility in VA housing unaccompanied immigrant children. It was here that she discovered that she was pregnant.

Ana was so traumatized by her experience that for a year she couldn’t talk about what had happened to her. Through regular meetings and patient interviewing, CAIR Coalition staff was finally able to put all the pieces of her story together resulting in a successful asylum application. No longer threatened with deportation, Ana has been able to find a measure of peace and stability and she is looking forward to building a new life, and a better future, for herself and her son.

CAIR Coalition Client Testimonials

Robert

Robert (name changed), who had immigrated to the United States from Haiti with his family when he was nine years old, was facing deportation back to a country he hadn’t seen in years because of several marijuana convictions in Virginia. After visiting Robert at a Virginia detention center, CAIR Coalition learned about his extensive network of family in the United States, including his mother, step-father, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins and placed his case with one of CAIR Coalition’s many pro bono partner firms. The firm successfully argued that Robert’s strong family ties, and contributions to the community during his many years in the United States should outweigh his minor criminal convictions. Robert is out of detention and back with his family, free from the fear of forcible return to a country he last saw as a child.



“Telling our client that she was granted asylum was one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives”

—Pro Bono attorney with Gibson Dunn who was part of a team that successfully represented a young woman seeking asylum from Afghanistan.

“During our representation, there were times when he was understandably taciturn, scared, even wary. Detention can be lonely and deeply alienating. But now my client and I still talk weekly, and I am so grateful to hear the joy and gratitude in his voice.”

— Pro bono attorney with McDermott, Will & Emery reflecting on the firm’s successful representation of an asylum seeker from Bangladesh.



“It was a rewarding and enlightening experience and the CAIR Coalition provided excellent training and support. I encourage any who can to get involved.”

—Pro Bono attorney with Wilkinson, Barker and Knauer on the firm’s successful efforts to prevent the deportation of a 30 year resident of the United States.



Volunteers



Thanks to these amazing volunteers, connected to us through Taproot, we now have an awesome new set of materials for describing our work and asking for help from pro bono attorneys and generous donors.

“CAIR Coalition gives an eleven year old who is most of the time escaping death from violent gangs the opportunity to remain safe in the United States. CAIR Coalition fights for the rights of a father to continue living with his wife and children who feel lost without him at home. CAIR Coalition sees beyond a human being’s status and guides them through a process that can decide the outcomes of their lives. CAIR Coalition believes in an immigrant’s full potential. Among many other great things, CAIR Coalition gives so much to the community and being a tiny part of their great work makes me receive so much more. That is why I love volunteering at CAIR Coalition.”

— Darwin Murillo, volunteer translator.

“Volunteering with CAIR Coalition opened my eyes to the needs of a population that I knew little about. Talking to the detainees, whether at the jail visits or through the hotline, made me aware of their circumstances, as well as how much they value the help that they receive.”

— Debby Gonzalez, jail visit, hotline and translation volunteer.

DONATING TO CAIR COALITION IS A GREAT RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

CAIR Coalition currently leverages over \$10 million a year in donated legal services from more than 40 law firms and in-house legal departments in DC, MD and VA. Thus, every dollar invested in CAIR Coalition leverages more than \$6.00 in pro bono services to support critical efforts to ensure equal justice for immigrants at risk of detention and deportation.



Donors



“I am very proud to support the CAIR Coalition. There are so many reasons for my support. What is on my mind right now is my sister. While she was alive she worked on behalf of undocumented migrant workers in central North Carolina. Her commitment to welcoming the stranger among us inspires and motivates. CAIR Coalition embodies her spirit with its work among the detained and others living under threat of deportation.”

— Tom Gallagher



“I am proud to support CAIR Coalition because they fight for a community I care passionately about. Immigrants in detention are incredibly vulnerable. Especially the children and young adults. CAIR Coalition’s commitment to serve this underserved and often neglected community is essential. I am honored to support CAIR Coalition in its work.”

— Laura Tuell



“Supporting the worthy mission of CAIR Coalition is a no-brainer. The dedicated lawyers and staff are committed to giving voice to the voiceless and stepping in to help the most vulnerable immigrants when the stakes are so high. At this critical moment in our nation’s history, there is no question that the need for CAIR Coalition is greater than ever.”

— Nadeam Elshami

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