CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

SUMMARY
The California Immigrant Justice Fellowship would create the first state sponsored legal fellowship program to expand access to counsel in the most underserved rural regions of the state. The program would develop the removal defense capacity of legal service providers and increase the number of qualified immigration attorneys to defend California’s residents against deportation and family separation.

BACKGROUND
As home to more immigrants than any other state, California must ensure due process and justice for the millions of residents who have become targets of this administration’s punitive policies. While for some the immigration process may start at the border, detention facilities littered across our state hold both recently arrived asylum seekers as well as long time California residents. Their most critical need is access to competent pro bono legal representation.

California has a backlog of nearly 150,000 immigration cases in court, with some individuals waiting more than three years before their hearings are scheduled. The number of deportation cases in California has increased 48% since 2017, and will likely continue to rise as a reflection of the demographic realities of the state.

THE PROBLEM
Because deportation is a civil proceeding, immigrants have no right to appointed counsel even though in every case a trained attorney represents the government. This lack of due process is particularly egregious given that deportation most often results in family separation, or in the worst cases, torture or death.

Everyday thousands of individuals appear without an attorney in California’s immigration courts. While legal service organizations provide some representation there are simply not enough attorneys to meet the need. This due process crisis affects residents across our state but disproportionately impacts already disadvantaged rural communities.

In recognition of this need California lawmakers have approved nearly $50 million in funding for legal services in our state. Despite this laudable investment, the largest challenge has been developing organizational and training capacity to take advantage of these funds. We simply do not have enough organizations that qualify to receive this funding for deportation defense, particularly in regions where the need is high, but resources are low.

A poignant example is the Central Valley, home to hundreds of thousands of immigrants, but severely lacking immigration services. A 2017 mapping initiative found that of the 400 nonprofits providing immigration services in the state, only 28 were located in the Central Valley and of those only a handful were qualified to provide representation in deportation proceedings.

SOLUTION
The California Immigrant Justice Fellowship will:

- Recruit a select cohort of law school graduates (who are from the regions where they will ultimately be placed) to train in an apprenticeship at premier deportation defense legal service organizations in the Bay Area for a 4 month period;
- Identify a select number of host organizations in underserved rural regions of the state (Central Coast, Central Valley, and Yuba/Sutter region), preferably with robust affirmative immigration legal services programs, that are ready to expand into providing deportation defense services;
- Place legal fellows at host organizations for 20 month terms, growing organizational capacity and enabling them to apply for state funding as a subcontractor once the fellowship term ends. Thus providing them with an avenue to transition the positions into Staff Attorneys by accessing private and state funding. At year 3, incubating organizations will have reached the requisite legal experience required by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13304, thereby making them eligible to apply directly for legal services funding from the state of California;
- Provide ongoing mentorship and supervision during the course of the fellowship by utilizing highly trained and experienced deportation defense attorneys through well-established legal service collaboratives based in metropolitan areas;
- Train and provide technical assistance to host organizations to develop quality deportation defense programs and implement strategies for long term funding sustainability; and
- Increase the quantity of immigration attorneys and the quality of legal service organizations specializing in deportation defense across the state of California.

CONTACT
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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (AAJ-ALC) Bay Area
Alameda County Immigrant Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)
Alameda County Public Defender
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California
Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
California ChangeLawyers
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA)
Catholic Charities of Stockton, Modesto
Canal Alliance
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Sacramento Valley/Central California
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN of Northern California)
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)
Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, Fresno
Centro Legal de la Raza
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.
Community Justice Alliance
Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto (CLESPA)
Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS)
East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)
Education and Leadership Foundation (ELF), Fresno
Faith in the Valley
Freedom for Immigrants
Fresno County Legal Defense Fund Steering Committee
Immigrant Center for Women and Children (ICWC)
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
Immigrant Legal Services of the Central Coast, Inc.
Immigration Task Force of Monterey
International Institute of the Bay Area
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Jakara Movement
The Justice & Diversity Center of The Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC)
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
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Mi Familia Vota
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North Bay Rapid Response Network: Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties
Office of the Marin County Public Defender
Pacifica Social Justice
Pangea Legal Services
PODER San Francisco
Puentes Immigrant Legal and Community Resources
Rapid Response Network of Kern
Rapid Response Network in Santa Clara County
San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN)
San Francisco Public Defender
Santa Barbara County Public Defender
Santa Cruz Rapid Response Network
Self-Help Federal Credit Union
Social Justice Collaborative
United Farm Workers (UFW) Foundation
University of San Francisco Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic
UC Davis Immigration Clinic
Watsonville Law Center
April 3, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chairwoman, Budget Subcommittee 1
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Reyes:

The state of California is facing many challenges with regards to equity and access to justice. There are few communities more vulnerable at this time in our state than immigrants living in rural regions. One of the most poignant examples is the San Joaquin Valley, home to an estimated 885,700 immigrants as well as more than 500,000 children with at least one immigrant parent, but severely lacking immigration services. A 2017 mapping initiative found that of the 400 nonprofits providing immigration services in the state, only 28 were located in the San Joaquin Valley and of those only a handful were qualified to provide representation in deportation proceedings. This dearth of removal defense services plagues rural communities across the state from the Central Coast to the Inland Empire.

California has a backlog of nearly 150,000 immigration cases in court, with some individuals waiting more than three years before their hearings are scheduled. The number of deportation cases in California has increased 48% since 2017, and will likely continue to rise as a reflection of the demographic realities of the state. Because deportation is a civil proceeding, immigrants have no right to government appointed counsel, despite the fact that highly trained attorneys represent the government in proceedings to remove them from the United States. Given the highly complex nature of immigration law, it is nearly impossible for individuals to represent themselves before the court. This lack of due process is particularly egregious given that deportation most often results in family separation, or in the worst cases, torture or death.
The lack of legal support and infrastructure in these regions reinforces the belief that ICE can violate due process with impunity. The solution to this justice gap is the development of community based legal infrastructure that is accessible for residents and sustainable in the long term. In recognition of this need, California lawmakers have approved nearly $50 million in funding for legal services in our state, but the largest challenge has been developing organizational and training capacity for removal defense to take advantage of these funds. We simply do not have enough organizations that qualify to receive this funding for deportation defense, particularly in regions where the need is high, but resources are low.

We need to make a strategic and needed investment this budget year to address the inequities in our legal services system. California must invest in a legal fellow program that leverages the legal expertise of established service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in the most underserved regions of our state, with ongoing mentorship and technical assistance. There are examples where this is already taking place, including a partnership between Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland, one of the premier deportation defense non-profits in the state, with the United Farm Workers Foundation immigration office in Kern County. The challenge of capacity building, mentorship and technical assistance cannot be shouldered by one single organization. Therefore a collaborative structure is the most sustainable and structured approach to begin to address the challenges outlined above.

This model allows recent law graduates to apprentice at and be trained by experienced organizations before taking on direct work in places like Bakersfield. For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice. The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents. At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

This partnership also solves the significant challenges facing service providers. Bay Area based organizations are able to coordinate remote detention visits and rural assistance through organizations based in the regions of need, while fledgling removal defense programs obtain the technical assistance and mentorship they need to grow and serve their community. This partnership ensures sustainability and structure to address the collective needs of our region, and also allows a continuum of services to be established between organizations located near courts, organizations located near detention facilities and organizations removed from both but whose communities are suffering from unfettered immigration enforcement.

A 2014 Stanford Immigrant Rights Clinic report focusing specifically on legal representation in the Bay Area highlighted the critical impact access to counsel can have on immigration proceedings. The report showed that only 11% of detained and unrepresented immigrants were successful in challenging their deportation in the San Francisco Immigration
Court jurisdiction. By contrast, the detained individuals who were represented were successful 83% of the time. Despite this glaring need the report also noted that two-thirds of detained individuals had no legal assistance during their proceedings. The detention or deportation of an individual has an immediate as well as lasting impact on the family and community they leave behind. The removal of what are primarily earners for a family pushes families into poverty and homelessness, and often leaves children without parents to care for them.

While this proposal would begin as a pilot in Northern California and the San Francisco Immigration Court, it is noteworthy that the jurisdiction of that court extends as far north as the Oregon border and as far south as Bakersfield. A recent data collection study led by the San Francisco Bar Association’s, Justice and Diversity Center found that of the detained unrepresented individuals served through their Attorney of the Day program, approximately 20% were recently arrived asylum seekers from the border, and over 25% were originally residents from Southern California counties. As immigration enforcement authorities senselessly and arbitrarily shuffle individuals to and from detention centers across our state, which immigration court a California resident eventually appears before increasingly has little correlation to where they are from or where they may have community ties. Because of this, an investment in this pilot will grow regional legal capacity for removal defense services while at the same time necessarily provide legal services to residents from across our entire state.

For these reasons, we request an investment of $4.7 million in the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship for a 2-year pilot program, in the following manner:

1. $2.3 million to Host Incubating Agencies in Rural Communities that will house 10 legal fellows for a 20 month period as well as develop a robust removal defense services program. Over the course of their fellowship each attorney will provide representation in 28 deportation cases for a total of 280 cases. In addition, they will each provide hundreds of consultations through detention center visits as well as serving as volunteer Attorney of the Day before the San Francisco Immigration Court.

2. $270,000 to Bay Area Training Agencies that will host 10 legal fellows for a 4 month apprenticeship before they are placed with their permanent host organization.

3. $565,00 to Coordinating Agency that will coordinate the fellowship initiative, recruitment and hiring of legal fellows, provide non-profit training for the host incubating agencies on how to establish a removal defense program and sustainably fundraise to maintain it; administer overall program monitoring and evaluation, and host an annual fellows conference.

4. $245,000 to Technical Assistance Agency to work with Lead Mentor Agency attorneys in developing Boot Camp Training Materials as well as provide ongoing trainings in best practices and emerging trends in immigration law throughout the course of the fellowship.

5. $670,000 to the Lead Mentor Agency which will house two expert senior immigration attorneys that will run a Boot Camp Training during the course of the 4 month apprenticeship in the Bay Area and subsequently serve as the primary supervisors to the 10 fellows during the course of the 20 month fellowship.

   a. The agency that hosts the Lead Mentor Attorneys will also serve as fiscal lead to the entire project and will receive a 10% administrative fee of the overall project budget.
We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to ensure that California’s families are served through these vital legal services programs.

Sincerely,

Jackie Gonzalez
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Supporting Organizations and Networks

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (AAJ-ALC) Bay Area
Alameda County Immigrant Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)
Alameda County Public Defender
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California
Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
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CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

SUMMARY

The California Immigrant Justice Fellowship would create the first state sponsored legal fellowship program to expand access to counsel in the most underserved regions of the state. The program would develop the removal defense capacity of legal service providers and increase the number of qualified immigration attorneys to defend California’s residents against deportation and family separation.

The following proposal is currently contemplated as a pilot project in Northern California, and therefore has been limited to that region in this current stage. We have included an addendum that speaks to the specific regional needs in Southern California, if and when an expansion of this pilot were to take place.

While this proposal would begin as a pilot in Northern California and the San Francisco Immigration Court, it is noteworthy that the jurisdiction of that court extends as far north as the Oregon border and as far south as Bakersfield. A recent data collection study led by the San Francisco Bar Association’s, Justice and Diversity Center found that of the detained unrepresented individuals served through their Attorney of the Day program, approximately 20% were recently arrived asylum seekers from the border, and over 25% percent were originally residents from Southern California counties. As immigration enforcement authorities senselessly and arbitrarily shuffle individuals to and from detention centers across our state, which immigration court a California resident eventually appears before increasingly has little correlation to where they are from or where they may have community ties. Because of this, an investment in this pilot will grow regional legal capacity for removal defense services while at the same time necessarily provide legal services to residents from across our entire state.

BACKGROUND

As the home to more immigrants than any other state, California must ensure due process and justice for the millions of residents who have become targets of this administration’s punitive policies – and most urgently, those who are in immigration detention. After Texas, more individuals are held in immigration detention per day in California (6,527) than any other state.1 We are also home to the second largest – and deadliest – immigration detention facility in the country.2 While for some the immigration process may start at the border, detention facilities

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1 https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics/
2 https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/Prisons_and_Punishment.pdf
littered across our state hold both recently arrived asylum seekers as well as long time California residents. Their most critical need is access to competent pro bono legal representation.

California has a backlog of nearly 150,000 immigration cases in court, with some individuals waiting more than three years before their hearings are scheduled. The number of deportation cases in California has increased 48% since 2017, and will likely continue to rise as a reflection of the demographic realities of the state.3

THE PROBLEM

Everyday thousands of individuals appear without an attorney in California’s immigration courts. While legal service organizations provide some representation, there are simply not enough attorneys to meet the vast need. This presents a crisis of due process and justice affecting residents across our state but most acutely those in under resourced communities.

Because deportation is a civil proceeding, immigrants have no right to appointed counsel, despite the fact that highly trained attorneys represent the government in proceedings to remove them from the United States. Given the highly complex nature of immigration law, it is nearly impossible for individuals to represent themselves before the court. This lack of due process is particularly egregious given that deportation most often results in family separation, or in the worst cases, torture or death.

The Immigration courts in our state are located in metropolitan areas, such as San Francisco, where what limited legal services exist are concentrated. By contrast, immigration detention facilities are located in rural and remote regions where there is a dearth of legal services and immigration enforcement is the most rampant. Most immigrants held in the Mesa Verde detention facility in Bakersfield, must have their cases heard in immigrant court in San Francisco.

This creates a landscape in which service providers in major metropolitan areas retain proximity to the courts, and have access to funding streams, but are overwhelmed by the need and face serious logistical hurdles in representing individuals in remote detention facilities or addressing the tremendous need posed by rural communities. Similarly, organizations rooted in these rural regions lack access to local funding or resources, institutional knowledge and support, or the technical expertise to grow removal defense programs.

In recognition of this need, California lawmakers have approved nearly $50 million in funding for legal services in our state, but the largest challenge has been developing organizational and

training capacity for removal defense to take advantage of these funds. We simply do not have enough organizations that qualify to receive this funding for deportation defense, particularly in regions where the need is high, but resources are low.

The most poignant example is the Central Valley, home to an estimated 885,700 immigrants as well as more than 500,000 children with at least one immigrant parent\(^4\), but severely lacking immigration services. A 2017 mapping initiative found that of the 400 nonprofits providing immigration services in the state, only 28 were located in the Central Valley and of those only a handful were qualified to provide representation in deportation proceedings.

The Northern Central Coast mirrors many of the same challenges and needs of the Central Valley, with an undocumented population estimated at more than 80,000, and very little capacity for non-profit removal defense\(^5\). The immigrant community in these regions includes migrant workers, many living below the poverty line and vulnerable to exploitation. Immigration fraud in particular is a product of a lack of legal capacity and non-profit assistance, and is one of the major challenges in this region. The challenge of legal building legal capacity in this region remains significant, though the need remains acute.

**SOLUTION**

The California Immigrant Justice Fellowship will:

- Recruit a select cohort of recent law school graduates (with a concerted focus on those who are originally from rural areas of the state) to train in an apprenticeship at premier deportation defense legal service organizations in the Bay Area for a 4 month period;
- Identify a select number of incubating organizations in underserved regions of the state (Central Coast, Central Valley, and possibly Yuba/Sutter region), preferably with robust affirmative immigration legal services programs (i.e. naturalization, DACA, etc.), that are ready to expand into providing deportation defense services;
- Place legal fellows at incubating organizations for 20 month terms, growing organizational capacity and enabling them to apply for state funding as a subcontractor once the fellowship term ends. Thus providing them with an avenue to transition the positions into Staff Attorneys by accessing state funding. At year 3, incubating organizations will have reached the requisite legal experience required by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13304, thereby making them eligible to apply directly for legal services funding from the state of California;

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\(^5\) Public Policy Institute of CA https://www.ppic.org/publication/undocumented-immigrants-in-california/
• Provide ongoing mentorship and supervision during the course of the fellowship by utilizing highly trained and experienced deportation defense attorneys through well-established legal service collaboratives based in the Bay Area;
• Train and provide technical assistance to incubating organizations to develop quality deportation defense programs and implement strategies for long term funding sustainability;
• Increase the quantity of immigration attorneys and the quality of legal service organizations specializing in deportation defense across the state of California; and
• Lay the infrastructure for increased workforce capacity, development, and growth within Central Valley and Central Coast grassroots organizations, including the ability to staff up by hiring more attorneys and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited representatives.

PROPOSAL

California should invest in a legal fellow program that leverages the legal expertise of established service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in the most underserved regions of our state, with ongoing mentorship and technical assistance. There are examples where this is already taking place, including a partnership between Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland, one of the premier deportation defense non-profits in the state, with the United Farm Workers Foundation immigration office in Kern County. This model allows recent law graduates to apprentice at and be trained by experienced organizations before taking on direct work in places like Bakersfield. For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best non-profits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice. At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

This partnership also solves the significant challenges facing service providers. Bay Area based organizations are able to coordinate remote detention visits and rural assistance through organizations based in the regions of need, while fledgling removal defense programs obtain the technical assistance and mentorship they need to grow and serve their community. This partnership ensures sustainability and structure to address the collective needs of our region, and also allows a continuum of services to be established between organizations located near courts, organizations located near detention facilities and organizations removed from both but whose communities are suffering from unfettered immigration enforcement.
The challenge of capacity building, mentorship and technical assistance cannot be shouldered by one single organization. Therefore a collaborative structure is the most sustainable and structured approach to begin to address the challenges outlined above. This initiative will provide a roadmap to expand and develop the deportation defense capacity of legal service providers across the Northern and Central part of the state. The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

The proposal contemplates this program being administered by the California Department of Social Services’, Immigration Branch, which by function of its administration of immigration legal services funding through the One California program, is best suited to successfully execute the initiative. The list of supporting organizations included later in the proposal reflects an array of institutions who are supportive of this model for legal capacity building. Ultimately, however, the selection of organizations for the pilot program will be made by CDSS based on standards and eligibility criteria designed by the agency.

**TIMELINE**

I. **Year 1 Phase 1 (July 2020- December 2020):** Establish fellowship model infrastructure, recruit law students and/or recent law graduates, launch apprenticeship component of program.
   A. Identify a **Coordinating Agency** that will coordinate the fellowship initiative, recruit and hire legal fellows, provide non-profit training for the incubating agencies on how to establish a removal defense program and sustainably fundraise to maintain it, administer overall program monitoring and evaluation, and host an annual fellows conference.
   B. Secure **Training Agencies** in the Bay Area that specialize in deportation defense and are part of well-established collaboratives hosted at the Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association (e.g. the Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice- NCCIJ which specializes in detained representation and the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative- SFILDC- which specializes in non-detained representation) located near immigration courts and willing to serve as training ground for 4 month apprenticeships to host a total of **10 legal fellows.** After the 4 month apprenticeship, **Two Lead Mentor Attorneys** at NCCIJ and SFILDC will serve as direct supervisors to the fellows.
C. Secure **Incubating Agencies** in the Central Coast, the Central Valley, and possibly the Yuba/Sutter region that ideally already have an affirmative immigration legal services program and seek to develop a deportation defense practice.

D. Secure **Technical Assistance Agencies** that would provide collaborative fellowship program with initial as well as ongoing trainings and materials.

E. Recruit law students and/or law graduates in the spring of 2020 in order for apprenticeships to run from August through December 2020.

F. **10 Legal fellows** will undergo 4 month training from August-December 2020, including:

1. One month Deportation Defense ‘Boot Camp’ designed by Technical Assistance Agencies and Lead Mentor Attorneys
2. Opportunities to directly shadow experienced attorneys working on deportation defense cases at their Training Agency such as: serving as Attorney of the Day at the San Francisco Immigration Court, participating in Know Your Rights visits at immigration detention centers, and providing *pro se* assistance to detained individuals.
3. Assisting supervisor at Training Agency with general casework and serving as co-counsel in two bond cases and two merit hearings.

II. **Year 1 Phase 2 (January 2021 - July 2021):** Transition legal fellows to Incubating Agencies in the Central Coast, Central Valley, and possibly Yuba/Sutter region to begin case work and development of deportation defense program.

A. Coordinating Agency will share best practices, policies and procedures established by Centro Legal de la Raza and UFW Foundation pilot program for Incubating Agencies to adopt. They will assist with general program development, non-profit capacity training to build out removal defense program, and fundraising strategy for Incubating agencies.

B. Supervision will transition to Lead Mentor Attorneys who will host weekly group case rounds as well as one-on-one case review meetings with each fellow.

C. Legal Fellows will be required to join and participate in already established legal roundtables coordinated by NCCIJ and SFILDC which discuss relevant changes in law and emerging or novel legal issues.

D. Fellows will be required to join and participate in NCCIJ and SFILDC listserves which, among other things, provides peer advice, a network of practitioners to collaborate with, and access to bank of sample legal briefs.

E. Each fellow will represent 5 individuals in merit hearings and 3 in bond hearings under the supervision of Lead Mentor Attorneys
III. Year 2 (July 2021 - July 2022)
   A. Caseload for fellows increases to providing representation for 15 individuals in
      merit hearings and 5 in bond hearings with continued supervision and assistance
      from Lead Mentor Attorneys.
   B. Coordinating Agency assists Incubating Agencies in seeking out private funding
      to support program growth.
   C. Fellows transition to Staff Attorneys at Incubating Agencies and are ready to
      serve as mentors to new cohort of legal fellows.

IV. Year 3 (July 2022 - July 2023)
   A. Incubating agencies apply for CDSS funding as subcontractors through training
      agency for year 3. By the end of year 3, these agencies will have achieved the
      requisite experience to apply for deportation defense funding from CDSS and will
      ideally also have some private foundation support heading into year 4.
   B. Fellow attorneys will now have the sufficient legal experience to help their
      agencies plan for the hiring of increased legal staff, including DOJ accredited
      representatives.

V. Budget - see attached
Addendum 1

The following is an overview of the significant needs and challenges that exist within the context of removal defense legal capacity in Southern California. The region presents many of the same challenges that we face statewide, but with unique considerations as to geographic layouts, and the locations of courts and detention facilities. The development of a fellowship in this region would likely require support from mentor organizations and attorneys based in Los Angeles and San Diego, in partnership with local host organizations in the regions identified below.

Los Angeles & Orange County
Los Angeles and Orange County are home to an estimated one million undocumented immigrants. This number is second only to the Greater New York City metropolitan area (1.15 million). In addition to the immense need presented by the population the region also includes the Theo Lacy and James A. Musick detention facilities, which house an estimated 958 detainees in total. The Los Angeles Immigration Court currently has the longest backlog in the state with an estimated 77,000 cases awaiting adjudication. The enormous immigrant population, coupled with the needs presented in detention and court underscore the need to develop legal capacity within the Los Angeles and Orange County regions, including expanding current capacity to serve the Adelanto Detention Facility.

Southern Central Coast (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura)
The Southern Central Coast is a region with immense need in the context of immigration legal services, and more specifically, removal defense. According to recent statistics there are an estimated 43,000 undocumented immigrants in Santa Barbara County, 69,000 in Ventura County, and 9,000 in San Luis Obispo County. Undocumented immigrants in Santa Barbara County account for 9% of the population, the same percentage as Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the region is home to two processing centers, one in Santa Maria, CA and another in Camarillo, CA. Despite the significant need in this region, until recently, not a single non-profit organization in the entire Central Coast provided representation to immigrants in removal proceedings. The only organization that has started to provide these services in the region can only take a handful of cases a year, mainly bond, and must do so via pro bono attorneys as it does not count on a single Staff Attorney. The region serves as one of the most challenging in California, as the lack of resources and support, coupled with the considerable travel time to detention facilities and immigration courts make the cost of securing representation high. As a result, immigrants in the region face the prospect of steep and generally unaffordable legal fees and thus, deportation. There are an estimated 16,000 individuals in the region per immigration legal service provider in the region. At present there is interest in this region to partner with LA based service providers to grow their removal defense capacity.

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6 Pew Research Center Data  
7 Data from TRAC, February 2019
Inland Empire (Riverside, San Bernardino)
The Inland Empire stands as a stark example of the geographic challenges that California faces in the context of removal defense. The region spans almost 27,000 square miles, with a population of 4.5 million, one million of which are immigrants. The region is home to an estimated 275,000 undocumented immigrants, as well as to the largest privately run immigration detention facility in the country, the Adelanto Detention facility, which houses close to 2,000 individuals. The need for legal capacity in the region is stark, with an estimated 13,727 individuals per each immigration legal service provider. The lack of removal defense resources in the region, coupled with the large immigration population and the presence of Adelanto present a compelling case for investment in removal defense infrastructure and capacity.

Southern California Border Region (San Diego, Imperial Valley)
Due to its proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, San Diego has the largest border-crossing in the world and is a highly active location for deportations, rights violations and abuse by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Immigrants in the San Diego and Southern California border region face significant challenges that include: widespread family separation, limited capacity to process Migrant Caravans presenting at San Ysidro Port-of-Entry, and increased enforcement activity for those residing in the community. Indeed, immigrants apprehended by CBP or ICE in the California Border Region have only hours to secure legal representation before potential deportation. The Imperial Valley has just two immigration legal service providers that offer services in the region despite being home to the Imperial Regional Detention Facility with 704 individuals with the majority of the detainees seeking asylum. The San Diego region is home to the Otay Mesa Detention Center that has a detained immigrant population of around 1,000 individuals. Notwithstanding the presence of six legal service providers in the San Diego region offering pro bono legal representation, the number of detained immigrants that go without representation hovers between seventy-five to eighty percent.

---

8 Migration Policy Institute Data
## Project Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinating Agency</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Includes Fringe Benefits and Operating Overhead. 3% COLA in Year 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Director (1)</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$154,500</td>
<td>$304,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training and Internal Capacity Building</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Curriculum design, training, and internal capacity building to enable CA Change Lawyers to provide trainings for Incubating Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Project Conference</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$30,000/year for Project Conference to convene all project partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin/Indirect</td>
<td>$25,300</td>
<td>$25,950</td>
<td>$51,450</td>
<td>Charged at 10% of Direct Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>$280,500</td>
<td>$285,450</td>
<td>$565,950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Host Training Agencies: 5 Bay Area Immigration Legal Services Organizations | | | | Per Agency (w/o Housing Stipend) |
| Supervising Attorneys (5) | $125,000 | $125,000 | $34,522 | |
| Paralegal Support (5) | $22,917 | $22,917 | $55,000 X 0.25 FTE X 4 month apprenticeships X 5 agencies. Apprenticeships are in Year 1 only. |
| Housing Stipend for Fellows (10) | $99,000 | $99,000 | $2,000/Fellow/Month X 10 Fellows X 4 months; with 10% taxable income withheld. Covers housing in Bay Area during Training period. |
| Admin/Indirect | $24,692 | $24,692 | Charged at 10% of Direct Costs, to be prorated among 6 Training Agencies |
| **Subtotal** | $271,608 | $271,608 | | |

| Host Incubating Agencies: 5 Agencies in Rural Communities | | | | |
| Legal Fellows (10) | $850,000 | $875,500 | $1,725,500 | $85,000/Fellow X 10 Fellows. Includes Fringe Benefits and Operating Overhead. Year 2 includes 3% COLA. |
| Travel, Training, Conferences, Professional Development | $50,000 | $50,000 | $100,000 | $10,000/Agency/year X 5 Agencies. Covers cost of travel to all trainings, court dates, conferences, etc. |
| Program and Infrastructure Development | $150,000 | $100,000 | $250,000 | $30,000/Agency in Year 1; $20,000/Agency in Year 2. Legal software and case management systems, technical hardware, and fundraising and sustainability capacity building |
| Admin/Indirect | $109,000 | $101,150 | $207,550 | Charged at 10% of Direct Costs, to be prorated among 5 Incubating Agencies |
| **Subtotal** | $1,159,000 | $1,120,550 | $2,279,550 | |

| Mentor Agency | | | | |
| Mentor Attorneys (2) | $300,000 | $309,000 | $609,000 | $150,000/Mentor Atty X 2 Mentor Atys. Includes Fringe Benefits and Operating Overhead. Year 2 includes 3% COLA. |
| Admin/Indirect | $30,000 | $30,900 | $60,900 | Charged at 10% of Direct Costs |
| **Subtotal** | $330,000 | $339,900 | $669,900 | |

| Technical Assistance | | | | Charged at 10% of Direct Costs |
| Technical Assistance Lead | $140,000 | $83,000 | $223,000 | |
| Admin/Indirect | $14,000 | $8,300 | $22,300 | Charged at 10% of Direct Costs |
| **Subtotal** | $154,000 | $91,300 | $245,300 | |

| Miscellaneous Contingency | $100,000 | $100,000 | $200,000 | Covers unforeseen costs of any project partner. |

| Fiscal Lead | | | | Charged at 10% of Total Funding. Covers fiscal management, distribution costs, and other financial services. |
| Fiscal Lead and Management Fee | $229,111 | $194,470 | $423,581 | |
| **Total Costs** | $2,520,219 | $2,139,170 | $4,659,389 | |
Preliminary Information Based on 528 Individuals (85% of All) Served through the Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program in 2018

Location of Immigration Arrests (Based on 528 Individuals Served at AOD)

Out-of-State 2.7%
Border Arrivals 19.5%
Unknown 24.1%
127
103
14
284
Arrested in California 53.8%

Number of Immigration Arrests by County

Breakdown of 284 Immigration Arrests

- 0 - 0
- 1 - 4
- 4 - 9
- 9 - 15
- 15 - 22
- 22 - 58
Preliminary Information Based on 616 Individuals Served through the Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program in 2018

Mapping County Ties for Respondents Served at Attorney of the Day

Number of Respondents Served by County

Breakdown of 383 CA Residents Served

- 0 - 0
- 1 - 7
- 8 - 24
- 25 - 44
- 45 - 60

Pie chart showing:
- Recent Arrivals: 19.3%
- Out-of-State: 5.0%
- Unknown: 13.2%
- California: 62.2%
- Total: 383
United States Senate

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Pan  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Reyes  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1  
State Capitol, Room 2175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship.

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Reyes:

I write to support the Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice’s proposal to appropriate funds for the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship as part of the Budget Act of 2019.

California has an outsized stake in the national debate on immigration. After Texas, California has more immigrants in detention per day than any other state in the United States. Since 2017, deportation cases in California have increased by 48%, giving rise to a backlog of nearly 150,000 cases before immigration courts and prolonged waiting periods for hearings. These conditions have resulted in a number of significant challenges facing immigrants and immigrant communities in California today – namely, due process and access to justice. This is especially revealing in rural areas where there are high concentrations of immigrants and few deportation defense resources.

The Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (NCCIJ) is a regional collaborative that emerged to help close the gap in detained immigrant representation by providing pro bono detained representation for California’s immigrants and immigrant communities. The California Immigrant Justice Fellowship creates the first state-sponsored legal fellowship pipeline program that expands access to justice for California’s residents by building the organizational capacity among legal service providers and increasing the number of qualified immigration attorneys defending against deportation and family separation. This Fellowship provides immigrant communities – irrespective of income or zip code – access to due process and quality removal defense services.
The Fellowship leverages the legal expertise, mentorship, and technical assistance of established service providers in metropolitan areas, like the San Francisco Bay Area, as a training ground for new attorneys who serve the most underserved regions in California. The program will give experienced service providers the capacity to coordinate remote detention visits and rural assistance, while fledgling removal defense programs obtain the technical assistance and mentorship they need to grow and serve their community. It has designed a structure that will ensure sustainability, address the collective needs of legal service providers, and build a continuum of services for organizations near immigration courts and rural detention facilities. Finally, the Fellowship outlines a roadmap to expand the deportation defense capacity of legal service providers across the state, and directly contributes to workforce development in our State’s underserved regions.

I urge the State of California to fund the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship at the proposed $4.7 million level pursuant to all existing rules and regulations. I am proud to represent Californians who are leading the way to end the unfair and inhumane treatment of immigrants. I fully recognize the critical work immigration attorneys, the legal community, and community advocates are entrusted with across California to ensure dignity and due process for all. My office is prepared to respond to any questions or concerns you have regarding this matter. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator
March 28, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan  
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes  
Chairwoman, Budget Subcommittee 1  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Reyes:

On behalf of the City of Fresno, we are writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two-year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so, it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.
At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

Miguel A. Arias  
Council Vice-President  
City of Fresno, District Three

Esmeralda Z. Soria  
Councilmember  
City of Fresno, District One

Luis Chavez  
Councilmember  
City of Fresno, District Five

Nelson Esparza  
Councilmember  
City of Fresno, District Seven
March 25, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 2175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

Dear Senator Pan and Assemblymember Reyes:

The American Civil Liberties Union of California is pleased to support the budget request for the California immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two-year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

Every day thousands of individuals appear without an attorney in California’s immigration courts. A 2016 report by the California Coalition for Universal Representation, *California’s Due Process Crisis: Access to Legal Counsel for Detained Immigrants*, 1 examined data from a three-year period that revealed that 68% of detained immigrants in California are unrepresented. Furthermore, the same data shows that detained immigrants who had counsel succeeded more than five times as often as did their unrepresented counterparts. Providing counsel to detained immigrants will help ensure that immigrant laws are fairly enforced, keep loved ones together, employees working, and communities whole.

While legal service organizations provide some representation, there are simply not enough attorneys to meet the vast need. This presents a crisis of due process and justice affecting residents across our state but most acutely those in under-resourced communities. Because deportation is a civil proceeding, immigrants have no right to appointed counsel, despite the fact that highly trained attorneys represent the government in proceedings to remove them from the United States. Given the highly complex nature of immigration law, it is nearly impossible for individuals to represent themselves before the court. This lack of due process is particularly egregious given that deportation most often results in family separation, or in the worst cases, torture or death.

The immigration courts in our state are located in metropolitan areas, such as San Francisco, where what limited legal services exist are concentrated. By contrast, immigration detention facilities are

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1 *Available at* https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/access-to-counsel-calif-coalition-report-2016-06.pdf.
located in rural and remote regions where there is a dearth of legal services and immigration enforcement is the most rampant. Most immigrants held in the Mesa Verde detention facility in Bakersfield, have their cases heard in immigrant court in San Francisco. This creates a landscape in which service providers in major metropolitan areas retain proximity to the courts, and have access to funding streams, but are overwhelmed by the need and face serious logistical hurdles in representing individuals in remote detention facilities or addressing the tremendous need posed by rural communities. Similarly, organizations rooted in these rural regions lack access to local funding or resources, institutional knowledge and support, or the technical expertise to grow removal defense programs.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley. For individuals who have grown up in these communities, the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice. The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

For all of these reasons, the ACLU of California urges your support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Kevin G. Baker
Legislative Director

Maya L. Ingram
Legislative Attorney

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore of the Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
March 25, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan  
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 1  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Arambula:

On behalf of the International Rescue Committee of Northern California (IRC), I am writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state. For IRC, we would locate this fellow in one of our Central Valley offices (Turlock or Modesto).

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited, as the IRC Turlock office is, by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full
accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

IRC in Turlock has housed a partially accredited DOJ staff member for over 6 years. In the Northern California region, IRC has been providing low cost immigration legal services as a recognized DOJ office for decades. To grow this program and offer a higher level of legal support to the Central Valley would be a tremendous addition to the resources provided in the community.

At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Ferguson, Ph.D
Executive Director, IRC in Northern California
Karen.Ferguson@rescue.org/ 510 852 8925
March 26, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan  
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 1  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Arambula:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley/Central California, I am writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

CAIR is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. Its mission is to civil liberties, provide immigration services, empower American Muslims through
civic engagement and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Through our work in this region, we recognize the dire need for more legal services, legal provides, and investment in long-term infrastructure and capacity building to meet the needs of the Central Valley and other rural areas.

At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

Sukaina Hussain
Outreach Director
CAIR – SV/CC
s.hussain@cair.com
March 22, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 1
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Arambula:

On behalf of California ChangeLawyers, I am writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S.
Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

California ChangeLawyers empowers the next generation of lawyers, judges, and activists to build a more diverse legal profession and a more fair justice system. We have historically supported organizations and communities in the Central Valley because of the high need for legal services and the comparatively low rate of philanthropic investment in this geography. Greater investment from both private and public sources is sorely needed at this time.

Advancing this fellowship program guarantees that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

Christopher Punongbayan
Executive Director
California ChangeLawyers
chris@changelawyers.org
March 20, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 1
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Arambula:

On behalf of The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, I am writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest $4.7 million dollars in a two year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling
them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice
Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
1528 Oakdale Rd.
Modesto, CA 95355