

2010 - 2011

Immigrant Law Center Of Minnesota

ANNUAL REPORT

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS

Letter from the Executive Director

Many of you have heard me say that I believe a person or an organization's good work speaks for itself; I hope this brief note speaks for ILCM's work during 2010. This has been an amazing year here at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and I am pleased and very proud to inform you that the state of the organization is stronger and more vibrant than ever. We've reached milestones by serving more clients than ever before, nearly 3,300, a full 35 percent increase over the previous year. Our clients came from 97 different countries – amazingly one-half of all the world's countries passed through our doors! We worked hard to continue legal representation by transferring some funding and more than 200 cases from Centro Legal when it closed. Our dedicated board of directors oversaw an important expansion of all our services to the entire state for the first time in our 14 year history.

We provided special representation to Haitian's living in Minnesota to allow them to obtain legal status and more fully support family and other victims of Haiti's earthquake. Also, we responded to new immigration I-9 enforcement actions that affected over 1,200 Twin Cities immigrant janitors by providing legal support and education to hundreds of workers and their families and by helping them tell their stories directly to Minnesota Public Radio and the Star Tribune.

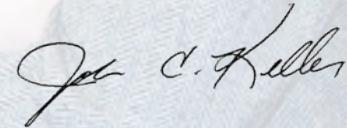
The United Way and the State Office of Justice became new partners with us to fund and expand our services to vulnerable immigrant victims of abuse and crime and providing the victims and their children with bright new futures in Minnesota. Similarly, our ability to partner with pro bono attorneys, law firms and other volunteers helped us leverage over \$450,000 of in-kind support for our clients and programs. With the opening of our full time office in Worthington, Minnesota, we are able to broaden our reach to more and more immigrants in rural communities. We continued to litigate at the highest levels for due process and fairness with nine cases at the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and one brief at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Our education and policy work reached over 8,500 people with presentations in all areas of the state. We stood against efforts to duplicate Arizona-style racial profiling legislation in Minnesota and we stood together to build greater support for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

All of this great work is the product of many dedicated individuals. ILCM's staff includes some of the most competent and dedicated professionals that have planned and guided our many programs and our intelligent, sustainable growth.

Our legal staff remains without doubt the most experienced in Minnesota and provided leadership and education on both a state and nationwide basis. And finally and most importantly, our clients' journeys find respect and welcome when they arrive at ILCM. We have grown to 18 persons today at ILCM; nearly all being bilingual in English and Hmong, Spanish or Somali. All of us at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude and assure you that we are all honored by your and our clients trust and confidence in our work. Thank you!

Sincerely,



John Keller
Executive Director

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Years Ended April 30	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 274,043	123,296
Prepays	9,115	7,446
Receivables	669,770	213,554
Furniture and Fixtures (less Accumulated Depreciation)	18,321	8,437
Total Assets	<u>\$ 971,249</u>	<u>\$ 352,733</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSESSMENTS		
Liabilities	73,930	51,828
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	246,576	167,032
Temporarily Restricted	650,743	133,873
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 897,319</u>	<u>\$ 300,905</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 971,249</u>	<u>\$ 352,733</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

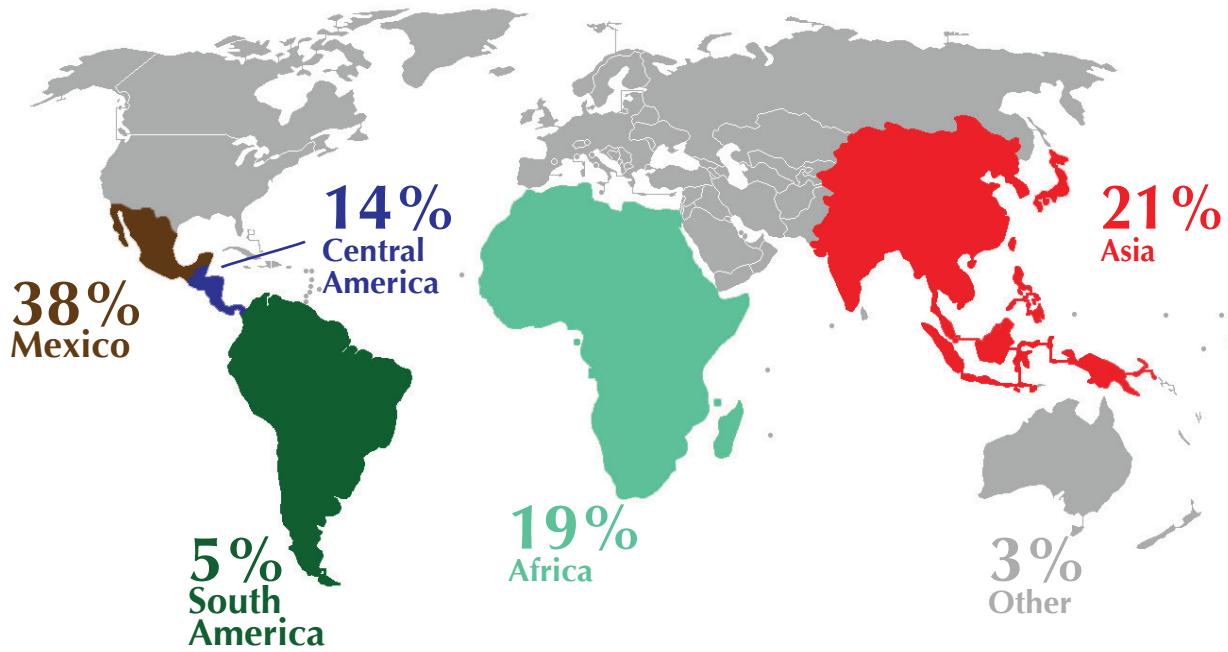
Fiscal Years Ended April 30	2010	2009
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Support:		
Contributions	\$ 1,028,537	\$ 284,356
Donations	573,238	232,320
Total Support	<u>\$ 1,601,775</u>	<u>\$ 516,676</u>
Revenue:		
Government Grants and Contracts	295,482	290,664
Other Contracts	131,248	110,508
Case Fees	11,396	9,017
Events/Annual Banquet	57,326	39,280
Miscellaneous	2,499	4,630
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 497,951</u>	<u>\$ 454,099</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$ 2,099,726</u>	<u>\$ 970,775</u>
EXPENSE		
Program Services		
Legal Assistance	\$ 1,134,622	\$ 719,211
Community Education	147,177	136,780
Total Program Services	<u>\$ 1,281,799</u>	<u>\$ 855,991</u>
Support Services		
Management and General	109,879	114,977
Fundraising	111,634	63,107
Total Support Services	<u>\$ 221,513</u>	<u>\$ 178,084</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 1,503,312</u>	<u>\$ 1,034,075</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 596,414	\$ (63,300)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>300,905</u>	<u>364,205</u>
	<u>\$ 897,319</u>	<u>\$ 300,905</u>

The above figures are taken from our Fiscal Year 2010 audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

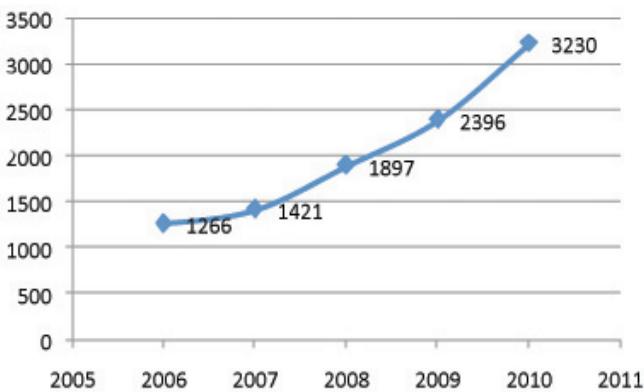
Representing Immigrants

2010

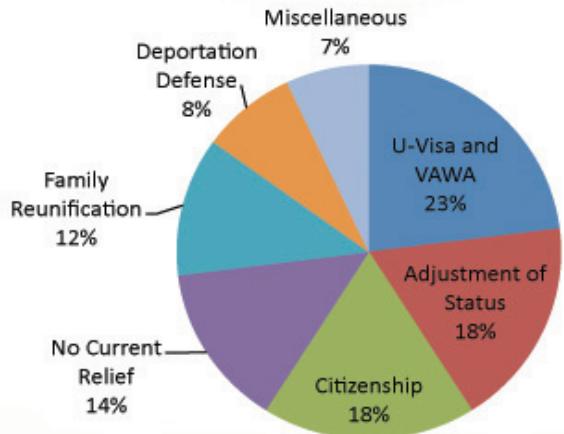
Cases by Region of Client Origin:



Number of Cases

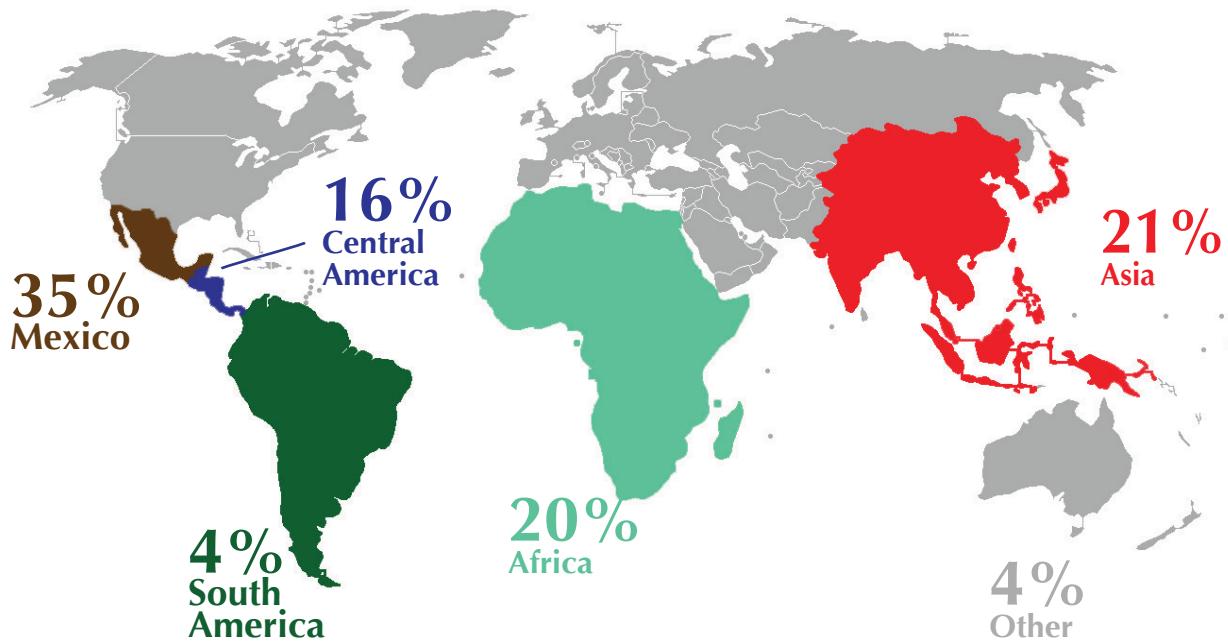


Type of Cases



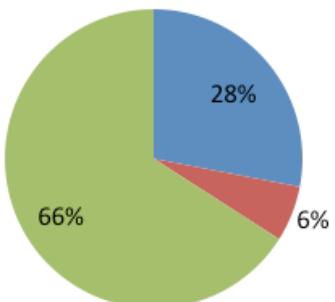
2011

Cases by Region of Client Origin:

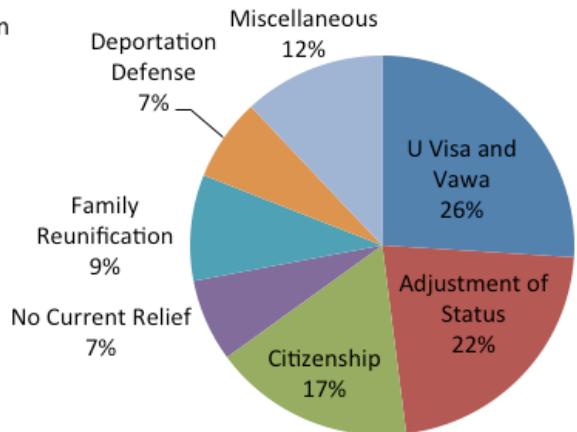


Service Types

■ Brief Service and/or Advice ■ Referrals ■ Full Representation



Type of Cases



Asha's New Life

“I can wear the flag because one of those star’s mine, now.”

Asha Mohamed arrived in the United States on November 20, 2003 from Kenya. Like many other Somali refugees, Asha and her family were fortunate enough to escape the many horrific consequences of power struggle and war. In search of “peace, resettlement, and a better life,” Asha and her family landed in the United States; “I think it’s a great country, great system, and it welcomed us with opened arms.”

With every intention of living out the rest of her life in the United States, Asha waited anxiously until she was eligible to apply for citizenship.

Having heard through word of mouth from a friend who had already received her citizenship through the help from one of our dedicated pro bono attorney, Asha called our intake system and got on our waiting list. Soon enough, our Pro Bono coordinator Micaela Schuneman notified Asha that she would take on her case for naturalization. The process went smoothly, with Asha having no red flags on her application to prevent her from receiving naturalization.

After being sworn in, Asha felt a sense of pride as a U.S. citizen. “Now I’m happy. I can wear the flag because one of those star is mine now.” Asha understood clearly of the benefits as a citizen, “now me and the President are the same [equals],” she said jokingly. As to how her life has changed since she became a citizen, Asha simply replied, “through all that I came out as a winner.”

Asha’s story is like many of our clients who seek nothing but a sense of belonging in the place they now call home; “I’m no longer a refugee,” Asha said happily.



“I’m no longer a refugee.”

“Now me and the President are the same!”



“Once you’re a citizen... you can freely give your ideas, vote for who you want, protect the country, and be proud of it.”

From Somalia to U.S. Citizen

ILCM’s naturalization client MohamedKadar moved to Minnesota six years ago. In his young life he has already lived in four countries: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and now the United States. After becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, he feels he is finally home.

Now, 23 years old and living in St. Paul, MohamedKadar is grateful and determined to pursue his goals. He attends Metro State University and dreams of one day becoming a doctor. “In Somalia, we needed so many doctors. Many Somalis now say they want to become a doctor, but me, I’m not going to just say it—I’m going to do it.” He volunteers for United Hospital to gain valuable experience, and on top of that, works full time to pay for college. His job with the City of Minneapolis parking ramps places him in charge of all the ramps in the city, including those at the Target Center, Target Field, the Minneapolis Convention Center, and the Metrodome.

MohamedKadar became a citizen in April and was represented by ILCM’s pro bono coordinator Micaela Schuneman.

He says he refers everyone to ILCM, and is extremely grateful for Schuneman’s support and the fact that she and other staff helped him from the beginning to the end – including attending his swearing-in ceremony. “MohamedKadar is a very smart and perceptive young man,” says Schuneman.

“He understands how to set and achieve goals, and I look forward to hearing about his future success. I believe he will emerge as a strong community leader.”

MohamedKadar knows that receiving his citizenship was important to his future and to his new home. “Once you’re a citizen,” he said, “you can freely give your ideas, vote for who you want, protect the country, and be proud of it.” MohamedKadar is the second person in his family after his brother to have earned his citizenship. But his family won’t stop there: “My dad will soon be the third,” he says smiling.

ILCM in Worthington

“The demand has been huge!”

On March 8, 2010, ILCM officially opened a full time office in Worthington, Minnesota to better serve the growing immigrant community there. For staffing, ILCM’s staff attorney Kathy Klos made the bold move to relocate and oversee it.

Since then, the opening of the office in Worthington has proven to be a necessity, as Kathy puts it, “being there has been helpful.” For many of the Latino, Southeast Asian, and African immigrants in Worthington though, being there has given them a resource that they’ve lacked before. “The demand has been huge! We’re getting people from all over!” Kathy exclaimed.

Being the only legal program in Minnesota providing free comprehensive immigration legal services to low-income persons of all nationalities regardless of legal status, Kathy had to play more than one role. “I’m helping in all three areas of ILCM: representation, education, and advocacy.” Though for Kathy, she sees it as an opportunity, “the great thing about it is that we’re able to establish relationships in the community.”

ILCM’s expansion to reach immigrant communities in rural Minnesota has been a success in Worthington so far. Four years following the 2006 Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid, the immigrant population there is still on a healthy rise, while also providing positive contributions to the city’s economy. Their presence is definitely felt, “Worthington is thriving because of the immigrants,” says Kathy.



K 24L
An Ambassadors Ribbon Cutting
Klos opens immigrant law office in Worthington



BY LAURA GREENS

WORTHINGTON — Kathy Klos is no stranger to the challenge of opening a new office. Or the complexities of immigrating to the U.S.

But she's more up for both tasks.

"It was hard for me to think about leaving the Twin Cities," she said. "But I was really excited that I had this post where I could continue my career in immigration law. It's exactly the reason I went to law school."

Klos is an employee of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, a St. Paul-based non-profit organization that provides no-fee legal services to immigrants and refugees. The center has been sending a representative to Worthington since the December 2006 raid on

ILC. "I understood that case back then," Klos explained. "We have a large case load, and my job is to start working



Educating Communities



2,087 parents, students,
and teachers reached in
FY2011.

Educating communities on immigration-related legal services remains a priority for ILCM. Our education initiative is a strong complement to the representation of our clients as well. We understand fully in education as an important aspect in effectively serving immigrants. In the fiscal year of 2010, we've reached an estimated total of 8,814 people through in-person advocacy, trainings, and informational presentations. That's an amazing 41% increase from fiscal year 2009!

Our partnership with the Saint Paul Public Schools has helped us reach 1,837 parents, students, and teachers with our "No Second Chance" and "Immigration 101" presentations in fiscal year 2010, while we reached

8,814 total people reached
in **FY2010.**

1,837 parents, students,
and teachers reached in **FY2010.**

2087 in fiscal year 2011. Our "Immigration 101" presentation provides information on immigration related topics such as law and policy, to immigration facts and myths.

ILCM is also reaching out to rural Minnesota with our educational programming. Staff Attorney Kathy Klos who is located in Worthington, Minnesota, is an evident example of our determination to reach immigrants outside of the twin cities. It is believed that growth can be measured by knowledge, and with the increased demand for our services, we look forward to the inevitable expansion of our educational programs to meet the growing demand for immigration knowledge.

ILCM & The HELP Bill

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is proud to be a supporter of the HELP Separated Children Act, introduced by Senator Al Franken. The legislation was strongly influenced by the aftermath of the 2006 raid in Worthington, Minnesota at the Swift & Company meatpacking plant.

In the time following the raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), numerous children of detainees received little to no information on the situation and whereabouts of their parents. The lack of transmitting statuses and locations of detained family members to their dependents influenced sections of the HELP bill to address the prominent flaws exposed after the raid.

Many children of detainees came home from school to empty homes, not knowing where their parents were; while churches had to be opened as shelters for children who were unaccounted for and displaced. The raid had left a midst of confusion and fear within the community.

In an attempt to protect more children from facing vulnerable and at-risk situations if their parents are ever detained, ILCM's Executive Director John Keller acted in full support of the HELP bill. "While so much more remains to be done to fix the U.S. immigration system, Senator Franken, with this bill, has taken a crucial first-step for the most vulnerable."

The HELP Separated Children Act is one of the many advocacy highlights from ILCM's fiscal year of 2010. Our advocacy work is a testament to our unquestionable dedication to serving immigrants, and our relentless fight for comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes the needs of our economy; protects security; and is humane. Not only are we representing immigrants and educating communities, we are constantly fighting hard for real legislative and policy change.

We hope you continue to support us in our efforts to be more than just a representation of clients, but also a representation of change.





“Senator Franken, with this bill, has taken a crucial first-step for the most vulnerable.”

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FY2010&2011

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