



Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

2016 Annual Report





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This morning brought us a striking number of people who had been in to see us months and years ago, but only TODAY came back to open their cases.

I am already getting calls and emails from schools and parishes who want us to come and ‘calm’ their families.

*This is such a scary time for families.
So many ramifications.*

”

VANNA SLAUGHTER

Director, Catholic Charities of Dallas

Nov. 9, 2016

Politics polarize immigration, CLINIC steps in to meet needs

Immigrants and immigration policies were an inescapable feature of U.S. news in 2016, giving CLINIC numerous opportunities to do what it does best: craft creative approaches to the challenges faced by immigrants.

From the January announcement that the Supreme Court would hear *United States v. Texas* to the court's divided June decision in the case, and on through the presidential election in November, immigration issues were big news. Legislation to deal with immigration law remained stalled in Congress. Candidates used immigrants as scapegoats. Fear increasingly consumed both recent and long-time residents from other countries.

As the largest network of nonprofit immigration legal services programs, CLINIC took these developments as incentives to fire up our mission—embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger to promote the dignity and protect the rights of immigrants.

The Fellows program exemplifies the breadth of CLINIC's services and how its various components—in tandem with our network members—work together. Even before the political tone of 2016 was established, the CLINIC Fellows project had been launched.

The incentive? A longstanding gap had become a chasm: the difference between the number of legal service providers in the southeastern states and the steadily increasing number of undocumented immigrants there. When the Fellows program was conceived, there were just 158 providers for 1.8 million undocumented immigrants across the South.

Not only were services hard to come by, so was funding to start offering assistance.

With several generous grants, CLINIC was able to place fellows with 12 affiliates in eight states: North Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. Collaborative efforts helped the affiliates build their institutional capacity for an additional staff member; train the Fellows as accredited legal representatives and support the Fellows through their day-to-day struggles as they blazed trails in new territory.

Another goal of the Fellows program was to combat some of the hostility toward immigrants that created a climate where newcomers to the United States, whatever their legal status, faced more hurdles than elsewhere in the country.

In collaboration with local activists and affiliates, advocacy work at the state and local levels helped combat institutional hostility toward immigrants in the South. Some of the major efforts included backing in-state tuition rates and the issuance of driver's licenses for students with DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

In their first year, in addition to becoming trained as accredited legal representatives, the fellows reached an estimated 17,300 people! That included helping nearly 9,000 people get screened for immigration benefits; participating in 254 education/outreach events; completing 4,458 applications and organizing 64 partnerships with local law firms, nonprofits and government agencies.

12
FELLOWS
PLACED IN THE
SOUTHEAST

17K+
CLIENTS HELPED
BY FELLOWS
PROGRAMS

9K
IMMIGRANTS
SCREENED FOR
BENEFITS

254
OUTREACH EVENTS
ORGANIZED BY
FELLOWS

One Fellow, a library and 140 families

Anxious immigrants crowded a meeting room in the Lexington Public Library's Village branch in mid-November.

Would DACA be canceled, as newly elected President Donald Trump had threatened during the race for office?

What would the campaign promise of a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" mean?

How would the president-elect's rhetoric slamming Mexican immigrants as criminals play out in enforcement?

The information session organized by CLINIC Fellow Nathalie Dietrich of the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic was reported on by the Lexington Herald-Leader.

The paper quoted Dietrich to explain who came to hear advice from her and the clinic's founder, Marilyn Daniel.

"People are worried that ICE might come in and pick them up to be put into deportation proceedings," Dietrich told the newspaper. "A lot of people in the community have been here for many years and have strong community ties. They pay their taxes, own property, have children in school, college. Many families live in what we call mixed-status families. That means they have different immigration statuses."

In addition to verbal advice, participants were given preparedness packets to assist them in organizing personal information and make a plan in case a family member is deported. Dietrich and her colleagues also produced a bilingual video, available on the clinic's website, which walks through the material.



At an Easter Monday rally outside the White House, as thousands of families were on their way to join the Easter Egg Roll, CLINIC passed out eggs filled with a message to call the administration and ask them to stop detaining families, especially infants. Above, board member Sister Sally Duffy speaks to the crowd.



CLINIC celebrated our first Las Posada Navideñas in Silver Spring, featuring our new guide that explains the 400-year-old Latin American tradition, teaches how to host one and provides stories of immigrants to read aloud. Find the guide at cliniclegal.org/posadas. Above, staff members dressed as Mary and Joseph lead the procession.



The Committee on Immigration Reform Implementation, co-chaired by CLINIC, hosted the second Ready America conference so that service providers, advocates and legal experts could learn and prepare. Above, participants ask questions in workshops and León Rodríguez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, speaks at the keynote session.



CLINIC was featured in Visionaries, a documentary series for PBS. Above, Executive Director Jeanne Atkinson interviews Sister Kathleen Moroney of Holy Cross Ministries. Watch at cliniclegal.org/theStoryofUs.



CLINIC helped stage a series of walk-up “baby showers” at Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in ten cities around the country to call attention to the inhumane practice of detaining infants. The public also mailed baby shower cards to ICE offices. The photos above show events in Baltimore, Omaha, San Antonio and Silver Spring, Maryland.

Each year CLINIC, the Migration Policy Institute and Georgetown University Law Center host the Immigration Law and Policy Conference in Washington. Above, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois gives one of the keynote addresses.



CLINIC staff demonstrated outside the Supreme Court during the *United States v. Texas* deliberations. Above, a sister in the crowd makes the Catholic case for DAPA.



Our expert staff offered trainings across the country and on-line, culminating in our annual Convening. Above, Eric Pavri of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, a CLINIC affiliate, participates in a workshop at Convening 2016 in Kansas City.



CLINIC has trained nonprofits to help immigrant victims of domestic violence for more than a decade. Above, a staff member shares a message of support.

Building strength on the ground with an expanding network

As it has for 28 years, CLINIC relied on its ever-growing network to broaden the availability of affordable immigration legal services across the country. The network grew to 298 faith and community-based organizations and served more than 550,000 immigrants.

As part of CLINIC's commitment to ensuring the members of our network are kept current on federal laws and policies, a major change to the recognition and accreditation, or R&A, program in early 2017 meant months of preparation in 2016. Webinars and detailed resources were key to helping affiliates make the transition smoothly as the program moved from the Board of Immigration Appeals to the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

Nonprofits that meet certain requirements apply for recognition, and non-attorney staff members may apply for accreditation after completing rigorous training in immigration law, which CLINIC provides. Accredited representatives can help clients with immigration matters before government agencies, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the asylum office. An additional layer of accreditation allows representatives to represent clients in immigration court. This year CLINIC helped nine organizations earn recognition and 76 people became accredited. CLINIC's network includes more than one-third of recognized agencies and more than 45 percent all accredited staff nationwide.

For many people, entry into CLINIC's network begins with our signature introductory course, *Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law*. From there, training is available through the dozens of specialty legal and management courses we offer each year.

During the 2016 annual Convening, for example, CLINIC held our first day-long advanced Convening course, *Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions*. Inspired by two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions—*Moncrieffe v. Holder* and *Descamps v. United States*—we focused on the new legal options available to immigrants with criminal backgrounds. Similarly, we held a training for nonprofit leaders on the value of community-based immigration programs.

Long the leader in representing immigrant Catholic priests, sisters and other religious workers, CLINIC's Religious Immigration Service rallied clients and their supporters in advocacy. "Let Sister Stay" and "I've Got Brother's Back" became touch-phrases in a campaign to preserve the federal law that allows religious workers to convert their status into permanent residency.

The network's reach grew with two projects funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The Citizenship Navigator project enrolls refugee resettlement staff around the nation and offers them free training on citizenship and offers resources to help naturalize their refugee clients. The text4refugee project offers text messages two times a month in six languages—English, Spanish, Arabic, Nepali, French and Somali—participants receive information on topics such as where to find English classes, facts about U.S. citizenship and reminders about benefits and timetables to apply for them.

536
PARTICIPANTS
IN INNOVATIVE
COIL COURSE

298
AFFILIATES
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY

76
AFFILIATE
STAFF EARNED
ACCREDITATION

45%
of the DOJ roster
represented by
CLINIC affiliates



The power of intervention: CLINIC fights DACA delays

Like thousands of young people around the country, Maria* applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to create a better life for herself and her only daughter.

Established during the Obama administration, this policy deferred the likelihood of deportation for some undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and allowed them to work legally. Unfortunately, processing delays were common. In the fall of 2016, everything Maria worked hard to accomplish was now in jeopardy.

Despite submitting her DACA and work authorization renewal applications more than five months in advance, her case remained delayed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Without a work permit, she was in danger of not being able to provide basic needs for her family, including a roof over their heads, food and health insurance. She also was at risk of losing her driver's license, which would prevent her from being able to get to work or take her daughter to school. Maria's employer told her that the company would not be able to hold her job if her work permit expired.

CLINIC learned of Maria's situation through one of our affiliates, where she was a client. We then brought her case to the attention of those in the federal government who could get Maria's application moving. Case escalation, as the procedure is known, was successful for 87 percent of the cases like Maria's in 2016.

Threats to the existence of DACA loomed in 2017, but for the next two years, Maria would be able to work legally and her daughter could count on the stability that provides.

**Name changed*

2016 Financial Highlights

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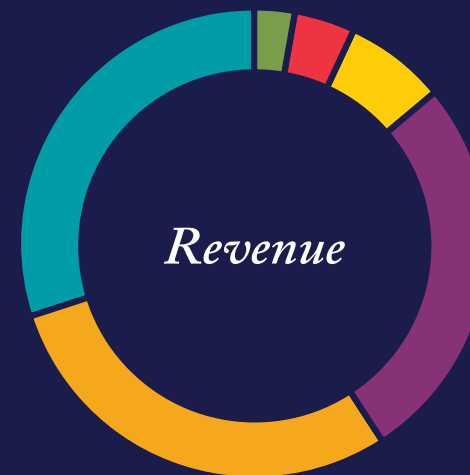
For us at CLINIC and you in the field, our work is more important than ever as we fight to protect the rights and promote the dignity of immigrants.

We will continue to do the work that we do. We will do more and we will do it better, if that is what it takes. At the same time, let's double down on rejecting bigotry, rejecting selfishness, and, instead, commit to becoming, as Pope Francis said today, "active instruments of mercy."

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JEANNE ATKINSON

Executive Director, CLINIC
Nov. 9, 2016



Total Revenue: **\$7,012,197**

30%
Foundations

29%
USCCB
Support

27%
Services

7%
Federal and
state awards

4%
Other
contributions

3%
Other income



Total Expenses: **\$6,675,193**

84%
Program
Services

11%
Management
and General

5%
Fundraising and
Development



Total Program Expenses: **\$5,601,066**

67%
Education and
network growth

17%
Direct
representation

15%
Advocacy and
community
engagement



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**CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.**

Drawing on our unparalleled network, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. empowers communities to welcome immigrants through our proven expertise, innovative programs and advocacy rooted in faith. Our network of nonprofit immigration programs—more than 300 organizations in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—is the largest in the nation.

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