



THE NEW IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE

The general election has finally ended after a divisive campaign. During the campaign President-elect, Donald J. Trump, articulated his intention to deport the 11.5 million undocumented immigrants living in this country, ban Muslims from coming into the United States, and build a wall to prevent Mexicans and others from entering the country without authorization. Today, the road to comprehensive immigration reform is steeper than ever. With the President-elect promising to ratchet up enforcement, the consequences of not having a lawyer could be devastating for immigrant children, adults and families.

The mood in immigrant communities across the country is one of anxiety, confusion and fear of increased enforcement that may include home and work site raids. Many immigrants who have humanitarian visas, including Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for those who cannot return to their home countries because of a natural or environmental disaster or armed conflict, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for children brought to the United States before age 16, are scared that a Trump administration could rescind their status and deport them to countries they have not returned to in years. Many are also uncertain about renewing their applications for fear of triggering rescission and deportation.

Since its creation in 2014, the Immigrant Justice Corps, has recruited and trained more than 100 law school graduates (Justice Fellows) and college graduates (Community Fellows) and provided legal assistance to more than 10,000 immigrants. IJC Fellows have also increased the capacity of legal services providers' in New York and New Jersey to take on more cases for direct representation.

We at IJC accept the reality of the situation today. However, we also recognize that there are concrete steps we can take including calming the fears of our clients, educating them and their family members on anticipated changes, what is possible and what is mere rhetoric, providing them with the necessary tools to protect their due process rights and providing them with high quality competent and ethical representation.

This is the opportunity that has been forced on us and we are up to the challenge - 78 Fellows strong in the field today. Together with our immigrant clients we will overcome this new challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jojo Annobil', is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Jojo Annobil
Executive Director
Immigrant Justice Corps