## **Immigration Institute** of the Bay Area

Serving immigrants and refugees since 1918

### Annual Report FY 2018-19

## Dear Friends,

As we approach a new decade, our country remains in a state of turmoil. That reality impacts all of us. Immigrant families are being scapegoated and are facing grave uncertainty. During these fraught times, we find it helpful to take the long view—to reflect on all we have accomplished together, and to plan for a better future.

The last decade saw the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) adapting and responding to the changing needs of the immigrants we serve and to the political environment of the day. In fact, this adaptability has allowed IIBA to grow and flourish, in an ever-changing landscape, for 101 years.

In the new decade, one thing remains certain: IIBA's unwavering commitment to our country's core values, to welcoming the newcomer, and to advocating for those who need our support and services. Reality demands that we expand our immigration legal services and geographic reach, to stand for immigrant rights and for our treasured democratic principles.

With your support, we will continue to do just that.

Echoing the words of abolitionist Theodore Parker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." This annual report chronicles IIBA's efforts to bend that arc and echoes our hope for the next decade.

We invite you to join us in taking the long view and making good on our democracy's promise of liberty and justice for all.

Ellen Dumesil

Ellen Dumesnil Executive Director

Shuting Chen Board President

IIBA provided nearly **5,000 legal consultations** this past year, helping immigrants create a path forward and empowering them with knowledge about their legal rights.

# **Highlights of IIBA's Past Decade**

- We opened new offices in underserved, rural areas where there was limited or no access to affordable immigration legal services.
- We responded to this Administration's attack on immigrants by increasing our legal team and expanding our services to include representation for asylum seekers and immigrants placed into deportation proceedings.
- We revamped our organizational structure, including the creation of a new position of Legal Director, to help deepen our ability to address the more complex legal issues our clients now face.
- IIBA is now the largest provider of immigration legal services in Northern California with eight offices in six counties.



### IIBA helped more than **700 Dreamers** renew their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status this past year.



"The U.S. is my home. DACA impacted my life because I was able to get my first job. Being able to work in the U.S. is part of the American dream, and I am trying to make that happen for me."



"DACA has helped me a lot. I now have a license and a job to help with the bills. I don't have that fear that something so little like getting pulled over could get me deported."

--IIBA San Francisco Client

In 2017, the Trump administration announced the end of DACA, a life-changing program providing work authorization and protection from deportation. More than 700,000 immigrant youth received DACA.

In January 2018, a federal court ruled DACA renewal applications must be accepted while litigation is ongoing.

The Supreme Court decision on DACA is expected before June 30th, 2020.

"They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper." President Obama, June 2012



IIBA helped nearly **300 individuals** petition to reunite with their families this past year.

#### Why did you decide to come to the United States?

"Life in Guatemala was very hard. I couldn't even feed my children. I went to find work in the U.S., while my children stayed with their grandparents. My youngest was four years old. I get really emotional thinking about all of this because I had to leave my children at such a young age, and they had to grow up without me.

Through IIBA, I was able to bring my children here one by one. We were apart for a total of 12 years. I'm just happy to be living a peaceful life all together again."

#### --Santos, IIBA Oakland Client



### **IIBA Redwood City Clients: Jessica and Jesus**

Sweethearts since their teen years, Jessica and Jesus met at Woodside High School. They started their family in their hometown, Redwood City.

Now their three children, Denisse, 15, Peter, 13, and Andres, 7, attend the same schools their parents once did. Recently, Jessica and Jesus celebrated a dream come true: they bought a house for their family.



This sounds like the stuff of storybooks, but the road hasn't been easy. "We were raised with a lot of fear and poverty," Jessica says. "Now we try our best to raise our kids differently."

As a child in Mexico, Jesus helped his father grow avocados and sold brooms and mops to help the family survive. His family came to the United States seeking a better life.

Jessica's mother fled Mexico with Jessica, to escape an abusive husband, but he followed them to the U.S. Jessica remembers calling the police to protect her mother from her father. "I was a little girl; I had no clue of anything," she says. "I just knew my dad was hurting my mom, and I needed to get help."

Years later, at a consultation appointment at IIBA, Jessica learned she qualified for a U-Visa, a form of humanitarian relief granted to individuals who suffer substantial physical or mental abuse and who cooperate with law enforcement in the prosecution of the crime they suffered.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994. It must be reauthorized by Congress every few years and has had bipartisan support since its inception. Recognizing that immigrant women are particularly vulnerable to violent crimes and often do not report abuse for fear of deportation, Congress created the U-Visa when it reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act in 2000.

"Families are afraid because they don't have legal status. They see a crime, they are victims of a crime, and they stay quiet because they are afraid they will get deported to countries they fled for a reason," Jessica explains. If crimes go unreported, "the neighborhoods start getting bad, and it's not healthy for the kids growing up."

Jessica's U-Visa application was approved, including Jesus as a beneficiary. Finally, the couple felt free in the country they call home.

Jessica landed a job with full benefits, including health insurance for the whole family and a retirement savings plan.

"Now we are homeowners. Never in a million years did I think I would own a house. Or become a citizen," Jessica says.

On November 13, 2019, Jessica did just that: became a citizen of the United States after 33 years. Jesus anxiously awaits his citizenship interview in the coming weeks.

"It is a dream come true," Jesus says.

"It's the light at the end of the tunnel."

IIBA helped nearly **175 immigrant victims** of domestic violence and violent crime file for legal protection in the U.S this past year.



### 1,800 individuals became U.S. citizens,

thanks to our dedicated IIBA staff, pro bono partners, volunteers, partner organizations, and funders.

As citizens, these individuals' incomes will increase by an average of ten percent.

If the 8.8 million permanent residents eligible to naturalize did so, U.S. GDP would increase up to \$52 billion over a ten-year time period.

USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, December 2012



How does it feel when someone tells you they passed their citizenship test?

"Our students know citizenship will make a huge difference for them and their families, and it's great to see their hard work pay off. As an educator, it feels wonderful to help empower someone. Rarely do educators get a clear benchmark. But with IIBA's classes, we have a benchmark: Did I help this person attain citizenship? I think that challenge and then ultimately seeing so many people succeed is why we can recruit so many great volunteer instructors."

--Glen Olson, IIBA Lead Citizenship Instructor

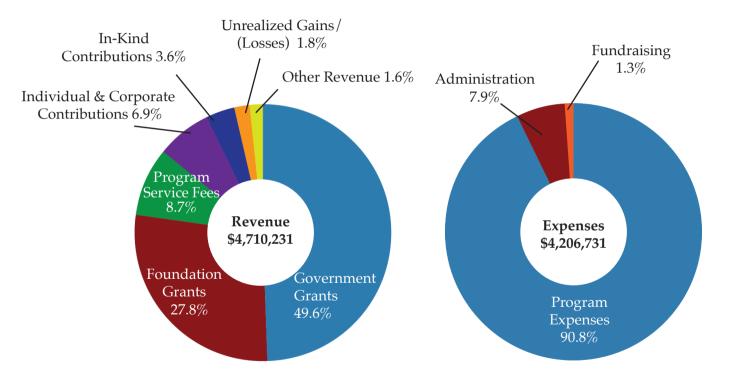
## Helping Generations Achieve the Dream of Citizenship



**IIBA has helped generations of immigrant families** secure their futures in the U.S. and attain citizenship. Clotilde and her mother, attended IIBA's citizenship classes together for nearly two years. Both women had immigrated to the U.S. from Peru in search of safety and a better life for their family. With the help of IIBA volunteers Rachel and Sarah, as well as IIBA Instructor Glen Olson, both passed their tests within days of each other.

"When I passed, I was so happy and excited, I was crying. I can now say I'm an American. This is my dream come true. If we didn't come to IIBA, we might not have passed our citizenship tests. We are happy to be citizens, but we are going to miss IIBA. It is like a family. Our teachers are so special to us. They give their time to teach everyone. That's why I like to live in this country. I see so many people giving back. I want to continue coming to IIBA to help."

# FY 18-19 Financials



2018-2019
\$2,338,129
\$1,307,642
\$409,187
utions \$325,817
\$168,384
\$86,427
\$74,645
\$4,710,231
2018-2019
\$3,817,093
\$331,839
\$55,799
\$4,204,731

Increase in Net Assets \$505,500

#### Assets

### 2018-2019

Total Assets	\$3,773,705
Prepaid Expenses	\$70,028
Deposits & Others	\$77,012
Cash and Equivalents	\$388,134
Accounts Receivable, Net	\$893,815
Investments	\$2,334,716

Liabilities	2018-2019
Other Current Liabilities	\$187,092
Accrued Vacation	\$118,877
Accrued Payroll	\$46,726
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$26,652
Accounts Payable	\$13,586
Total Liabilities	\$392,933

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IIBA's Fremont Citizenship Workshop

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IIBA's Fifth Annual Comedy Night for Immigrant Rights

> Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 Presidio Theatre

Sign up for our email newsletters at iibayarea.org to stay up-to-date on Comedy Night announcements.



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