

FINANCIAL YEAR 2007



ANNUAL REPORT

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS

.

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES

.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER
OF MINNESOTA

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Immigration is closely tied to the history of this country, which may be the reason it is so hotly debated. Most families don't have to go back too many generations in their family stories to come to the line that says, "When we first arrived in this place..." By boat, on foot, through the mountains, or by plane, our country's culture and history are constantly being enriched and invigorated by the stories of our new arrivals. In a culture that tends to have a short memory, our immigrants today remind us of who we were, and who we are.

The story of immigration in this country must be looked at as our collective story—how we all came to be living here in this beautiful experiment. Each chapter in our story is unique though, like all great works of art, many of the themes are the same: struggle, risk, adversity, hard work, idealism, and hope for a better future.

Though our immigrants today may come from farther away than the waves of immigrants in the past, and though cultural, linguistic, and religious differences may at first appear more extreme than those of the new arrivals in the past, what we share in common is far more important. At some point in our lives—whether moving across the country or across the state, we have all come to the line in our own stories that begins, "When we first arrived in this place..."

The heart of the work of ILCM is to help immigrants safely and legally begin the story of their lives in this country. We work to legally unite families. We help refugees take steps toward citizenship. We work to educate both immigrants and communities by fighting fear and misconceptions in both groups. We work for the safety of clients and their children who, as new arrivals, are vulnerable to crimes and abuse. We train judges, lawyers, prosecutors, social workers, child protection workers, and other community members about the

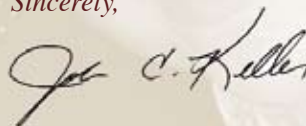
unique immigration issues surrounding juveniles and crime victims. We promote citizenship.

We are fortunate as an organization to have the skills and experience necessary to assist those whose stories are unfolding in a variety of unexpected ways. Our staff, board of directors, and client advisory council have grown in the last year to help us deliver the services that our clients need to move on to the next chapter in their lives. In addition, we have taken on a larger role as advocates in order to help our immigrants tell their stories and ensure that they are not misunderstood.

We passionately believe that the fair treatment and just policies for all immigrants will strengthen our communities, not divide them. Our quick response to the difficult situation that followed the USICE raid of the Swift plant in Worthington in December 2006, proved to be a catalyst for the community as well as ILCM. Today, we are providing continuous legal services to the immigrant community in Worthington and Southwest Minnesota, enabling us to reach more and more immigrants outside of the Metro area.

ILCM is committed to continue and improve our efforts on behalf of our newest Minnesotans so that they will one day be able to tell their children and grandchildren the story of their family's beginning in America. To our funders and partners, thank you for helping ILCM carry out this important work. Your support is crucial as we continue to write the next chapter of this organization's story.

Sincerely,

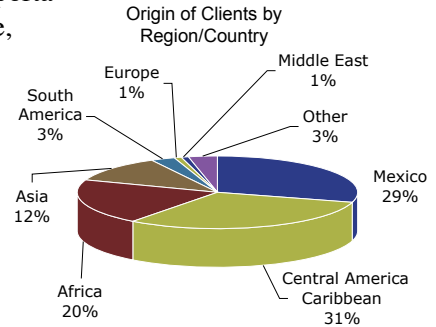


*John Keller
Executive Director*

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS

During fiscal year 2007, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provided legal services for 1,421 cases. Our diverse clientele came from 80 different countries. With the hire of two legal assistants—one with second-language fluency in Hmong and one in Somali—I LCM is able to increase its outreach and much-needed services to our increasingly diverse immigrant communities. Our clients resided in 39 Minnesota counties (representing 44% of all Minnesota counties). While most clients continue to come from Ramsey and its surrounding counties, the past year saw a large increase in clients from rural Minnesota, reflecting the changing demographics of the state and the absence of sufficient legal services for im-

migrants in rural Minnesota's communities. In accordance with I LCM's mission to serve low-income immigrants, all clients had incomes at or below 187.5% of the federal poverty guideline. Most clients came seeking legal assistance with citizenship/naturalization, family reunification, deportation defense, political asylum, or temporary protected status (TPS).



New Legal Initiatives for fiscal year 2007

Worthington Immigration Project

The events of December 12, 2006 propelled I LCM toward the organization that we are today. On that day, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided the Swift & Company meat-processing plant in Worthington. Over 230 individuals were detained and arrested and many of them immediately removed from their spouses and children, all in a matter of hours. I LCM responded and provided immediate immigration information, education, and representation to hundreds of persons caught up in the raid in Worthington. Unfortunately, many of the legal cases stemming from the raid do not have happy endings. Most people were deported out of the country within days. Children are now living with other relatives or have also left the United States.

The Worthington Immigration Project is a powerful response to the hardships experienced by these families and the community itself. With secured funding for a full-time attorney dedicated to this Project, I LCM is now able to increase access to much-needed legal services for immigrant individuals and families living in rural Minnesota. Through legal services, immigration-related education, and now an ongoing presence in Worthington, I LCM hopes to prevent a tragedy of the scope of what we saw last December.

Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project increases access to legal services and maximizes community resources by recruiting, training, and supervising volunteer attorneys to provide assistance with immigration cases. It offers law firms and private attorneys an opportunity to learn about

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS *(continued)*

immigrants and immigration law while allowing us to offer additional direct legal services to our clients. It is through these relationships that ILCM was able to quickly mobilize in providing immediate services to those affected by the Swift raid. In addition, our volunteer attorneys work with individuals on naturalization cases and more complex cases like those involving domestic abuse. In the first year of the project, 31 pro bono attorneys represented 122 clients for a total of 988 hours of donated time.

Legal Supervision of Non-Legal Community Organizations

ILCM, Neighborhood House, and the State of Minnesota Office for Refugee Resettlement collaborate on this project that allows community organizations to continue providing immigration advice and assistance to Minnesota's newest refugees but now with the supervision and expertise of ILCM. Community groups

like Neighborhood House are the natural first point of contact for many refugees. They are connected to the organization for basic needs such as the culturally appropriate food shelf and English Language Learner classes. Addressing immigration needs is an integral part of the refugee resettlement process and ILCM is there to help navigate the process. Through this collaboration, ILCM primarily sees recent Hmong arrivals and East Africans.

East Metro HIV/AIDS Immigration Project

Through this collaboration with the Minnesota Aids Project (MAP), ILCM provides educational services to immigrants and other lawyers about how HIV status can impact immigration claims—providing direct, expert legal representation to clients impacted by HIV/AIDS, and referring clients to other needed social services so that they may prosper in our Minnesota communities.

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES

ILCM compliments its direct legal representation with quality education services intended to prevent legal problems before they occur. During fiscal year 2007, ILCM's Youth Intervention Project reached 4,588 youth through 145 educational presentations. These presentations educated non-citizen immigrant teenagers and young adults about their rights and responsibilities as immigrants including the crimes that can lead to deportation and how young adults can change their behaviors and their immigration status to avoid this outcome. In addition, ILCM's attorneys led 14 educational presen-

tations to 427 attendees—including social service providers, educators, judges, attorneys, and immigrants. The focus of these presentations ranged from Immigration 101 for Lawyers to citizenship workshops.



ILCM provides educational presentations on immigration to immigrant groups and the advocates who work with them.

Award-winning Advocacy

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is honored to be the recipient of the 2007 Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Award in the area of Advocacy. The award recognizes ILCM's work during the past year to advocate for positive leg-



Executive Director John Keller receiving the 2007 Advocacy Award during an awards ceremony in October 2007.

islative change and for its role as a community leader in immigration matters, particularly in the aftermath of the USICE raid in Worthington, Minnesota in December 2006.

Advocacy and Defense Program

Comprehensive immigration reform has become an important and bipartisan issue. It has been featured prominently over the past two years both in the media and in federal and state legislative agendas. The stories that came out of Worthington this past year are powerful witnesses to the ongoing failed policy and its consequences: a U.S citizen child is now separated from her parent by thousands of miles; Swift & Company—a major community employer that prior to the raid was participat-

ing in good faith in a government program to ensure the legal status of its workers—now has to replace and train hundreds of new workers; local entrepreneurs who invest in rental properties are suddenly left without tenants and a potentially vital source of income; and community organizations, churches, and schools lose the companionship and support of friends and family who are currently detained or deported.

Sharing stories like these is a central competent of ILCM's Advocacy and Defense Program, a strategic effort to promote fair and just public policy at the state and federal level. Executive director John Keller spearheads advocacy efforts with public speaking engagements, legislative committee briefings, and community planning sessions. ILCM staff members deliver presentations to community organizations, professionals, and religious groups across the state about the current immigration system and the urgency of immigration reform. ILCM believes in nurturing strong partnerships and is an active member of the Alliance for Fair Federal Immigration Reform of Minnesota (AFFIRM) and collaborates with the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

While ILCM is proud to have helped secure support for comprehensive immigration reform from the overwhelming majority of Minnesota's elected officials, no significant changes have been made on a federal level. However, we believe that there is a wide acceptance of the need for change and will continue to share the stories of immigrants in our Minnesota communities to accentuate what the current system of laws requires of ICE, and how the only solution to avoid more "Worthingtons" is to pass fair, humane, and pragmatic comprehensive immigration legislation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Years Ended April 30	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 153,287	104,786
Prepays	3,044	4,561
Receivables	200,477	43,050
Furniture and Fixtures (less Accumulated Depreciation)	7,347	8,601
Total Assets	\$ 364,155	160,998
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	36,528	18,902
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	186,666	119,983
Temporarily Restricted	140,961	22,113
Total Net Assets	\$ 327,627	142,096
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 364,155	160,998

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Years Ended April 30	2007	2006
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Support:		
Contributions	\$ 394,851	85,473
Donations	81,127	54,540
Total Support	\$ 475,978	140,013
Revenue:		
Government Grants and Contracts	291,196	295,728
Other Contracts	60,054	11,018
Case Fees	11,418	9,726
Events	12,521	105
Miscellaneous	11,747	4,161
Total Revenue	\$ 386,936	320,738
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 862,914	460,751
EXPENSE		
Program Services:		
Legal Assistance	441,300	337,501
Community Education	93,480	61,975
Total Program Services	\$ 534,780	399,476
Support Services:		
Management and General	72,748	101,920
Fundraising	69,855	31,242
Total Support Services	\$ 142,603	133,162
Total Expense	\$ 677,383	532,638
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	\$ 185,531	(71,887)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	142,096	213,983
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 327,627	142,096

The above figures are taken from our Fiscal Year 2007 audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

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