

POLITICAL ASYLUM / IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT

2018

annual report





Dear Friends of PAIR,

In the past year, we've seen an already vulnerable immigrant population in Massachusetts become even more scared and confused about the changes in immigration law and policy. Communities are concerned about the anti-immigrant rhetoric, heightened use of enforcement and detention, and new laws and policies that adversely impact asylum seekers. It has been a painful year for our clients as we witnessed changes to laws that make asylum even more difficult to win, the termination of Temporary Protected Status for several countries, a drop in refugee resettlement numbers, and the cruel use of family detention, including the separation of young children, to punish immigrants who come to the U.S. in need of a safe haven.

We have seen a surge in calls from people who are confused about their future. PAIR's response to all has been: **You are not alone.** You are respected and wanted here; you and your families are a part of this country and community. **You have rights.** And we mean all of this.

At PAIR, with over network of over 1,200 volunteer attorneys, we support vulnerable clients who are too traumatized to navigate the confusing and complex court systems. We can help empower our clients so their voices can be heard and so they can win relief. In the past year, PAIR staff and volunteers have served over 1,450 clients, including a political activist/blogger from Syria, a young Russia man targeted because of his sexual orientation, a Cameroonian political activist detained by ICE, an unaccompanied minor from Guatemala, and a group of detained Cuban dissidents whom PAIR helped win humanitarian parole. Today, all these clients are here safe and secure in the U.S. thanks to their dedicated PAIR pro bono attorneys.

Together, we are able to send the powerful message that PAIR will keep fighting for immigrants who turn to us for justice, hope, and safety. **We are so lucky to have allies like you by our side.** Thank you for your activism, dedication, and continued support.

Sincerely,

Anita P. Sharma

Anita P. Sharma



Embracing growth

Since 1989, PAIR has been committed to protecting immigrant rights and access to counsel for thousands of vulnerable asylum-seekers and detained immigrants. In the wake of rising challenges for asylum seekers and attacks on immigrant rights, PAIR has embraced sustainable growth to meet the growing need for legal aid.

In 2017-18, PAIR welcomed two new staff attorneys, grew its asylum intake clinic, and increased legal orientation in immigration detention. With the support of our donors and partner law firms, PAIR served a record number of more than 1,450 asylum-seekers and detained immigrants.

OUR PROGRAMS

Asylum

For nearly 30 years, PAIR has been the premier provider of pro bono legal services for indigent asylum-seekers in Massachusetts. The process of seeking asylum has grown ever more perilous with entry point closures at the border, increased detention of families and minors, and legal challenges to domestic violence claims to strip asylum-seekers of relief. To fight against these assaults on immigrant rights, PAIR expanded its asylum intake clinic and added a new staff attorney to serve even more clients.





A CLIENT'S STORY

Amirah fled a brutal war that destroyed her home in Syria and faced persecution because of her religion and political opinion.

“Amirah” and her family were targeted by government forces in her village in Syria first for their religion, then for supporting a pro-democracy revolution. On one occasion, her son was shot by government forces while witnessing a peaceful protest, leaving him in critical condition and in need

of expert medical treatment.

When their hometown was destroyed shortly after, Amirah and her family fled for their lives to neighboring Jordan, where they stayed in a refugee camp. Her son, however, could not receive the medical care he needed there.

“As an asylum seeker in the United States, I would like to thank PAIR. By way of assuring us free legal representation, PAIR reinforces the fairness of the legal system.”

A charity organization arranged for Amirah and son to travel to the U.S. for medical treatment, though it meant separating from her husband and other children. Amirah feared returning home to Syria and back to Jordan, where she had no legal status, and eventually connected with PAIR to apply for asylum.

A pro bono team from Ropes & Gray, mentored by PAIR staff attorneys, helped Amirah win her asylum case in 2018, giving her a safe haven. The team is now working to reunite Amirah with her husband and children left behind in Syria.



Detention

OUR PROGRAMS

PAIR is the only nonprofit in Massachusetts with negotiated access to ICE detention facilities for the purpose of providing detained immigrants with legal orientation. The number of immigrants detained by ICE continues to grow under new immigration enforcement policies, and PAIR has seen growing numbers of detained immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for many years, who are eligible for humanitarian forms of relief, or who came as unaccompanied minors. PAIR has responded by adding a new staff attorney in the detention program, expanding the number of legal orientations in detention, and serving more detained immigrants.

A CLIENT'S STORY

Santiago fled harassment and violence because of his sexual orientation.

“Santiago” knew he was gay in adolescence. Growing up in his native Cuba, where homosexuality is historically criminalized, he was often harassed and threatened in school, even sometimes by teachers. Santiago, like most Cuban men, graduated high school to serve a mandatory year in the military, where harassment over his sexual orientation escalated into physical abuse.

On one occasion during his military training, a senior officer subjected Santiago to public humiliation, where fellow cadets yelled slurs at him and spat on him, for daring to report abusive behavior. Santiago was discharged from the military on account of being gay and denied the opportunity to go to university as a result.

“PAIR became a source of light at a time when I had lost hope and restored hope back in to my life.”

Impassioned by the injustices he faced, Santiago became politically active in efforts



to promote LGBT rights in Cuba, and consequently, was targeted by the local police. One night, officers broke into his home, detained and beaten.

Fearing for his life, Santiago fled, first to Mexico, then presented himself at the U.S. border to seek asylum. He was detained and eventually transferred to Massachusetts, where Santiago connected with PAIR for pro bono representation in his asylum case. With the help of PAIR's Access to Justice Fellow Irene Freidel, Santiago won his asylum case and is now free to live in safety.



Rapid Response

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Immigrant communities continue to experience an assault on their legal rights and security. In response to rising fear and uncertainty, PAIR launched its community “Know Your Rights” initiative with the aim of empowering immigrants of varying circumstances to understand and use their constitutional rights. PAIR continues to partner with fellow nonprofits, neighborhood centers, public and charter schools, colleges, and healthcare providers to provide access to this vital legal education. In 2017-18, PAIR focused on growing the initiative in Western Massachusetts as well as the Cambridge area.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In October of 2017, PAIR hosted a “Know Your Rights” Day at Rosie’s Place.

With the support of 18 volunteer attorneys, PAIR partnered with Rosie’s Place, in Boston, to host two days worth of “Know Your Rights” presentations. More than 350 women, who are English language learners at the shelter’s education center, attended presentation in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese and Chinese.

“It was really important for our students,” said Sara Jorgensen, Director of the Women’s Education Center at Rosie’s Place. “It empowered them to be confident when someone from ICE comes to their door.”

PAIR worked closely with Sara to create simple and visual presentations customized to students’ level of literacy. Following the presentation, the Rosie’s Place staff was inspired to create a series of videos based on the “Know Your Rights” role playing for immigrants who speak no English.

PAIR continues to empower immigrants through “Know Your Rights” presentations like this one.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

100

*community Know Your Rights presentations conducted in fiscal year, for a **total of 475** since the program launched in late 2016.*

120

*volunteer lawyers trained to deliver presentations this year, for a **total of 300**.*

1,000

*community members reached this year, for a **total of 12,000**.*

Our Impact

At PAIR, we measure our impact in the success of representing our clients and in securing for them a future of safety and freedom. In fiscal year 2017-2018, PAIR served 1,450 clients across its Pro Bono Asylum Program and the Detention Center Initiative.



703

active asylum cases managed by PAIR volunteers and staff.



730

active detained immigrant clients managed by PAIR.



130

new pro bono volunteer lawyers recruited and trained to support PAIR's program.



21,000

hours of donated legal services to PAIR clients.



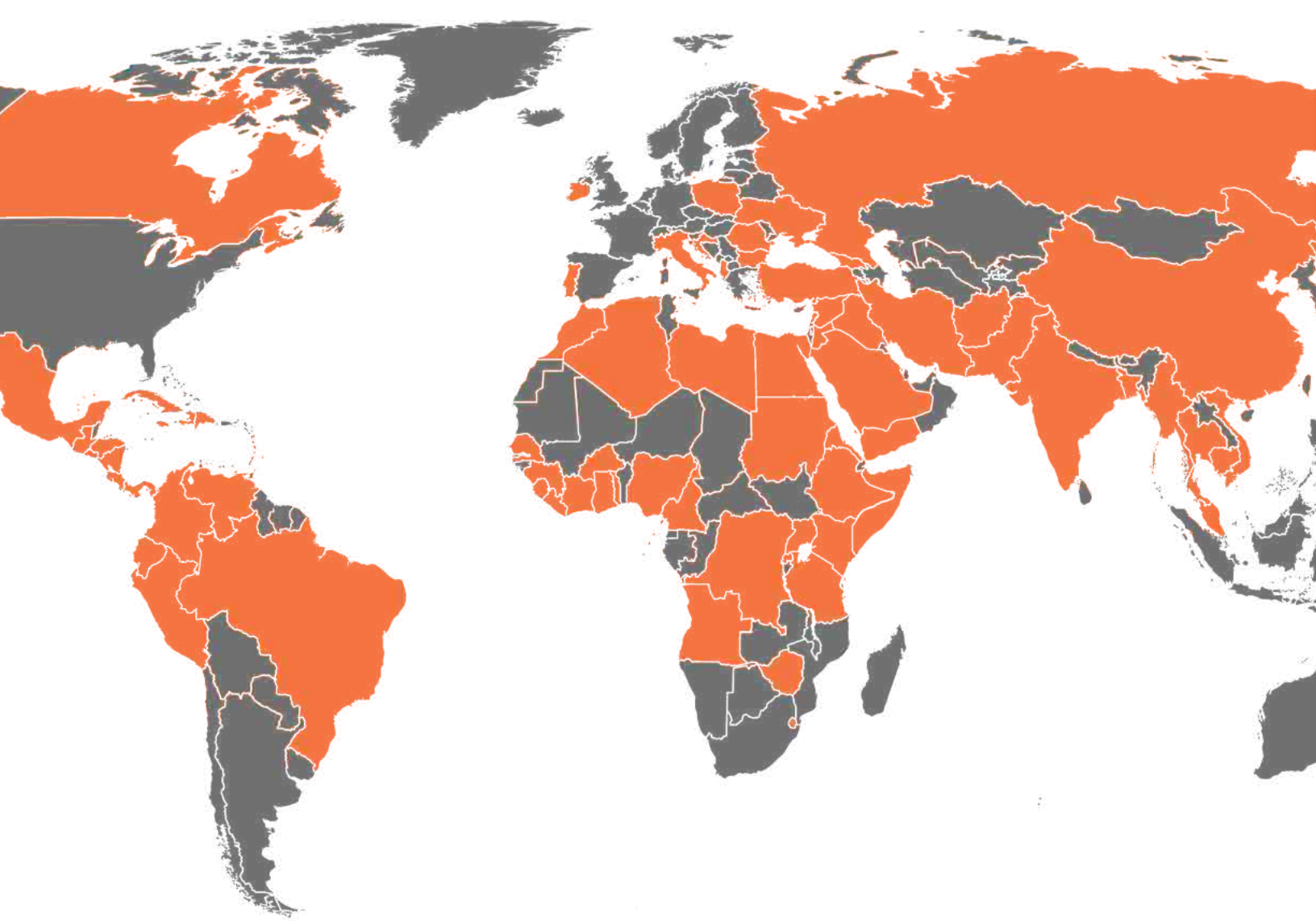
55

successful cases won for detained immigrants to be reunited with family.



100%

grant rate for PAIR asylum program cases decided in FY17-18.



Our Clients

Each year, PAIR clients represent more than 90 countries across the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and become part of the vibrant Massachusetts community. In FY 17-18, PAIR saw a significant amount of clients fleeing persistent violence from Central America, LGBT persecution in East Africa, and civil wars in the Middle East.

 = country of origin for new clients in FY17-18.



On June 5th, 2018, PAIR's longtime supporters, volunteers, former clients, and friends gathered for a poignant night of celebration. We were honored to have PAIR Board Member and former client Edith Fobid share her story of hope as our keynote speaker, alongside fellow PAIR Board Member and her pro bono attorney, David McHaffey.

2018 AWARD WINNERS

Pro Bono Asylum Award

Kathryn R. Harris & Samira Omervic, *Ropes & Gray*

Pro Bono Detention Award

Matthew R. Loecker & Ryan J. Perry, *Morse Barnes-Brown Pendleton*

Pro Bono Mentor Award

Anthony Mirenda & Daniel McFadden, *Foley Hoag*

Pro Bono Interpreter Award

Mikaela Wolf-Sorokin

Pro Bono Law Firm Award

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy

Outstanding Service Award

Irene Freidel, *K&L Gates*

Outstanding Business Leader in Human Rights

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Sarah B. Ignatius Award for Outstanding Achievement

Professor Mary Holper, *Boston College Law School*



Edith Fobid with PAIR Board Member David McHaffey



Gala Sponsors

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ROPES & GRAY

Champion Level | \$20,000

Susan J. Cohen & Michael Klein

Diamond Level | \$15,000



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& Bockius • Nutter McClennen & Fish • Sherin & Lodgen
• Sidley Austin • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Silver Level | \$3,000

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& Stewart • DLA Piper • Fidelity Investments • Foley
& Lardner • Goodwin Procter • Kosmo Kalliarekos •
Littler Mendelson • McCarter & English • McHaffey &
Associates • Munger, Tolles & Olson • New England
Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers
Association • Seyfarth Shaw • Todd & Weld • Wendy
Zazik & Mark Gale

Benefactor Level | \$500-\$2,000

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Barnes-Brown Pendleton • Nixon Peabody • Pierce
Atwood • Reebok International • Sunstein Kann Murphy
& Timbers • White & Case • Wolf Greenfield & Sacks

A photograph showing Ed Shapiro, an older man with white hair wearing a maroon sweater, shaking hands with a young boy in a black jacket. They are in an airport baggage claim area. In the background, a woman in a black puffer jacket is seen from behind, and another man in a green jacket is standing near a luggage cart. A sign with the word "Blue" is visible on the wall.

Ed Shapiro, far right, greeting newly arrived refugees at Boston Logan Airport.

Donor Spotlight

THE SHAPIRO FOUNDATION

Following the 2016 presidential election and subsequent changes to immigration policy, PAIR faced a tremendous influx of asylum seekers in need of legal aid. While we worked and accepted more cases, PAIR's turn away rate shot up to 70% due to lack of resources and staff.

In late 2017, The Shapiro Foundation stepped in to help PAIR close this gap between access to justice and client need. Ed and Barbara Shapiro, Trustees of the Foundation, with Foundation Director Larry Tobin, all who have extensive experience assisting refugees throughout the world, began brainstorming

on how they could support PAIR's work. Through the generous support of The Shapiro Foundation, PAIR was able to hire a full-time staff attorney to provide free legal representation to asylum seekers. With the one additional staff attorney, we saw an immediate impact in our ability to provide legal representation. PAIR now accepts 50% of those who turn to us for free legal services.

Of PAIR's staff and high quality legal work, Foundation Director Larry Tobin said, "Deepest thanks to each of you... You're each teaching and pushing hard and transforming lives that are deeply in need of help."

RICHARD IANDOLI

Richard Iandoli of Iandoli Desai & Cronin P.C., a donor and friend to the PAIR staff, has been at the center of the immigration community in Boston for as long as there has been an immigration community. Richard's remarkable work supporting immigrant rights spans four decades, throughout which time he has shared his exceptional legal talent and kind manner with immense generosity.

As a PAIR pro bono, he has represented indigent clients from Central America as well as asylum-seekers from a variety of other countries; detained asylum-seekers, LGBTI immigrants; and many other non-

citizens unable to pay for counsel. Since 1989, he has served as the leading mentor to PAIR vast network of volunteer attorneys and to legal advocates in the immigration community. Richard continues to inspire and guide with his vast knowledge, warmth, professional excellence, and years of exceptional service for under-served and at times unpopular clients.

Richard's advice to those who want to know how they can help support PAIR's fight for immigrant rights is clear: "Offer your talent and energy in face of the needs which you encounter. Commit yourself to help change society. This little history that I offered confirms that change can be made. Justice can be attained."



Richard Iandoli, right, speaking with international students at Salem State about their rights in February 2017.



A gift to PAIR is more than a financial transaction—it is a stand against xenophobia, against hate, and against fear. PAIR is grateful for all the individuals, foundations and corporations that have taken that stand to support immigrants.

INDIVIDUALS

George Abi-Esber
Ron Abramson
Emily Achtenberg
Phyllis Adams
Gregory Adams
Libby Adler
Anita Agajanian
Genevieve Aguilar Reardon
Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore
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Sydenham Alexander
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Marvin Brow
John Brown
Mimi Brown
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Michelle Nyein
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Robert O'Connell
Alethea O'Donnell
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Fish Family Foundation
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Highlights



Social Innovator Showcase, May 2018

PAIR was honored to have been named a 2018 Social Innovator by the Social Innovation Forum. The Social Innovator Accelerator helped PAIR gain visibility, expand their networks, and build capacity. PAIR participated in the SIF Social Issue Talks, speaking on justice for immigrants, and debuted its pitch at the annual Social Innovator Showcase.



Mass LGBT Awards, May 2018

The Massachusetts LGBT Bar Association recognized PAIR's work on behalf of LGBT asylum-seekers and detained immigrants with the Kevin Larkin Memorial Award for Public Service.

In October 2017, the PAIR Project was named the Organization of the Year by the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys (MAHA).



State House Rally, November 2017



SIF Social Issue Talk, April 2018



MAHA Awards, October 2017



Music in Action, September 2017

During a trying year for immigrant rights, PAIR staff showed their support at State House rallies urging the government to save Temporary Protected Status, reunite separated families, and more.

PAIR held its first benefit concert, Music in Action, led by the generous efforts of Board Chair Susan Cohen.

2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY

Expenses	FY16-17	FY17-18
Program	\$505,205	\$649,646
Administrative	\$62,686	\$71,027
Fundraising	\$62,987	\$56,924
Total Expenses	\$631,060	\$777,597

Income Sources FY17-18



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Make a Difference

Support immigrants like “Amirah” & “Santiago” by making a donation to PAIR.

DONATE NOW

Your generous support will allow PAIR to continue to be on the forefront of protecting immigrant rights in the U.S.