



**POLITICAL ASYLUM/IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT**  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR Monday, May 6, 2019**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/Photo Attached

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### **PAIR Awarded Sustaining Grant** Boston, MA Nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation Grant



Boston, MA May 6, 2019 – The Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR) is one of the many local nonprofits sharing in Cummings Foundation’s \$45 million grant program in 2019. The Boston-based organization is one of 50 local nonprofits to receive a Sustaining Grants, announced by the Cummings Foundation at its May 2, 2019 Awards Night. Sustaining Grants provide ongoing funding and support for previous *\$100K for 100* winners, typically from \$20,000 to \$50,000 annually, for up to 10 years. PAIR was chosen from a total of 100 nonprofits, during a competitive review process.

Founded in 1989, PAIR is the premiere provider of pro bono immigration services to asylum-seekers and immigrants unjustly detained in Massachusetts. PAIR serves over 1,500 clients a year and has a 95% successful outcome in its asylum cases. PAIR provides hope and a new beginning to asylum-seekers, torture survivors and immigration detainees. As a former client notes, “I had the opportunity to get up and smile at life, thanks to the people at PAIR. None of this would have been possible if you had not given me a hand when I felt I was drowning.”

PAIR will use the Cummings Foundation Sustaining Grant to support PAIR’s work with asylum-seekers, providing asylum intake, one-on-one consultation, and free civil legal aid. “PAIR is honored to be a recipient of the Cummings Foundation Sustaining Grant,” said Anita P. Sharma, PAIR’s Executive Director. “The Foundation has brought tremendous and transformative support to PAIR, allowing PAIR to expand its staff and grow its programs.” With the Sustaining Grant, PAIR will serve even more clients seeking asylum and detained immigrants who turn to PAIR for help, expanding access to justice and free legal services in Massachusetts

With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$45 million this year through the *\$100K for 100* and Sustaining Grants program to non-profits through Massachusetts.

\*Photo is of Grantees PAIR Board President Susan J. Cohen and PAIR Executive Director Anita P. Sharma with Cummings Properties Founder Bill Cummings and President Erik Anderson at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Awards Night.