

# Safety & Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network: Long Beach

In 2019, Long Beach was selected to join the Vera Institute of Justice’s Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network—a growing group of jurisdictions around the U.S. that are **committed to keeping families together and communities safe and strong** by protecting due process and providing legal representation to immigrants facing deportation. SAFE Network Members have dedicated public funding to deportation defense, focusing on serving individuals who are detained.



## Why representation matters

Because immigrants facing deportation do not have the guarantee of an attorney to represent them, 70 percent of detained immigrants face deportation alone.<sup>1</sup> Representation promotes due process and dignity, and results in better outcomes—represented immigrants are **up to ten times more likely to establish a right to remain in the United States.**<sup>2</sup>

## SAFE Program Description: Long Beach, California

<b>Legal Service Providers:</b>	Immigrant Defenders Law Center
<b>Populations Served:</b>	Residents of Long Beach or those employed in Long Beach; those who were residents of, or were employed in, Long Beach immediately prior to detention by ICE
<b>Detention Centers Served:</b>	Adelanto Detention Facility (Adelanto, CA)
<b>Method of Identifying Clients:</b>	Legal Orientation Program at Adelanto Detention Center; Community referrals

### Sources

1. Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC):

“Details on Deportation Proceedings in Immigration Court,” accessed September 19, 2019, <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/nta/>

2. Ingrid V. Eagly and Steven Shafer, “A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court,” *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 164, no. 1 (2015), 1-91, <https://perma.cc/82F5-WE2D>.

# Making an Impact in Long Beach



**25**

Clients represented in Long Beach, CA



**22**

Children with a parent represented in Long Beach



**16**

Average years living in the United States

\*Data as of 07/31/2020

## Referrals

Sources of referrals (non-exhaustive list):

- Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition (LBIRC)
- Legal Orientation Program at Adelanto Detention Facility
- Los Angeles Justice Fund legal service providers
- Calls to Immigrant Defenders Law Center’s central phone line and walk-ins by clients or family members of clients
- Referrals from current clients, including detained individuals who may know another individual with Long Beach ties that could benefit from program
- Various stakeholders within Long Beach including the City of Long Beach and Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition or Long Beach Community Defense Network

	Number of Cases
<b>Accepted Cases</b>	<b>22 (59%)</b>
From LBIRC	17
From Other	5
<b>Pending Cases</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
From LBIRC	0
From Other	0
<b>Declined Cases</b>	<b>15 (41%)</b>
From LBIRC	14
From Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37 (100%)</b>

## Client Story

Rot is a Laotian-Cambodian refugee who escaped from the Cambodian genocide as a child. His family resettled in Long Beach, CA, and most of his family still currently resides there. As a result of the war and having to relocate to a new country, Rot’s family encountered challenges adjusting to their new life. Rot sought acceptance and belonging through his friends and his gang. At sixteen years old, Rot got into trouble with the criminal legal system, and he was tried as an adult and convicted of a felony. He served 29 years in prison. Meanwhile, he dedicated himself to self-help programs to turn his life around, in hopes of reuniting with his family upon his release from prison. Rot was granted parole in February 2020. Upon release from prison, he was immediately transferred to the Adelanto detention center. Rot’s medical conditions, which include being a cancer survivor, place him at high risk of getting COVID-19 while he is imprisoned by ICE. With the help of his Long Beach Justice Fund attorney, he is currently fighting to stay in the U.S. and to be reunited with his family in Long Beach.