

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.¹ 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.**²

SAFE Program Description: Long Beach, California

Legal Service Providers:	Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Populations Served:	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
Detention Centers Served:	Adelanto Detention Facility (Adelanto, CA)
Method of Identifying Clients:	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



10
Clients represented in
Long Beach, CA



3
Children with a
parent represented
in Long Beach



11
Average years
living in the
United States

*Data as of 8/31/2019

Referral Status	Number of Cases
Pending	1
Declined	4
Accepted under different funding	0
Referred out	4

Referral to the Long Beach Justice Fund (LBJF)

Sources of referrals (non-exhaustive list):

- 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.
- Legal clinics held in the City of Long Beach

Client Stories

Manuel, a long-time Long Beach resident, has lived with his partner and worked in construction in Long Beach for almost two decades. After he was arrested by ICE, he obtained a lawyer from the Immigrant Defenders Law Center through Long Beach's universal representation program. At his very first immigration court hearing, that lawyer denied all of the government's allegations against Manuel, holding the government to its burden of proving he is not a U.S. Citizen. Since the government could not produce evidence in support of its case, the immigration judge immediately terminated immigration proceedings against Manuel. Because his case was initially terminated, ICE has subsequently tried to place Manuel in immigration proceedings again. However, Manuel knew his rights and refused to sign any documents without the presence of his attorney at Immigrant Defenders Law Center. Although Manuel's second case is currently pending, Manuel's SAFE attorney—provided to him by the City of Long Beach—allowed him to terminate his initial immigration proceedings and assert his rights under the law.

*The names of the individuals featured here have been changed to pseudonyms to protect the individuals' identities