

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



*Data as of 02/29/2020

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.

	Total (Life of the program)		This Quarter	
	From LBIRC	From Other	From LBIRC	From Other
Accepted	19	8	3	0
Pending	12	3	1	0
Declined	2	6	0	0

Client Story

✓ **Cristofer,*** a long-time Long Beach resident, worked as a gardener in Long Beach for 15 years. Due to a 2018 conviction for driving under the influence, and after completing his criminal sentence, ICE placed him in ICE detention. Because of his DUI conviction, an immigration judge denied Cristofer’s bond request. Cristofer is an introvert and struggled immensely in ICE detention. In Long Beach, he led a quiet life with his partner and avoided extensive social contact. Cristofer did not have a pathway to legal status at the time of detention. He had no family members in the United States that could petition for him, nor any claim to asylum. Cristofer was about to be deported, but with zealous representation from his Long Beach Justice Fund attorney at the Immigrant Defenders Law Center, he was granted his request for voluntary departure. With a lawful exit from the United States, Cristofer preserved a pathway to return to the United States lawfully in the future. ✓

*The name of the individual featured here has been changed to a pseudonym to protect the individual’s identity.