



Alaska Institute for Justice

Alaska Immigration Justice Project * Language Interpreter Center * Research and Policy Institute

10th Year Anniversary 2015

Promoting Justice
Empowering Survivors, &
Protecting the Human
Rights of all Alaskans

Rural Safety and Justice Conference

The Alaska Institute for Justice hosted a successful Rural Safety and Justice Conference from April 12th to 14th in Anchorage. The conference aimed to increase access to services for rural survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by focusing on expanding strategies for Alaska Native and immigrant survivors to access culturally and linguistically appropriate services in rural areas.

The conference was attended by fifty-six community leaders from across the state,



Participants at AIJ's April 2017 Rural Safety and Justice Conference

including victim advocates, law enforcement, social service providers, and Alaska Native communities working with survivors. Keynote speaker Olga Trujillo, an attorney and author, shared her experiences as a survivor and addressed trauma informed advocacy. Keynote speaker Victoria Sweet, an attorney and descendent of the White Earth Ojibwe tribe, provided a global context of violence against women.

The conference achieved some incredible progress for Yup'ik interpreters (thank you Oscar and Sophie Alexie!), powerful action items to make survivor services accessible and effective, and beautiful art focused on visioning safety and justice in rural communities. Thank you to our panelists, First Alaskans Institute, and all of our wonderful participants!!

Climate Forced Displacement

Alaska is at the forefront of one of the biggest humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. As the Arctic disproportionately bears the consequences of a rapidly changing climate, Alaska Native communities are facing an urgent need to adapt. AIJ is conducting groundbreaking research to

develop community-based strategies that protect Alaska Native livelihoods and health.

On June 6th, AIJ's Research and Policy Institute joined 49 Moons in welcoming speakers Salote Soqo and Patricia Cochran as they addressed their experiences on the "front lines" of environmental justice and climate action in the South Pacific and Alaska. Soqo, a native of Fiji, is Senior Program Leader of Environmental Justice & Climate Action with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) focused on advancing and protecting the rights of peoples displaced by climate change. Cochran, an Inupiat born and raised in Nome, Alaska, serves as Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission (ANSC), a public, not-for-profit corporation that provides a linkage for creating partnerships and communication between science, research and Alaska Native communities.

"These are indigenous communities and what they are experiencing is directly impinging on their basic human rights and their values as indigenous people.

Governments must urgently respond to this crisis to protect the rights and dignities of their communities." - Salote Soqo, UUSC

Senior Program Leader

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Carla Timpone Award for Activism Awarded to Kari Robinson



Congratulations to Kari Robinson, AIJ Deputy Director, for garnering the 2017 Carla Timpone Award for activism. The award, from the Alaska Women's Lobby, honors hard work, dedication, and leadership in Juneau. Thank you, Kari, for your work on behalf of Alaskan women, children and families!



Language Access Spotlight - Alaska Heart & Vascular Institute

The Alaska Heart and Vascular Institute's mission is to provide cardiovascular care for all Alaskans. One of the ways this organization achieves its mission and provides care to Alaska's diverse population is through their Language Access Program.

Language Access Programs help agencies provide meaningful access to vital services and effectively meet the needs of limited-English-proficient customers through policies, plans and procedures. According to the 2015 U.S. Census American

Community Survey, 16% of Alaskans do not speak English at home and 4.9% of that group does not speak English "very well." Medical, law enforcement, other service providers and businesses can ensure limited-English-proficient individuals have access to critical services, despite a potential language barrier, through a Language Access Program.

AIJ's Language Interpreter Center can help organizations develop an effective Language Access Program through a needs assessment, creation of a



An Organization With A Commendable Language Access Program!

Language Access Plan, and staff training.

More information on accessing language services for clients and service providers can be found at www.akijp.org/language-interpreter-center.

Dan Rodgers - 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient

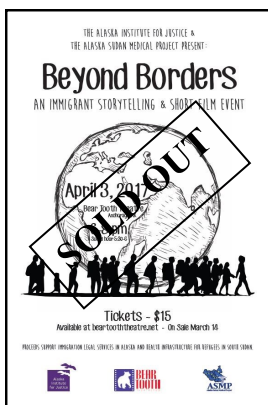
Congratulations to Dan Rodgers, long time volunteer attorney with the Alaska Institute for Justice, and one of 10 recipients of the 2017 First Lady Volunteer of the Year awards! Dan has served as a pro bono attorney since 1998 and, after retiring from ConocoPhillips in 2008, has been a full-time volunteer staff attorney for AIJ's Alaska Immigration Justice Project. In his time at AIJ, he has



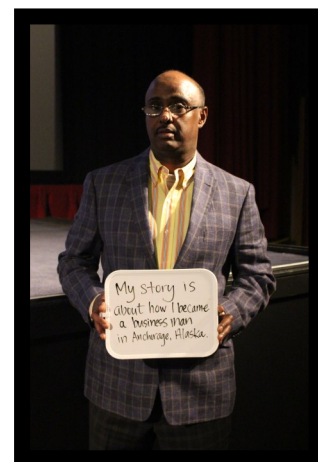
"Dan is dedicated to serving vulnerable Alaskans and is an exemplary model of public service."

provided legal assistance to over 400 clients. Many of these cases involved helping immigrant domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking survivors gain access to safety and protection. As the Pro Bono Asylum Project leader, Dan is an outstanding mentor to fellow pro bono attorneys representing Alaskans who have fled persecution and torture in their country of origin.

Beyond Borders April 2017



On April 3, 2017, AIJ joined forces with the Alaska Sudan Medical Project to host its third Beyond Borders event. The event highlighted the lives of immigrants and refugees from around the world, including those who have come to call Alaska home. Through stories, short films, and a closing panel discussion, it provided the community an opportunity to learn more about our immigrant and refugee neighbors. All proceeds for this sold out event (400+ seats!) went to support immigration legal services in Alaska and health infrastructure for refugees in South Sudan. Thank you to Bear Tooth Theatrepub, our emcee, Lisa Eyler, and panelists Robin Bronen, Hoth Chan, Gita Franklin, and Denny Weber. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our storytellers Ahmed Abbas, Ayub Ephraim, Nyakor Kueth, and Camilla Hussein for sharing their powerful stories with us!



Safari Restaurant owner Ayub Ephraim shared his story at Beyond Borders, April 3, 2017

Know Your Rights Outreach Events

The recent executive orders and Department of Homeland Security policies are having devastating effects on the people we serve. The directives include restricting the types of relationships to qualify refugees and visitors from six Muslim-majority countries to enter the U.S., hiring additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, expanding expedited removal proceeding which deny immigrants due process rights to have a court hearing in front of a judge, giving asylum officers greater decision-making authority, and reducing protections for unaccompanied minors.




The Mexican Consulate office presents information at a local community meeting on March 30, 2017

AIJ helps to keep Alaskan families together and encourages healthy and nonviolent communities through outreach events. AIJ has led and participated in numerous outreach events to address immigrant rights, pairing with the ACLU, other nonprofits and volunteer attorneys to provide “Know Your Rights” information and how to respond if you are stopped by the police, immigration agents, or the FBI.

Unfortunately, the current policies are built on a foundation of federal laws and policies that have harmed immigrants, refugees, and Muslims for decades. Keeping everyone informed about their legal rights is one way to protect people from these harmful policies and make our community safer and stronger.

It is not a crime to be undocumented and everyone deserves safety and justice.



NEED OUTREACH?

Will your community or organization benefit from an outreach event?
Contact AIJ at
contact@akijp.org to request an event.

Welcome: Summer Intern!

Welcome Halley Fisher, our summer legal intern! Halley hails from Richmond, Vermont and finished her undergraduate degree from Northeastern University in Boston. She is currently a law student at Northeastern’s School of Law with a graduation goal of 2019.

“I believe safety is a basic human right, and legal services help provide that. I feel strongly that everyone deserves to have someone listen to their story.” - Halley Fisher

Barb Brink - Human Rights Champion



Robin Bronen, AIJ Executive Director, presents Barb Brink with the 2017 Human Rights Champion Award at Beyond Borders, April 3, 2017

AIJ awarded Barb Brink its annual Human Rights Champion award. Barb moved to Alaska fresh out of law school in 1981 to take a one year job with the Alaska Supreme Court. She spent 23 years as Alaska’s Public Defender, 2 years as an Alaska Legal Services attorney, and has been with the federal public defender for ten years. In her

spare time, Barb volunteers for the Alaska Institute for Justice, where she has volunteered her time to present “Know Your Rights” lectures at numerous community outreach events. Her gift of straightforward and informational lectures has helped deliver vital information to underserved community members.



Alaska Institute for Justice

- ◆ Alaska Immigration Justice Project
- ◆ Language Interpreter Center
- ◆ Research and Policy Institute

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***Protecting the human
rights of all Alaskans***

We're on the Web!
www.akijp.org

Thank you to AIJ's partners for all
that you do to provide safety and
justice to Alaskans.



Founded in 2005, the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) is an established nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the human rights of all Alaskans. AIJ houses three programs:

1) Alaska Immigration Justice Project; 2) Language Interpreter Center; and 3) Research and Policy Institute.

AIJ is the only nonprofit agency in Alaska providing legal representation to immigrants and refugees. Unique in Alaska, the Language Interpreter Center trains bilingual Alaskans to work as interpreters to ensure that limited-English-proficient Alaskans, including immigrant and indigenous populations, gain access to legal, medical, and social services. AIJ's Research and Policy Institute is dedicated to social and environmental justice research to inform public policy at the local, national and international level.

Portraits Project

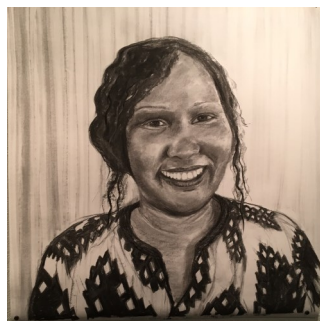
On June 2, 2017 Dos Manos Gallery sponsored AIJ and local artist MK MacNaughton for a First Friday event titled "The Portraits Project."

The Portraits Project raises awareness about the valuable contributions that immigrants bring to Alaska. Below are two of the portraits displayed at Dos Manos, demonstrating Alaskans who make our community stronger.

MK's portraits will be on display at Dos Manos through the end of July.



MK is an artist, community activist, and owner of Sketch Studio in Juneau, AK. More about MK's work can be found at www.mkmacnaughton.com.



Nyakor Kueth (left), originally from South Sudan, will graduate this fall with a BA in Human Services. Minoo Minaei (right), born in Iran, is a Bridge Builders board member and has taught for the Anchorage School District for 31 year.

Portraits by MK MacNaughton

