



Alaska Institute for Justice

Alaska Immigration Justice Project • Language Interpreter Center • Research & Policy Institute

We Need Your Support Now More Than Ever!

Over 11 years ago, the Alaska Immigration Justice Project opened its doors to provide critical immigration legal services. At the time we opened our offices, only one full-time attorney worked to ensure that immigrant domestic violence and sexual assault survivors could access safety and protection. Since opening in 2005, our mission, to protect the human rights of Alaskans, has been our guiding principle. In 2012, we changed the agency name to Alaska Institute for Justice to reflect the inclusion of additional programs dedicated to environmental and social justice. The Alaska Institute for Justice now includes three programs: Alaska Immigration Justice Project, Language Interpreter Center and Research and Policy Institute. These programs provide unique and critical services for Alaska's immigrant, refugee and limited English proficient populations and for communities affected by climate change. We serve 850 Alaskans annually and provide interpreter services to hundreds of social, legal and medical professionals so that their services are accessible to all Alaskan residents.

Recent executive orders and Department of Homeland Security policies could have devastating impacts on the people we serve. We are deeply grateful for your support so we can sustain our important work keeping Alaskan families together and creating healthy and nonviolent communities. With the help from supporters and advocates like you, we look forward to successful decades ahead protecting, defending, and advancing the rights of some of Alaska's most underserved and vulnerable communities.

Alaska
Institute
for Justice

10th Year Anniversary

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

Fleeing Climate Change



Harvard Gazette Interview

"My profound concern is that when it comes to the forced movement of people caused by climate change, we have no models," said Robin Bronen, AIJ Executive Director and senior research scientist at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. See page 3 for more information.

Human Trafficking

AIJ is the only agency in Alaska that works with all immigrant and US citizen human trafficking survivors. Human trafficking is often a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek assistance because of language barriers, fear of traffickers, fear of deportation and distrust of law enforcement. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

AIJ works with survivors of both sex and labor trafficking and specializes in assisting those who need unique protections available to immigrant victims of human trafficking. AIJ staff partner with Standing Together Against Rape (STAR), Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) and Covenant House to ensure that survivors receive comprehensive services. AIJ also works closely with the FBI, US Attorney's Office, Alaska Department of Labor and Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services. The services we offer range anywhere from intensive case management to social, medical and legal advocacy to help victims achieve immediate safety, protection and stability.

Some of AIJ's
Partners Include:



WELCOME NEW AIJ STAFF MEMBERS!

Monique Eniero, Staff Attorney

Longtime Alaskan Monique Eniero graduated from West Anchorage High School, attended the University of Alaska Anchorage's Criminal Justice program, and earned her law degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. After interning for three years at the San Diego County Public Defender and one year as a deputy prosecutor in Lafayette, Indiana, Monique joined our team in May 2016. She knew she always wanted to protect the rights of disadvantaged people and make legal services available to everyone. As a prosecutor, she realized numerous defendants also had immigration concerns. "I

recognized that many people would stay in custody for months after their criminal case was resolved because they didn't have access to a pro bono immigration

attorney." Focusing on human trafficking and domestic violence cases, Monique is excited to be helping her community. In her free time, Monique, an Alaskan through and through, loves traveling and taking her two dogs on hiking adventures.

Lupe Lugo, OVC Paralegal

Lupe Lugo has worked at AIJ for nearly eight months. A native of California, Lupe graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and is currently finishing his law degree at Lewis & Clark College. After graduating from college, Lupe worked in the legal field in a variety of roles, including as a courtroom clerk and corporate paralegal. Realizing that the corporate legal world was not to his liking, Lupe catered to his growing sense of social responsibility and awareness by starting at AIJ, where he helps provide legal assistance to Alaska's immigrant community. His favorite part of working at AIJ is feeling that he's making a contribution to the well-being of some of Alaska's most

vulnerable residents.

Additionally, he loves interacting with his co-workers, and occasionally brings in homemade baked goods to show gratitude for their company and guidance. Though

he has lived in various parts of the country, including the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, he considers himself a lifelong Bay Area resident at heart. In his free time he enjoys reading, hiking, cycling and obsessing over baseball.



Carol Forner, Development Director

Carol Forner started as a volunteer with AIJ before taking on her current role. Originally from Wisconsin, Carol graduated from the Air Force Academy and served for 20 years as an aircraft maintenance officer in numerous overseas and stateside locations before making Alaska home. With master's degrees in business and project management, Carol looks forward to helping promote AIJ's mission through outreach and capacity building work, assisting with grant management duties, and developing new campaigns. She thinks the transition from military service to the nonprofit world makes perfect sense. "I hope to use my experience with resource challenges, building relationships, communications, and collaborative decision-making to help serve others. I look forward to working with AIJ board members and staff to improve access to protective legal services." In her spare time, Carol enjoys home renovation projects, cinema, and frisbee with her two dogs.

Brett Watts, Staff Attorney

Brett Watts is our newest staff attorney. Hailing from Virginia, he graduated from Christopher Newport University and earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Before joining our team, Brett spent a year working in the Anchorage District Attorney's office, as well as several years practicing immigration law and teaching paralegal studies in Ohio. His experience at an immigration nonprofit serving refugees and volunteer work assisting families at the South Texas Family Residential Facility—the largest immigrant detention center in America—spawned further interest in gender-based violence and immigration law. "Immigrants who don't have full citizenship are the most vulnerable and subject to the whims of politics. Just because you didn't win the 'birth lottery' doesn't mean you lose the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Brett is looking forward to continuing his work on immigration justice. Brett's other passions include the Cleveland Cavaliers, fitness, and enjoying Alaska's majestic scenery.

RESEARCH & POLICY INSTITUTE

The rapidly changing climate in the Arctic is creating a humanitarian crisis for indigenous communities in Alaska. In order for Alaska Native communities to implement effective adaptation plans, they need to have access to tools and resources to consistently monitor and document how flooding and erosion impacts their communities. While millions of dollars have been spent on flood and erosion relief (seawalls), these measures are no longer sufficient. Alaska Native villages that decide to relocate to safer land bases, soon realize that state and national government agencies and their policies are inadequate to assist successful community-led relocations. A new relocation governance framework, which guides government institutions on how to relocate a community based on human rights is critical. A community-based social-ecological monitoring and assessment process, designed with Alaska Native coastal communities and technical experts can be a critical part of this governance framework to build adaptive capacity and collaboration between diverse institutions.



Rights, Resilience, and Community-Based Adaptation Workshop Participants

The Research and Policy Institute at AIJ strives to increase the adaptive capacity of Alaska Native communities experiencing the impacts of climate change. In the fall of 2016, AIJ held its first Rights, Resilience, and Community-Based Adaptation Workshop, in partnership with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency and the Alaska Native Science Commission. This workshop brought together 32 community members from 15 Alaska Native villages who are leading the development of a multi-disciplinary human rights approach to community adaptation and relocation. The September 2016 adaptation workshop is the first in a series of gatherings to focus on the design and implementation of this multi-disciplinary human-rights and community-based process to document environmental change in order for communities to access the resources they need to adapt. Climate change in the Arctic is accelerating and new governance models need to be created to ensure long-term resilience.

The Alaska Institute for Justice Research and Policy Institute, in partnership with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency and the Alaska Native Science Commission, is working to increase the adaptive capacity of Alaska Native communities experiencing the impacts of climate change.



Fleeing Climate Change

In October 2016, Robin Bronen was a panelist at a Harvard conference on climate change displacement sponsored by the International Human Rights Clinic, the Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic. According to Bronen, "Increased temperatures, decreased Arctic sea ice, and rapid erosion have greatly affected three native communities: Kivalina, Newtok, and Shishmaref, located in the western region of Alaska. They all made the decision to relocate their entire communities. Each of them found relocation sites, the communities voted, and they called government agencies for assistance to orchestrate the relocation. But none of them have relocated yet because we have no models about how to relocate populations within a country, and that means that there is no federal or state agency that has the mandate to provide technical assistance or funding for relocation or the responsibility to make this happen. The lack of a government structure is strongly impacting their ability to be safe."

For the full article, see www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2016/11/fleeing-climate-change/

LANGUAGE INTERPRETER CENTER

The Language Interpreter Center (LIC) is dedicated to ensuring Alaskans with limited English proficiency have access to the services they need, including vital access to legal, medical, and social services. The LIC currently has nearly 260 trained interpreters in 43 languages. It continues to help agencies formulate mandated language access plans and links government, business, and service organizations with qualified interpreters. The LIC also provides training on the ethics, roles, and responsibilities of working with interpreters. The next interpreter training is scheduled for **June 12-14, 2017**

INTERPRETER SPOTLIGHT - ATISA LOGO -



"The best part of being an interpreter is being able to assist someone who is in need, to be able to help them understand what is going on, and to help them become aware of the situation," according to Atisa Logo, the top Samoan legal interpreter in Alaska. She has passed the National Center for State Courts written exam and has worked as an AIJ Language Interpreter Center interpreter since 2011. Originally from American Samoa, Atisa moved to Alaska in 1991 when her husband started a job in Barrow. Going from their previous residence in Arizona to Barrow was quite a change of pace but also an incredible experience before moving to Anchorage a year later.

Atisa's higher calling has always been to be available for her children. Now that they are grown, she says, "I'm available for the Lord's work, wherever that may be. And service is a big part of that." Atisa heard about the opportunity to be an interpreter from one of her sister's friends. So she looked into it and, after rigorously studying, she passed the State Court written exam. She humbly said of this impressive achievement, "It took

some effort. I was really glad with the results." As she has gained more and more experience, Atisa has developed a clear sense of the importance of interpreting. "The more interpreting I've done, the more I've come to realize that you are always learning and picking up new ways to see something in the process of interpreting. It is so important to be accurate—to hear the spoken word and internally find meaning for that spoken word, then translating it into what I know. It is the ability to be able to hear and understand and then present it with the right words of expression so that it is accurate." In the future, Atisa would like to complete some additional interpreter tests, including a medical interpreter certification.

**Do you speak Hmong, Korean, Lao,
Samoan, Vietnamese or Yup'ik?**

**Are you fluent or nearly fluent in English
and another language?**

**Do you want to help individuals get health,
legal and social services they deserve?**

Do you want a challenging profession?

**Our next three-day
interpreter training course is
June 12-14, 2017.**

**If interested, please contact
Sarah Ibrahim
at
907-297-2760.**

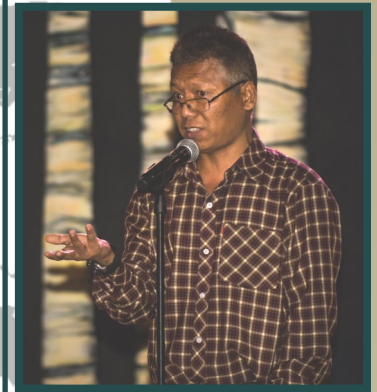
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안녕하세요 Bonjour

BEYOND BORDERS—REMARKABLE STORIES

Our Beyond Borders storytelling events are an opportunity for community members to share their stories. These stories include facing the intricacies of immigration paperwork, overcoming discrimination, the struggles of being a child of an immigrant, escaping a violent place of origin, and many other stories of survival and success. AIJ's intent is to increase the depth of understanding of our immigrant and refugee community members. Alaska is a welcoming and diverse state that benefits greatly from the strength, creativity and heritage of all of our community members.

The next Beyond Borders storytelling event will be held on April 3, 2017 starting at 6:00 p.m at the Bear Tooth Theater. Tickets are on sale at beartooththeatre.net.

Do you have a story to share? If so, please contact Carol at 907-297-2774.



Garja Gurung shares his story as a refugee from Bhutan & Nepal.

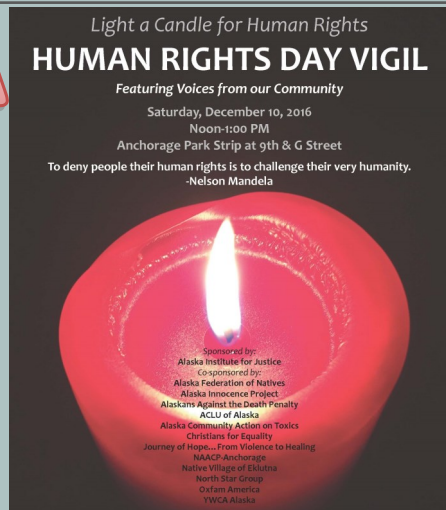


THANK YOU

to everyone who supported the Human Rights Day vigil and warmup gathering on December 10, 2016. And thank you to Barb Hood for being the catalyst behind this event and to the many co-sponsor organizations who helped make this powerful event possible.

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." Now more than ever, it is important for us to take action on our shared values:

to protect the human rights and freedoms of all Alaskans!



ALASKA'S STATEWIDE DIVERSITY

Anchorage is at the vanguard of America's diversity trend, presenting our state with tremendous opportunities and significant challenges. 2015 statewide data indicates Alaskans identified as:

Ethnicity/race	Percent of Population
White (Not Hispanic or Latino)	61.5
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.8
Two or More Races/Multiracial	7.2
Hispanic/Latino	7.0
Asian	6.3
Black	3.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.3

According to 2011-2015 data, **16.2%** of Alaskans speak a language other than English at home, totaling almost **120,000** Alaskans.

Source: US Census Bureau

JUNEAU OFFICE UPDATE

Alaska Institute for Justice's Juneau team continues to provide direct legal services to immigrants in Juneau and rural Alaska, as well as outreach and language access to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in rural communities. The Juneau office develops and provides resources to AIJ's clients to increase access to existing survivor resources, including language services. In addition to connecting survivors with services, the Juneau team also identifies gaps in

services and needed resources. In concert with our Anchorage efforts, AIJ is carrying out groundbreaking work to improve language access for crime victims across Alaska. With the support of a grant from the Office for Victims of

Crime, AIJ coordinates with partner agencies to provide holistic civil legal services to underserved and limited English proficient crime victims within Alaska. We are proud partners with Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Alaska Office of Victims' Rights, Violent Crime Compensation Board, Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's Office, and the UAA Justice Center.



Thank You Brenda Aiken!

For being a champion of human rights through your work with language access.

2017 Calendar of Events

January

1/1 New Years Day
1/16 MLK Day



2/9 AIJ's Mind Games
Pub Quiz fundraiser at
Snow City. Join us!

February

2/14 Valentine's Day
2/20 Presidents' Day



March

3/8 Int'l Women's Day
3/12 Daylight Savings
3/17 St. Paddy's Day
3/31 Last day for PCG



Pick.
Click.
Give.

April

4/11 Passover starts
4/16 Easter
4/22 Earth Day

4/3 Beyond Borders
Storytelling Event

May

5/5 Cinco De Mayo
5/14 Mother's Day
5/27 Ramadan starts (est.)
5/29 Memorial Day



June

6/18 Father's Day
6/21 Summer Solstice
6/25 Eid al Fitr (est.)



July

7/4 Independence Day



August

8/9 World Indigenous Peoples Day



September

9/1 Eid al Adha (est.)
9/4 Labor Day
9/20 Rosh Hashana starts
9/21 Islamic New Year
9/30 Yom Kippur

October

10/9 Columbus Day
10/31 Halloween



November

11/5 Daylight Savings
11/11 Veterans Day
11/23 Thanksgiving



December

12/10 Human Rights Day
12/12 Hanukkah starts
12/21 Winter Solstice
12/25 Christmas



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