



***Fighting for Fundamental
Fairness and Due Process for
Our Immigrant Communities***

FACT SHEET

Who we are:

The Immigrant Justice Network (IJN) is comprised of Immigrant Defense Project (IDP), the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), and the National Immigration Project (NIP/NLG).

As specialists in the complex area of immigration consequences of criminal convictions, our organizations have worked for decades to provide legal, technical, communications and messaging support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and all advocates seeking to advance the rights of noncitizens. Though collaborating for years, we officially joined forces as the Immigrant Justice Network (IJN) in 2006 to overhaul federal immigration law and national, state, and local policies that deny immigrants due process and other constitutional rights.

Our goals:

IJN's chief goal is to protect the rights of immigrants accused of crimes during the criminal justice process, halt expanding criminalization, and seek just immigration reform for all immigrants, including those with prior contact with the criminal justice system. Specifically:

- The network strives to eliminate unjust immigration penalties for immigrants, and end the criminalization of immigrant communities.
- We seek to roll back the 1996 laws triggering mandatory deportation and detention, to minimize the criminal bars to legalization, to restore judicial discretion, and stop further expansion of the harsh 1996 laws.
- We envision a society where all people receive fair and equal treatment under the law.

Our past successes:



- Coordinated campaigns to end state involvement in mass deportation programs, such as Secure Communities. For example, we helped pass detainer discretion policies in localities across the country, including Santa Clara, District of Columbia, and New York City. Created community resources to help others form, implement, and message their detainer campaigns;
- Fought back against harmful provisions in prior legislation, such as VAWA, that would undermine due process and fairness for immigrants with criminal convictions by collaborating with allies;
- Provided bill analyses and messaging assistance for provisions in prior federal reform legislation impacting immigrants accused or convicted of a crime;
- Built support and power amongst groups who could be aligned with our values, but are not always part of the larger immigration discussion. For example, based on our strong connections to criminal and juvenile justice groups, we have successfully reached out to defense organizations, prosecutors, criminal court judges, criminal and juvenile justice reform advocates, drug policy advocates, and law enforcement officers.
- Authored legal treatises, practice advisories, and coordinate litigation strategies involving the immigration consequences of crimes.

Our current work on federal immigration reform:

The growing political consensus for immigration reform provides an opportunity for IJN to seek immigration reforms by:

- Pursuing a communications strategy that disrupts the dominant narratives surrounding immigrants convicted of crimes;
- Bringing new voices and allies into the national conversation;
- Providing our expertise and technical support to existing legislative strategies and grassroots field operations.

For more information, please contact:

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