



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2022

A Letter from Co-Executive Director Rebecca Lightsey

As we go to the polls this election season, it's a good time to reflect on the need for comprehensive immigration reform. The last time this country completely overhauled our immigration laws was under Pres. Reagan in 1986 - 20 years before the smart phones were invented! Just this month, we have seen two examples of the urgency for comprehensive reform. In early October, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was illegal. The case was brought by the Tx Attorney General Ken Paxton. The ruling means that all the DREAMers who currently have DACA status may lose it, and anyone who does not already have it is ineligible to apply. The case will now go back to the lower court but is likely to end up at the Supreme Court. And just last week, the stability of the lives of thousands from Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Nepal was threatened. Back in 2018, the Trump Administration moved to revoke the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for people from these countries. The vast majority of these beneficiaries had lived in the U.S. for years, if not decades, have U.S. citizen children, and have built their lives in this country. A lawsuit had been filed by immigrant rights groups to protect them but last week negotiations between the plaintiffs and the federal government broke down, putting the fate of these families in the hands of the court. Read Edna Yang's statement [here](#).

In this polarized political climate, it may be impossible to find a way to enact comprehensive immigration reform, but there is clearly a dire need to update our outdated immigration laws.

This month is National Pro Bono Month; we are so grateful to all our pro bono attorneys who make our work possible. Please read more about these amazing volunteers below.

Thanks, as always, for all your support

Thank you for choosing action!

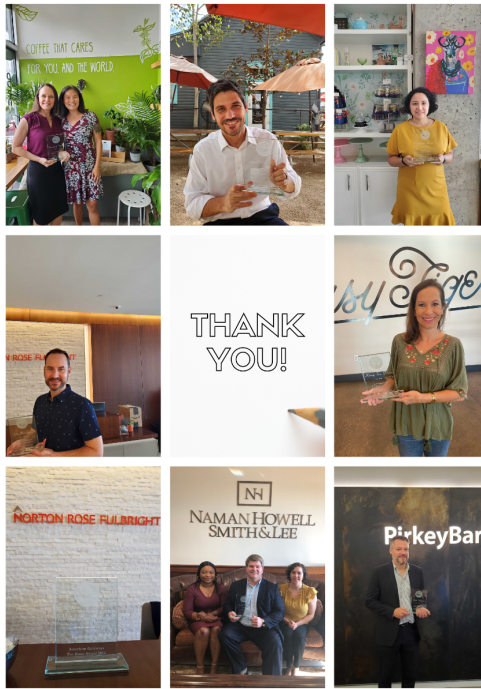
Thank you to everyone who joined us on October 6th at our Immigrant Justice Luncheon in Austin! After two years, we were able to meet again in person to listen to the stories of our clients and partners and to celebrate the communities we serve. With your support, we reached 97% of our fundraising goal!

If you could not make it, [you can still listen to some of our clients' stories at the event](#), like Hari, who came from Nepal to the US to flee persecution for his social activism and relationship with someone from a different caste. American Gateways connected Hari to a pro bono attorney for his asylum case, and later assisted him in becoming a legal permanent resident and petitioning for his wife to join him here in the US.



National Celebration of Pro-Bono month

American Gateways joins the National Celebration of Pro Bono Month by honoring our 2022 Pro-Bono awardees. Their dedication and support of our mission and clients is invaluable. This year awardees are: Madeleine Boyer, Chris Weimer, Adela Meraz, Daniel Berner, Andy Powell, Kerry Van Dusen, Norton Rose Fulbright and Beveridge & Diamond. We are so grateful to partner with each of you! Learn more about our 2022 awardees [here](#).



Celebrating our Team

We have the best TEAM! Congratulations to the following team members for their years of dedication, leadership and advocacy of our clients!

[Edna Yang](#), Co-Executive Director- 20 years.

[Griselda Barrera](#), Co-Director of Programs & Operations- 14 years

[Blanca Camargo](#), DOJ Accredited Representative- 8 years

[Whitney Drake](#), Senior Staff Attorney- 6 years

[Jessica Bautista](#), Legal Caseworker- 5 years

[Luz Rueda](#), DOJ Accredited Representative- 5 years

We are Hiring!

Would you like to join our team? We are seeking a Staff Attorney in our San Antonio office – check out the job description [here](#). Interested candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to americangateways@gmail.com.



We are grateful for the support of the following businesses for sponsoring our recent Immigrant Justice Luncheon: McKool Smith, Norton Rose Fulbright, Baker Botts, King & Spalding, Sagis, Vela Wood, Kirkland & Ellis, Wittliff Cutter, Walker Gates-Vela, Beveridge & Diamond, IBC Bank, DMCA, Paul Parsons, Ben & Becky Bui, Vinson & Elkins LLP, Akin Gump, Lincoln Goldfinch Law, and Newland Medical Associates PC make this work possible.

Donate today to provide access to justice to immigrants. Your partnership allows us to provide critical legal services to those who need it most.

Give Today

