

## Immigration Attorneys

Immigration attorneys stand at the crossroads of policy and humanity. There, they guide those who are among the world's most vulnerable. Immigration attorneys guide people fleeing violence, exploitation, and poverty. Like virtually all of our own ancestors, immigrants are searching for a better life for themselves and their children. Immigration attorneys balance policy concerns for safe and secure borders with fundamental humanitarian concerns to save lives and alleviate suffering.

We should be proud of the many immigration attorneys who are members of CASD. Recent developments, including the Executive Orders sharply limiting immigration and reports of dividing families through rigid enforcement of immigration laws, are causing fear in immigrant communities. Immigration attorneys are experiencing a dramatic surge in pleas for help. Some from people with no options, who get advice on how to protect their families in the meantime and how to prepare themselves for more immigration changes (including preserving evidence of work, tax, and residence histories, resolving outstanding tickets or criminal charges, and saving money). Other calls come on behalf of immigrants in deportation proceedings, who often do have options to regularize their statuses, but frequently do not know the options or don't know how to articulate this to immigration agents and judges. Without the help of immigration attorneys, there is the risk of "wrongful" deportation is high.

Immigration attorneys are on the front lines in this ever-changing area of the law. In the chaotic weekend that followed the Trump Administration's Executive Order, immigration attorneys nationwide rose up and mobilized to airports around the country, many volunteering their time and expertise. While protestors gathered outside airport terminals, immigration attorneys rolled up their sleeves and got to work while sitting on the airport terminal floors. Word quickly spread. Time Magazine reported that the mobilization, dubbed "NoBanJFK," that began at New York City's primary airport, spread to other airports around the country. According to Time, hundreds of attorneys affiliated with the project or otherwise showed up at airports to contribute, manning immigration hotlines, meeting with incoming travelers and their families, and drafting motions. It was an extraordinary display by a community often misunderstood and too frequently maligned in public discourse.

This is just one example of why immigration attorneys have never been more needed in modern history than right now. As the mobilization of attorneys in the wake of the Executive Order showed, it is crucial that we, as a profession, are cognizant of the vital role we play in upholding our core values. "It is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions for migrants more humane." (Pope Francis, Message for the 2015 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, September 3, 2014.) Now is the time for immigration attorneys to shine. In the spirit of charity and cooperation, immigration attorneys are providing their considerable skills and knowledge and making the conditions for migrants more humane. **TBN**

by: Jim Iagmin, CASD President



Jim Iagmin is a partner at Williams Iagmin LLP. For nearly twenty years, Jim has represented only plaintiffs, primarily in catastrophic personal injury and employment cases. Jim has been a member of CASD since 2000 and is a four-time recipient of CASD's Outstanding Trial Lawyer award. Jim earned his Bachelor's degree at Loyola Marymount University and his Juris Doctorate at the University of San Francisco.