



Panelists

- Michele Pistone, Professor of Law, Villanova University; Founding Faculty Director, VIISTA; and Director, Clinic for Asylum, Refugee & Emigrant Services
- Mary Ann McLean, Student at VIISTA (Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies Training for Advocates)
- Ariel Prado, Defend Asylum Program Director, Innovation Law Lab
- Ian Philabaum, Director of Border Programs, Innovation Law Lab
- Jillian Jin, AmeriCorps VISTA, Pro Bono Net
- Pat Malone, Associate Director, Immigration Advocates Network
- Moderator: Sukti Dhital, Executive Director, Robert and Helen Bernstein Institute for Human Rights, New York University School of Law

What is Legal Empowerment

More than **5 billion people** live without access to meaningful justice.

Legal empowerment strives for a different world -- **a rights-based methodology** that centers people in their own fight for justice and creates opportunities to **know, use, shape, and transform the laws and systems** that impact people's lives. The field gets its roots from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and now is a global movement with 2300+ organizations in at least 190 countries committed to community-led justice.



KEY community in the lead, creating dynamic and diverse justice ecosystems

Justice Power

Justice Power is a network of organizers, and lawyers who engage in community-centered approaches to build power and advance immigrant justice.



Justice Power uplifts the work of immigration organizations in the U.S. who partner with communities to know, use, shape, and transform the laws and systems that impact their lives.

- Documentation of methods
- Teach-ins on legal empowerment strategies
- Participatory research
- Advocacy



JusticePower.org

A multi-year documentation project to identify legal empowerment strategies that organizations use to advance immigrant justice. Website contains information on methods, organizational profiles, resources, and multi-media.



VIISTA

(Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies
Training for Advocates)

Founder, Professor Michele Pistone
@profpistone

Mary Ann McLean, VIISTA Student

immigrantadvocate.villanova.edu

Scholarships: <https://www.rightsofthepoor.org/viista-scholarship-program>
(for students affiliated with orgs)



We connected the dots for you.

As you move through the curriculum, you will see that we intentionally designed many of the Learning Activities to touch on multiple Course Topics. We did that because in the real world, the Course Topics all connect and relate to each other.



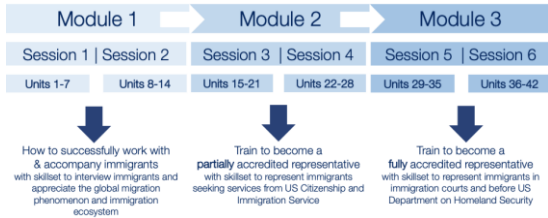
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Who are VIISTA students? Why did they enroll?

<p>Erinn 40</p> <p>Currently works with immigrants Education, social work, health care</p> <p>"Many of my students were undocumented. I would love to be able to support them with a base of information. There are lots of other teachers like me, we all feel helpless. What can we do?"</p> <p>Teach me so I can counsel my students, clients, customers, patients</p>	<p>Adam 25</p> <p>Millennial Recent college grad Futuright recipient in Brazil</p> <p>"I am pissed off – this needs to change; I need to help change this."</p> <p>Teach me so I can have an immediate impact</p>	<p>Pastor Kim 55</p> <p>Pastoral worker</p> <p>"Immigration was always a passion of mine. Until now, I was not able to do anything, other than give money. Now, I can do something."</p> <p>Teach me so I can help my congregants</p>	<p>Jane 55</p> <p>Seeking encore career Former professional College-educated Financially-comfortable</p> <p>"I hate what I am seeing happen in my country. I can't just stand by and watch. I need to take action."</p> <p>Teach me so I can become part of the solution</p>
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Aspiring advocates can take 3+ paths.

Module 1 | Module 1 + Module 2 | Module 1 + Module 2 + Module 3



More info . . .

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Scholarships: <https://www.rightsofthepoor.org/vlista-scholarship-program>
 (for students affiliated with orgs)

**INNOVATION
LAW LAB**

Every case that should win, does win, every time, everywhere

Defend Asylum: Court Watch
 Ariel Prado

Border Programs: CajaFuerte
 Ian Philabaum



Immigration Court Watch

From: "Innovation Law Lab" <info@innovationlawlab.org>
 Date: Mon, 15 Feb 2020 at 10:05 PM (EST)
 To: [redacted]
 Subject: Complaint closed

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for contacting us with your complaint of March 1, 2019. Please be advised that this matter is now considered closed, although the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, prevents us from disclosing whether any action was taken against the immigration judge, be it correct that your complaint was resolved fairly and handled appropriately.

Editorial Content and Responsibility
 Executive Office for Immigration Review

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LAW LAB

Immigration Court Watch

Available Forms

Checklist

1.1 If you were charged with NPP hearing, fill out the checklist and bring it to the hearing.

1.2 If you were charged with NPP hearing, fill out the checklist and bring it to the hearing.

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1.10 If you were charged with NPP hearing, fill out the checklist and bring it to the hearing.

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Immigration Court Watch

TEAMS

Adelanto Court Watch

Courts
 Adelanto
 10250 Rancho Road, Ste. 201A

Team Members
 Christopher [redacted]
 [redacted]@innovationlawlab.org
 Role: Admin
 Test Volunteer (ID: 64)

Arlington Court Watch

Courts
 Arlington
 1901 South Bell Street, Suite 200

Team Members
 Christopher [redacted]
 [redacted]@innovationlawlab.org
 Role: Admin

Atlanta Court Watch

Courts
 Atlanta
 180 Ted Turner Drive, SW, Suite 241
 Atlanta (Annex)
 401 W. Peachtree Street NW, Ste. 2600

Team Members
 Christopher [redacted]
 [redacted]@innovationlawlab.org

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CajaFuerte



Having copies of documents “not only tangibly strengthens the case, but it also makes the asylum seeker feel more confident and in control of what’s going on.”

— IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY ALLEGRA LOVE

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CajaFuerte

Uploads for: T.R.L.

92baa5

Date of birth

1 20 1960

Uploads for: T.R.L.

- Mishrae Immigration Legal Services.pdf
- Estela v. Promesa, Prof. Juan de Arco, 31.19.2021, Draft FINAL.pdf
- myth vs. Jeddah2020.pdf
- Transit Ben notes 10.20.19.pdf
- Practice Advisory - Challenging Form I-213.pdf
- airtravel 1 - operations Jan. 10.15.19.pdf
- 11002.1-hd-parade_of_acting_alien_sound_credible_hear.pdf
- Practice Advisory - Challenging Form I-213.pdf
- 11002.1-hd-parade_of_acting_alien_sound_credible_hear.pdf
- Barriers To Protection.pdf
- Practice Advisory - Challenging Form I-213.pdf
- CHS Interim Guidance on Implementation of Matter of M-S.pdf
- 11002.1-hd-parade_of_acting_alien_sound_credible_hear.pdf

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CajaFuerte

Transferring record to Law Lab

Status	Count
Records pending	0
Records processed	7276

LawLab URL

Sync records to LawLab

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More info

Court Watch

courtwatch.lawlab.cc/about

ariel@lawlab.cc

CajaFuerte

ian@lawlab.cc

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Immigration Advocates Network

Pro Bono Net Projects:

 Citizenshipworks

LawHelp.org

 immi.

probono.net

 LawHelp
INTERACTIVE
Legal documents made simpler



Immigration Advocates
NETWORK

About Citizenshipworks

Citizenshipworks offers a user-friendly, mobile-responsive interface that simplifies the form to apply for U.S. Citizenship (Form N-400).

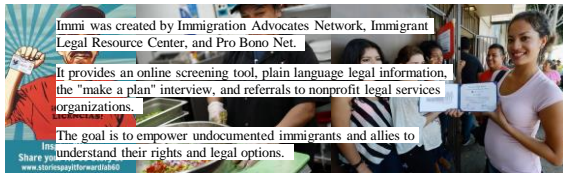
After the form is completed, it connects applicants with a nonprofit legal service provider for legal assistance - as needed.

Provides individualized citizenship assistance, while empowering the applicant to own the application process.

<https://www.citizenshipworks.org/en>

 Citizenshipworks

About Immi



<https://www.immi.org/en>



About LawHelp

LawHelp is a program of Pro Bono Net. It is a national, online resource that helps people find local legal aid programs, answers to questions about legal rights, court information, self-help tools, and more.

Visitors can navigate the page for legal help assistance in their area by clicking on their state or territory on the site's map.

Increases access for those in hard-to-reach areas so they can achieve justice on their own.

<https://www.lawhelp.org>



About LawHelp Interactive

LHI is a program of Pro Bono Net. It allows people representing themselves to prepare their own legal documents and pleadings online for free.

Interviews and templates created by legal experts at legal aid programs, courts, and their partner organizations.

Increases opportunities for those without an attorney to achieve justice on their own.

Supports collaborations between legal aid programs, libraries and community organizations to increase self-help.

<https://lawhelpinteractive.org>





Questions?

(Use the chat box on the right of your screen to ask questions.)



Thank you!

To learn more visit JusticePower.org
