

# BRINGING ROBUST AND HOLISTIC REPRESENTATION TO CONTRA COSTA JULY 21, 2021



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# Keeping Contra Costa Families Together

- ▶ **Noncitizens do not have the right to a court-appointed attorney when facing deportation proceedings**
- ▶ So, we represent detained noncitizen Contra Costans in deportation proceedings before the Immigration Courts at no cost to the noncitizen.
  - ▶ In 2020: Provided free representation to 87 Contra Costan noncitizens in deportation proceedings.
  - ▶ In 2020: Conducted 735 free consultations to Contra Costan noncitizens.
- ▶ **Unique:** Only **three** California counties provide free removal defense to their noncitizen residents.

\* Bottom Picture: STCC client and family.

# Serving Contra Costans from Around the World

- ▶ Marie, who fled political persecution and Torture in Uganda.
- ▶ Ken, a refugee from Laos, seeking to remain with U.S. citizen family.



\* A supporter of Bobi Wine protesting his arrest in Uganda.



\* STCC client and family.



# Measuring the Need in Contra Costa County

- ▶ **Contra Costa Residents in Immigration Court not Represented: 4,442\***
  - ▶ (4,312 nondetained; 3,625 never detained)
  - ▶ (Fifth largest amount throughout CA; behind San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda)
  - ▶ Amount unrepresented before the San Francisco Immigration Court where county not known: 1,048
- ▶ **Legal Representation Matters**
  - ▶ In San Francisco Immigration Court rate of represented asylum cases granted is: 65%
  - ▶ In San Francisco Immigration Court rate of unrepresented asylum cases granted is: 19%
- ▶ **Average time of case completion in San Francisco Immigration Court: 3 years.**

\* All statistics are from TRAC Immigration run by Syracuse University. Statistics were accessed on June 18, 2021, and are current through May 2021. The tracking tool is available at [https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/reports/reports.php?layer=immigration&report\\_type=tool](https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/reports/reports.php?layer=immigration&report_type=tool)

\* Picture: STCC client with family





# Our Strategy for Keeping Contra Costa's Immigrant Families Together



\* Picture: STCC client with Mother

- ▶ **Robust and Free Removal Defense Representation for Contra Costa Families**
  - ▶ Legal representation across the labyrinth of court systems (*i.e.* Immigration Court, U.S. Citizenship and immigration Services, Board of Immigration Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, State Court).
  - ▶ Needed now more than ever.
- ▶ **Social Workers to Provide Holistic Social Services**
  - ▶ Language accessible and culturally responsive social work services and navigation is essential for the immigrant clients we serve.
- ▶ **STRATEGY AND COST: \$2 Million**
  - ▶ **Double our county's capacity to provide free removal defense representation including representation across systems.**
  - ▶ **Advance immigrant community engagement throughout the county in partnership with community-based organizations.**
  - ▶ **Provide intersectional holistic assistance by providing culturally responsive access to social work services and navigation for our clients and their families.**