

The background of the left half of the page is a light blue rectangle featuring a repeating pattern of stylized white flowers and leaves. The flowers have multiple petals and prominent centers, while the leaves are elongated and pointed. The pattern is dense and covers the entire blue area.

CAPITAL AREA **IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS** COALITION

2023 IMPACT REPORT

DETAINED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Detained Children's Program provides legal and social services to children who arrive in the United States alone and are detained by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the area as well as those released to a sponsor in D.C./MD/VA.



Rosa's Story

Rosa and her brother fled to the United States to seek safety and be reunited with their mother. CAIR Coalition represents Rosa and her brother.

After Rosa and her brother were released from the shelter and reunited with their mother, CAIR Coalition helped Rosa and her family connect with the resources and services they needed to transition into their new life in the U.S. Our Social Services team helped connect Rosa's family with English classes, mental health resources, clinics, and more. Rosa's mother told us, "[CAIR Coalition staff] made me feel like they had my back, so much that my children and I don't feel alone anymore."

Many families have fled their homes to seek safety in the U.S. due to violence, persecution, and more. *Because of your support*, our team can work with children like Rosa and her brother to provide the legal and social services they need to fight their immigration cases.

"When my little brother and I were at the shelter where immigration sent us, we were very scared. When I met [CAIR Coalition staff], they made me feel good, and thanks to them and their help, my mom, my siblings, and I feel supported."

Over **1,500 children** who were detained received Know Your Rights presentations and legal intakes. Full legal representation was initiated with **over 300 children**.

DETAINED ADULT PROGRAM

The Detained Adult Program works with immigrants who are detained and at risk of deportation by providing Know Your Rights presentations, legal consultations, and direct legal representation trauma-sensitive client-centered services. Many of our clients are long-term residents of D.C./MD/VA. We also work alongside people who have recently arrived from the Southern border and immigrants from other parts of the country who have been transferred to local facilities.

Hacksel's Story

Hacksel is from an indigenous community in Nicaragua and fled to the United States to seek safety. When he came to the U.S., he had a court date, but due to the stress of not having a lawyer or understanding the immigration system, his depression worsened.

"I could not even breathe," Hacksel told us. He needed legal support but couldn't afford to get his own lawyer. CAIR Coalition represented Hacksel at his immigration court hearing, and he was granted asylum! He now lives with his family and community in Maryland.



"I had no idea how to get a lawyer. I didn't have papers. I felt like everything was over. [I needed] someone to help me go to court. Thank God I managed to find CAIR Coalition."

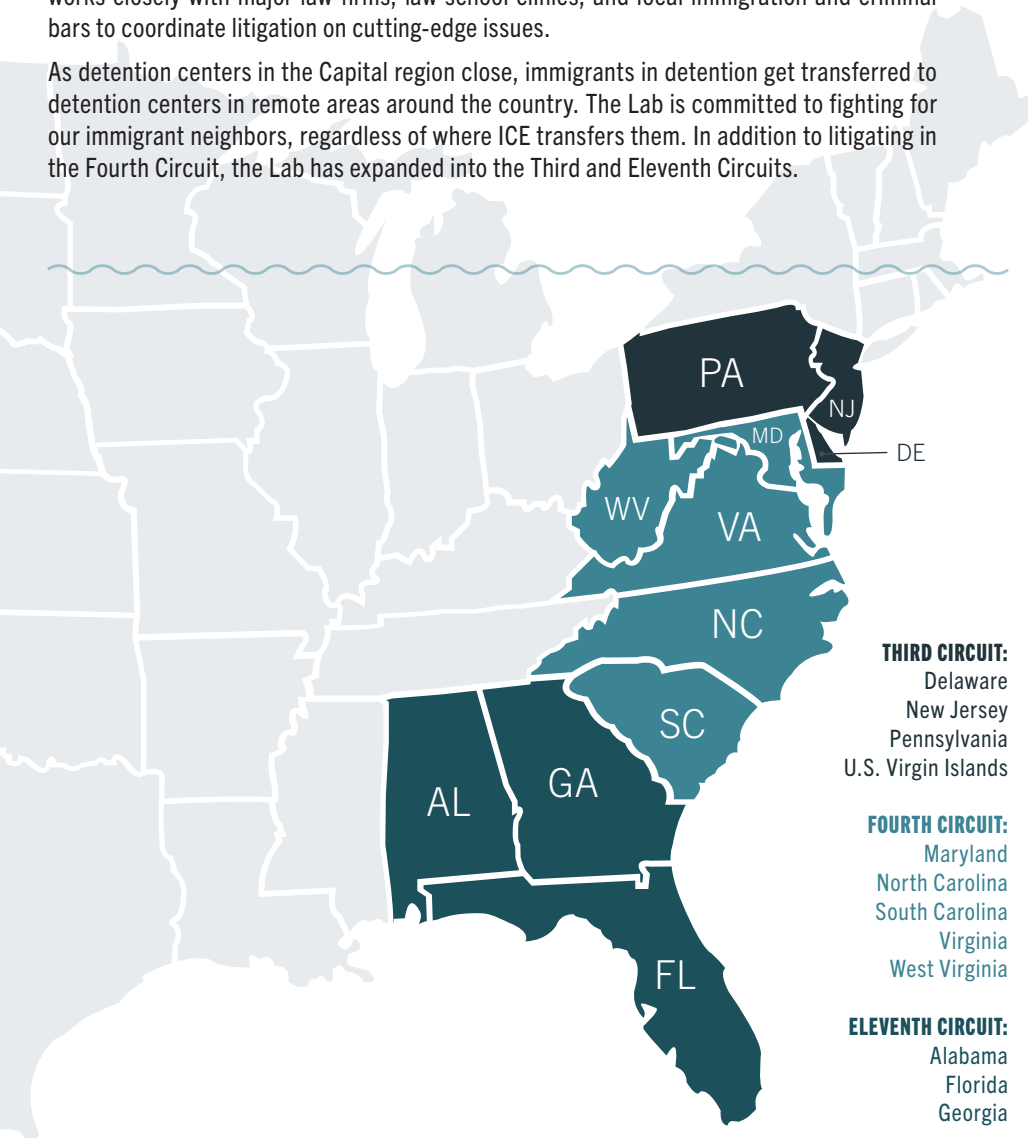
Hacksel's story is like thousands of others—being detained and treated as if he had already committed a crime when, in fact, he was only exercising his right to seek asylum. *Thanks to you*, our team provides legal support to immigrants at risk of deportation so they can safely remain in the United States.

Over **1,000 adults** received services, including Know Your Rights presentations, individual consults, and direct legal representation. Full legal representation was initiated with nearly **300 adults**.

IMMIGRATION IMPACT LAB

The Immigration Impact Lab (“The Lab”) brings impact litigation federal courts to challenge barriers to asylum, due process, and liberty rights for our immigrant neighbors. The Lab also works closely with major law firms, law school clinics, and local immigration and criminal bars to coordinate litigation on cutting-edge issues.

As detention centers in the Capital region close, immigrants in detention get transferred to detention centers in remote areas around the country. The Lab is committed to fighting for our immigrant neighbors, regardless of where ICE transfers them. In addition to litigating in the Fourth Circuit, the Lab has expanded into the Third and Eleventh Circuits.



THIRD CIRCUIT:

Delaware
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
U.S. Virgin Islands

FOURTH CIRCUIT:

Maryland
North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia
West Virginia

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT:

Alabama
Florida
Georgia

More than 70 lawsuits litigated.

Trained **over 500 individuals** on the consequences of criminal convictions on immigration cases.

Ebou's Story

Ebou, a long-time Maryland resident, was detained for over one and a half years at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Pennsylvania. The Lab used a federal habeas petition to finally secure his release. The federal judge found that Ebou's prolonged detention without an opportunity to seek bond was unconstitutional. He then won bond before the immigration court and could finally return home to his family!

Ebou's win provides an important precedent for others in prolonged detention. It was one of the first federal habeas petitions challenging an immigrant's detention ever filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

In addition to Ebou's release, the Lab used federal habeas petitions to secure the release of 15 other immigrants detained at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in PA as well as other facilities across the Mid-Atlantic and the South.

"Without CAIR Coalition, people like myself would not be sitting here today."



Having a lawyer makes a staggering difference in the outcome of immigration cases like Ebou's (pictured with his family). People in immigration detention with attorneys are ten times more likely to win the right to remain in the U.S. than those without representation.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services Program is part of a holistic service model that works with both children and adults during their immigration cases. The goal is to help eliminate barriers that might prevent clients from focusing on their cases and help them transition safely into their communities after being released. The program connects clients to essential resources in their communities, such as medical, educational, mental health services, and more.

More than **350 clients and their families** received individualized social service referrals to support their immigration cases and help address their immediate and long-term needs.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

We remain humbled by the support of the CAIR Coalition community, whose commitment allows us to engage in unwavering legal defense and strategic litigation for immigrants facing detention or deportation, regardless of background, because everyone has the right to be free, safe, and supported. Your contributions allow us to work towards a humane and just immigration system that affords everyone due process and direct legal representation, protects all people seeking safety, and keeps communities together.

Defenders of Dignity

CAIR Coalition would like to extend a special acknowledgment to the individuals, households, law firms, corporations, and other entities, whose annual contributions totaled \$1,000 or more in 2023.

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CAIR Coalition would also like to recognize the generous financial support of the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA), Maryland Legal Services Corporation, Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, and the Washington D.C. Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (MOLA).

Many thanks to our fellowship partners, including Avodah, Gallogly Family Foundation, Immigrant Justice Corps, and Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom LLP.

CAIR Coalition makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the donor list. If there appears to be an omission or error, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at development@caircoalition.org.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

**Over 200 volunteers contributed
4,000 hours in 2023.**

They answered more than 12,000 calls through our free Detention Hotline, completed more than 800 translations and interpretation requests, and attended 16 detention center visits. Their participation allows CAIR Coalition to expand our capacity and work alongside our immigrant neighbors who are navigating an unjust and inhumane system.

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*CAIR Coalition is grateful for the contributions of
long-time board members Robert Lawrence and
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We partnered with more than 50 pro bono firms

CAIR Coalition partners with law firms, corporate legal departments, and law school clinics to leverage the work of staff and volunteers. Together, pro bono partners donated nearly 12,000 hours of free legal assistance, valued at more than \$9 million, to immigrants in the Capital region and beyond.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Samantha A. Miller

CAIR Coalition Legal Advisory Committee Member and Pro Bono Volunteer

I am a volunteer at CAIR Coalition and an attorney with Zuckerman Spaeder. Recently, I joined CAIR Coalition's staff and volunteers on a trip to an immigration detention facility in Caroline County, Virginia. Seeing how our country detains people caught up in the immigration system wasn't easy for me. Immigration detention is, essentially, jail. Immigrants sleep in cells, wear jumpsuits, and are denied even the most basic autonomy, such as when to wake up and when to go to the bathroom. What's worse is that many people are kept in the dark about how long they will be locked up and what will happen next.

But there is room for optimism. During that trip to the detention center, I was inspired by the work of CAIR Coalition staff and volunteers. CAIR Coalition staff had spent days in this remote part of Virginia, meeting with detainees and gathering the information necessary to connect folks with counsel. They were empathetic, professional, and deeply knowledgeable. The volunteers blew me away, too. Individuals from all walks of life—students, retirees, working adults—donated their time and energy to helping those ensnared in the immigration system.

Despite all the pain, I left the detention center feeling hopeful. CAIR Coalition performs essential work, and they do it well. I am honored to be a supporter of CAIR Coalition.



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25TH ANNIVERSARY BASH on **SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**
at the National Museum of Women in the Arts!

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(202) 899-3987

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