



2025-2026 Newsletter

July 1, 2026

Greetings from the Center for Immigrant Justice (CIJ) at Rutgers Law School! We hope your summer is going well. We are pleased to share this newsletter, which highlights the Center's work over the past year.

It has been a full and meaningful year. In **Legal Scholarship**, affiliated faculty published on some of the most contested questions in immigration and citizenship law, including work on detention and access to courts, state constitutional protections for immigrants, and immigration law as a tool of empire. CIJ hosted three symposia, including an international workshop co-hosted with Lund University in Sweden, and the Center's Annual Distinguished Immigrant Justice Lecture convened a leading voice in the field at Rutgers Law.

In **Litigation and Advocacy**, CIJ filed amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court and federal circuit courts, challenging what we believe are unlawful rescissions of Temporary Protected Status and discriminatory state property restrictions rooted in racial and national-origin animus. The Center also continued its Know Your Rights programming, pro bono legal training, and community advocacy work across New Jersey.

In **Community Engagement**, CIJ hosted a live re-enactment of **Oyama v. California** in honor of Fred Korematsu Day, book talks, and a range of events connecting the Rutgers community to the immigrant justice movement.

Under **CIJ in the News**, Center faculty were quoted in the **Gothamist**, **NJ Spotlight News**, and **NBC News Now**, and contributed an op-ed to **The Conversation** on the constitutional limits of ICE's detention authority.

Finally, in **CIJ Community**, we celebrate faculty honors, including promotions and a national award, and recognize the fellows and graduates who have made the Center's work possible.

There is much to look forward to. The coming year will bring new events, significant research initiatives, and forthcoming scholarship that we are eager to share. Learn more at cij.rutgers.edu. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Rose Cuison-Villazor

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar
Director, Center for Immigrant Justice



ABOUT THE CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

The Center for Immigrant Justice (CIJ) was founded in 2018 by Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor at Rutgers Law School, one of the nation's leading public law schools with campuses in Newark and Camden, New Jersey. CIJ brings together affiliated faculty, law students, and fellows to advance immigrant justice through rigorous legal scholarship, litigation and advocacy, and community engagement. Since its founding, the Center has produced scholarship published in leading law reviews, filed amicus briefs in federal courts including the U.S. Supreme Court, hosted symposia that have convened scholars and advocates from across the United States and beyond, and provided trainings and workshops for the next generation of immigrant justice lawyers. CIJ is guided by the conviction that legal scholarship and advocacy are most powerful when they are accountable to the communities they serve.

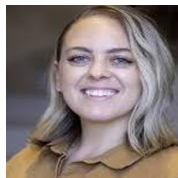
OUR MISSION

The Center for Immigrant Justice (CIJ) at Rutgers Law School is an interdisciplinary research and advocacy center dedicated to immigrant justice through legal scholarship, litigation and advocacy, and community engagement. CIJ brings together faculty, students, practitioners, and advocates to produce scholarship, shape law and policy, and build connections between legal theory and movement practice. Across all its work, the Center is guided by the belief that legal scholarship and advocacy are most powerful when they are accountable to the communities they serve.

I. LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year, scholarship produced by affiliated faculty engaged some of the most contested terrain in immigration law, including how peripheral detention and geographic transfer deny noncitizens meaningful access to the courts, and how state constitutions may offer new legal foundations for immigrant protection. CIJ-hosted symposia brought together scholars, students, organizers, and practitioners from across the United States and Europe to examine resistance, belonging, and the comparative dimensions of migration law. The CIJ's Annual Distinguished Immigrant Justice Lecture once again brought leading voices in the field to Rutgers Law.

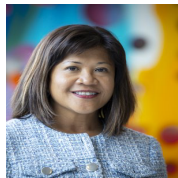
Faculty Scholarship



Pina Cirillo

Supervising Attorney,
Rutgers Immigrant Rights Clinic's
Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative

- *Due Process Army at the Elizabeth Detention Center*, in ELIZABETH DETENTION CENTER: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN NEW JERSEY AND THE UNITED STATES (ULLA D. BERG AND CAROLINA SÁNCHEZ BOE, EDS., forthcoming 2026).



Rose Cuison-Villazor

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar,
Director of the Center for Immigrant Justice

- [*Busing & The Sanctuary City*](#), ____ TEXAS A&M L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2027) (with Pratheepan Gulasekaram and Rick Su).
- [*ASYLUM, REFUGEES, AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN PROTECTIONS \(2026\) \(WITH HIROSHI MOTOMURA, MARYELLEN FULLERTON, JULIET STUMPF, AND PRATHEEPAN GULASEKARAM\)*](#).
- [*The Philippine Repatriation Act of 1935: Immigration Law as a Tool of American Empire*](#), 59 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 2607 (2026).
- [*The Renewed Assault on Sanctuary Cities*](#), 77 RUTGERS U. L. REV. 1417 (2025) (with Rick Su and Pratheepan Gulasekaram).



Joanne Gottesman

Associate Professor of Law and
Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic

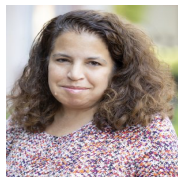
- [*Immigration Federalism and the Promise of State Constitutions*](#), 30 LEWIS & CLARK L. REV. 1 (2026).
- [*Permanency Means Immigration Permanency: Why Child Welfare Agencies Must Provide Immigration Attorneys to Noncitizen Foster Children*](#), 59 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 365 (2025) (with Randi Mandelbaum).



Anju Gupta

Professor of Law, Chester J. Straub Scholar, and
Director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic

- “Legalistic Lies,” 99 TEMPLE L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2026) (with Charles Shane Ellison).



Randi Mandelbaum

Associate Dean for Clinical Education,
Professor of Law & Annamay Sheppard Scholar, and
Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic

- [*Permanency Means Immigration Permanency: Why Child Welfare Agencies Must Provide Immigration Attorneys to Noncitizen Foster Children*](#), 59 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 365 (2025) (with Joanne Gottesman).
- [*Release to Sponsor Approved, Now What?*](#), 91 FORDHAM L. REV. ONLINE 83 (2023), reprinted at 24-02 IMMIGR. BRIEFINGS 1 (Feb. 2024).



Peter Mancina

CIJ Visiting Scholar (2021–2023)

- [*ON THE SIDE OF ICE: POLICING IMMIGRANTS IN A SANCTUARY STATE*](#) (NYU Press, 2025).



Jessica Rofé

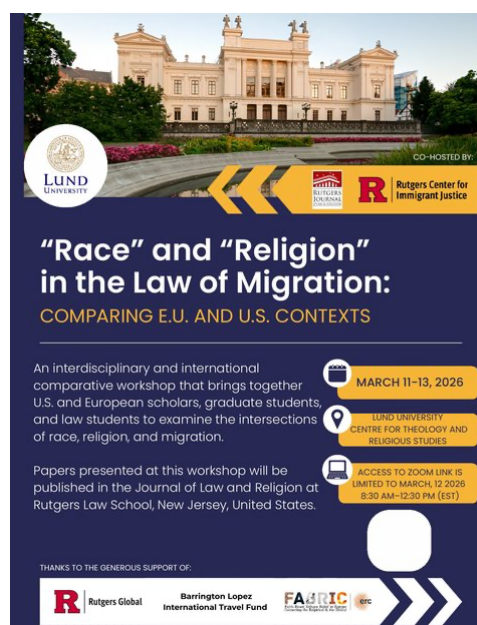
Assistant Professor of Law and
Director of the Constitutional Rights Clinic

- [*Peripheral Detention, Transfer, and Access to the Courts*](#), 122 MICH. L. REV. 867 (2024).
- *The EDC Class Action and the Fight to End For-Profit Detention in New Jersey*, in ELIZABETH DETENTION CENTER: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN NEW JERSEY AND THE UNITED STATES (ULLA D. BERG AND CAROLINA SÁNCHEZ BOE, EDS., forthcoming 2026).

Symposia

CIJ partnered with Rutgers student-edited law journals to host symposia featuring leading scholars, practitioners, and advocates on pressing questions in immigration and citizenship law.

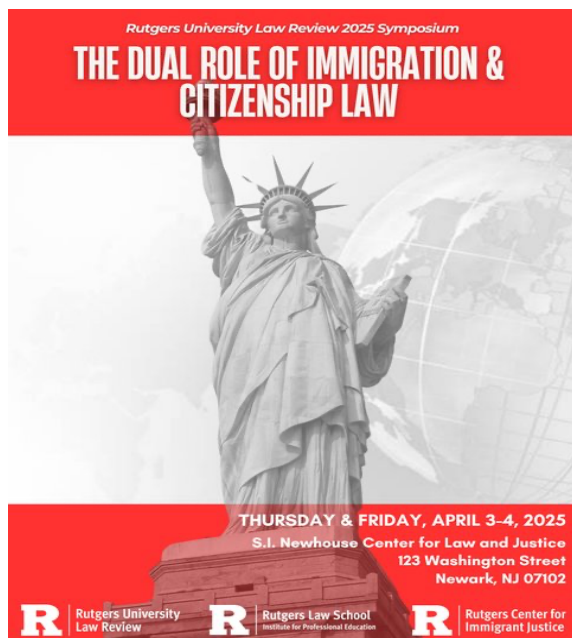
March 11–13, 2026: [“Race” and “Religion” in the Law of Migration: Comparing E.U. and U.S. Contexts Journal Symposium](#), co-hosted with the [Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion](#) and [Lund University Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Sweden](#). This [international symposium](#) demonstrates the global reach of CIJ scholarship in shaping transatlantic migration law discourse. Articles and essays from the symposium are forthcoming in the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*.



November 13–14, 2025: [“What Resistance Looks Like: Law, Organizing, and Everyday Acts in the Immigrant Justice Movement” Journal Symposium Event](#), co-hosted with the [Rutgers Race and the Law Review](#), American Friends Service Committee, and the Rutgers Law Child Advocacy Clinic. This symposium convened scholars, organizers, and practitioners to examine how immigrant justice is built from the ground up, bridging legal theory with movement practice. Articles and essays from the symposium are forthcoming in the *Rutgers Race and the Law Review*.



April 3-4, 2025: ["The Dual Role of Immigration & Citizenship Law: Exploring Inclusion, Exclusion & Reform for 2025 & Beyond,"](#) co-hosted with the *Rutgers University Law Review* and the Institute for Professional Education. This two-day symposium brought together leading scholars to examine how immigration and citizenship law simultaneously opens and forecloses pathways to membership in American society. The articles and essays from the symposium were published in [Volume 77](#) of the *Rutgers University Law Review*. The symposium also honored Rutgers Law School immigration and citizenship legal scholars and CIJ-affiliated faculty, Professor Linda Bosniak and Professor Alan Hyde, who retired in 2025.



Distinguished Immigration and Citizenship Justice Lectures

2025 | Kevin R. Johnson, Dean, UC Davis School of Law
[Our Immigration Future: Law, Politics, and Belonging](#), delivered as
 the keynote address at the Rutgers University Law Review
 Symposium, *The Dual Role of Immigration & Citizenship Law:
 Exploring Inclusion, Exclusion & Reform for 2025 & Beyond*.
 Published at 77 Rutgers U. L. Rev. 1227 (2025).



2024 | Marielena Hincapié, Distinguished Immigration Fellow and Visiting Scholar, Cornell Law School

[“Fighting for Immigrant Justice, Defending Democracy” Lecture Event](#), delivered as the keynote address at the *Rutgers Race and the Law Review 2024 Symposium, DACA More Than Ten Years Later: The Legal, Political, and Social Landscape Fighting for Immigrant Justice*. Published at *Rutgers Race & L. Rev.* 197 (2024).



II. LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY

In 2025–2026, CIJ filed amicus briefs in federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, in cases challenging what CIJ argues are unlawful rescissions of Temporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of Haitians and Venezuelans. The Center also represented racial justice centers, civil rights organizations, and bar associations in challenging the revival of so-called “alien land laws,” which are state restrictions on property ownership rooted in racial and national-origin animus, that today target Chinese individuals.

Amicus Brief Practice

Contesting the Rescission of Temporary Protected Status

- *Mullin v. Doe* and *Trump v. Miot*: Amicus Brief on behalf of Members of Congress, [filed](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court (Apr. 13, 2026). This consolidated case challenged the Executive Branch’s authority to terminate TPS for both Haitian and Venezuelan nationals, emphasizing the necessity of judicial review in federal immigration policy and racism animating the termination of TPS status.
 - **Update:** On June 25, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Trump administration's rescission of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian and Venezuelan nationals. CIJ will host a panel discussion on these opinions and *Trump v. Barbara* on September 2, 2026 (date to be confirmed).
- *National TPS v. Noem*: Amicus Brief on behalf of Members of Congress, [filed](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court (Sept. 29, 2025). A brief on the merits was [filed](#) in the 9th Circuit (Nov. 12, 2025). This case concerns the legal status of hundreds of thousands of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders from Venezuela and is among the most consequential immigration cases before the Court.

Constitutional Challenge to State “Alien Land Laws”

- *Jones Eagle LLC v. Wes Ward*: Amicus Brief on behalf of Racial Justice Centers, National Bar Associations, and Civil Rights Organizations [filed](#) in the 8th Circuit (Aug. 25, 2025). See the accompanying [press statement](#) from CIJ.

- *Yifan Shen v. Simpson*: Amicus Brief in support of Plaintiffs-Appellants by Racial Justice Centers, Affinity Bar and Professional Associations, and Civil Rights Advocacy Organizations, [filed](#) in the 11th Circuit (Oct. 10, 2023).

Advocacy and Legal Education

Beyond the courts, CIJ works directly with immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and the broader Rutgers community to build the legal infrastructure for immigrant justice through Know Your Rights programming, pro bono legal training, and practical tools for families navigating immigration enforcement.

- **May 19, 2026:** [From Law to Liberty: Pro Bono Immigration Habeas Corpus Training Event](#). This training equipped pro bono attorneys with the skills and resources needed to litigate immigration detention cases through habeas corpus petitions.
- **March 5, 2026:** ["Know Your Rights" Presentation](#) for Rutgers faculty and staff. Know Your Rights programming has become a core pillar of CIJ's mission, reaching students, faculty, staff, and the broader Newark community through multiple events across the academic year.
- **September 26, 2025:** [Red Folder Project Information Session](#). The Red Folder Initiative helps immigrant families collect critical documents and other information and plan ahead in the event of an ICE encounter.
- **March 20, 2025:** Know Your Rights workshop with the Peer Defense Project, Latino Justice, Intercultural Development Research Association, and other pro bono attorneys to educate individuals on what to do if ICE comes to K-12 schools or college campuses. Click [here](#) to view the "Immigrant Student Defense Toolkit" (last updated April 2025).
- **February 27, 2025:** ["Free Immigration Know Your Rights Clinic" Event](#), open to the public, and co-hosted by Newark city agencies and local community organizations.
- **November 11, 2024:** ["Know Your Rights: A Teach-In About Immigrants' Rights" Event](#),

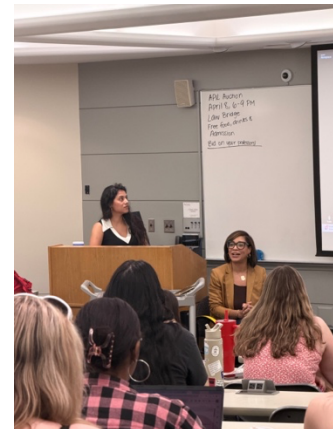


which was conducted one week after the 2024 Presidential Election. It featured Rutgers professors to discuss relevant immigration and citizenship laws and procedures for the Rutgers community.

III. PUBLICLY ENGAGED EVENTS

Through interdisciplinary programming, CIJ connects the Rutgers University community and the broader public to legal analysis, historical re-enactment, and dialogue with leading national scholars and advocates to bear on the most pressing questions in immigration and citizenship law.

April 16, 2026: [Trump v. Barbara: An Analysis of Oral Arguments in the Birthright Citizenship Case](#). *Trump v. Barbara* involved a constitutional and statutory challenge to Executive Order 14160, which sought to deny citizenship to children born in the United State to parents who were undocumented or only temporarily present. Claimants argued that the executive order violates the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Immigration and Nationality Act. The CIJ sponsored a post-oral argument panel discussion, joined by faculty in Camden and Newark, and attended by students on both campuses.

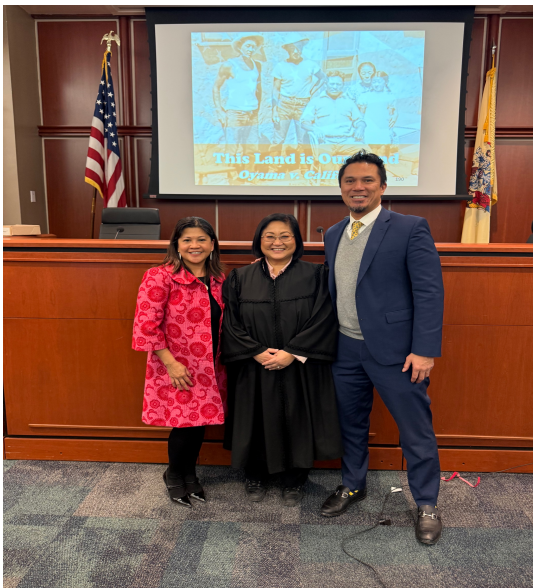


Update:

On June 30, 2026, in a 5-4 opinion, the Supreme Court ruled in *Trump v. Barbara* that Executive Order 14160, violates the Fourteenth Amendment. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice Roberts grounded the ruling in longstanding common-law principles and the Court's 1898 precedent in *Wong Kim Ark v. United States*, 169 U.S. 649 (1898), rejecting arguments that citizenship should hinge on parental domicile. The decision preserves birthright citizenship as it has stood for over a century, a major win for the immigrant families and communities CIJ serves.

January 28, 2026: [Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution: A Re-Enactment of *Oyama v. California*, 332 U.S. 633 \(1948\)](#). Re-enacting this 1948 Supreme

Court case illuminates the enduring struggles over citizenship and belonging that define immigration law today.



October 1, 2025: [Book Talk Event](#), featuring Professor Hiroshi Motomura, who is one of the nation's foremost immigration law scholars, and his book, [Borders and Belonging: Toward a Fair Immigration Policy](#). Professor Motomura's book addresses the foundational questions underlying U.S. immigration policy, offering a framework for thinking about who belongs and on what terms. This event was co-sponsored by the Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and Race in America.



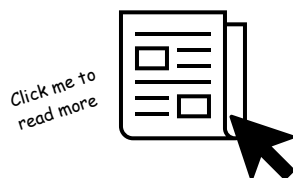
January 30, 2025: [“Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution” Teach-In Event](#), co-hosted with Rutgers Law’s Newark chapter of Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) to commemorate and discuss the contemporary relevance of *Korematsu v. United States*.

IV. CIJ IN THE NEWS

Gothamist, May 28, 2026: Ryan Kost, “NJ has spent a year trying to rein in Newark ICE jail, and failed. What happens next?” The article examined the tension between federal authority over immigration detention and state and local governments’ jurisdiction over health and safety within their borders.

NJ Spotlight News, June 2, 2026: Elise Young, “Where ICE isn’t wanted, locals cite rules that apply to everyone.” The piece explored how state and local governments are using regulatory authority — over water, construction, and occupancy — as a legally sound basis for resisting ICE detention facility expansion.

The Conversation, April 14, 2025: Rose Cuison-Villazor, “ICE has broad power to detain and arrest noncitizens – but is still bound by constitutional limits.” This op-ed examines the constitutional constraints on ICE’s authority to detain and arrest noncitizens, drawing on high-profile cases including the arrests of Mahmoud Khalil and Rumeysa Ozturk.



October 2, 2025:
“Ruling temporarily stops Trump administration from diverting homeland security funds from California, other sanctuary”

[Radio](#)



March 26, 2025:
“Critics slam Trump for how Venezuelan migrants were deported” on [NJ Spotlight News](#)



March 20, 2025:
An interview on the “constitutional crisis” surrounding the deportation of Venezuelan migrants, on



January 24, 2025: Rose Cuison-Villazor discussed the multiple ICE raids reported in Newark, NJ on [NBC News Now](#)

V. PEOPLE OF CIJ

Faculty Honors



Rose Cuison-Villazor

Promoted to Distinguished Professor of Law.

Ranked the 10th most cited professor in Immigration Law in the HeinOnline Scholarly Impact Rankings (January 2026).



Joanne Gottesman

Promoted to Professor of Law.

Jessica Rofé

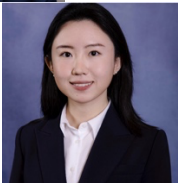
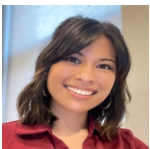
Promoted to Associate Professor of Law.

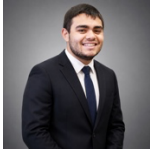


Received the 2026 Shanara Gilbert Award from the Association of American Law Schools, given annually to an emerging clinician who has demonstrated a commitment to social justice and access to justice.

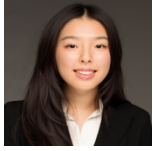
Professor Rofé was also instrumental in securing a 2025 presidential pardon for Ravi Ragbir, a nationally recognized immigrant rights leader who had been fighting deportation for nearly two decades.

Meet the Recent CIJ Fellows

Photo	Name	Term
	Amiel Rosenblum ('28)	Summer 2026
	Xiaohang Yan ('27)	Summer 2026
	Kristina Goshorn ('26)	2024-2026



Arman Aliasgharpour ('26) 2024-2026



Chaewon "Jessica" Park ('26) 2024-2025



Yomaira Tarula-Aranda ('27) 2025-2026



Raul Arita ('27) 2025-2026



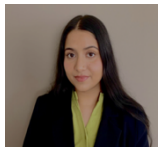
Rui "Asher" Xu ('27, UC Irvine School of Law) 2025



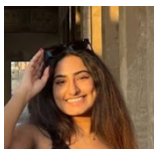
Erick Guerra ('25) 2023-2025



Hanna Wargula ('25) 2023-2025



Damanjit Kaur
(Undergraduate Fellow) 2024



Vinya Lingamneni (Undergraduate Fellow) 2024

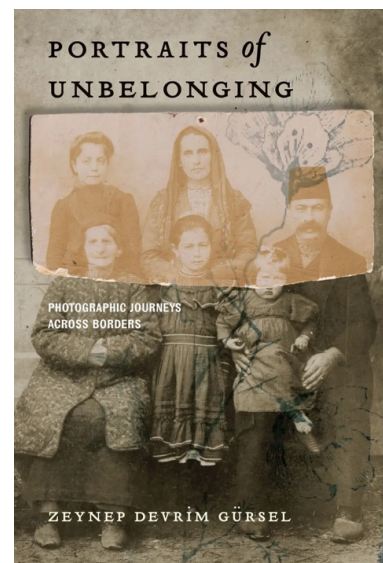
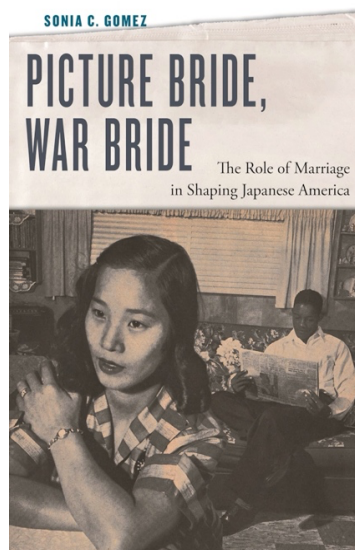
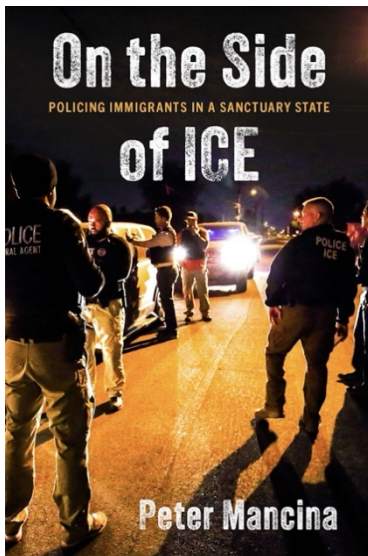
Congratulations and best of luck to CIJ's graduating fellows:
Arman Aliasgharpour, Kristina Goshorn, and Jessica Park
(Rutgers Law School, Class of 2026)!



Looking Ahead to the 2026-2027 Year

Below are events being planned for the coming year. Please note that some of the dates and location still need to be confirmed.

- **Legal Scholarship**
 - Book Events (dates TBD):



- November 13, Workshop: *Emerging Student Scholarship in Immigration and Citizenship Law*
 - An academic workshop in which third-year law students and graduate students present original legal scholarship on immigration and citizenship law, including Notes, Comments, and book chapters, and receive feedback from invited faculty and practitioners.
- **Litigation and Advocacy**
 - Ongoing: Amicus briefs on constitutional challenges to discriminatory “alien land laws” (8th and 11th Circuits)
 - Mid-October:
 - *Legal Education Training on Defending Citizenship: A Workshop for Protecting the Rights of Naturalized Citizens*
 - February 2027
 - *Legal Education on Naturalization and Naturalization Clinic*
- **Community Engagement**
 - September 2, 12:15 PM
 - *Lunch Panel Discussion: Supreme Court 2026 Summer Opinions*
 - January 28, 2027
 - *Re-Enactment of Wong Kim Ark v. United States*
 - Spring 2027
 - *Distinguished Immigrant Justice Lecture*

THANK YOU!

The Center for Immigrant Justice is grateful for the generous support of the following individuals and organizations, whose contributions make our work possible:

The Barrington Lopez and Family International Travel Fund

The Pratt Fund

Rutgers Global

Rutgers University – Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor's Seed Grant

Rutgers University–Newark Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and Race in America

We hope that you stay connected with us!

Please explore the links below.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](https://cij.rutgers.edu/)

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