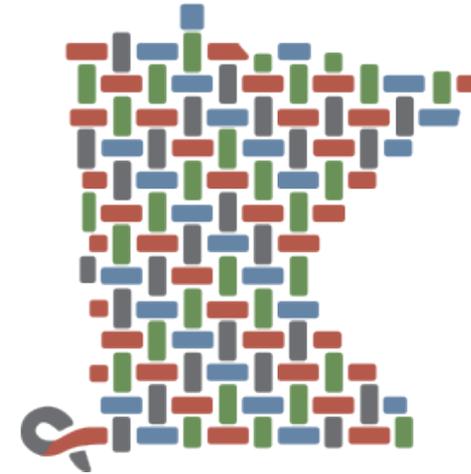


IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

— *of* MINNESOTA —



Minnesota Attorney General Office's CLE Immigration Law from Three Perspectives

Jennifer Stohl Powell, Executive director

February 11, 2026

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM)

*ILCM is a nonprofit organization that serves immigrants and refugees throughout Minnesota. Our mission is to enhance opportunities for immigrants and refugees through **legal representation** for low-income individuals and through **education and advocacy** with diverse communities.*

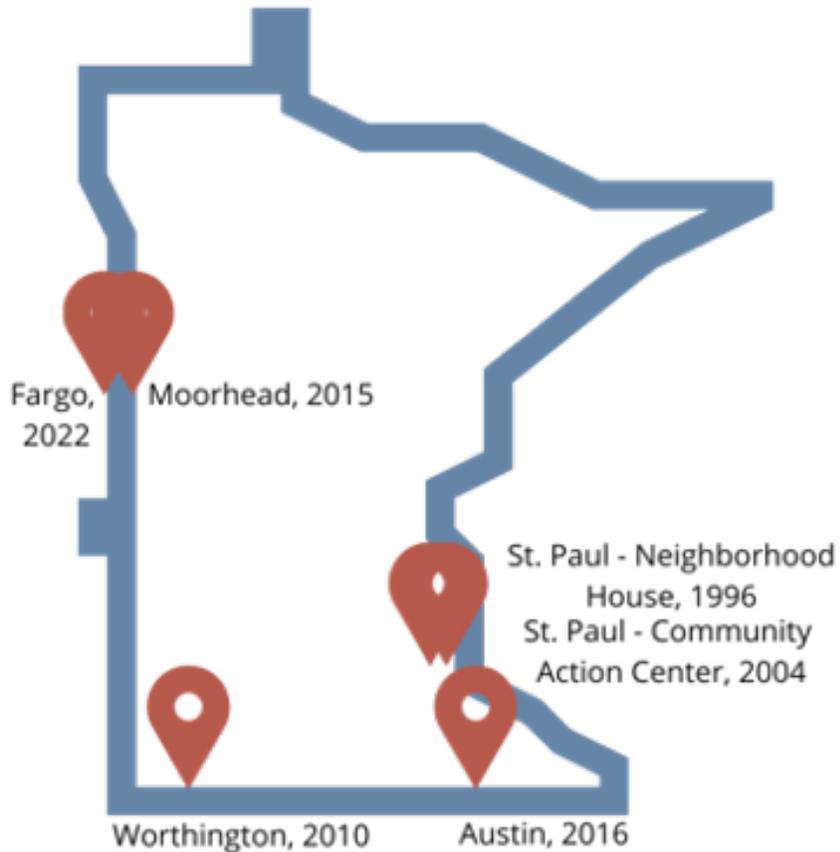
IMMIGRANT
LAW CENTER
— of MINNESOTA —



ILCM

- We are a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit legal services provider
- We are not an office of the Attorney General's Office or part of state government

ILCM



- **Our Impact in 2024**
- We handled 2,719 cases
- We served all 87 Minnesota counties
- We had clients from 104 different countries

Talking points

- Death by 1000 or rather 622 cuts
- The small things become **big** things
- The human impact

How to Contact ILCM

- Intake Hours, 1-800-223-1368

Monday: 10 am – 1 pm

Tuesday: 1 pm – 4 pm

Wednesday: 10 am – 1 pm [temporarily closed]

Thursday: 3 pm – 6 pm

- Detention Line Hours, 651-641-1011

Monday- Thursday: 1 pm - 3 pm

Follow us on social media! You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

www.ilcm.org

FRAGOMEN



Immigration Law from Three Perspectives

Sarah K. Peterson, Partner

Life as an Employment-Based Immigration Lawyer in 2026

- Where did our Safe Spaces go?
- Adjudication Pauses and Travel, oh my...
- What is 'legal' immigration status and how do you prove it in 2026?



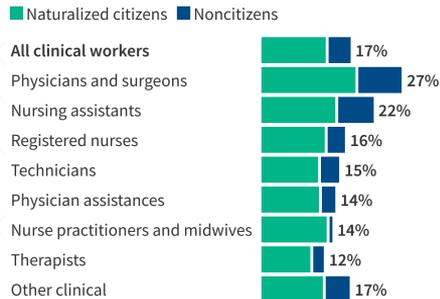
Resources

- Immigration in MN is the leading component of population Growth
 - MN Chamber: <https://www.mnchamber.com/blog/immigration-became-leading-component-population-growth-minnesota-decade>
 - MN Demographer: <https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-gained-more-people-from-other-states-in-2025-a-first-this-decade/601568723>
- Immigration's role in providing access to Healthcare in MN [and the nation]
 - KFF: [https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/what-role-do-immigrants-play-in-the-hospital-workforce/#:~:text=Reducing%20the%20number%20of%20immigrant,of%20nursing%20assistants%20\(22%25\)](https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/what-role-do-immigrants-play-in-the-hospital-workforce/#:~:text=Reducing%20the%20number%20of%20immigrant,of%20nursing%20assistants%20(22%25))

Figure 2

Immigrants Account for More Than a Quarter (27%) of All Physicians At US Hospitals

Share of hospital workers who are immigrants by clinical occupation



Note: Analysis of individuals 18 and older who earned at least \$1,000 during the year and indicated that their job was at a general medical or surgical hospital or a psychiatric or substance use hospital.

Source: KFF analysis of American Community Survey data, 2023

KFF

Resources

- Positive Economic Impact of International Students in Higher Education
 - Higher Ed Immigration Portal: <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/state/minnesota/>

International Students in Higher Education	15,315
Economic Contributions of International Students in the State	\$488 million
Jobs Supported by International Students in the State	3,430
Optional Practical Training (OPT) Participants	3,021

Note: Optional Practical Training participants are a subgroup of international students.



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

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FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE RULE OF LAW

THE AGs



Keith Ellison
Attorney General
Minnesota



Andrea Campbell
Attorney General
Massachusetts



Kris Mayes
Attorney General
Arizona



Letitia James
Attorney General
New York



Rob Bonta
Attorney General
California



Brian Schwalb
Attorney General
District of Columbia



Kwame Raoul
Attorney General
Illinois



...and more

Multi-state coalition includes
Attorneys General from 22 states
and the District of Columbia

Scope of Work by Minnesota Attorney General's Office

43 lawsuits filed as plaintiff

5+ interventions (to defend lawful rulemaking)

50+ amicus briefs

7 new opinions/guidance

ROL attorneys tracking new issues every day



5 LITIGATION EXAMPLES

GRANT TERMINATIONS & CONDITIONS

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

DREAM ACT

COMMON SENSE GUN REGULATION

TITLE IX AND TRANSGENDER ATHLETES



IMMIGRATION ACTIONS BY THE AGO





BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

The Office has challenged Trump's executive order purporting to deny citizenship to children born in the United States to undocumented parents and have obtained an injunction barring implementation of this policy nationwide. U.S. Supreme Court decision expected by June 2026.



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FUNDING

The Office is suing to block efforts to condition federal emergency funding on compliance with federal immigration enforcement policy. After the Office sued, the federal government decided not to apply the terms with respect to many grant programs. Summary judgment is pending on the remaining programs.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Office is suing to block efforts to condition federal transportation funding on compliance with federal immigration enforcement policy. The court entered a preliminary injunction blocking the government from including immigration conditions in grants.



DEFENDING IN-STATE TUITION POLICIES

The Office is defending a lawsuit brought by the Trump administration challenging Minnesota's laws providing in-state tuition and scholarship opportunities to students regardless of citizenship status. Arguments on our Motion To Dismiss were held December 10th.



MEDICAID DATA SHARING

The Office is suing to stop the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from sharing Medicaid data with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for immigration enforcement purposes. The court granted a preliminary injunction barring DHS from using Medicaid data obtained from states for immigration enforcement.



FEDERAL BENEFITS PROGRAMS

The Office is suing to block the federal government from denying certain federally-funded benefits to undocumented immigrants and requiring states to verify citizenship and immigration status before providing benefits. This includes Head Start, Title X clinics, workforce training programs, mental health services, and others. The Office obtained a preliminary injunction barring the federal government from moving forward with its plans.



THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) DATA SHARING

The Office is suing to block the federal government from collecting data on SNAP recipients from states for use with immigration enforcement. The Office recently won a preliminary injunction.

In a separate action – the Office is opposing policy interpretation by the Administration that incorrectly denies SNAP to lawfully present immigrants.



CRIME VICTIM FUNDS

The Office sued to block efforts to condition federal grants that provide assistance and services to crime victims on compliance with federal immigration enforcement policy. The U.S. Department of Justice subsequently agreed not to apply the challenged conditions to any of Minnesota's grants.



\$100,000 H1B FEES

The Office sued the Administration over its recent change to H1B filing fees – raising the costs for applying employers from a few thousand dollars to \$100,000. Others also suing include Universities and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



WORK AUTHORIZATION

The Office submitted a comment letter to the Department of Homeland Security regarding the Administration's recent change to work authorization for legal immigrants such as DACA, TPS, Asylum applicants and others. The Administration seeks to terminate the long-standing policy of automatically renewing work authorization during the pendency of applications. Immigration backlogs and delays in processing are endemic. If this rule change is successful, it will create massive disruptions in employment for legally authorized immigrants and their employers.



AMICUS BRIEFS

The Office has signed onto amicus briefs on the following issues (it has filed multiple amicus briefs on some of these issues):

- **Refugee ban:** challenging suspension of refugee entry and application processing and stop work orders for refugee resettlement agencies
- **Venezuelan TPS:** challenging termination of temporarily protected status for Venezuelan nationals
- **Venezuelan and Haitian TPS:** challenging termination of temporarily protected status for Venezuelan and Haitian nationals
- **Termination of parole programs:** challenging termination of certain immigration programs and benefits
- **Free speech:** challenging policy of deporting students and faculty for exercising First Amendment rights
- **Federalization of National Guard:** challenging use of National Guard in connection with immigration raids in California
- **CHNV parole:** challenging termination of parole to over 500,000 individuals fleeing dangerous conditions in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela
- **ICE tactics:** challenging use of illegal and unconstitutional practices by ICE and CBP
- **Unaccompanied minors:** challenging termination of funding for legal services for unaccompanied minors
- **Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua TPS:** challenging termination of temporarily protected status for Honduran, Nepalese, and Nicaraguan nationals
- **No bond policy:** challenging mandatory detention of persons in removal proceedings



OTHER MULTI-STATE EFFORTS

The Office has signed onto the following:

- **Sponsors for Unaccompanied Children:** joined comment letter opposing rescission of rule prohibiting disqualification of sponsors for unaccompanied children based on immigration status, collecting info from sponsors for law enforcement or immigration enforcement, and sharing sponsor info with law enforcement or immigration enforcement entities.
- **National Guard deployment:** joined statement regarding deployment of National Guard to Los Angeles.
- **No Secret Police Act:** joined letter to Congress supporting “No Secret Police Act,” which would require Department of Homeland Security agents to display insignia and provide ID.
- **Public Charge:** recently submitted a comment to prevent more restrictive rule changes and are prepared to lead litigation if necessary
- **SAVE Expansion:** recently submitted a comment opposing proposed expansion of SAVE



OTHER AGO LITIGATION & ACTIONS

- Evergreen – Dairy Workers
- Non-attorney/notario provision of legal services
- Fraudulent immigration lawyer services
- Nalosha – fraud committed within refugee communities
- Formal Legal Guidance
 - ICE at Schools
 - ICE at Sensitive Locations
 - Two AG Opinions on ICE detention in County Jails, most recent on 287g issued 12/12/25



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CONCLUSION