

DePaul Migration Collaborative

Advocating for Justice, Educating for the Future

DMC

Monthly Newsletter

WHO WE ARE: The DePaul Migration Collaborative engages scholars, practitioners, students and alumni to find solutions to society's most pressing problems in the areas of migration, mobility and human rights.

Events

Events

Spring events coming soon. Stay tuned on social media and our next newsletter.

News

Executive Orders, Birthright Citizenship and Migrant Pathways: Developing Understanding of the Legal Processes and Precedents



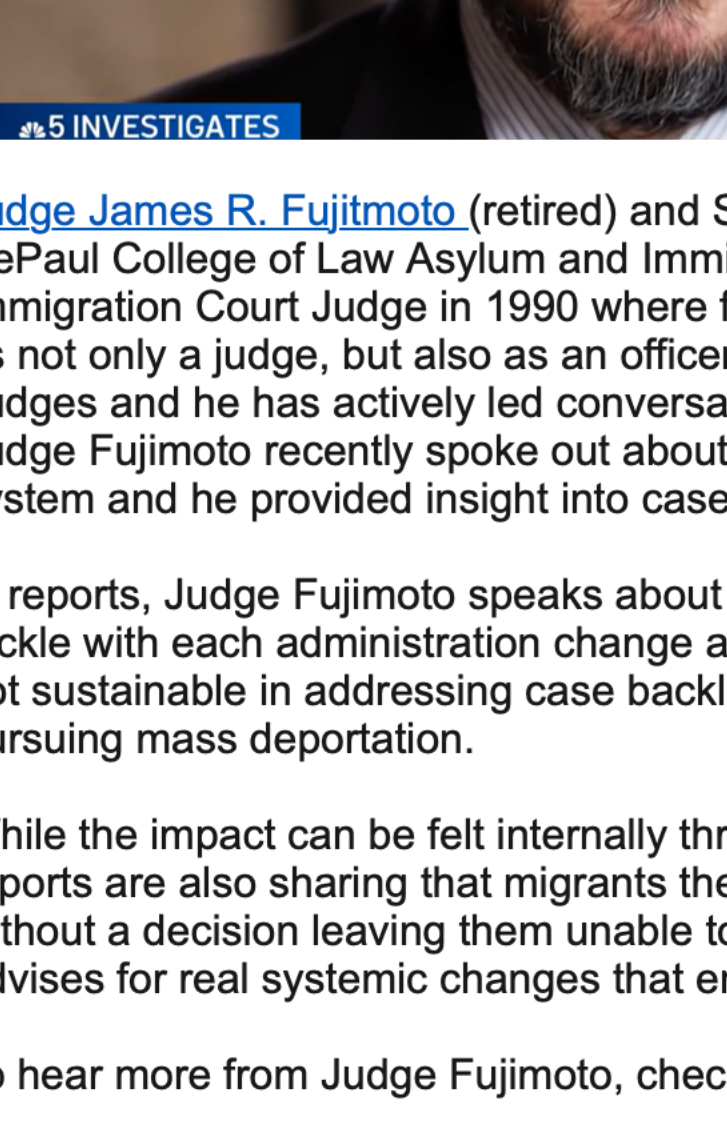
On February 25th, the DMC hosted part two of its executive orders series. At this event Professor David Franklin reviewed the process for an executive order to become law and emphasized the legal framework including Congress's role. Professor Allison Tirres continued the conversation by talking about the Birthright Citizenship executive order. She reviewed some of the history, interpretation and court precedents in relationship with the 14th Amendment. Afterwards, Professor Tirres spoke about designated statuses (TPS, Parole) that are currently threatened or will change under the Trump Administration. This included a discussion of the Immigration and Nationality Act, expansion of expedited removal, and current challenges to administrative decisions by the courts. Professor Tirres also spoke about actions in IL/Chicago including Know Your Rights presentations, resources, and law enforcement cooperation with ICE. During the presentation a litigation tracker and a few volunteer opportunities were shared with students and there was a lively Q&A from law students. Special thanks to Professors David Franklin, Allison Tirres, and Sioban Albiol for putting this informative presentation together.

New Research, New Solutions Lab Grantees

Professor Mónica Reyes

Mónica Reyes is an assistant professor in the Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse Department at DePaul University. Her research focuses on cultural rhetorics and critical refugee studies, with particular attention to the intersections of rhetoric, storytelling, and migration.

Dr. Reyes' project, Cultivating Community: Rhetorical Practices of Migrant Volunteers in Chicago, partners with Nuevos Vecinos—a Chicago non-profit—to explore how migrant volunteers use volunteer work to create community, purpose, and belonging in the context of restricted access to work permits. This research focuses on the rhetorical practices and how their contributions help them navigate systemic barriers while fostering resilience.



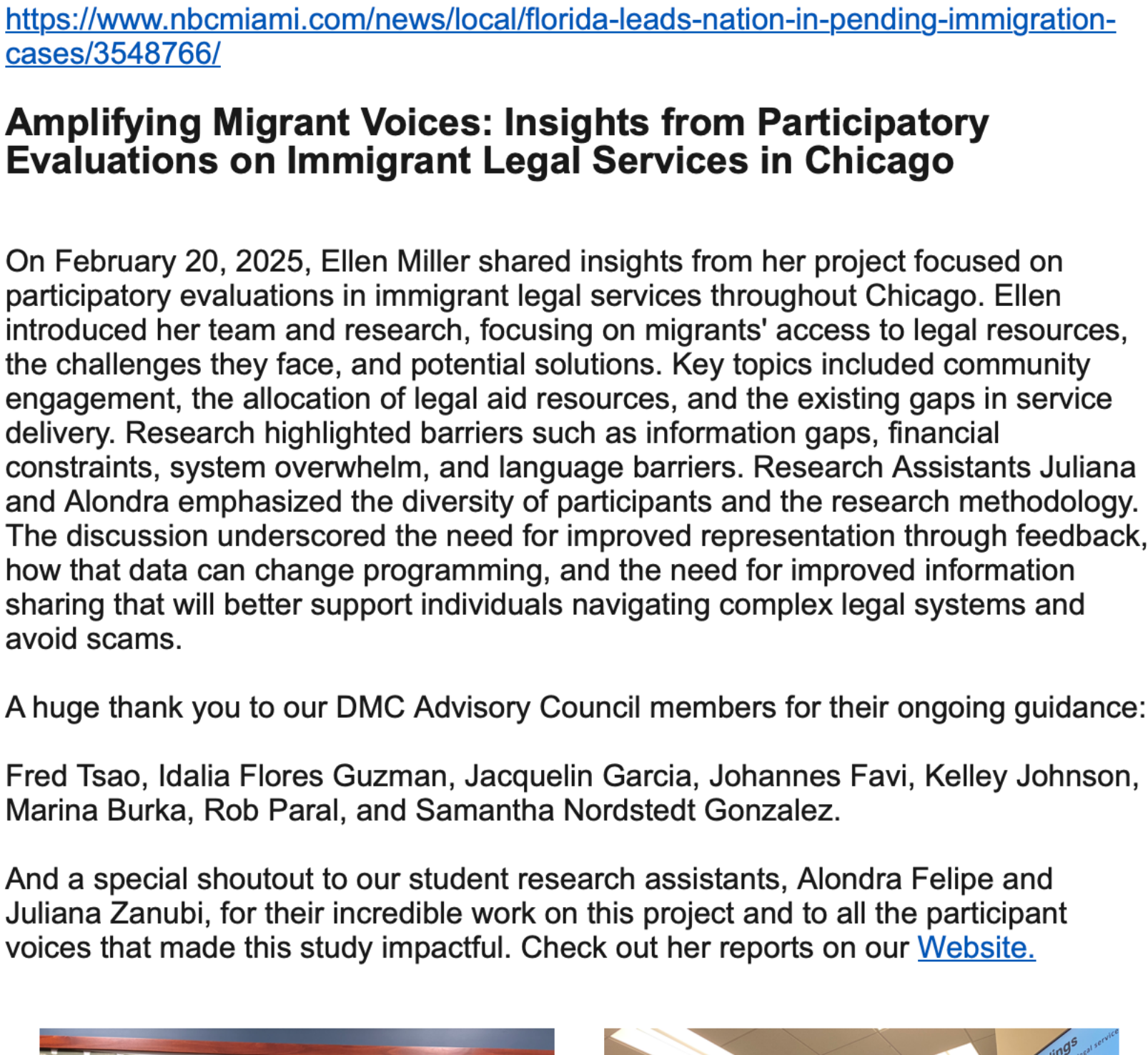
Professor Jay Baglia

Jay Baglia has over 25 years of experience working in healthcare to improve communication among patients and providers. At DePaul, Dr. Baglia teaches courses in Health Communication, Health Literacy, and Health Disparities. He has published award-winning scholarship in the area of health communication. Prior to joining DePaul, Baglia was a medical educator for Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) in Allentown, Pennsylvania. For LVHN, he developed curriculum and assessment tools for the Department of Family Medicine Residency Program, planned and facilitated workshops in the Teaching Leader Series, and served as study coordinator for the Cultural Awareness Implementation Team baseline assessment group.



His Solutions Lab grant project involves creating patient-centered videos for CommunityHealth, the largest provider of free healthcare for the uninsured, including migrants, in Chicago.

DePaul Asylum Clinic Senior Practitioner in Residence and Retired Judge James R. Fujimoto Speaks Out About Immigration Court Backlog



Judge James R. Fujimoto (retired) and Senior Practitioner in Residence with the DePaul College of Law Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, was appointed as the Immigration Court Judge in 1990 where for 29 years he served the legal community as not only a judge, but also as an officer for the National Association of Immigration Judges and he has actively led conversations surrounding Immigration law. On NBC, Judge Fujimoto recently spoke out about the challenges facing the Immigration Court system and he provided insight into case backlog statistics.

In reports, Judge Fujimoto speaks about the constant shift immigration courts must tackle with each administration change and he talks about how the firing of judges is not sustainable in addressing case backlog in the midst of the Trump Administration pursuing mass deportation.

While the impact can be felt internally through the diminishing of the court's capacity, reports are also sharing that migrants themselves are becoming stuck for years without a decision leaving them unable to move forward in their lives. Judge Fujimoto advises for real systemic changes that empower the courts.

To hear more from Judge Fujimoto, check out the articles below.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/trump-administration-fires-at-least-20-immigration-judges-amid-massive-case-backlog/3676545/>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/investigations/backlogged-immigration-court-slow-deportations/3764034/>

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/investigations/immigration-courts-clogged-for-years-as-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-more/3858328/>

<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/florida-leads-nation-in-pending-immigration-cases/3548766/>

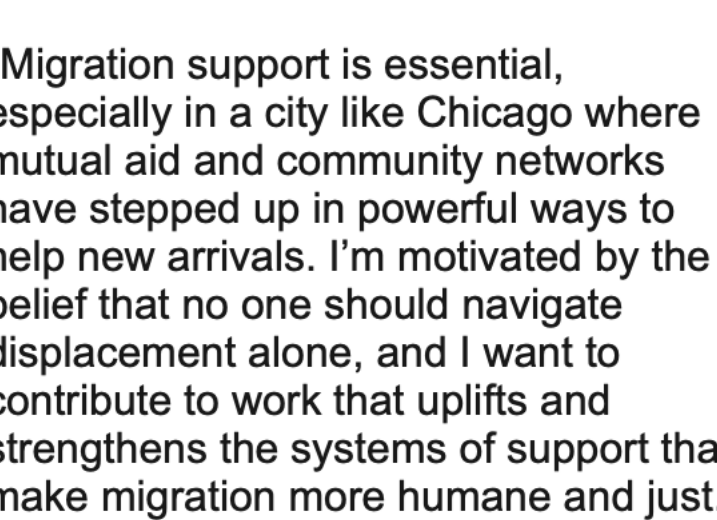
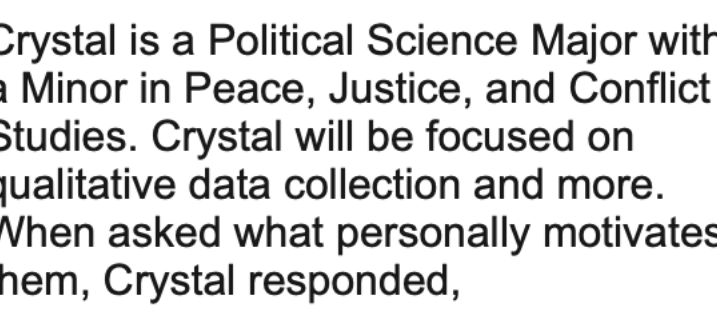
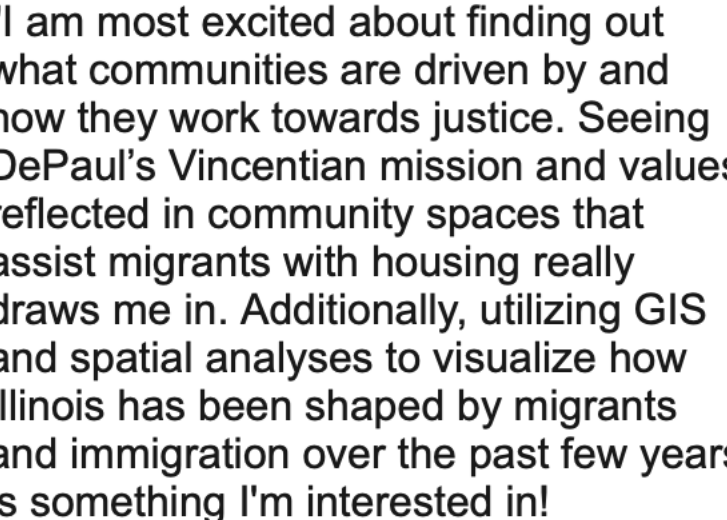
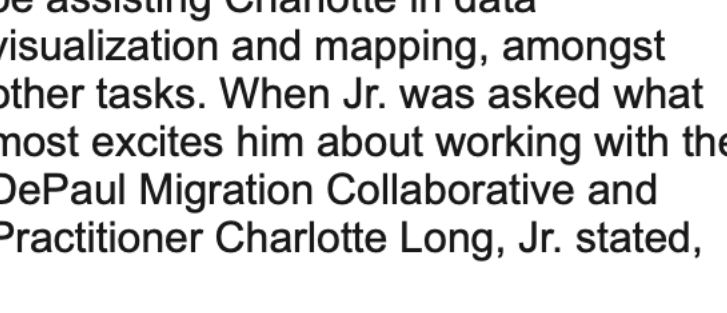
Amplifying Migrant Voices: Insights from Participatory Evaluations on Immigrant Legal Services in Chicago

On February 20, 2025, Ellen Miller shared insights from her project focused on participatory evaluations in immigrant legal services throughout Chicago. Ellen introduced her team and research, focusing on migrants' access to legal resources, the challenges they face, and potential solutions. Key topics included community engagement, the allocation of legal aid resources, and the existing gaps in service delivery. Research highlighted barriers such as information gaps, financial constraints, system overwhelm, and language barriers. Research Assistants Juliana and Alondra emphasized the diversity of participants and the research methodology. The discussion underscored the need for improved representation through feedback, how that data can change programming, and the need for improved information sharing that will better support individuals navigating complex legal systems and avoid scams.

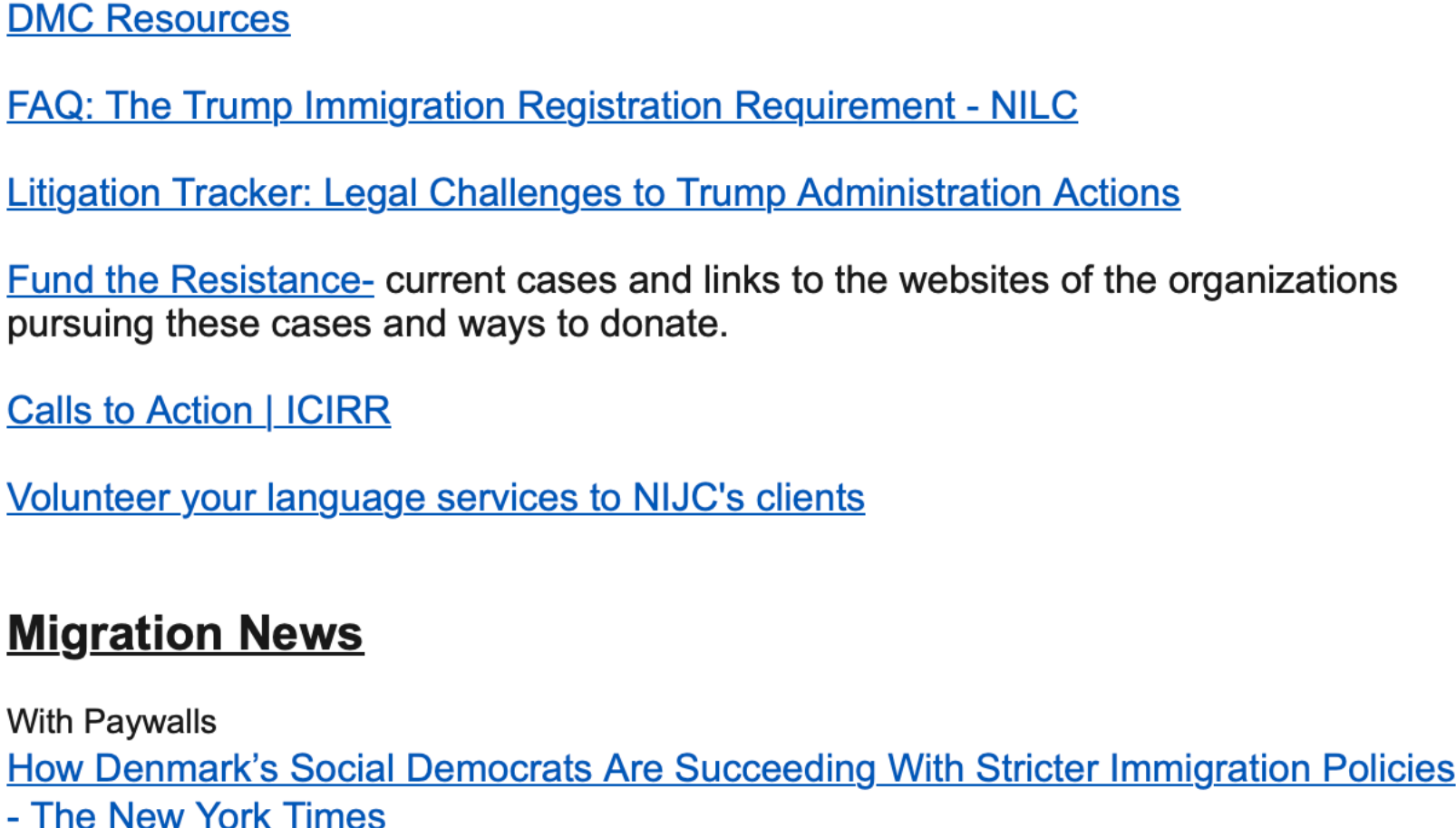
A huge thank you to our DMC Advisory Council members for their ongoing guidance:

Fred Tsao, Idalia Flores Guzman, Jacquelin Garcia, Johannes Favi, Kelley Johnson, Marina Burka, Rob Paral, and Samantha Nordstedt Gonzalez.

And a special shoutout to our student research assistants, Alondra Felipe and Juliana Zanubi, for their incredible work on this project and to all the participant voices that made this study impactful. Check out her reports on our [Website](#).



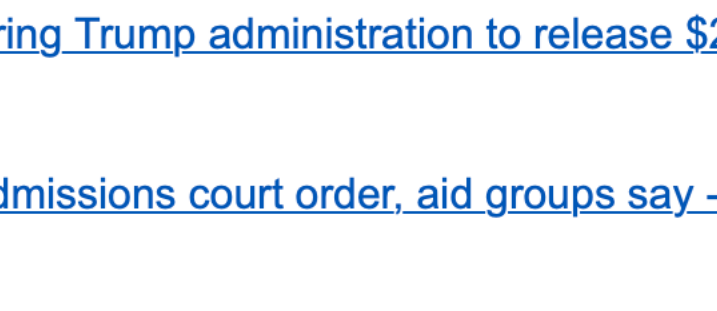
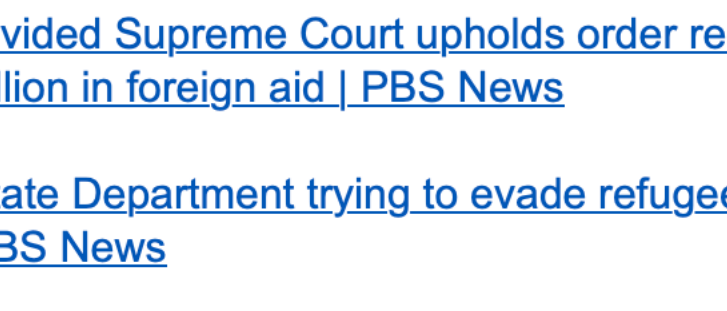
A Dynamic Workshop on Refugee and Asylum Access to Adequate Food and Housing



On February 27th, Practitioner in Residence, Josh Friedman, hosted an exciting and interactive workshop, bringing together passionate community organization representatives to dive into the challenges refugees and asylum seekers face when it comes to securing food and housing. The conversation was centered around the principles laid out in the [International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#) and the realities in Chicago.

The goal? To spark meaningful discussions and get a clear picture of what's really happening in Chicago right now. Guests broke into groups focusing on key areas: housing, food, refugee services, and the role of government in shaping these needs. The energy was high, and the conversations were flowing!

All the insights shared will play a crucial role in shaping Josh Friedman's study, helping to connect the dots and highlight areas that still need attention. A big thank you to everyone who participated—your contributions and collaboration are what make these conversations truly impactful!



New Research Assistants Express Excitement to Get Started!



Meet Jr!

Jr. is majoring in Geography/GIS & Sustainable Urban Development. Jr. will be assisting Charlotte in data visualization and mapping, amongst other tasks. When Jr. was asked what most excites him about working with the DePaul Migration Collaborative and Practitioner Charlotte Long, Jr. stated,

"I am most excited about finding out what communities are driven by and how they work towards justice. Seeing DePaul's Vincentian mission and values reflected in community spaces that assist migrants with housing really draws me in. Additionally, utilizing GIS and spatial analyses to visualize how Illinois has been shaped by migrants and immigration over the past few years is something I'm interested in!"



Meet Crystal!

Crystal is a Political Science Major with a Minor in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies. Crystal will be focused on qualitative data collection and more. When asked what personally motivates them, Crystal responded,

"Migration support is essential, especially in a city like Chicago where mutual aid and community networks have stepped up in powerful ways to help new arrivals. I'm motivated by the belief that no one should navigate displacement alone, and I want to contribute to work that uplifts and strengthens the systems of support that make migration more humane and just."

In Case You Missed It

Resources and Volunteer Opportunities

[DMC Resources](#)

[FAQ: The Trump Immigration Registration Requirement - NILC](#)

[Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions](#)

[Fund the Resistance](#)- current cases and links to the websites of the organizations pursuing these cases and ways to donate.

[Calls to Action | ICIRR](#)

[Volunteer your language services to NIJC's clients](#)

Migration News

With Paywalls

[How Denmark's Social Democrats Are Succeeding With Stricter Immigration Policies - The New York Times](#)

[World Relief Chicagoland grapples with federal funding loss](#) - Chicago Tribune

Without Paywalls

[Explainer on First Amendment and Due Process Issues in Deportation of Pro-Palestinian Student Activists](#)

[Judge blocks Trump administration from making immigration arrests at some places of worship - CBS News](#)

[One of the Most Dangerous Routes in the World: The Darién Gap Migrant Highway, Courtesy of the Mafia - DER SPIEGEL](#)

[Trump 2.0: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver \(HBO\)](#)

[ICE Detention: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver \(HBO\)](#)

[Heartland Alliance Health Staying Open, Reversing Decision To Close Clinics And Pantries](#)

[How Trump's USAID freeze amplifies suffering in world's largest refugee camp | CBC.ca](#)

[Divided Supreme Court upholds order requiring Trump administration to release \\$2 billion in foreign aid | PBS News](#)

[State Department trying to evade refugee admissions court order, aid groups say - CBS News](#)

[Refugee aid groups say Trump administration is trying to circumvent court order | AP News](#)

[Welcome.US | Policy update: Refugee admissions and the Welcome Corps](#)



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