

Americans for Immigrant Justice

COMMENDATIONS

“AI Justice’s work honors our values as a nation of immigrants. [You] have made a tremendous difference in the lives of immigrants throughout Florida and the country through your victories both large and small. I congratulate the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center on more than a decade of honoring our values as a nation of immigrants. I am confident that, as Americans for Immigrant Justice, you will continue to achieve even greater and more meaningful victories for decades to come. The unique expertise this organization and its talented staff have acquired from direct and daily contact with the immigrant community in Florida will serve it well as Americans for Immigrant Justice expands its focus to assisting immigrants and their families throughout this great nation. “

--Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Washington, DC

“Congratulations to the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center as you, after fifteen years of service, become Americans for Immigrant Justice. Thank you all for the important work you’ve done in our great state. I look forward to seeing what’s ahead as you continue to fight for and educate the community on issues facing the most vulnerable immigrants. And, as an original co-sponsor of the DREAM Act, I am happy to see an organization committed to fighting for eligible students and others.”

--Senator Bill Nelson, Washington, DC

“The United States is known as the land of great opportunity and hope. We remain a global beacon of light through our principled values and our diverse citizenship. FIAC, now as Americans for Immigrant Justice, realizes that the American Dream is as important as ever, and I am glad that their efforts are expanding nationwide.”

--Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Washington, DC

“Congratulations to FIAC on its growing support of immigrant communities and on its expansion as a national organization. By collaborating with traditional civil-rights organizations and government officials, FIAC has achieved positive change in the treatment of immigrants and has become an invaluable organization for the state. FIAC’s direct work with clients and community groups informs its broader policy work, which is an invaluable contribution. I am excited that, as they transition into Americans for Immigrant Justice, this organization’s hard work and dedication will have even greater impact.”

--Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, Washington, DC

“Americans for Immigrant Justice is a valued member of this legal community as its leaders have effectively testified before Congress, challenged abuses in federal court and have issued groundbreaking reports that document immigrant stories. They have educated the public on the impact that immigration policies have on our communities and have provided a platform for thousands of immigrants who are unable to speak for themselves. I applaud your efforts to assist immigrants who are victims of human trafficking offenses, those seeking asylum and eligible students of the DREAM Act. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate your law firm as you transition into Americans for Immigrant Justice.”

--Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Washington, DC

[FIAC has] a leading voice in the ongoing struggle to improve the lives and defend the rights of immigrants and refugees of all nationalities. They are there, on the front lines, providing high quality representation to people seeking a better life in the United States. They’re also on the front lines in our battles in Congress – offering sound advice and presenting vivid testimony on issues ranging from asylum and detention to the need for comprehensive immigration reform.”

--Edward M. Kennedy, Former U.S. Senator, Washington, DC, 2007

“Congratulations to Cheryl Little and the dedicated men and women of the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) for their labor of love in support of immigrants in our community. The work of FIAC in promoting the rights of immigrants in the United States is legendary and nationally recognized. It is therefore fitting that the organization adopt a name more reflective of its far-reaching policy and advocacy work. Thus, we welcome Americans for Immigrant Justice, FIAC’s new name.”

**--Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, President, Miami Dade College
Miami, FL**

“FIAC (now ***Americans for Immigrant Justice***) has earned a well-deserved reputation for its leadership defending the civil rights of America’s immigrants. We in Florida, and especially the large community of new Americans that make up the fabric of Florida, will forever be grateful for their excellent work. In this unhappy period in America’s political history, when the color of one’s skin or the accent with which one speaks can too easily subject a person to suspicion and animosity, the work of the new ***Americans for Immigrant Justice*** is needed more than ever.”

**--Dr. Howard L. Simon, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida
Miami, FL**

“The National Immigration Forum applauds the unwavering determination of Americans for Immigration Justice (AI Justice) to protect and advance the rights of immigrants. From documenting horrendous medical care in immigration detention centers, to leading the call for Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the United States, the staff at AI Justice have been there time and again for those immigrants most in need of a champion. We are inspired by their hard-fought legal victories and successful policy battles over the past decade as the national effort to reform our broken immigration system continues. We welcome their increased DC presence and look forward to their having an even greater voice on issues that impact our immigrant communities.”

**--Ali Noorani, Executive Director, National Immigration Forum
Washington, DC**

“Americans for Immigrant Justice not only provides essential legal and social services for asylum seekers and immigrants who would be severely disadvantaged if left to navigate the United States’ Kafkaesque immigration bureaucracy by themselves, but also serves as the eyes and ears for international refugee and human rights monitors about immigrant justice not only in Florida, but now throughout the United States.”

**--Bill Frelick, Refugee Program Director, Human Rights Watch
New York, NY**

“Americans for Immigrant Justice -- formerly the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) -- is one of the few agencies in the national immigrant rights community that combines direct services and human right reporting with cutting-edge advocacy through the media, federal court system, and administrative channels. Its grass-roots experience in serving and mobilizing immigrant communities strengthens and lends legitimacy to its advocacy. It has long been one of the nation’s most effective advocacy organizations on issues as diverse as immigration detention, refugee rights, and human trafficking.”

**-- Donald Kerwin, Executive Director, Center for Migration Studies
New York, NY**

“The Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center has distinguished itself with an impressive record of effective advocacy on behalf of immigrants and refugees. By rebranding itself as Americans for Immigrant Justice and taking its policy and advocacy efforts to Washington and beyond, Cheryl Little and her dedicated team are adding an important voice to the national debate at a time when it is more important than ever for the public and policymakers alike to understand how immigrants and the US communities in which they live are being affected by a rapidly shifting policy landscape.”

**--Demetrios Papademetriou, President, Migration Policy Institute
Washington, DC**

“We salute Americans for Immigrant Justice for taking its considerable experience and expertise in fighting for immigrants rights in Florida to a national stage. The National Immigration Law Center looks forward to partnering with AI Justice for many years to come.”

**--Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center
Los Angeles, CA**

“Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly FIAC, has an incredible record as one of the most effective immigration legal services providers in the country. AI Justice has emerged as a powerful advocate for immigrants and has been at the forefront in challenging discriminatory policies that affect immigrants, particularly the most vulnerable. In my many years of experience in immigration, AI Justice stands out as an exemplary organization that has changed the lives of thousands of immigrants in South Florida and as a vital voice advocating for immigrants nationwide.”

**-- Wendy Young, Executive Director, Kids In Need Of Defense (KIND)
Washington, DC**

“Legal representation is more important than ever for asylum seekers and immigrants who are trying to navigate their way through our complex and flawed immigration system. Not only does Americans for Immigrant Justice (formerly the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center) provide crucial legal representation, but it also conducts essential research and advocacy, serving as a strong voice for Florida’s immigrant and refugee communities. It’s well researched 2009 report documenting the deficient care suffered by detained immigrants has helped to persuade Washington policymakers that reform is needed.”

**--Eleanor Acer, Director, Refugee Protection Program, Human Rights First,
New York**

“FIAC has been a critical leader in immigration detention and deportation work, providing desperately needed legal services to immigrant communities in Florida while also challenging inhumane and unconstitutional government policies. FIAC has been unafraid to speak out where they see injustice and have supported their claims with meticulous research culled from their on-the-ground work. As AI Justice, their invaluable expertise and perspective will enable them to have an even greater impact on changing laws and policies that impact immigrant communities in Florida and nationally. The AI Justice voice is essential and much welcome. Congratulations on the national re-launch.”

**--Andrea Black, Executive Director, Detention Watch Network
Washington, DC**

“Americans for Immigrant Justice (AIJ) is at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the treatment of immigrants is consistent with the principals of justice enshrined in our legal system. Congratulations for taking the bold step to go national!”

**--Sarah Petrin Williamson, Senior Consultant, Global Emergency Group (GEG)
Washington, DC**