

# A RAY OF LIGHT IN DARK TIMES

## Immigrants, ICE, and Public Institutions

*Presenters:*

**Raquel Hecht, Hecht & Norman LLP**

**Joel Iboa, Causa Oregon**

*Moderators:*

**Elizabeth Lopez, Hillsboro Public Library**

**Sue Ludington, Lane County Law Library**

# Introduction

- Welcome and **panelist introductions**
- Presentation overview:
  - **Part 1 (11:00-11:30am)**
    - Immigration laws, immigrant rights, & current situation
    - Legal services and support for immigrants in Oregon
    - Q&A
  - **Part 2 (11:40am-12:30pm)**
    - Specific **public library efforts** aimed at meeting the needs of vulnerable patrons
    - Community **challenges and opportunities**
    - Audience discussion and **Q&A**

# Immigration 101: Raquel Hecht

Immigration Attorney



# Immigration 101

**Q: What percentage of US undocumented population is from Mexico?**

- A. About **7 million** people, or approximately 30% of the total undocumented population
- B. About **5.6 million** people, or approximately half the total undocumented population
- C. About **4.3 million** people, or approximately 60% of the total undocumented population



# Answer: B

- About one half of the undocumented population is Mexican. Other large percentages of undocumented individuals come from El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Brazil, South Korea, Philippines and China.
- Interesting factoid: India has the largest undocumented immigrant population with 20 million from Bangladesh alone

# Immigration 101

Q: How many **Mexican Latinos** reside legally in the US (either as citizens or legal residents)?

- A. About **33 million**, or approximately 13% of the total population
- B. About **50 million**, or approximately 15% of the total population
- C. About **15 million**, or approximately 7% of total



# Answer: A

- The percentage of Mexican Americans and legal immigrants from Mexico is about **13 percent of the total US population**. In 2014, the total number of Latinos **outnumbered the number of whites** in the State of California.

# Immigration 101

Q: Who can immigrate through “chain migration” under current laws?



- A. Any **relative** including cousins, aunts, uncles, and nephews/nieces
- B. Only **spouses and children** of US citizens & legal permanent residents
- C. **Spouses and children** of US citizens or legal residents, *and* parents and siblings of US citizens



# Answer: C

- Only spouses, children and parents of US citizens can immigrate without waiting for long periods to become eligible
- Those who must “wait in line” are spouses & children of legal residents, adult single/married children of US citizens, and siblings of US citizens. The wait for some of these can be 20+ years!

# Immigration 101



**Q: Why can't the DACA kids get in line to immigrate like everyone else?**

- A. They are too young to be placed in any line
- B. They missed the deadline to get in line
- C. There is no line

# Answer: C

- Unless they marry a US citizen, they are **not likely eligible to apply to immigrate**, even if their employer would do anything to keep them

# Immigration 101

**Q: What should I do if an ICE agent approaches and/or arrests someone at the library?**

- A. Call the police, because they are likely to care**
- B. Record the entire incident with your phone and post it on Facebook**
- C. Pretend you are reading a book**

# Answer: Hmmmm....

- **There is no easy answer to this question.**
  - If inclined to get involved, **recording the incident and posting it widely** can help bring these operations to the attention of the American people.
  - You may wish to ask ICE officers for information about why they are arresting a certain individual, but **don't be surprised if they ignore you completely.**
- **Note: there are no Miranda rights for an ICE arrest** because immigration is governed by civil, not criminal law.

# Immigration 101

**Q: Does an immigrant have any rights to NOT be arrested by ICE?**



- A. Immigrants have no rights**
- B. Immigrants have the same rights as everyone else**
- C. No one cares whether immigrants have rights or not**

# Answer: all of the above

- Seriously, immigrants have the same **constitutional rights as citizens** while present in the US whether in documented or undocumented status.
- **Officers can question immigrants about their status** in a public place.
- Note: Oregon “sanctuary state” laws **prohibit the state from assisting** in federal law enforcement.