UCIMM welcomes new staff attorneys at UCI and UCLA

Elda Rosales joined UCIMM in the Fall and serves the UC Irvine campus. Elda is an Anteater (class of 14’) and received a Bachelor’s in Political Science and a minor in Women's Studies. She graduated law school from the University of La Verne, College of Law in 2019. Elda’s passion for immigration law is fueled by her own experiences growing up in a mixed status family. In her free time, Elda enjoys cooking, spending time with family, and walks with her boxer, Arya.

Gina Pech-Sanchez joined us at the UCLA Bruin Resource Center last month. Gina earned her JD from Southwestern Law School and her BA in Legal Studies and American Studies with an emphasis in public policy from the UC Berkeley. As the daughter of Belizean immigrants, her passion for advocating for the immigrant community started at a young age. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, concerts, and spending time with her family and dog.

Welcome, Gina and Elda!
Here are a few of this year's new state policy proposals:

**AB 680** (Blanca Rubio): AB 540 Expansion

Existing law allows UC and CSU students to pay in-state tuition if (among other conditions) the student: A) has 3+ years of full-time attendance in certain California schools or attainment of equivalent credits earned while in those schools, or B) the student completes 3+ years of full-time high school coursework in California and a total of 3+ years of attendance in California elementary schools and California secondary schools.

AB 680 would allow, as an alternative, option C: (i) completion of 60 semester units of credit or 90 quarter units of credit at the CCCs, or (ii) attainment of an associate degree for transfer.

**AB 1540** (Mike Fong): CA Dream Act Affidavits

This bill would authorize the institutions of higher education to accept an AB 540 affidavit already provided to the Student Aid Commission (CSAC) as part of the student’s financial aid application for purposes of the affidavit requirement. This would streamline the financial aid process for students.

**AB 278** (Eloise Gómez Reyes): High Schools, Dream Resource Centers

Existing law encourages the CCCs, CSUs, and UCs to establish Dream Resource Centers on each of their respective campuses. This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact law that would require all schools that enroll students in any of grades 9 to 12 to have a Dream Resource Center.

**SB 633** (Lena Gonzalez): California DREAM Loan Program, DREAM grants

This bill would authorize the CSU and UC to award DREAM grants to grant-eligible students if the institution has unawarded funds in their DREAM revolving fund.
Other

There will also be legislative proposals for: extending Cal Grants to asylum seekers; establishing a food support program for undocumented students that would occur automatically through CADAA and financial aid; and opening the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to all eligible individuals regardless of age and immigration status.

FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

Proposed USCIS filing fee increases – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

In our January newsletter, we flagged DHS’s new proposed fee rule that would increase several USCIS filing fees, including employment authorization, family-based petitions, adjustment of status, naturalization, and others.

This week, UCIMM submitted a public comment for posting, in response to the proposal. The deadline for individuals and organizations to comment is March 13. While comments should include enough detail to be unique and specific, commenters should be mindful that any personal information will be public.

Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) extended and expanded for Certain Hong Kong Residents

DED protection (i.e., protection from deportation) for certain individuals from Hong Kong in the U.S. has been extended by 24 months. In addition, the eligibility date was moved up in order to include individuals who arrived after the previous DED grant date. Plus, Special Student Relief (SSR) for international students from Hong Kong will also be extended. Read this article or ask your campus attorney for more information.

Extension and Redesignation of Yemen for TPS

DHS recently announced redesignation of Yemen for TPS, and the program has been extended through September 3, 2024.
ICYMI

**DACA filing fees must now be paid separately**

Last month, USCIS has suddenly begun to require two separate payments for DACA renewals—one payment for the I-765 work permit application ($410) and a separate payment for the I-821D deferred action request ($85). The total cost is the same. In addition to DACA, USCIS is also requiring separate payments for the N-400 application for naturalization and associated biometrics fee. It is unclear whether this new rule will apply to all types of USCIS filings in the future. To be on the safe side, individuals may submit separate payments for any other USCIS filings that involve multiple fees.

**Californians For All College Corps – State Service Program Open to AB 540 CA Dream Act Students**

College Corps is a program that combines academics with hands-on work experience focused on climate action, K-12 education, or food insecurity. College Corps offers the same skills-boosting opportunities as internships, but with the added benefit of improving the lives of others. Plus, students can earn up to $10,000. AB 540 CA Dream Act Students can apply. Applications are open, deadlines vary by campus. Click the link above to find out if your campus participates.

**California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) – still has funding for Spring 2023**

DSIG, a program that provides additional financial aid to CA Dream Act students who participate in community or volunteer service, still has funding for the current academic year, and students can still apply to participate in this program during their Spring term. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) will award up to $2,250 per semester or up to $1,500 per quarter. Find eligibility and application details here.

**New Report: Renewing the Dream, Improving Financial Aid & College Affordability for California’s Undocumented Students**

This timely report highlights what we already know to be true: this is a critical moment for institutions to demonstrate their commitment to supporting undocumented students and strengthening educational pipelines and student retention. Everyone has a role to play in making financial aid and higher education more accessible to California’s undocumented student population. Renewing The Dream provides concrete solutions to make financial aid work for undocumented students.

**Blog: Facing Challenges, DACAmented and Undocumented Attorneys Practice Immigration Law in Liminality**

This perspective was written by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Law Student Scholarship recipient, Gerardo Villegas Juarez.
**Immigrants Rising: Build Institutional Support for Black Undocumented Students**

Get an overview of the experiences of current Black undocumented students and recommendations to better reach, engage with, and support this student population.

**CA IDs For All FAQ**

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) created this guide, in English and Spanish, to explain what CA IDs For All (AB1766) means for immigrants.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team