UCIMM welcomes new staff: Executive Director, UCD Staff Attorney, and Office Manager

**Aidin Castillo Mazantini** (she/her) is Executive Director of the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center (UCIMM), which provides free immigration legal services to undocumented students and to families of students enrolled at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz. With nearly twenty years of experience as an immigrants’ rights and social justice advocate, Aidin has dedicated her career to removing barriers related to immigration status and to combating immigration detention, enforcement, and criminalization.

Aidin is an experienced immigration attorney with expertise in removal defense. She previously served as Director of the Immigrants’ Rights Practice at Centro Legal de la Raza, one of the largest removal defense programs in California. Prior to becoming director of the program Aidin was a supervisor and staff attorney at Centro Legal where she represented hundreds of clients in affirmative and defensive immigration matters, including detained and non-detained cases and complex immigration matters. Prior to that, Aidin worked at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and was in charge of launching ILRC’s national immigration policy office in Washington, DC. During that time, she worked on legislative and regulatory advocacy, including the implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. She has also been a contributor to several publications and practice advisories for immigration practitioners. In 2022, Aidin was recognized by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association for her extraordinary contributions to advancing access to justice and racial equity in civil legal aid and public defense.

Aidin is a proud immigrant from Mexico, and a first-generation college student. She is a founding
member of Scholars Promoting Education, Access, and Knowledge (SPEAK) one of the first undocumented student groups for college students. Aidin’s experience as a formerly undocumented immigrant and DACA beneficiary, informs her work as an attorney and social justice advocate. Aidin is a graduate of UC Davis and UC Davis School of Law.

Christopher Relos is a Staff Attorney with the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center and serves UC Davis. He grew up in Manila, Philippines, and immigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen with his parents and three younger siblings. He is a graduate of UC Davis School of Law (J.D.) and San Francisco State University (B.A., Philosophy). Prior to joining the UC Center, he worked as an immigration attorney at a private law firm in San Francisco and Glendale, California. His immigration legal experience includes removal defense, family and employment based immigration, hardship waivers, and consular processing. Chris enjoys hiking and going on long drives while listening to audiobooks and podcasts. He has language capabilities in Spanish and French and is a native speaker of Tagalog.

Felix Haley is the Office Manager for the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center. He graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a minor in Interpersonal Relations. Prior to joining the Center, he worked in child welfare investigations and case management, substance abuse treatment, and higher education office management positions. Felix enjoys traveling, hiking, playing piano, and racket sports.

UCIMM Marijuana FAQ
We’ve posted our most recent FAQ to Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. You can also download the document here.

STATE POLICY UPDATES

CA Dream Service Incentive Grant (DSIG)

The 2022-23 State Budget includes several college affordability provisions, including enhancements to the DSIG program. Notably:

- Extending eligibility to students that are recipients of Cal Grant A but were eligible for a Cal Grant B award; this means many more UC students are eligible!
- Increasing the total stipend award amount to $4,500/year (a $1,500 increase).

UC Immigrant Legal Services Center plans to host an administrative volunteer position under the DSIG program this fall. Stay tuned for the position description.

#Food4All
With the passage of the 2022-23 state budget, California the first state in the nation to include
undocumented adults in food assistance. Upon implementation, undocumented, income-eligible adults aged 55 and older will be able to access CalFresh benefits.

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**FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES**

**DACA**

To recap, there are currently two separate legal processes occurring in regard to the DACA program.

On July 6, 2022, oral arguments were heard by the **Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals** in the matter of *Texas v. United States*, which ruled on July 16, 2021 that DACA is unlawful. Oral argument audio is available [here](#).

The **DACA Final Regulation** is expected to be issued this month, and could be issued as early as this week. Following its release, UCIMM plans to provide information and guidance including an FAQ and UC-wide webinar. Please stay tuned for more information.

**Update to three and ten year bar rule**

USCIS has issued policy guidance clarifying that if an individual has triggered the so-called three or ten year bar to admissibility, they are *not* required to spend those three or ten years outside of the United States (i.e., their physical location during the three or ten year period is irrelevant). Individuals who were previously denied lawful permanent residency or were told by an immigration worker they were unable to apply based on an alternative interpretation of the three or ten year bar rule should consult with a qualified immigration attorney. If you'd like to read more about the change, [AILA released a helpful summary](#).

**America’s CHILDREN Act**

Last month a [bipartisan bill was introduced](#) that would protect **Documented Dreamers** (children who entered the U.S. on H4, L2, E2 etc. visas and are at risk of deportation) from aging out of legal immigration status at 21.

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**ICYMI**

**DACA renewal support**
UWD's DACA renewal fund is currently open and accepting scholarship requests to individuals if no local funds are available to them. Here is a link to the UWD DACA Renewal Application Form.

Welcoming and Inclusive State Policies: A Midyear Review of State Legislative Sessions in 2022
"As immigration bills languish in Congress, state legislatures continue to pave the way in welcoming immigrants and refugees in 2022."

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services August 2022 Webinars

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

Thank you,

The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team