



Year End | **2012-**  
Report | **2013**

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233 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4A New York, New York 10016

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## **UnLocal, Inc. Board Members**

Michele Lampach, Esq., *Director*

Laura Stein, *Treasurer*

Sarah Borsody, Esq., *Secretary*

### **UnLocal, Inc.**

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New York, New York 10016

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Unlocal.org

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## OUR MISSION

UnLocal serves the unmet legal needs of New York City's immigrant communities.

We seek to re-imagine the way legal services are delivered to immigrants in New York City by:

- Providing and expanding access to affordable, trustworthy, comprehensive, and multilingual legal representation for indigent, especially undocumented immigrants;
- Educating immigrant communities about their rights under immigration laws, how to best prepare for future immigration proceedings and how to protect themselves against fraudulent, coercive, and opportunistic practices by private immigration attorneys and unauthorized practitioners of law;
- Employing holistic advocacy through referral-based case management in collaboration with other legal service providers, community-based organizations, schools and city agencies; and
- Developing special projects to address immigration issues based on community needs and assessments and changes in immigration law.

UnLocal's multifaceted approach aims to address longer-term needs: social and political rights, cultural and religious diversity, and citizenship and participation. Ultimately, this approach will lead to increased stability and opportunities among New York City immigrant communities, allowing individuals to realize their full potential.

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## OUR HISTORY

UnLocal, Inc. was founded by Michele Lampach in 2006, originally conceived as an online resource for immigrant New Yorkers to provide information about New York-based social services. At that time, Michele Lampach, UnLocal Inc.'s Founder/Director, was a volunteer ESL instructor for the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture and a case worker for CAMBA, serving low-income immigrants in Brooklyn, New York. In early 2007, she galvanized a group of passionate volunteers to launch the organization and website. UnLocal, Inc. volunteers conducted a needs assessment by organizing a meeting of immigrant leaders and services providers, wrote a business plan in collaboration with NYU's Stern School of Business and created an internship program at the International High School of Prospect Heights, in which recent immigrant teens participated in the business plan process. In 2007, Michele began her studies at the CUNY School of Law and put the development of UnLocal, Inc. on hold.

Throughout law school, Michele continued her work in the Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic at CUNY School of Law. There she assisted in building a training module for immigrant survivors of domestic violence. She also co-represented non-citizens imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay under the supervision of lead counsel and provided Haitian nationals immigration assistance after the devastating earthquake in 2010. Throughout this time, she observed the ever-expanding need for free and low cost immigration legal support for undocumented and underrepresented immigrant communities. In 2011, she was awarded a place at CUNY's Community Legal Resource Network (CLRN) Incubator for Justice, an incubating space for individuals and non-profits aimed at serving communities underserved by legal services. With

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CLRN's support, Michele revived and revised UnLocal, Inc.'s mission to that of a direct legal services provider.

Since 2012, UnLocal has been working with clients, mostly youths, whose origins spread across 5 continents and 24 countries, speaking 10 languages. UnLocal has served 70 clients in a variety of legal cases.



Immigration 101 Class at the Trade School New York

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## OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Direct Representation

UnLocal is the only immigration legal service provider whose direct mission is to represent undocumented people. Many immigrants in the tri-state area, especially undocumented immigrants, live in poverty with limited access to financial resources and social services. Often times, they turn to predatory lawyers or unauthorized practitioners to help navigate through the immigration system, where they risk exploitation and fraud.

We represent immigrants in all areas of immigration and have a varied docket that includes adult asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applicants, individuals seeking temporary status, family-based petitions and business immigration matters.

### The Immigrant Child Legal Services (ICLS) Project

The ICLS project provides direct legal representation to assist New York

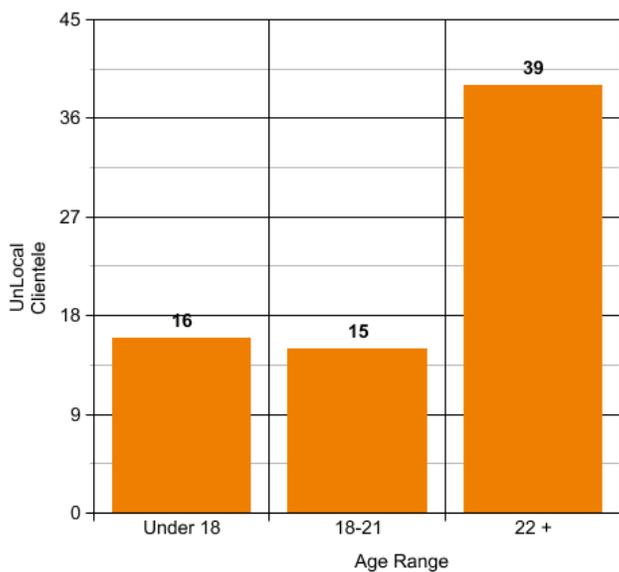
City's undocumented youth. Under immigration law, undocumented children are not guaranteed right to counsel. As such, despite their eligibility for immigration status of some kind, many are being detained, deported or are aging out of potential immigration benefits due to a lack of legal representation.

UnLocal aims to help its young clients to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and/or other immigration benefits, such as asylum, prosecutorial discretion and/or "U" visas for survivors of crimes.

Under immigration law, undocumented children are not guaranteed the right to counsel. Without counsel, most children cannot understand the complex legal procedures they face, and more importantly, the legal options available to them. Unfortunately, *pro bono* legal services and nonprofit organizations are in short supply and very few children have the resources to hire their own legal counsel.

The ICLS Project seeks to fill this gap in legal representation. The legal team at UnLocal represents clients referred by UnLocal collaborators: community-based organizations, guidance counselors, teachers and administrators in the New York City middle and high schools and language programs, local community leaders and professionals, and personal referrals from former clients and their family members.

UnLocal Clientele Age Range



44% of our clients are 21 years old and younger, as part of the Immigrant Child Legal Services (ICLS) Project.

Last year, UnLocal teamed up with Brooklyn International High School, Bergen County Guidance Counselors

Association, and Trade School, where we gave presentations, provided one-on-one consultations and taught classes on foundational immigration law issues. We have received referrals from Catholic Charities, Kids In Need of Defense, and Safe Horizon, Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day High School. In addition to providing legal representation, UnLocal determines the best resources/referrals to address these youth’s psychological, educational and medical needs.

### **The Grassroots Immigrant Collaborative (GIC) Project**

The GIC Project is a grassroots initiative that expands access to legal services and education, while maximizing the impact of service providers in NYC. UnLocal partners with existing community-based organizations (CBOs) that offer non-legal services to immigrants and fills a gap: providing one-on-one consultations, Immigration 101 trainings and, in some cases, direct representation.

UnLocal attorneys are also a source of immigration legal advice for the many

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undocumented clients of a Queens-based tax preparer and ESL instructor, a group of housekeepers in New Jersey, and a consortium of nannies in Brooklyn. Through these grassroots access points, UnLocal attorneys warn against fraudulent practitioners of law, provide defensive removal proceeding advice, and offer reliable and legitimate immigration legal services.

The GIC Project is especially crucial given the current proposed comprehensive immigration reform bill in Congress. Should immigration reform take effect, an estimated 300,000 immigrants may be eligible for some form of immigration benefit in the tri-state area. The GIC project was launched in June 2013.

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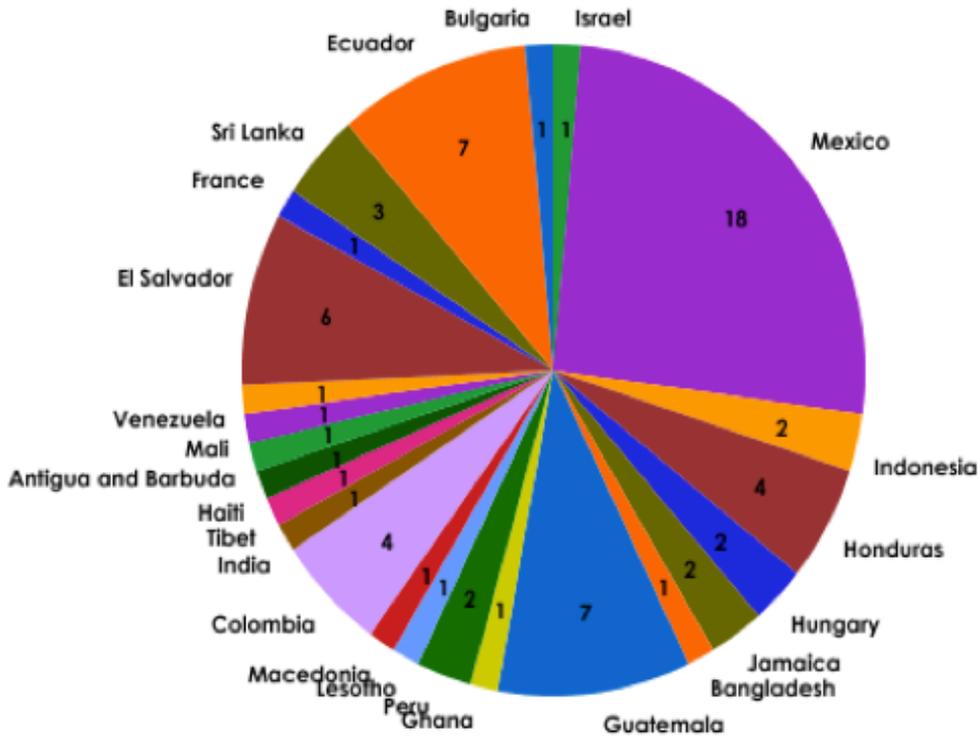
## OUR CLIENTS

In FY 2012-2013, UnLocal served 70 clients including

- 21 immigration consultations
- 5 provisional waiver consultations
- 7 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) approved cases
- 6 DACA pending applications
- 18 defensive Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases pending
- 1 defensive SIJS obtained
- 1 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self- petition pending
- 2 permanent residence cases pending
- 1 Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) granted
- 3 Asylee Adjustment cases approved
- 1 Asylee Adjustment case pending
- 1 Nunc Pro Tunc Asylum application pending.



## UnLocal, Inc. Clientele Count of Origin



In the past year, UnLocal has represented clients speaking over 10 languages. 46% of our clients are Spanish-speakers. Because of the Immigrant Child Legal Services Project, 44% of our clients are younger than 22 years old.

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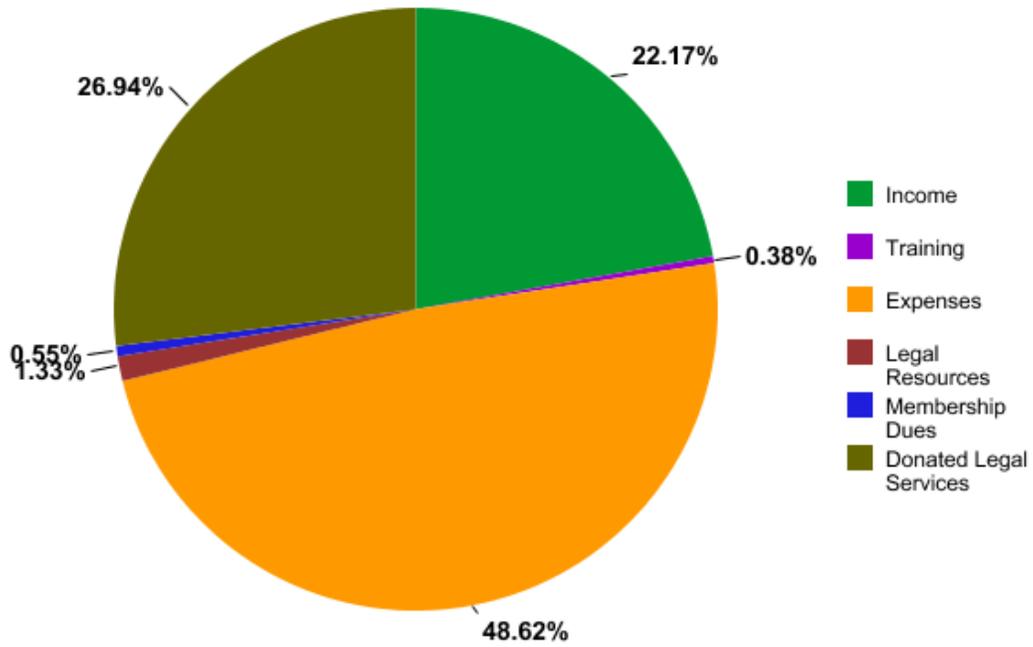
## EARNED INCOME/FUNDING MODEL

UnLocal, Inc. aims to create a new way in which legal services organizations obtain funding by moving away from the grant/donation only paradigm, building an organization that is self-sustaining over time. Because of the decrease in and unreliability of philanthropic funding, immigrant legal services have experienced cutbacks, yet the need is greater than ever. While UnLocal, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit immigrant legal services provider, it also has fee-for-service immigration law practice. In years 1, UnLocal has relied primarily on philanthropic funding for its pro-bono and low-bono services. However, as the revenue from the fee-for-services grows, UnLocal's dependency on philanthropic funding will decrease. Our ultimate goal is to create an organization with 75% earned income, 25% unearned income through philanthropic and government support. Last year, we earned approximately \$10,000 that supported legal services for those that could not afford it otherwise.

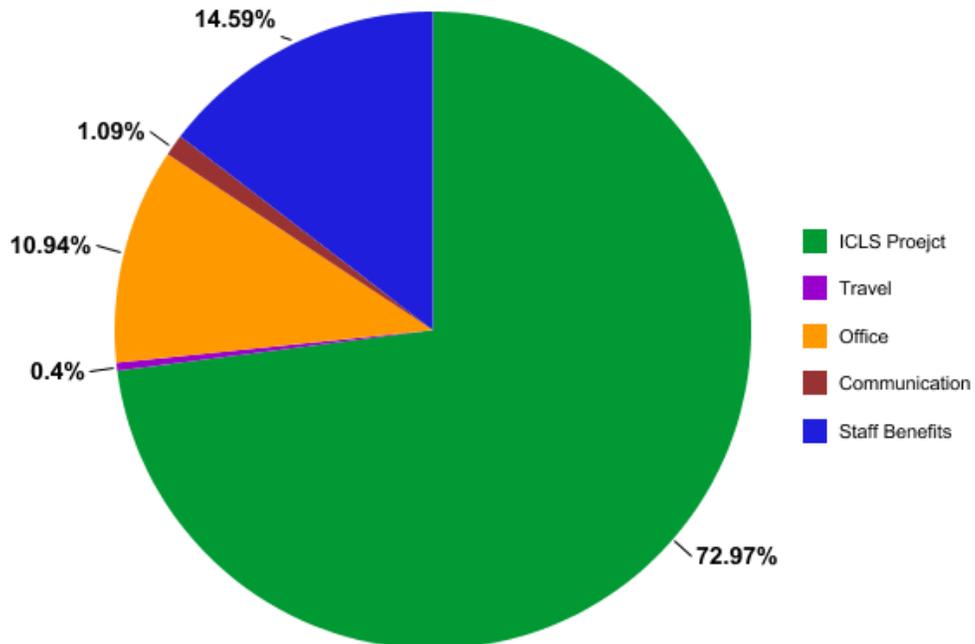
UnLocal has already begun to build a socially responsible client base of fully funded start-ups, international media/technology/art organizations, and post-start-up ventures that have employment-based immigration needs for which we charge market-rate legal fees. In fact, our fee-for-services clients are interested in using our services, in part, because of UnLocal's social mission. We will continue to grow a fee-for-service client base aligned with UnLocal's values.

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## TOTAL BUDGET



## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES



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## DONATE

Please consider supporting our work. UnLocal, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization.

### **By Check**

Checks may be made payable to “UnLocal, Inc.” and mailed to UnLocal, Inc., 233 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4A New York, New York 10016.

### **Online**

Donate directly to UnLocal, Inc.’s PayPal account by visiting [unlocal.org](http://unlocal.org) and clicking on the “donate” button on the home page.

### **Donor Advised Funding**

If you would like to recommend a donation to UnLocal, Inc., our tax-exempt ID is 41-2278265, 233 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4A New York, New York 10016.

### **Beneficiary Designations**

To designate UnLocal, Inc. as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, an IRA, Keogh, 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified retirement plan, please provide your financial institution: UnLocal, Inc., 233 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4A, New York, New York 10016. Tax ID: 41-2278265.

### **Business Inquiries, Real Estate, and Other:**

Donations can be arranged in a variety of forms. Details will vary; please contact us for further information.

Contact UnLocal, Inc. directly at:

Michele Lampach, Director  
[Michele@unlocal.org](mailto:Michele@unlocal.org)