



UNLOCAL

Year End
Report | **2014**

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

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UnLocal, Inc.

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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.

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

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.



Immigration 101 Class at the Trade School New York

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.

The Immigrant Child Legal Services (ICLS) Project

The ICLS project provides direct legal representation to assist New York City's undocumented youth. Most of these unaccompanied minors fled their countries for reasons such as domestic abuse, domestic and gang violence, labor trafficking and insurmountable poverty. However, 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.*

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

The Grassroots Immigrant Collaborative (GIC) Project

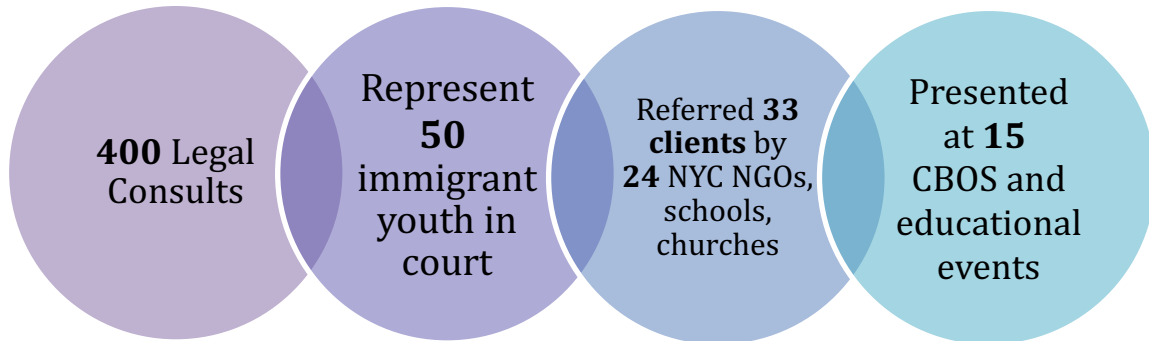
The GIC Project is a grassroots initiative that allows UnLocal to reach individuals not already connected to the broader network of non-profit legal service providers. We partner with community-based organizations whose focus is on immigrant concerns, but whose scope does not cover legal services. UnLocal

seeks to fill this gap.

Besides community-based organizations, religious institutions, and schools, UnLocal attorneys are also a source of immigration legal advice for the many 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.

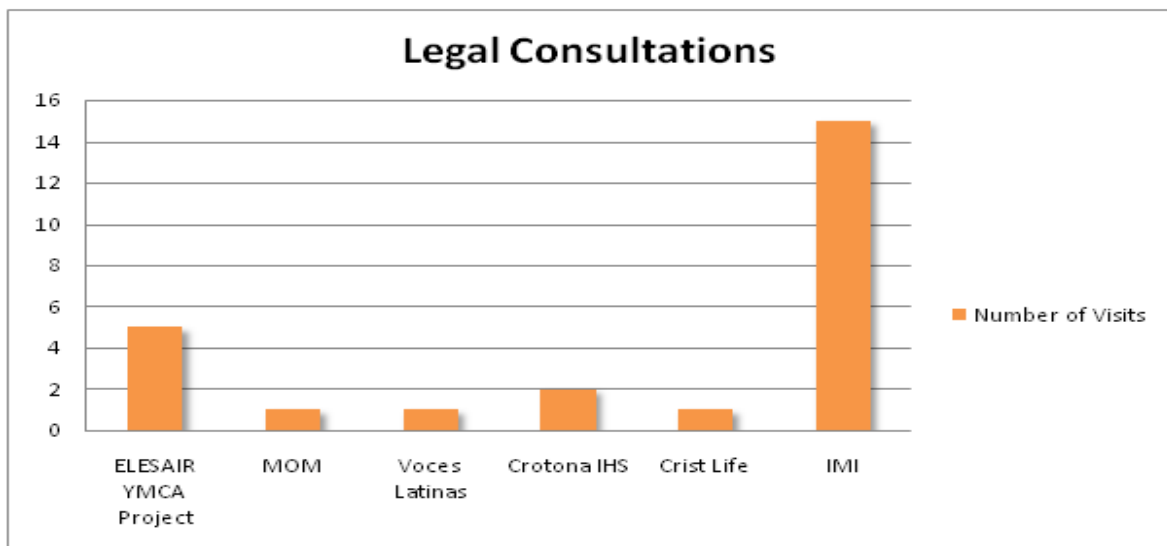
To support the legal needs of their community-based constituents, UnLocal provides basic immigration law seminars, one-on-one consultations and full-scope case representation as-needed.

2014 AT A GLANCE



400 Immigration Legal Consultations at 6 Organizations

- § Immigrant Movement International, Corona, NY
- § Mothers on the Move, Bronx, NY
- § Voces Latinas, Jackson Heights, NY
- § Crist Life Ministries, Brooklyn, NY
- § Crotona International H.S., Bronx, NY
- § ELES AIR Project of the YMCA, New York, NY



50 Immigrant Youth Represented In Immigration and Family Court

In the past year, more than **68,000** unaccompanied minors arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, most of them from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Nearly **6,000** children were released into the State of New York. At UnLocal, we have been working with unaccompanied minors for the past three years. In this year alone, we have represented more than **50** immigrant youth in their concurrent family and immigration court cases, or **100** separately litigated cases.

Special Projects

A unique aspect to UnLocal is our ability to respond to needs as they arise in the community. Through our *Grassroots Collaborative Project*, UnLocal has formed many strategic partnerships over the years. The below are two projects that began in 2014, in conjunction with strategic community-based allies.

Talk Is Cheap Collaborative

Talk Is Cheap Collaborative, an art and activist initiative and the Flushing Internship High School teamed up with UnLocal to create a program with their newly arrived undocumented youth. **Eleven** students are learning a special form of Cuban dance and creating movements to share their stories of migration. UnLocal provides a legal literacy component to the collaborative, where the students will ultimately propose their own set of immigration laws. These students will become facilitators of an undocumented youth leadership summit in the works for the summer of 2015.

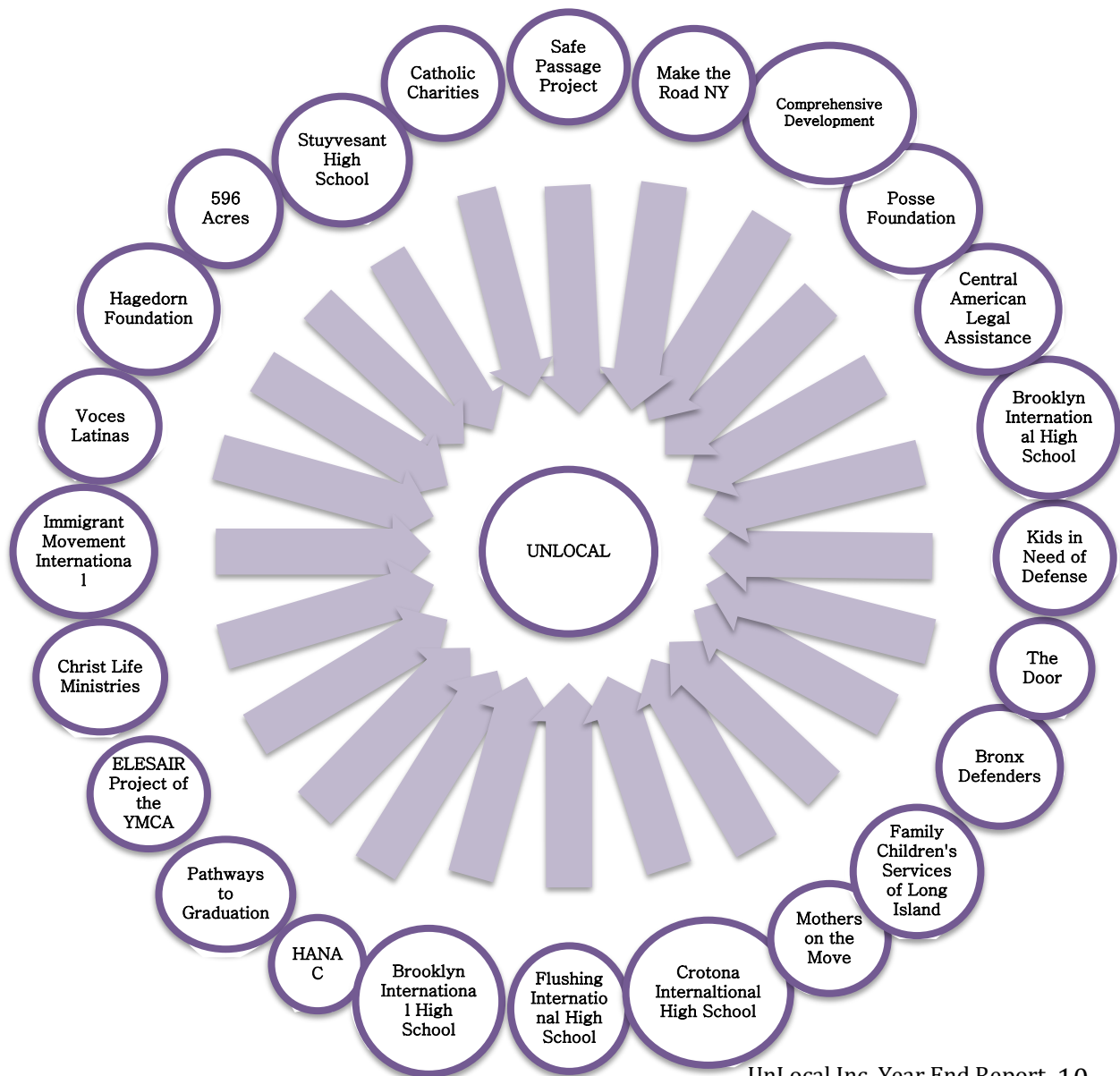
Garifuna Assistance Project

The Garifuna are a population of mixed origin incorporating elements of indigenous Caribbean and African groups, who settled along the Atlantic coast of Central America. UnLocal has been working with a recent wave of now Bronx-dwelling Garifuna migrants, mostly women and children who are in need of advocates for both their asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases. In addition, representation is required for check-ins with the Removal Operations division of immigration who placed monitoring ankle bracelets on many of the mothers in this group after they arrived. The ankle bracelets are causing much duress for the women and UnLocal is working with the City and others on advocacy strategies to remove the ankle bracelets. Finally, we are

coordinating referrals to other legal service providers in the instances where UnLocal is unable to take the case.

24 New York City Organizations Looked to UnLocal to Refer 33 Clients

The word is out about UnLocal. Many organizations have heard positive things about our work and during the height of the unaccompanied minors crisis this past summer, UnLocal was a go-to for referring agencies. Because of our mainly individual donor base, we were able to take cases in Long Island, where many New York City agencies are not funded to work. In addition, our clients referred us to friends and family members who were not getting placed by larger legal services agencies.



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 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.

We are thrilled with 2014 and look forward to making a continued impact in 2015!

Warmest regards,

Michele Lampach
Executive Director