

FIAC Has A New Name: Americans for Immigrant Justice

After 15 years of helping immigrants obtain legal status, successfully litigating their unjust treatment and pressing for constructive immigration laws and policy, the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) has renewed determination and a **new name: Americans for Immigrant Justice** – or AI Justice for short and ***Americanos Pro Justicia Inmigrante*** in Spanish.

AI Justice better reflects the focus and depth of the national work of our non-profit immigration law firm. Immigrant advocates nationwide, national media, key funders and federal and state policy makers already consider AI Justice as one among a handful of the most effective national groups fighting for immigrant justice. We also plan to open an office in Washington, DC.

Our multicultural, multilingual staff builds alliances between immigrant and non-immigrant groups, including the business community and government. Unlike similar agencies assisting clients with immigration cases, **AI Justice's direct work with clients and collaboration with community groups informs its broader policy work.** Among our prominent clients are the four Trail of Dreams youth who walked to Washington last year to promote the DREAM Act, a bill that would allow certain high-school graduates to earn their legal status.

Among the national leaders who have commended AI Justice are U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sen. Reid said: "I congratulate the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center on more than a decade of honoring our values as a nation of immigrants. I am confident that, as Americans for Immigrant Justice, you will continue to achieve even greater and more meaningful victories for decades to come. The unique expertise this organization and its talented staff have acquired from direct and daily contact with the immigrant community in Florida will serve it well as Americans for Immigrant Justice expands its focus to assisting immigrants and their families throughout this great nation."

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen said: "The United States is known as the land of great opportunity and hope. We remain a global beacon of light through our principled values and our diverse citizenship. FIAC, now as Americans for Immigrant Justice, realizes that the American Dream is as important as ever, and I am glad that their efforts are expanding nationwide."

Cheryl Little added: "We are energized and humbled by the many organizations and policymakers that have encouraged us to speak louder in the national immigration debate. This nation needs a system of legal immigration that works for all of us. We are determined to promote smart, constructive policies to keep our country safe and prosperous. When we founded FIAC in 1996 with a staff of 10 and a \$400,000 budget, we never dreamed that we would be opening an office in Washington, DC."

Facing an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant climate, AI Justice is redoubling efforts to protect the basic rights of immigrants and to promote constructive policies, like the DREAM Act, that would bolster our

economy, security and communities nationwide. Al Justice's boots-on-the-ground, real-world experience in the critical state of Florida will further enrich the debate in Washington.