



Clients who recovered stolen wages with their attorneys

WE HELP OUR
NEIGHBORS
FIGHT
DEPORTATION,
ADJUST THEIR
LEGAL STATUS
IN THE U.S.,
BECOME U.S.
CITIZENS,
AVOID
EVICTIONS,
AND RECOVER
STOLEN
WAGES.

WINNING ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN STOLEN WAGES

New York City is home to millions of people who work hard to put a roof over their heads and to provide for their families. However, millions of dollars are being stolen from them by unscrupulous employers, who are failing to pay the legal minimum wage and overtime rates - at times not even paying at all. Catholic Migration Services fights against wage theft by representing low-wage and immigrant workers in cases against their employers. In just the last 3 months alone, our Employment Law team has put nearly one million dollars back into the pockets of some of New York City's most vulnerable workers.

Our clients include people like Lucia* who worked as a housekeeper, living in the home of her employer, and worked 70 hours or more per week without receiving proper minimum wage and overtime pay. Martin, David, Peter, Angel and Jorge worked day and night in dangerous conditions, making deliveries for a Midtown restaurant chain, without being paid the legal minimum wage or overtime rates required by law. Emma, Madeline, Max, Marcos and Natalia worked at a COVID testing site. They were unfairly penalized on their taxes because their employer misclassified them as independent contractors to avoid paying taxes. Marta and Dolores were being sexually harassed on the job at a garment factory. These workers wanted to fight back. But they needed help. Catholic Migration Services took on their cases, at no cost.

For Lucia, we recovered \$117,500 in unpaid minimum wages and overtime. We filed a case in federal court on behalf of Martin, David, Peter, Angel and Jorge, which resulted in the workers recovering \$185,000 in stolen wages. We negotiated a settlement of \$85,000 for Emma, Madeline, Max, Marcos, and Natalia. For Marta and Dolores, we filed a complaint with the NYC Commission for Human Rights where our clients recovered a \$58,000 settlement for their harassment claims. These cases represent just a few of the settlements that, over the past three months alone, have put over \$950,000 directly into the pockets of 19 of our clients. Our work puts employers on notice that workers and their advocates are willing to fight back to collect these hard-earned wages.



Tenant leader Bryan Fotino in Albany with Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani to support Statewide Right To Counsel, which would give tenants across New York State the same protections as those currently enacted in NYC.

ENTIRE BUILDING'S TENANTS WIN RIGHT TO STAY IN HOMES

One day there was a knock at Alma's door. There were unknown people in her building who wanted to see her apartment. She struggled to understand who they were and what they wanted. Soon after, Alma and all her neighbors were served with eviction papers. They were all families who had lived there for many years. Instead of just packing up and leaving their homes, they came to Catholic Migration Services for help.

Our Housing team did a thorough investigation. We filed Freedom of Information requests with several agencies to learn more about the building's history. What we discovered would change the course of the case. We tracked down prior tenants who had lived in the basement. This meant that Alma and her neighbors had not been living in a 4-unit building but a 6-unit building, so their apartments should have been classified as rent-stabilized. Because of this, they were protected under the law from being evicted from their homes without cause.

The judge ruled in our favor and Alma and her neighbors are all still living in their homes today. The case is not over however, as the landlords have appealed. We will continue to represent these tenants as they fight for their rights throughout the long process of housing court appeals, as far as the case goes, for as long as they need us.

**Client names have been changed to protect privacy.*

KEEPING A FAMILY INTACT TO FIGHT CANCER TOGETHER

Andrea had vowed to be by her husband, Leo, in sickness and in health. So when Leo received a diagnosis of stage IV cancer, she was determined to be by his side. She was a vital support for not just her husband, but his entire family, including his grandchildren.

However, instead of focusing on supporting her family in their time of need, she was worried about being separated from them and deported. Over a decade ago, a Texas judge entered an *in absentia* removal order against Andrea when she was not given proper notice of the hearing and did not appear in court. When she came to Catholic Migration Services for help, our Immigration team submitted a motion to reopen her case and rescind the deportation order. Her case was transferred to New York and our advocates sought to obtain her a type of relief from deportation called “Cancellation of Removal”, which is given in instances of when someone can show extreme hardship to a U.S. citizen qualifying relative. But when Andrea finally had her day in court, we learned that judges were no longer able to grant cancellation cases until permanent resident cards were physically available, which can take over 2 years. We were afraid that time would run out for both Leo, and Andrea’s chance to stay in the United States with her family. But fortunately, after the judge saw the evidence, an emergency early release of the permanent resident card was ordered. Andrea is now a lawful permanent resident of the United States and remains by Leo’s side as he continues to battle cancer.



Skadden Fellow Anthony Damelio in Albany with Assemblywoman Vivian Cook and members of the New York Communities for Change to support the EmPIRE Act, which lets workers, whistleblowers, and unions sue in the name of the state to enforce the labor law on a workplace-wide basis.

HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS REPRESENT THEMSELVES IN COURT

Carolina and her husband Carlos came to the United States after escaping violence in their native Colombia. In fact, Carlos still has a bullet lodged in his body from an injury sustained by FARC, an armed Colombian rebel group. Due to the violence they suffered by FARC and the retaliation they experienced after reporting gang activity to the police, they were initially granted asylum by an immigration court. targeted by FARC for their refusal to join their efforts. But the U.S. government counsel appealed, arguing that they were not credible because their asylum application did not provide enough detail. Carolina and Carlos were representing themselves in Immigration Court and came to us just days before a filing deadline. They had no idea what a legal brief was and didn’t understand the scheduling order, which was in English only. Our legal team sprung into action to help them file the brief with the Board of Immigration Appeal by the deadline so they have a chance to remain in the United States.

CATHOLIC MIGRATION SERVICES

*Helping our neighbors win asylum,
obtain work authorization, stay in their
homes, and recover unpaid wages!*

Meet & Greet at Emma's Torch

*A non-profit restaurant providing refugees
with culinary and empowerment training*

Thursday, March 7th, 6-9pm

345 Smith St, Brooklyn, NY

Honoring the work of



Online Auction - bid here
on great items and
support our work!



catholicmigration.org



Tickets Here

