



Dear Friend,

Thank you for sharing our belief that all people deserve to be treated with dignity, and to experience safety and freedom regardless of where they were born. We are grateful you have joined us on this journey, and continue to make it possible for us to advance and defend the rights of immigrants.

It will probably come as no surprise to you that these past few years have been particularly challenging for immigrants and immigrant rights – and by extension, for NWIRP. It seems like every day we learn of a new injustice, a terrible proposal, or a tweet that upends policy with a few cruel characters. Ever since the last Presidential election, many people have asked me how the staff and volunteers at NWIRP continue to do this work, given these extreme challenges. But the answer is as simple now as it has been for the past thirty-five years.

Immigrant rights are human rights.

We have held firm to this belief, even as we grew from a small group of volunteer attorneys, community activists, and faith leaders into one of the largest direct legal services organizations for low-income immigrants in the United States. Every day, the world walks into our offices, knowing that Northwest Immigrant Rights Project is ready to help. And we are proud to answer that call, assisting thousands of community members every year throughout the state of Washington, from offices in Seattle, Granger, Tacoma, and Wenatchee.

Our promise to the people we serve – and to you – is that we will continue to walk into immigration courtrooms and offices and into the Northwest Detention Center every day because our clients deserve nothing less than our best effort to find them relief. And we remind ourselves that any challenges we have faced over the past few years pale in comparison to the injustices experienced by our clients.

You can be proud that despite these new challenges your support has helped us win some significant victories that will alleviate hardships for many immigrants across the state and across the nation. Alongside partners, we [won a landmark settlement](#) against Yakima County when the sheriff's department was violating the Constitution by holding individuals in the local jail on ICE's behalf – even after these individuals were entitled to their freedom. [We filed a lawsuit against the federal government](#) when they began a new policy that would have prevented young people who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned from seeking the protected, documented status the law has expressly provided for them. [We fought to have the Ninth Circuit Court re-hear a case](#) addressing whether immigrant children facing deportation should have the right to a court-appointed attorney.

And just last month, [we celebrated a nationwide ruling](#) that would require the government to provide fair and timely bond hearings for asylum seekers, even as Attorney General Barr [threatens to take away bond hearings](#) completely from the very same people.

All of these efforts are only possible thanks to your support. Because of you we've increased the number of lawyers for our direct representation efforts, greatly expanding our ability to defend detained individuals at the Northwest Detention Center. Because of you we were able to increase staffing in our litigation unit, allowing us to bring these kinds of cases that have national impact to the forefront. Because of you, our staff has increased from 65 to 108! Because of you.

I have served as executive director for eleven years now here at NWIRP, and in that time I have been awed by our community's commitment to justice for all people. But these past few years have been particularly humbling. Your generosity of spirit in the face of these troubling times has been extraordinary. You have touched us deeply with your trust in our efforts and your commitment to the people we serve. And you have made it possible for us to widen and extend our impact, locally and nationally.

So thank you. Our mission thrives because of you. Whether you have been with us for the past 35 years or just joined us in the past few months – we are glad that you are part of our family. Together, we will continue to create change, fight for justice, and advance the rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters. Because immigrant rights are human rights.

With enduring gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Barón", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge L. Barón
Executive Director