

PAIFUP

*News from the fight for freedom, safety and dignity for all immigrants
detained or facing deportation in Pennsylvania.*

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What's Happening?

1 CLIENTS RELEASED

4 NEW CLIENTS

6 HEARINGS

This past month we had client released from detention. Read more about it in the story below.

Success! Funding from Philadelphia has been secured for 2023, this is excellent news as we can continue to fight for representation for all immigrants in Pennsylvania.

Client Success: Edward

Edward grew up in Kingston, Jamaica in neighborhoods plagued with gang violence. None of Edward's family members had anything to do with the gangs, yet his older brother had been killed by a member of the On Dem gang when Edward was a teenager. Edward himself was threatened. Struggling to provide for his infant son, Edward traveled to the United States in 2008 on a temporary visa. He decided to remain, did construction work, and was able to send some money home to support his son.

Edward met and later married a woman who shared his love of Jamaican music. From the time they became acquainted until early into the marriage, Edward's spouse was able to conceal her drug and alcohol addictions. His spouse could not keep a job, other than caring for grandchildren. When Edward confronted his spouse about her problems, she became increasingly confrontational, to the point of abuse. She poked Edward in the temple, making disparaging remarks. She would falsely accuse Edward of infidelity, and threaten that if she could not have him, then no one else would. She threatened to turn Edward over to immigration, rather than help him to apply for lawful status. The behavior turned violent. During arguments, she would waive a knife, razor, or fork to threaten Edward. When Edward was out of the house, socializing, she would go looking for him, and people reported that she would carry knives or razor blades. During one argument, instead of poking his forehead, she poked a finger in Edward's eye, resulting in permanent injury. During one argument, when Edward was attempting to leave the home, his spouse used Edward's shaving razor to cut him, leaving a scar on Edward's finger. A few weeks later, when Edward returned home in the evening with a friend who Edward had invited to stay for the night, Edward's spouse became irate. As Edward and his friend moved to leave the home, Edward was seriously injured by a sharp object wielded by his spouse. Losing blood, Edward collapsed as he fled from the home. He nearly died. When

he awoke in a hospital bed, he was told that his heart had stopped. Edward never returned to his marital home ever again.

Sometime the following year, Edward's spouse had an altercation involving multiple people, culminating in a police report. She falsely accused Edward of being involved in the assault, and a warrant was issued, but never served. Then, Edward was in a car during a routine traffic stop, when the outstanding warrant was discovered. After he was arrested on the old warrant and released, he was picked up and taken into custody by ICE.

Edward was assigned to representation through PAIFUP. Separately, the false criminal charges were promptly dismissed. Edward learned that he may qualify as a survivor of spousal abuse to obtain lawful status under VAWA. With the help of Edward's family, friends, and PAIFUP attorney, Edward was released from detention on bond.

Edward explained, "The things I want most in life now are to provide for my son, provide for myself, and to get a divorce and move on and be free from my wife. I just want a chance to prove myself, to be a part of the American dream."

In Other News



'This is the crowning glory moment': Naturalized...

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (WPVI) - "This is the crowning glory moment right," said Mala Talekar. "Once me and my husband today become citizens, it's not only the culmination of our hard work, but for also my children, it means a better future."

[Read more
6abc.com](http://www.6abc.com)



Federal Appeals Court Hears Arguments on Challenge to DACA

Immigrant advocates head to a federal appeals court in New Orleans on Wednesday in hopes of saving an Obama-era program that prevents the deportation of thousands of people brought into the U.S. as children.

[Read more
www.nbcphiladelphia.com](http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com)



Protest held on South Side Friday over immigration court ...

On Friday morning, there was a line of protesters along Sidney Street in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood to demand the reopening of an immigration court. The group had signs that read 'for a court in Pittsburgh.' In April, the Executive...

[Read more
www.wtae.com](http://www.wtae.com)

[Catch up on the previous issue here](#)

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send **Yomayra Burgos**, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at yburgos@pirclaw.org.

The Pennsylvania Immigrant Family Unity Project (PAIFUP) is a collaborative of nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania formed in order to achieve universal representation for detained immigrants facing removal proceedings in PA.

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