



Message from Susan Cohen, President of the PAIR Board

On Saturday night, a team of dedicated lawyers from the Boston area and I went into Federal District Court in Boston to seek an emergency Temporary Restraining Order (TRO). The TRO was to immediately prohibit U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials from detaining or removing travelers entering the U.S. at Boston's Logan Airport who have a lawful right to enter the United States. This includes citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, approved refugees and other individuals specified in the President's January 27, 2017 Executive Order, who are likely to suffer irreparable harm if they are not allowed into the U.S.

Shortly after 2:00 am on Sunday, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted the relief we requested by issuing a 7-day TRO with immediate effect. Among other things, the order requires CBP to notify airlines with flights arriving into Logan Airport that CBP officers will not detain or return individuals based solely on the Executive Order. And on Sunday evening, DHS finally agreed to admit LPR's from these countries on a case-by-case basis. This change came in the wake of a series of similar lawsuits filed across the U.S. and pressure by advocate groups.

I was honored to join other Boston immigration lawyers from AILA NE, Susan Finegan, of Mintz Levin, and representatives of the ACLU to seek an injunction against this Executive Order which violates a number of U.S. laws.

There is much more work to be done, as the Department of Homeland Security is not uniformly complying with this court order and similar orders that have been issued in a handful of other states. We are working around the clock to protect the rights of everyone around the world seeking to enter the United States, and are actively working on this as I write this note.

While I was in federal court, the PAIR staff was on the ground at Logan Airport and Copley Square, supporting immigrant rights and protesting their opposition to the recent Executive Orders, which have punitive consequences for immigrants.

The time to help immigrants is NOW. The need is NOW.

Now, more than ever, PAIR needs your support. PAIR relies on volunteers with diverse skills, including attorneys to represent PAIR asylum-seeking clients and to advise immigrants being detained by immigration. Please contact our staff if you would like to join us.

Also, please consider supporting PAIR. All funds will support our core programs and provide life-saving services to all who need it. To donate, visit our website: www.pairproject.org.

For people to feel hope, they must see examples of leadership and courage. They must hear the countless stories of resilience-- from attorneys and from those we help. I am so proud to be a part of PAIR and to be a part of the movement for justice, fairness and transparency for all.

Thank you all for your activism, dedication, and support.