# **Signification Constant Advocates**

#### **Presentation for Hope Church**

Holland, Michigan January 2024

#### David Lee

**Advancement Director & Codirector** 

# **Introductions & Housekeeping**



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## Thank you – in person and online; recording available



### **Questions and comments**

Website: https://lia-michigan.org/ Call: (616) 298-8984 Visit: 412 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street Holland

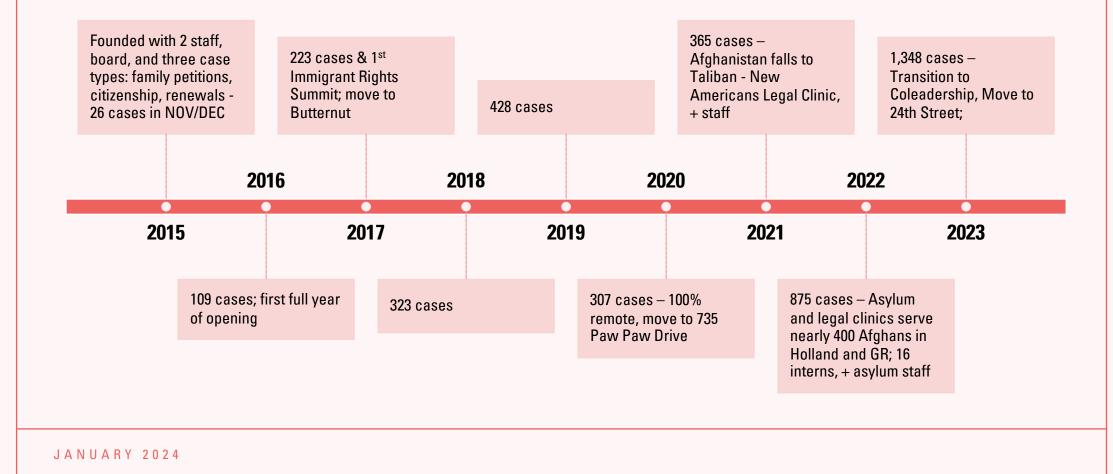
Visit: 412 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland, MI 49423



## Overview

 Bringing stability to West Michigan families and communities through immigration legal services, education, and advocacy.

## History



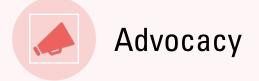




## Immigration Legal Services



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## (Intro to) Immigration 101

#### 13.6% of U.S. population are immigrants; highest since 1890

• 1.1M+ in 2023 (est.)

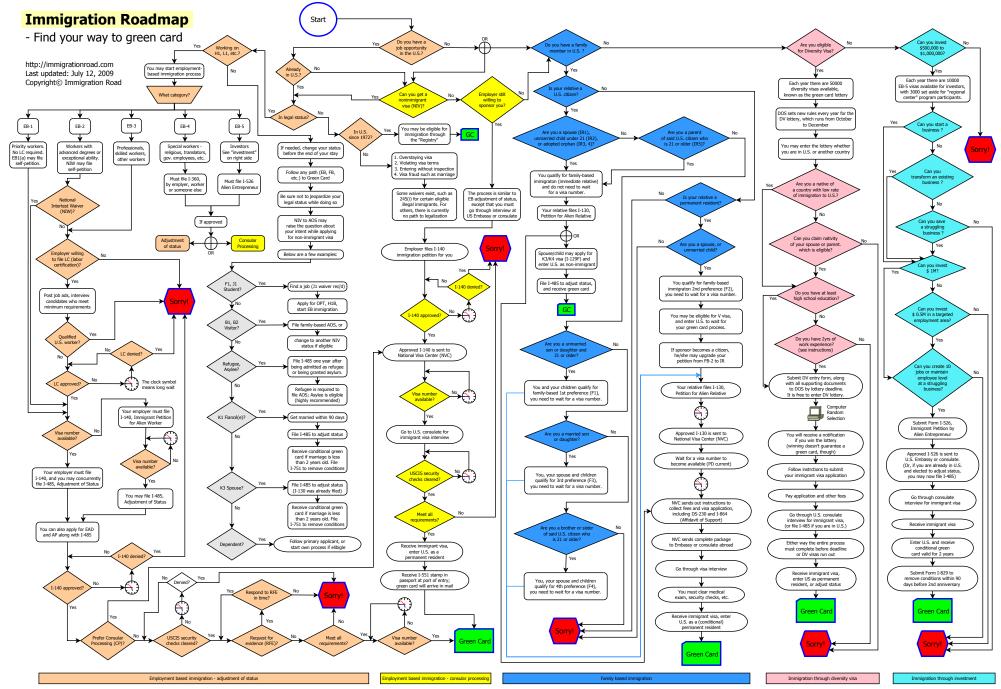
#### Ottawa County: 5.4% of population, 1% of total county population increase

- 1 in 4 have limited English proficiency
- 1 in 9 are recent arrivals (5 years or less)
- 81% between 16 and 64 vs 63% non-immigrant
- 1 in 10 K12 students are 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> generation immigrants
- 15.9% are undocumented

#### Challenges Immigrants Face

- Language & stability
- Thriving & belonging
- Immigration laws & policies

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Disclaimer: This immigration roadmap is for general guidance only and shall NOT be construed as legal advice; U.S. Immigration laws and regulations are ever changing, so always confirm with USCIS and/or consult a qualified professional with regard to your case; No warranty is made regarding the accuracy of any information; Not all gossible ways to GC are covered by this flowchart, and appealg/motion to reopen are not included; You may start multiple processes if your are eligible.



JANUARY 2024

## LIA's Legal Service Program:

- Sliding fee scale based on household income (200% to 400% of FPL)
- Clients know ahead of time total cost vs. traditional retainer/pay per hour model
- Attorneys, DOJ Accredited Legal Representatives, Legal Assistants
- Bilingual in English/Spanish, interpretation for many other languages
- Care and service that is trauma informed, provided within framework of social work standards

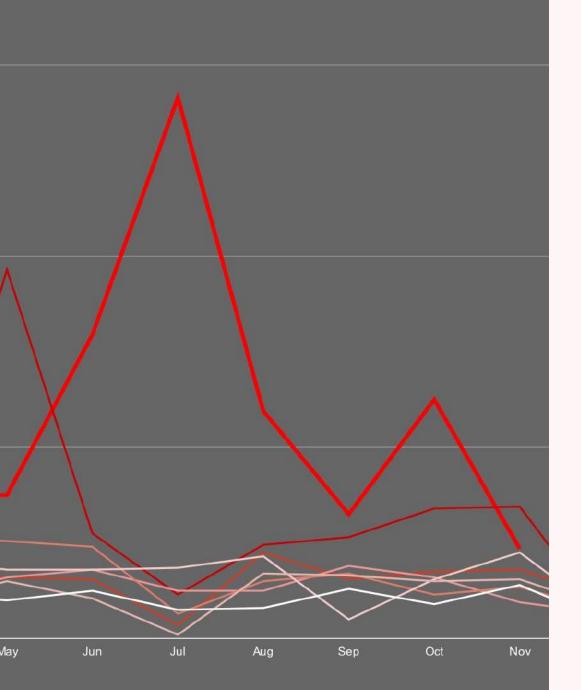
## For our community

Ending	Ending family separation, one family at a time
Restoring	Restoring rights and justice, one case at a time
Achieving	Achieving stability and building trust in each other



## Challenges

- Sharing the Weight
- 2 3 4 5 7 10 12 = 2024
- Global = Local



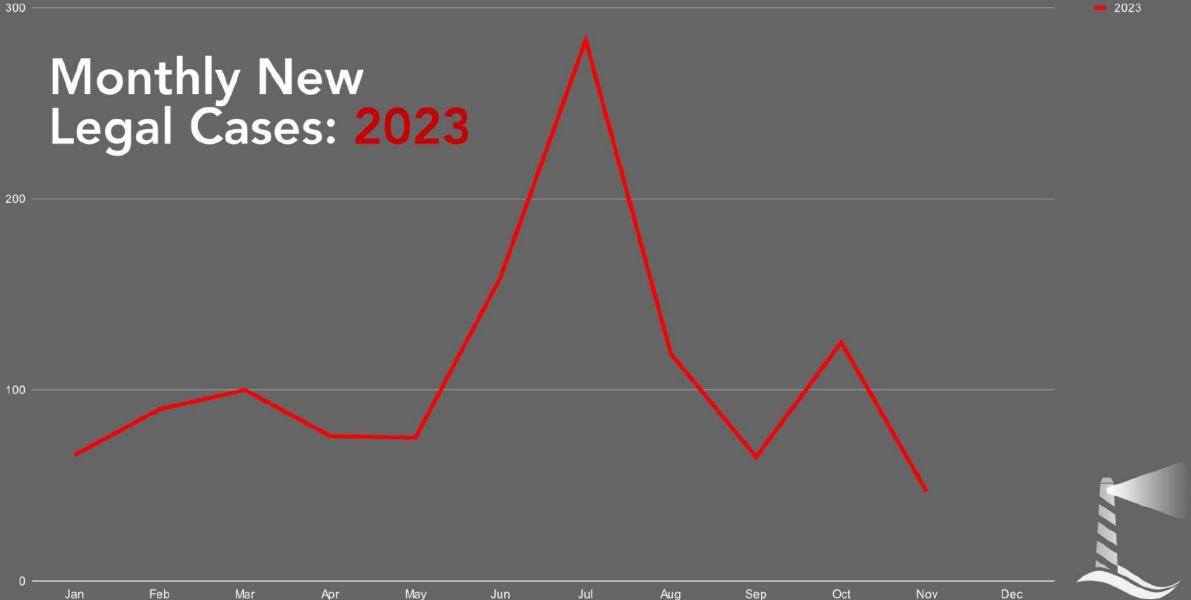


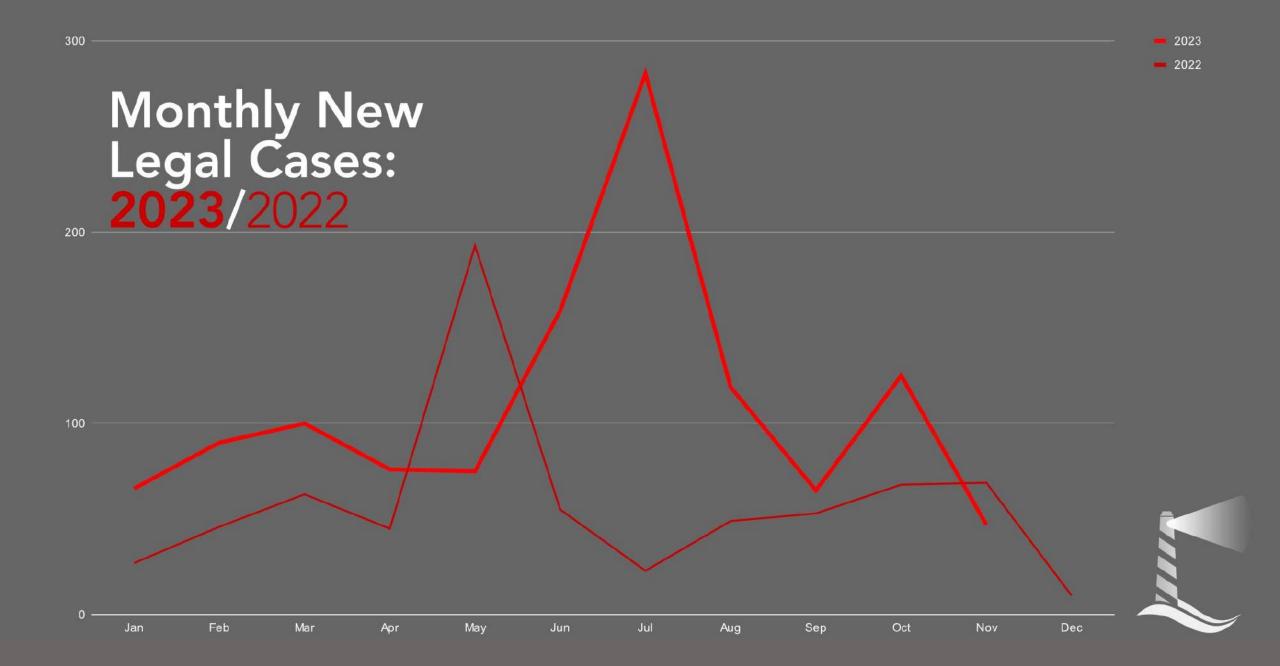
• Focus

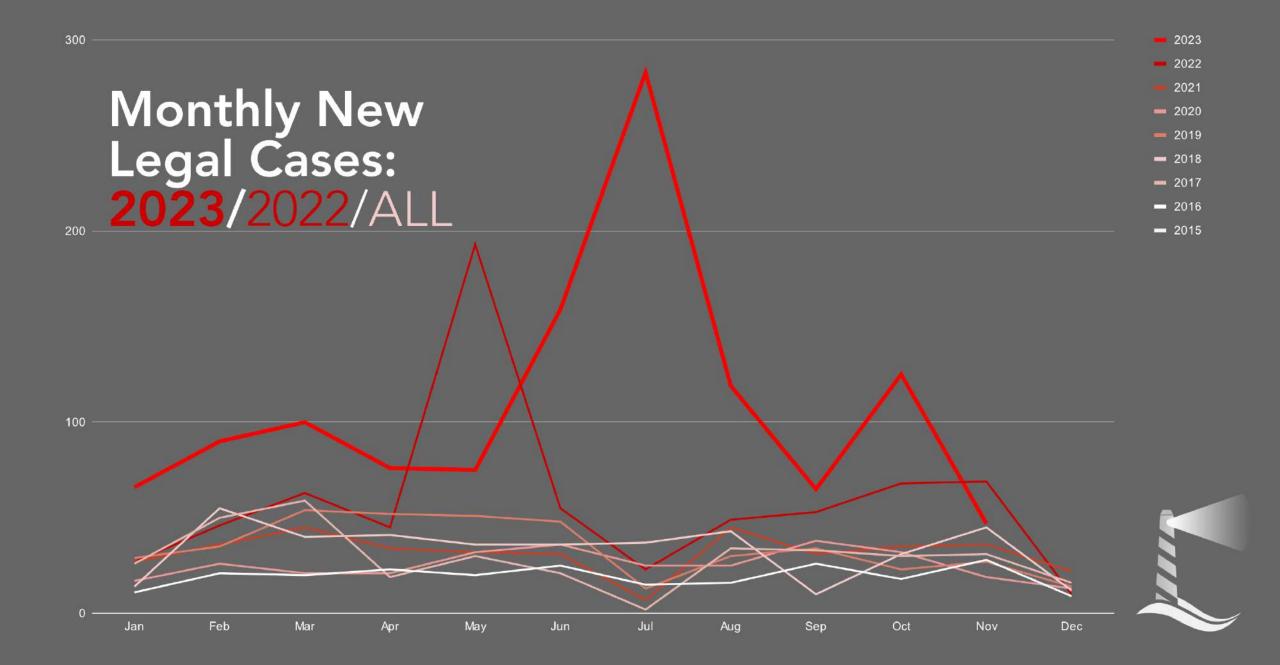
• Balance

• People

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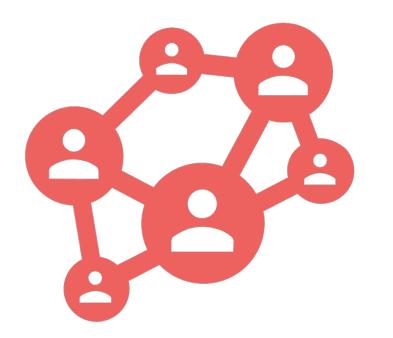




# Ottawa County, Michigan

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- The Election Cycle
- Shaping the Future

OTTAWA



# Join, Support, and...

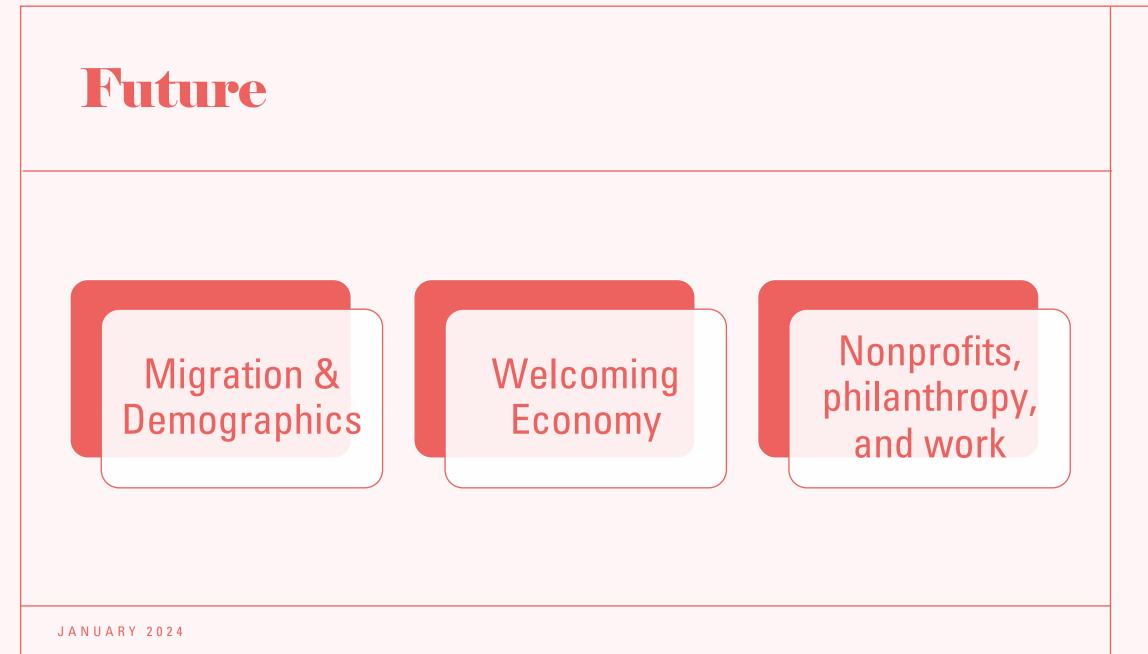
- LIA meets need for affordable (but not free) legal services that define the lives of immigrants through the generosity and investments of our community members
- Advocacy for Drive SAFE, DACA, immigration reform
- Take great pride in our community's ability to support an organization like LIA – we're the canary and the match



# **Birthdays!**

- \$1 in donations = \$7.34 in immigration legal services
- Invite friends and family to make a small donation to LIA in honor of your birthday this year
- Advocate, support, and educate all at the same time

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