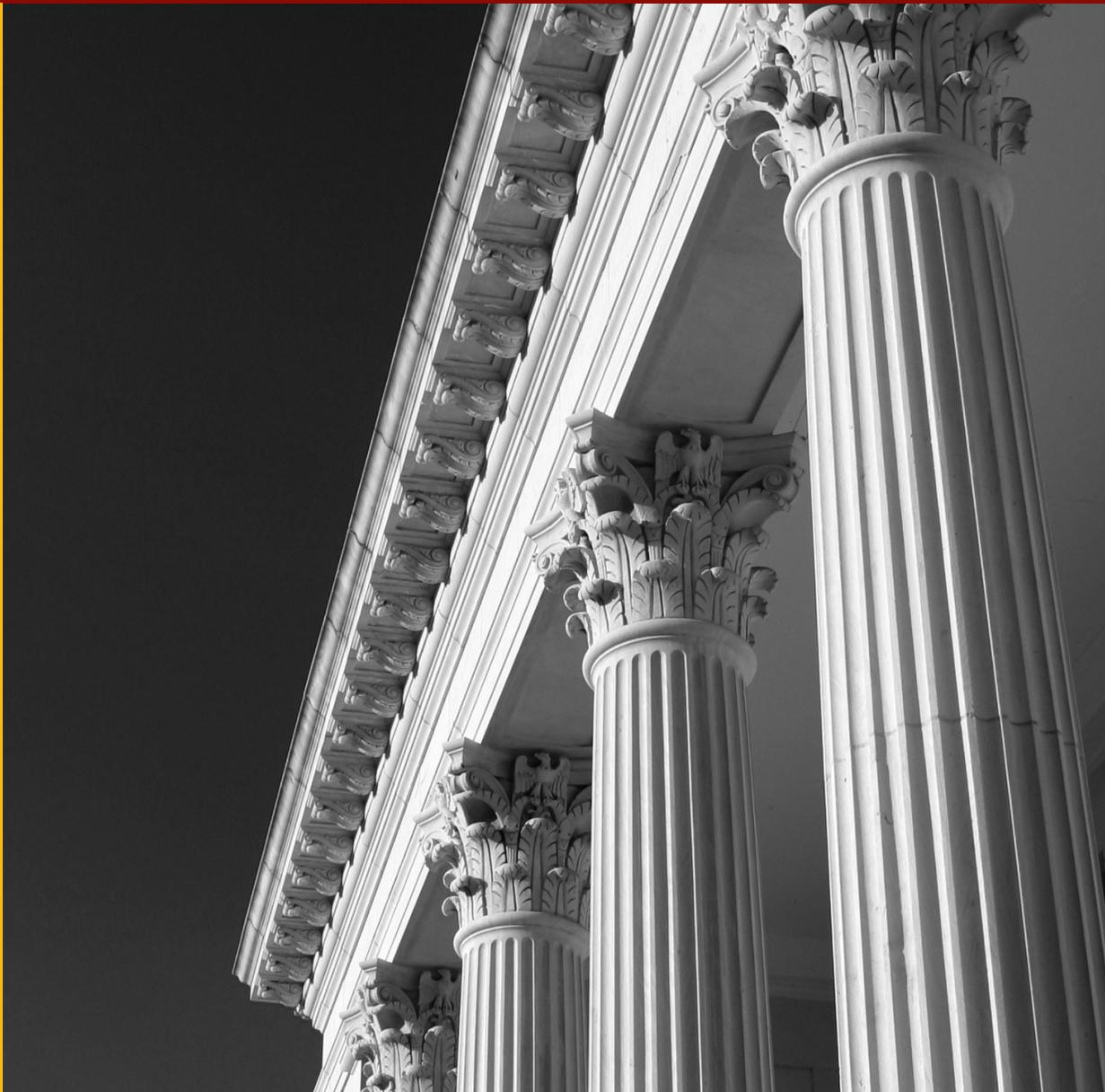


# Assembly Line Injustice

Blueprint to Reform America's Immigration Courts





# Acknowledgments

This report is the product of close collaboration between Appleseed and Chicago Appleseed, with the generous support of our pro bono partners at Latham & Watkins LLP and, more recently, with Texas Appleseed and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. The result of thousands of hours of research and field work by volunteer attorneys in Chicago, New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Houston, *Assembly Line Injustice* stands as a powerful demonstration of Appleseed's unique approach to promoting social justice.

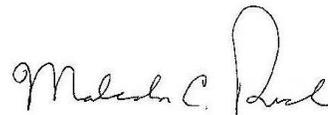
By appealing to the highest ideals of the bar, and by engaging top pro bono legal talent throughout the country, Appleseed uncovers systemic impediments to justice and economic opportunity and crafts effective, comprehensive solutions. Individuals and communities on the margins of society—the working poor, minorities, disadvantaged children or, as shown in this report, immigrants—too often fall through the cracks of our legal system, unfairly denied the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

Appleseed's pro bono partners share our commitment to advocating for practical, achievable ways to tear down barriers to justice, and we are grateful for their support. Indeed, Latham & Watkins committed more than 90 lawyers and 22 professional staff members to this critical effort. We would especially like to thank Jim Rogers, who led and inspired Latham's nationwide team. Special thanks also go to Dennis Craythorn, Daniel Glad and Seth Goldstein, the report's lead authors and national coordinators. Akin Gump added 12 attorneys in Texas, who were led by Steven Schulman. Without the concerted efforts of these scores of attorneys, such a groundbreaking assessment of the Immigration Court system—and future reform resulting from the project—could not have been accomplished.

*Assembly Line Injustice* would not have been possible without the collaboration and commitment of all these participants, applying their legal expertise to an issue of utmost relevance to this country's fundamental ideals. The report, to be sure, represents a milestone in the campaigns for immigrants' rights and a legal system befitting American ideals of justice. But Appleseed's work on this project is far from complete. Now begins the crucial advocacy stage to ensure the implementation of our numerous recommendations, which in turn will ensure that immigrants encounter a fair and unbiased system of justice. Please join Appleseed as we continue down this road to a stronger, more inclusive society. We wholeheartedly thank all of our partners and volunteers for helping us pave the way.



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# Appendices

The main body of the report stands on its own and may be read without the appendices. The appendices are intended only to amplify and extend the discussion of our recommendations and to provide interested readers with the underlying support for specific issues. Because some of the most useful data on Immigration Courts is difficult to find, the appendices provide a direct link to many of the resources we discovered during our investigation. Each section of this report will have a corresponding appendix that will be electronically available on Appleseed's website. The appendices will also include a fuller presentation of our methodology, including copies of the interview questionnaires.

The appendices will be available by clicking on hyperlinks contained in a PDF version of this report to be found on Appleseed's website at <http://www.appleseednetwork.org/bProjects/ImmigrantRights/tabid/81/Default.aspx>. Phrases or concepts in the report that benefit from some elaboration or are supported by a citation will be underlined in blue, indicating a hyperlink to the relevant portion of the appendix. Then, from the appendix, click on the heading of the appendix entry to return to where you were in the body of the report.

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