



## **Pacifica Attorneys Work With NWIRP and ACLU of Washington to Block Immigrant Deportation**

Last Saturday, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) and the ACLU of Washington were able to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to prevent two immigrants who had arrived at Sea-Tac Airport with valid tourist visas from being deported. Pacifica Law Group was part of the attorney team that worked to file a habeas petition and obtain an emergency stay of removal from the U.S. federal court along with attorneys for NWIRP, the ACLU, and MacDonald Hoague & Bayless.

The two immigrants were being held by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as a result of the executive order on immigration issued by President Trump on Friday, January 27, 2017. The executive order initially was applied as a strict 90 day ban on anyone who was born in seven countries regardless of the fact that official credentials had been issued by the U.S. for entry to the U.S. One was an engineer originally from Sudan, but now residing in the United Arab Emirates who was travelling to an engineering conference in Las Vegas. The other was a pharmacist, a Yemeni citizen, born in Saudi Arabia, who was coming to visit his wife and children in the U.S. Both had been issued visas and were allowed to travel to the U.S.

Information on the status of persons detained at Sea-Tac was scarce. By mid-afternoon, lawyers at Sea-Tac learned that the two persons detained were set to be placed back on planes departing the U.S. The legal teams swung into action preparing the habeas petition and the emergency motion for a stay of removal on behalf of two John Does. The petition and motion were filed as the clients were being put back on the plane. Federal Judge Zilly was tracked down. He reviewed the petition and motion and signed an emergency stay. By that time, the jet way had been pulled up. Judge Zilly then communicated directly with CBP which resulted in the jet way being set and the two clients taken off the plane. Pacifica attorney Paul Lawrence drafted the emergency motion for a stay of removal.

The two clients were detained overnight. But thanks to the persistent efforts, especially of the NWIRP, the two were released into the U.S. at about 6:30 Sunday morning. The engineer was allowed to travel on to his conference. The pharmacist was reunited with his family.

### Related Media Articles

“Frantic effort at Sea-Tac to stop flight, allow 2 men to enter U.S.” *Seattle Times*, 1/31/17:  
<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/frantic-effort-at-sea-tac-to-stop-flight-allow-2-men-to-enter-us/>

“Stop that plane: The frantic race to halt a deportation” *Crosscut.com*, 1/30/17:  
<http://crosscut.com/2017/01/immigration-ban-washington-state-trump-behind-the-scenes-deportation/>

“Travelers detained at Seattle airport released from custody” *KIRO 7 News*, 1/29/17:  
<http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/growing-fallout-from-president-donald-trumps-new-immigration-crackdown/488766023>

“Judge suspends Trump order; bars deportation of refugees” *Seattle Times*, 1/28/17:  
<http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation-politics/judge-suspends-trump-order-bars-deportation-of-refugees/>

“Judge blocks part of Trump’s immigration order” *Seattle Times*, 1/28/17:  
<http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/panic-at-airports-as-trumps-order-blocks-immigrants/>