



Hot off the Press

[Federal Judge Approves Class Settlement](#)

[MLA Client Thank you](#)

[National Farmworker Law Conference 2018](#)

[Advocacy Award for MLA Director](#)

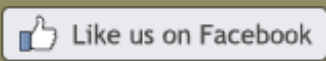
[Nebraska: Value of Farmworker's Life](#)

[Wisconsin: Turning Point for Farmworkers](#)

[Vermont: Lawsuit against ICE](#)



Follow Us At:
migrantlegalaid.com



Hon. Robert J. Jonker

Federal Judge Lauds Migrant Legal Aid for "Excellent Advocacy" and Going "Above and Beyond" for Class Members

October 29, 2018. Chief Judge Robert J. Jonker of the Western District of Michigan gave final approval of a class action settlement in favor of blueberry pickers in Michigan, covering three seasons of work. The Judge analyzed the proposed compromise for fairness, stating the attorneys had shown excellent advocacy. In an effort to maximize

the number of workers receiving money from the settlement, Migrant Legal Aid went public on farmworker radio, in Spanish newspapers, with migrant service agencies, by individual mailings, texting and other means. Migrant Legal Aid went 'door to door' in Michigan and had help from out-of-state attorneys to find eligible workers. The court our efforts, especially going "door to door", went "above and beyond" the usual. Workers who will receive money under the settlement have been notified. "I give credit for our great result to attorney **Ben O'Hearn** for excellent legal work, and to our law clerk **Molly Spaak** for her tireless outreach and litigation support," said Director Teresa Hendricks. "Thank you also to our Texas team of advocates who worked hard to find eligible claimants, and special thanks to Marni Willeson, private attorney, for her legal prowess as co-counsel."

Client Video: Freedom from Violence



MLA helps protect clients from violence, harrassment and hate. Now safe, Yolanda and Diana take a moment to say GRACIAS for their new found freedom from violence.

[See video](#)



Attorneys Javier Riojas, Teresa Hendricks, and Joe Morrison present "Protecting U.S. workers in an H-2A world" at national conference. Link to [materials here](#)

MLA Director Receives Advocacy Award



October 24, 2018. The YWCA's 2018 Tribute awards drew over 700 people to honor seven accomplished leaders. Among them, Teresa Hendricks received the [Advocacy Award](#) for protecting farmworkers and for leadership on women's health. Other areas included business, Art, Management, Industry & Labor, Service, Wellness, and Student.

**Nebraska: What is the Value of the Life of a
Farmworker?
Sweltering Heat-related Death
Brings OSHA Fine of Only \$11,641.**



The body of 52-year-old Cruz Urias-Beltran was found in the field on July 12, The Washington Times reported. A search had begun the evening before when he didn't return from his work. The employment agency faces the fine for failing to protect employees working in excessive heat after a farmworker succumbed to apparent heat-related symptoms while working in a cornfield in Nebraska. [Read more here](#), and [here](#). Earlier this summer, Mother Jones reported other [Heat-related deaths](#)

Want to help? [Volunteer with us](#)

Wisconsin: A Mid-century Turning Point for Migrant Farmworkers



Migrant workers played a key role in making Wisconsin a modern agricultural powerhouse. Seasonal workers who traveled from Mexico, and Texas-born people of Mexican descent, known as Tejanos, became a crucial part of Wisconsin's agricultural workforce during and after World War II, setting the stage for a dairy industry that relies heavily on immigrants to this day. [Read more](#)

Vermont: Lawsuit Alleges Farmworkers Targeted For Activism With Surveillance, Informant



Immigration activist Enrique Balcazar said at a rally Wednesday at the federal courthouse in Burlington that dozens of his colleagues have been arrested and deported, some solely because of their work on behalf of undocumented workers.

"In the past two years alone there have been over 40 community members associated with Migrant Justice who have been arrested by federal immigration authorities," he said through an interpreter. "Many of them have since been deported, and in nine of these cases, we have clear evidence that these arrests were retaliatory, targeting people because of their involvement in Migrant Justice." [Read more](#) and [Listen here](#)
