

Severed Ties: The Legal and Humanitarian Impact of U.S. Immigration Policy

Panel Discussion Co-Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson and the YWCA of Southern Arizona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 9, 2018

WHERE: St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 East 3rd Street, Tucson, AZ 85716

WHEN: 9:30-11:45 AM, Saturday, November 17, 2018

FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC: Please use the south parking area. Event in the **Geneva Room**.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Speakers available for interviews immediately after the program at 11:45 a.m.

Stories of children separated from their parents along with being confined to cages have enraged people and motivated them to respond urgently to end this extremely challenging and emotionally wrenching situation. Tucson community nonprofit organizations have opened their hearts and their resources to assist in every possible way. To continue this critical dialogue, the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson in partnership with the YWCA Southern Arizona will host a public meeting with the following speakers:

Billy Peard – American Civil Liberties Union, Bilingual Staff Attorney, Tucson

Prior to joining the ACLU of Arizona, Peard was a staff attorney for legal aid in Massachusetts, where he represented immigrant farm workers in unpaid minimum wage, overtime and immigration matters. Previously, Billy Peard was a staff attorney at Georgia Legal Services Program where he represented workers earning sometimes as little as \$4 per hour. He earned his B.A. in History and Political Science from Warren Wilson College (North Carolina) and his J.D. from Vermont Law School. He grew up in Tucson.

Father Sean Carroll, S.J. – Executive Director, Kino Border Initiative (KBI)

Father Sean is responsible for maintaining the mission and vision of the organization through fund raising, program development, financial management and staff supervision. The vision of KBI is the humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico. Their mission is to promote US/Mexico border and immigration policies that affirm the dignity of the human person and a spirit of binational solidarity through

three key areas: 1) Direct humanitarian assistance and accompaniment with migrants; 2) Social and pastoral education with communities on both sides of the border; and, 3) Participation in collaborative networks that engage in research and advocacy to transform local, regional, and national immigration policies.

Lynn Marcus, PhD - Director of the Immigration Law Clinic, University of Arizona

Marcus launched the clinic as part of the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in 1995 and continued as the clinic's director when the University of Arizona became the program's home in 1997. Before then, Marcus worked for nearly every non-profit organization in Southern Arizona that provides legal services to immigrants, initially raising grant money to monitor conditions at immigration detention facilities and to write and distribute self-help pamphlets for pro se immigrants in deportation proceedings. She has represented immigrants in immigration court, before the Board of Immigration Appeals, in federal district court, at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. She chairs the Advisory Committee of the Immigrant Survivors Legal Assistance program (a part of Catholic Social Service of Tucson), and has co-chaired the Immigration Section of the State Bar. She also teaches a refugee law seminar. Marcus graduated from NYU School of Law in 1989.

Nancy Montoya – Arizona Public Media

Nancy Montoya is an award-winning journalist at Arizona Public Media with over 35 years of major market and network newsroom experience. Nancy is an Arizona native and her area of expertise is immigration and U.S./Mexico border issues. Nancy pioneered a Latin American News Bureau that included 15 other TV newsrooms from around the country. Her reporting on the “Death Squads” in El Salvador and Nicaragua garnered her the Albert I. DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton. Nancy has won six Emmys, a Peabody, and several other international broadcast awards for her reporting.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

***Casa Alitas**, a program run by Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona.

Contact: Katherine Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, katherines@ccs-soaz.org

***The Inn Project** sponsored by the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Coordinator: Gretchen Lopez, gretchenlokey@gmail.com, 520-312-1451

***Arizona Justice for our Neighbors (JFON) legal clinic**, a national network of immigration legal clinics sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

Contact: info@azjfon.org

***Keep Tucson Together (KTT) legal clinic**

Contact: Mary, Volunteer Coordinator at 520 307 7379 or go online at forms.nomoredeaths.org

***Coalition Derechos Humanos**

Contact: (520)-770-1373 coalicion@derechoshumanosaz.net

***Southside Presbyterian Church**

Contact: southsideoffice@gmail.com

***Florence Project**, a nonprofit legal service organization

Contact: volunteers@firrp.org for volunteer opportunities.