

Statement Regarding Immigration Enforcement in the Bay Area

October 26, 2025

To Our Clients and the greater Alameda County and Bay Area Communities,

In light of the recent federal deployment of immigration enforcement agents to our neighborhoods, I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the immigrants and refugees we serve.

The unprecedented deployment of ICE and Border Patrol agents intensifies the challenges that Black, Brown and other historically marginalized residents have long faced. These actions are rooted in racism and oppression, targeting communities of color through fear and intimidation while betraying the most basic principles of justice and due process. Public defenders stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who are most vulnerable, and we will continue to do so. We will continue to fight for their rights and their safety.

Our response has been urgent and comprehensive:

- In anticipation of this moment, we hired three additional staff members to expand the capacity of our Immigration Representation Unit, thanks to the Board of Supervisors' support and commitment to protecting the residents of Alameda County.
- The members of our Immigration Unit, and the rest of our staff, including public defenders, social workers, investigators, client advocates, and support personnel, understand that these are unprecedented times. We are prepared to be all-hands-on-deck to protect our clients in every way we can.
- We are coordinating closely with the Board of Supervisors and other partners through ACILEP (Alameda County Immigration Legal & Education Partnership) to provide protection, support, and resources.
- Additionally, we are employing every legal strategy at our disposal, to shield our clients from unnecessary exposure.

If you or someone you know has recently seen, interacted with, or been detained by ICE, please contact the ACILEP hotline at **(510) 241-4011**.

In Solidarity,

Brendon D. Woods and the Entire Alameda County Public Defender's Office