



Immigrant Rights Clinic

January 2025

The NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic is overjoyed to celebrate President Biden's decision to pardon our longtime client, immigrant rights advocate [Ravi Ragbir](#). We thank President Biden and Biden Administration officials from the White House and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Pardon Attorney, for their careful consideration of Mr. Ragbir's contributions and advocacy on behalf of immigrant communities. We also thank the members of Mr. Ragbir's Defense Committee and all of the incredible faith leaders, immigrant rights leaders and community organizations, elected officials, and individuals who expressed their support for Ravi Ragbir. A press release with additional background is available [here](#).

Mr. Ragbir is a 60-year-old husband, father, and immigrant rights leader who has organized faith communities to support immigrants for nearly two decades and has faced retaliation for his activism. The NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic has represented Mr. Ragbir for seventeen years. In addition to our pardon advocacy, our search for justice for Mr. Ragbir involved:

- Deportation defense litigation including four petitions for review before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court (with Mayer Brown and the Yale Supreme Court Clinic), and multiple motions to reopen before the Board of Immigration Appeals
- Detention (habeas) litigation before the federal district court in the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- Post-conviction relief (coram nobis) litigation before the federal district court in the District of New Jersey and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (with Lowenstein Sandler)
- First Amendment litigation before the federal district court in the Southern District of New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court (with Arnold and Porter)
- Administrative advocacy before U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Public education, advocacy, and organizing

Notable cases from these efforts include a 2018 Southern District of New York [decision](#) ordering Mr. Ragbir's release from detention and a 2019 Second Circuit [decision](#) recognizing that a First Amendment right to be free from retaliatory deportation. Mr. Ragbir's story has been covered in depth by multiple media outlets, including by the [New York Times](#) (and its [Editorial Board](#)), the [New Yorker](#), [New York Magazine](#), the [Intercept](#), [Washington Post](#), [NPR](#) and [WNYC/Gothamist](#), [Democracy Now!](#), and the [Independent](#).

NYU Law students have been leading these efforts at every stage under the supervision of NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic Co-Director Professor Alina Das and, since 2017, former NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic Deputy Director Jessica Rofé (now Assistant Professor and Director of the Rutgers Constitutional Rights Clinic).

We thank all the former and current students who have participated in Mr. Ragbir's case over the past seventeen years, including:

Ada Añon	Daniel Kim	Julie Mao
Amy Joseph	Daniela Ugaz	Kendal Nystedt
Anna Schoenfelder	Dinesh McCoy	Kyle Barron
Antonia House	Djibril Branche	Liv Herriot
Astha Sharma Pokharel	Eleuthera Sa	Madeline Batt
Bobby Hunter	Gerardo Romo	Mariel Gonzalez-Medellin
Brittany Castle	Hannah McDermott	Natasha Rivera-Silber
Chiraayu Gosrani	Ilana Herr	Nilufar Hossain
Cody Cutting	Jencey Paz	Rhiya Trivedi
Cris Santos	Jessica Rofé	Sarah Taitz
Daad Sharfi	Juan Martinez-Hill	Vibha Kannan

We also thank the broader NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic community for their steadfast support.

It has been a privilege for all of us to work with Mr. Ragbir, his wife Amy Gottlieb (U.S. Migration Director of American Friends Service Committee), and many faith and immigrant rights communities to achieve this victory after seventeen long years.

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