

a film by Priscilla González Sainz

STATUS PENDING



FALL 2021

IMPACT REPORT

PREPARED BY

LYNTORIA NEWTON, Impact Producer on *Status Pending*

contact@statuspendingfilm.com | www.statuspendingfilm.com

STATUS PENDING

ABOUT THE FILM

Contending with the constant attack on Immigrants and Immigration Law, the lawyers on the frontlines are feeling burned out and disillusioned. ‘Status Pending’ takes us into the lives and work of five members of an informal support group comprised of Mexican-American, solo-practitioners who got their start at the same high-intensity law firm in Los Angeles. Through their friendship and constant communication, the five lawyers provide professional and emotional support for each other as they navigate the constant attacks on their clients and profession. ‘Status Pending’ won the 2019 IF/Then Shorts Pitch competition for the American West and was supported by Tribeca Film Institute and the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP). ‘Status Pending’ is distributed by Collective Eye Films and was broadcast internationally as part of Al Jazeera English’s flagship documentary strand, WITNESS, as well as NBC’s Meet the Press.



STATUS PENDING

ABOUT THE LAWYERS



After starting their careers at the same high-intensity law firm, five immigration lawyers created an informal support group that provides professional, personal, and emotional support. While each now practices at their own firms across Los Angeles, they are in constant communication via text, email or phone. Araceli G. Guerrero, Esq., Alma D. Puente, Esq., Gladdys J. Uribe, Esq., Elizabeth P. Uribe, Esq., and Jose Osorio, Esq. (pictured above, left to right) are in different places in their careers and have unique roles in the group.

STATUS PENDING

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



PRISCILLA GONZALEZ SAINZ

Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz is a Mexican-American documentary filmmaker and writer based in Southern California. She is interested in exploring themes of displacement, identity, and transnationalism that call social and political barriers into question. Priscilla earned her MFA in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University, where she was awarded a Stanford Arts grant and curated the Latin American Cinema series Espejos. Her thesis film ROOM 140 portrayed accounts from asylum seeking immigrants on the night they were released from detention centers. The film was a Student Academy Award Semifinalist and was nominated for the IDA Wolper Student Documentary Achievement Award. In 2020, Priscilla completed STATUS PENDING, a 26-minute documentary featuring five Mexican-American Immigration Lawyers who created an informal support group to help their clients and each other navigate the hostile world of immigration law under the Trump administration. STATUS PENDING won the IF/Then Shorts Pitch for the American West, receiving funding and distribution mentorship. The film was supported by Tribeca Film Institute and NALIP. Priscilla has contributed as a consultant and assistant editor on several award-winning films and teaches film production.

STATUS PENDING

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Provide Transformative Spaces of Support & Mentorship for First-Generation Law Professionals of Color
- Encourage Peer Emotional Support amongst Aspiring and Practicing Law Professionals.
- Offer Professional Resources to Practicing Law Professionals and Current Law Students.

STATUS PENDING

THANK YOU
TO OUR
PARTNERS!

IMPACT SCREENING PARTNERS



COMMUNITY IMPACT SPONSORS



STATUS PENDING

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

MARCH 08, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

Emmanuel College is a Christ-centered liberal arts institution that strives to prepare students to become Christlike disciples who integrate faith, learning and living for effective careers, scholarship and service. The event was Co-sponsored by the Sociology Department, Department of Political Science and International Studies, the History Department, the Theology & Religious Studies Department, the Biology Department, the Office of Mission & Spirituality, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, HUELLAS - Helping Unite Emmanuel Latinos to Lead and Achieve Success, Sociology Club, and the Library Learning Commons.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Provide pre-law track students with a realistic model of immigration lawyers 'day to day' professional and personal lives.
- Provide students from other disciplines with an idea of the challenges that immigrants encounter on the journey to seek U.S. citizenship.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

97.83%*

Of attendees shared that they learned new information about the challenges faced by immigrants and immigration lawyers after viewing this film.

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

MARCH 08, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

It was so interesting to see what a day in the life of an immigration lawyer is like. I want to practice immigration law but have never had the opportunity to see exactly what it's like. This film really reminded me of why I wanted to do that in the first place and made me even more excited for my future career.

—Future Immigration Lawyer, Current Emmanuel College Student

I did not know about the tremendous backlog, the length of the process, nor did I appreciate the importance of having a support group of fellow lawyers. Made me curious about immigration issues in Canada.

—Emmanuel College Virtual Screening Audience Member | Quebec, Canada

I cannot thank all of you enough for opening my eyes to the disparities many face within immigration. It isn't even fathomable the feelings that immigration attorney's and individuals dealing with the immigration side of things go through on a daily basis. Your candor, and fighting spirit is what pushes me to become a better person and work towards making our world a more equal and fair place to enjoy. Thank you from the bottom of my heart everyone, this film portrays such a powerful message of sadness yet unfathomable hope.

—Future Immigration Lawyer, Current Emmanuel College Student

Thank you so much for making this film. There is a need to create accessible media for people to understand the impact of immigration.

—Emmanuel College Student, Boston, Massachusetts

Status Pending shared a side to immigration that is not usually shared or seen by the public. This is a film that everyone should see!

—Emmanuel College Student, Boston, Massachusetts

STATUS PENDING

MEXICAN AMERICAN
BAR ASSOCIATION

MARCH 31, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

The **Mexican American Bar Association (MABA)** is a network focused on supporting Latino attorneys, judges and other legal professionals working in the Los Angeles area. The event was co-sponsored by the **Latina Lawyers Bar Association**, which is a network devoted to supporting Latina law professionals at every stage in their careers.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Honor & Recognized the five participating lawyers in Status Pending for their commitment to immigration justice through their work as first-generation Mexican American immigration lawyers.
- Provide a space of peer support amongst practicing and retired law professionals.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

We asked screening attendees, 50% of whom identified as Practicing/Retired Law Professionals, what resources they feel are important to help lawyers thrive professionally and personally. Here's what they'd like to see:

EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT
GROUPS

CHILDCARE
SUBSIDIES

STATE FUNDED
LEGAL
APPRENTICESHIPS

CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
TRAININGS

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

MEXICAN AMERICAN
BAR ASSOCIATION

MARCH 31, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

As a first gen immigrant from Tijuana, Mexico, a naturalized citizen, a working mom, and a Latina attorney, I found myself moved to tears and touched by Status Pending in so many different ways.

—Appellate Court Lawyer

I am a Naturalized Citizen, my parents first arrived in this country undocumented. The struggle seen in Status Pending is familiar and painful. To this day I still have family members that are undocumented.

—First Generation Mexican American

I am a child of immigrants. This country is a country of immigrants. In many ways, the stories of the families depicted in the film are all of our stories. It's a stark reminder of how this country continues to draw people here to follow their American Dream; but also, of how terribly difficult it continues to be for many.

—First Generation Mexican American

STATUS PENDING

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA - IRVINE
LAW SCHOOL

APRIL 11, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

The event was sponsored by the **Future of Latinos Initiative** and Admissions at **UCI Law**. The Future of Latinos in the United States: Law, Opportunity, and Mobility is a project of the **American Bar Foundation** with its campus home at UCI Law. Future of Latinos produces innovative scholarship on the Latino population in the United States and locating the sites of intervention that promise to be most impactful in promoting opportunity and mobility through law and policy.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Provide current law students with a realistic model of immigration lawyers 'day to day' professional and personal lives.
- Provide a space for current law students to hear from practicing law professionals about the current challenges and helpful strategies for navigating the current U.S. law landscape.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

50%

Of attendees shared that they planned to join or learn more about *Future of Latinos* as a result of the screening.

90.91%*

Of attendees shared that they learned new information about the challenges faced by immigrants and immigration lawyers after viewing this film.

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA - IRVINE
LAW SCHOOL

APRIL 11, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you for sharing this film with our community! It is really important to see a glimpse of what this profession entails, with its highs and lows, as well as the clients.”

—Current Law Student, UCI Law

“Status Pending demonstrates humanity and humility in the face of adversity and hardship.”

—Audience Member

“Thank you for telling the stories of immigration attorneys on the front lines.”

—Law School Administrator

“Thank you for showing a people who are so often overlooked and treated like they are invisible and the struggles they face every day. Thank you for showing that there are people who care and people who help.”

—Incoming UCI Law Student & Daughter of an Immigrant

STATUS PENDING

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CLINIC

APRIL 21, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

The **Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC)** is a community-based collaboration of **Loyola Law School**, Loyola Marymount University, Homeboy Industries Inc., and Dolores Mission Church. LIJC's mission is to advance the rights of the indigent immigrant population in East Los Angeles through direct legal services, education, and community empowerment while teaching law students effective immigrants' rights lawyering skills in a real-world setting.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Raise funds for Loyola's Immigrant Justice Clinic
- Provide current law students with a realistic model of immigration lawyers 'day to day' professional and personal lives.
- Provide a space for current law students to hear from practicing law professionals about the current challenges and helpful strategies for navigating the current U.S. law landscape.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

\$550

Raised for the
Loyola Law School
Immigrant Justice
Clinic

92.86%*

Learned new information
about the challenges
faced by immigrants and
immigration lawyers after
viewing this film.

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CLINIC

APRIL 21, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

Thank you for capturing the realities of our immigration system and immigration law. As someone that has petitioned for my husband, there is constant fear that something can go wrong. I also often feel like we can't speak to anyone about our situation, at least not anyone that could understand. Thank you for providing a film and a space for others like me to be able to relate and bring light to issues affecting immigration lawyers and those going through the process.

—Public Health Lawyer, Los Angeles, California

Thank you for making the film & including real client cases, it highlighted the human & emotional aspect of immigration work.

—Immigration Law Student at Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University

I appreciate the openness of the attorneys in sharing the painful moments of their professional lives. I totally agree that the only way to survive in this field is to have a support network of like-minded attorneys. I am thrilled to see this generation of young lawyers and students carrying the torch.

—Immigration Lawyer | Granddaughter of a Lithuanian Immigrant who came to America on the last boat to cross the Atlantic before World War I

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LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CLINIC

APRIL 21, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

continued

“*Status Pending brought tears to my eyes and immediately prompted me to text a couple of members of my own support group to thank them - it really made me reflect how special it is to have people who will do both - not just commiserate with you but also celebrate with you. And I now resolve to remember that cheering the wins for my friends is just as important as being there in the down times or when they need advice.*”

– Former Legal Aid Worker, Los Angeles, California

“*This is an incredible film! Status Pending highlights the ups and downs of pursuing a career in Immigration law, I truly enjoyed it. Thank you!*”

–Immigration Law Student at Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University

STATUS PENDING

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL MENTOR
PROGRAM

MAY 09, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) High School Mentoring Program, founded in 2007, is a pipeline program that brings lawyers and judges together with diverse high school students, to provide advice and support for the students in applying to college and to encourage them to pursue careers in the law.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Provide current law students with a realistic model of immigration lawyers 'day to day' professional and personal lives.
- Provide a space for current high school students to discuss triumphs and challenges of being an immigration law professional with *Status Pending* film participants.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

97.30%*

Of attendees shared that they learned new information about the challenges faced by immigrants and immigration lawyers after viewing this film.

98%*

Of attendees who attended the screening are immigrants and/or first generation Americans.

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL MENTOR
PROGRAM

MAY 09, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

Documentaries like this one would help reveal what one can do to help others and help reveal what one is getting into.

—Superior Court Commissioner, Los Angeles

Thank you for this inspiring movie, it helps others to understand us and our struggles as a community.

—Los Angeles County Bar Association High School Mentee | Future Non-Profit Lawyer

It makes me happy seeing someone become a citizen because it reminds me of my parents. Although my parents don't have citizenship yet, I want my parents to be able to experience the same feeling many others get when they gain citizenship. It makes me hopeful to see others gain citizenship because sooner or later, that'll be my parents.

—Los Angeles County Bar Association High School Mentee | Future Law Professional

I appreciate Status Pending giving me the reality of how it looks working as an immigration lawyer.

—Los Angeles County Bar Association High School Mentee | Future Immigration Lawyer

As an undocumented person with undocumented family I resonated with this film and felt it was impactful.

—Los Angeles County Bar Association High School Mentee | Future Immigration Lawyer

STATUS PENDING

CALIFORNIA LAW
PATHWAYS

JUNE 22, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

ABOUT THE SCREENING PARTNER

California LAW Pathways is a non-profit devoted to establishing a pipeline of diverse students from high schools, community colleges, four-year institutions, and law schools into law or law-related careers so that the legal profession will reflect the diverse population of the State of California.

IMPACT SCREENING GOALS

- Screen the film for current high school teachers who teach in California LAW Pathways' high school law school academies in California.
- Encourage attending teachers to use *Status Pending* in their classroom curriculum in an effort to craft meaningful conversations about immigration.

SCREENING OUTCOMES

50%

of participating teachers
plan to use *Status
Pending* in their
classroom curriculum

*High Teacher Participants shared that **Status Pending** encourages the following skills:*

CRITICAL THINKING,
RESEARCH, &
DISTINGUISHING
FACT FROM OPINION

**Based on Post-Screening Survey Data*

STATUS PENDING

CALIFORNIA LAW
PATHWAYS

JUNE 22, 2021
IMPACT SCREENING

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

“*The film demonstrates the need for an active network of immigration attorneys outside of the typical law and bar associations.*

–High School Teacher of Law and Criminal Justice | Santa Ana, California”

STATUS PENDING is proud to have Educational Distribution through



Collective Eye Films focuses on stories that represent critical issues of our time and has an impressive catalog of feature and short films for educational institutions, public libraries, and non-profit organizations to select for their libraries or one-time screening events. By partnering with them, they will help this film reach schools and audiences around the U.S. and other countries.

To Learn More:

**Visit: www.statuspendingfilm.com
Email: contact@statuspendingfilm.com**