

a film by Priscilla González Sainz

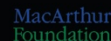
# STATUS PENDING



STATUS PENDING DIRECTED BY PRISCILLA GONZÁLEZ SAINZ PRODUCED BY PRISCILLA GONZÁLEZ SAINZ LAURA REICH  
CO-PRODUCED BY LIZ FIELDS EDITED BY SARAH GARRAHAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMY HOBBY SUPERVISORS MIRIDU CHANDRA CHLOE GBAI CAITLIN MAE BURKE  
SUPPORTED BY TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE IF/THEM SHORTS NALIP LATINO MEDIA MARKET



STATUSPENDINGFILM.COM



ALJAZEERA

WITNESS

MEET THE PRESS  
WITH CHUCK TODD

Selected for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual International Documentary Association (IDA) Awards 2021 Shorts Shortlist

# STATUS PENDING

## LOGLINE

With Immigration Law under attack, five Mexican-American Immigration lawyers form a support group as they strive to help their clients obtain safety and status in the United States.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Short Documentary

Running Time: 26 minutes 11 seconds

Country of Origin: United States

Languages: English, Spanish (with English Subtitles)

Exhibition Formats: Quick Time Pro Res 422, DCP

16x9 HD, 23.98 5.1

5.1 Surround Mix, 2.0 S Stereo Mix

## DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICITY INQUIRIES

Laura Reich

[laurajreich@gmail.com](mailto:laurajreich@gmail.com)



STATUS PENDING is supported by Tribeca Film Institute - IF/Then Shorts  
Executive Producer Amy Hobby  
Supervising Producers Mridu Chandra, Chloe Gbai, Caitlin Mae Burke

STATUS PENDING won the IF/Then Shorts Pitch competition at the 2019 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.

STATUS PENDING was selected to participate in NALIP's 2019 Latino Media Market.

[www.statuspendingfilm.com](http://www.statuspendingfilm.com)



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## ATTACK ON IMMIGRATION UNDER TRUMP



- February 24, 2020:** USCIS Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds
- June 27, 2019:** Parole in Place for families of active duty and veteran military personnel will be terminated
- March 19, 2019:** Supreme Court upholds federal power to detain and deport immigrants for long-past crimes
- February 15, 2019:** Trump signs bill to fund parts of the government and border barrier; declares state of emergency
- January 25, 2019:** "Migration Protection Protocols" (MPP), or "Remain in Mexico" Policy
- December 20, 2018:** Department of Homeland Security announces some migrants will be sent back to Mexico to await immigration proceedings
- November 9, 2018:** Trump issues presidential proclamation preventing migrants who entered illegally from claiming asylum
- October 30, 2018:** Trump proposes end to birthright citizenship
- June 11, 2018:** Individuals who are victims of private crime are no longer eligible for asylum
- May 7, 2018:** Sessions vows to prosecute all illegal border crossers and separate children from their parents
- April 2, 2018:** Quotas for immigration judges - 700 per year
- January 8, 2018:** Terminates Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadorians
- December 11, 2017:** Trump calls for end to "chain migration"
- November 20, 2017:** Terminates Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians
- November 1, 2017:** Trump ends Diversity Lottery
- September 27, 2017:** Administration sets 45,000 refugees per year limit
- September 5, 2017:** Trump ends DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- August 2, 2017:** Visas awarded on a points-based system
- June 15, 2017:** Rescinds Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) policy
- January 27, 2017:** Travel ban
- January 25, 2017:** Trump introduces penalties against sanctuary cities



## SYNOPSIS

Contending with the constant attack on Immigrants and Immigration Law, the lawyers on the frontlines are feeling burned out and disillusioned. This film portrays the five members of an informal support group comprised of first-generation, Mexican-American, solo-practitioners who got their start at the same high-intensity law firm in Los Angeles. Through their friendship and group chat, they provide professional, personal and emotional support as they navigate the constant attacks on their clients and profession. Through their perspectives, we see how changes in the interpretation of the laws and in legal procedures directly affect their clients by endangering their safety and prolonging family separation. After several years in the trenches, even the most dedicated come to question whether they can continue in this heartbreaking line of work.



## THE LAWYERS

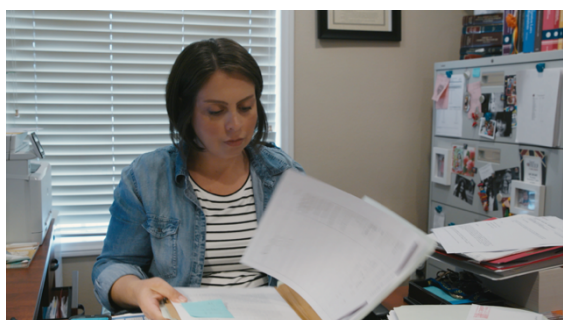
After starting their careers at the same high-intensity law firm, five immigration lawyers created an informal support group that provides professional, personal, and emotional support. While each now practices at their own firms across Los Angeles, they are in constant communication via text, email or phone.

### Alma D. Puente, Esq. El Monte, California



Seen as the “mama hen” of the group, Alma brings experience in the field and on the Border. Alma D. Puente has practiced immigration law for the last 16 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Chapman University in English with an emphasis on Pre-Law and a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School. Prior to practicing law, Alma worked for the Department of Homeland Security at the Calexico Port of Entry and as an Adjudicator in Los

Angeles, California. As a first-generation Mexican-American, Alma has made it her life's work to help people navigate the complexities of immigration law in this country. Throughout her career, Alma has been dedicated to providing pro bono work for non-profits such as Kids In Need of Defense (KIND) and The Mexican American Bar Association (MABA). She has also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster children in Los Angeles County. She is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), MABA, and American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA). She currently serves on the board for the Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley and as a Councilwoman for the city of El Monte. Alma is married and has three sons.



### Araceli G. Guerrero, Esq. Santa Ana, California

Araceli G. Guerrero is the “greenest” lawyer and newest member of the group. Contending with constant policy and procedure changes and experiencing the most stressful time in her career, she is pushed to question whether she can continue in this line of work.

Araceli G. Guerrero practices exclusively in Immigration Law, specializing in lawful permanent residency and naturalization. She volunteers with Serve the People, providing free legal consultations, and the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund of Orange County. Araceli graduated from UCLA and Brigham Young University Law School. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Jalisco and she set up her practice in her hometown of Santa Ana.



Elizabeth P. Uribe, Esq. South Pasadena, California

Elizabeth always brings the latest news and case law, as well as her calm, problem-solving demeanor to the group. Elizabeth P. Uribe was born and raised in Los Angeles to immigrant parents from Jalisco, Mexico. She is a partner at Uribe & Uribe APLC, a boutique law firm defending non-U.S. citizens in criminal and immigration proceedings, including active criminal proceedings, post-conviction relief,

and all aspects of deportation defense. Elizabeth is often featured as a legal commentator in English and Spanish news, including the L.A. Times, Hoy Los Angeles, CBS Los Angeles, and more. She is past President (2013) of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) and is currently a member of the MABA immigration committee. Elizabeth firmly believes in being an active participant of the community and currently serves on the legal advisory committee of the Immigration Resource Center of the San Gabriel Valley and as a mentor at Wilson High School (her alma mater) through the L.A. County Bar Association's mentorship program. She holds a J.D. from UC Hastings School of Law and B.A. from UCLA.



Gladdys J. Uribe, Esq. Culver City, California

Gladdys brings her professional experience and magnetic energy to the group. Gladdys J. Uribe was born and raised in the Santa Ynez Valley along California's Central Coast. She is the Principal and lead attorney with the Law Offices of Gladdys J. Uribe, an immigration law practice with offices in Culver City and Buellton, California. She serves on the Dunn School's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Committee and on the MABA (Mexican American Bar Association) Immigration Committee. She previously served on the boards of the UCLA School of Law Marco Firebaugh Dream Fund, the Mexican American Bar Association, the Latina Lawyers Bar Association and the Dunn School. She has been featured as a legal commentator on MundoFOX 22 and Univision. Gladdys holds a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law, with concentrations in Critical Race Studies and Public Interest Law & Policy Programs, and a B.A. in Sociology from Occidental College. Gladdys is the daughter of immigrant parents from Jalisco and Baja California, Mexico, and currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.



Jose Osorio, Esq. Glendale, California

Jose is like a brother in the group who not only brings his experience but humor to the group.

Jose Osorio holds a J.D. from UC Hastings School of Law and B.A. from the University of Southern California. Jose is often featured as a legal commentator on news. He is the proud son of immigrants.

## DISTRIBUTION



WITNESS



STATUS PENDING has obtained multi-platform distribution since premiering at Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in 2020. STATUS PENDING was picked up by Al Jazeera English's WITNESS program for international broadcast. The film also screened as part of NBC's Meet the Press and Comcast Xfinity on Demand, Hispanic Heritage Month.



STATUS PENDING is proud to have Educational Distribution through [Collective Eye Films](#).

Collective Eye Films is an educational film distribution company that represents compelling documentaries which explore the untold stories of our time. Our films build bridges between cultures and provide unique perspectives by exploring social, political, environmental, and spiritual issues to bring provocative and entertaining stories to the screen. We believe that film is a medium that can present critical issues, challenge audiences, and raise important questions. Keeping true to the notion that documentary films are powerful tools for change, we strive to unearth stories that make a difference.

*"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*

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

We are grateful to our Educational and Community Partners for collaborating on multiple screenings aimed at three impact 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.

## IMPACT SPONSORS



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



California LAW  
PATHWAYS



## COMMUNITY SCREENING PARTNERS



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THE FUTURE OF  
LATINOS IN THE  
UNITED STATES:  
Law, Opportunity,  
and Mobility



EL FUTURO DE  
LATINOS EN LOS  
ESTADOS UNIDOS:  
Ley, Oportunidad,  
y Movilidad

A PROJECT OF THE American Bar Foundation

*"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*





## SELECT PRESS

The IDA, October 25, 2021

[37th Annual IDA Documentary Awards Announces 2021 Shortlists for Feature and Short Documentary Films](#)

IndieWire, Anne Thompson, October 25, 2021

[IDA Awards Build Oscar Buzz with 2021 Shortlists for Best Documentary Feature and Short](#)

Hollywood Reporter, Scott Feinberg, October 25, 2021

[IDA Awards: Feature Shortlist Includes 'Flee' and 'Summer of Soul,' Leaves Off Other High-Profile Titles](#)

The Wrap, Steve Pond, October 25, 2021

[IDA Documentary Awards Shortlist Includes 'Ascension,' 'Flee'](#)

Al Dia, Natalia Puertas Caverro, April 1, 2021

[The five 'Status Pending' immigration attorneys honored by MABA](#)

Los Angeles Times, Vera Castaneda, Oct. 22, 2020

[How Priscilla González Sainz documented the inner lives of first-generation immigration lawyers](#)

Filmchisme, Andrea Gomez, June 2020

[Navigating Short Documentary Narratives: Q&A with 'Status Pending' Director, Priscilla González Sainz](#)

La Estatuilla, Ricardo Gallegos, Octubre 16, 2020

["Call Center Blues" y "Status Pending", dos empáticos cortos sobre migración \(DXIFF20\)](#)

The Hollywood Reporter, Scott Feinberg, October 1, 2020

[Chuck Todd Says "Oscar and Emmy Notice" Doc Shorts Shown at 'Meet the Press' Film Fest](#)

## THE TEAM



### DIRECTOR

Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz is a Mexican-American filmmaker based in Southern California. Her work explores 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. 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 received nominations for the IDA Wolper Student Documentary Achievement Award and New Filmmakers Los Angeles Best of NFMLA Awards 2019. The film screened at various film festivals, including AFI Docs, Los Angeles Film Festival, New Orleans, and was picked up by the Atlantic Selects, KQED's Truly California strand and Vimeo Staff Pick. In 2020, Priscilla completed 'Status Pending,' a 26-minute documentary featuring five Mexican-American Immigration Lawyers who create an informal support group as they 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 support through Tribeca Film Institute and participated in the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) Latino Media Market. *Status Pending* premiered to a full house at Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February 2020 and went on to tour the virtual circuit during the pandemic, screening as part of AFI Film Festival's Meet the Press Showcase, as well as receiving an Audience Pick Award from Palm Springs ShortFest and an Honorable Mention from Prague International Indie Film Festival. The film was picked up by Aljazeera English's Witness strand for international broadcast and Collective Eye Film educational distribution. Priscilla was recently selected for Catapult Film Fund's Research Grant to develop a new project and is one of five filmmakers participating in this inaugural fellowship. She has contributed to award winning films, including credits as an additional editor for 'Aguilas' (2021) and 'The Infiltrators' (2019). Priscilla also oversees documentary film production at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and teaches at UCLA Extension.



### PRODUCER

Laura Reich is an independent producer and Head of Production at Vibrant Penguin, Inc. Her work includes narrative, documentary, episodic, and branded content. In the narrative space her projects include the feature film "Kept Boy", distributed by Breaking Glass, and "All Sorts" which premiered at the 2021 Seattle International Film Festival. In episodic television she produced the live show "The Sushi Dragon Show Starring

TheSushiDragon" on VENN TV, and post produced for the Facebook Watch Original "Rival Speak", which filmed on an XR stage, merging post with production. Her documentary work includes the PBS American Masters film "Rita Moreno: Just A Girl Who Decided To Go For It", which received theatrical distribution from Roadside Attractions after premiering at Sundance in 2021. She also produced the award-winning short documentary "Status Pending" which premiered at Big Sky Film Festival in 2020 and screened as part of NBC's Meet The Press Showcase at AFI and was picked up for international broadcast as part of the Aljazeera Witness series. Her branded work includes projects for Riot Games, The University of Southern California and LEGO.



#### CO-PRODUCER

Liz Fields is an Asian-Australian-American writer and filmmaker who has traveled to 40 different countries across six continents searching for stories that illuminate human existence, struggles, and truth. After graduating from Columbia University, Liz wrote for Salon, ELLE, ABC and more before joining VICE, where she was part of the Emmy Award-winning team that launched VICE News on HBO. As a filmmaker, she's explored the insanity of the modern American condition on the 2016 presidential campaign trail, produced a Netflix series on the global drug trade, and won a Gracie award and GLAAD nomination for her work on issues affecting minority women and the trans community.



#### IMPACT PRODUCER

Lyntoria Newton is an independent documentary filmmaker and creative producer and arts educator in the SF Bay Area. She has produced content for outlets such as The Boston Globe, PBA30, Google, The Ford Foundation, and others. Her work has shown at festivals across the U.S and internationally. She holds a B.A. from Hampshire College and an M.F.A. in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University where she completed her thesis film, *Hey Little Black Girl*. The short essay film explores black girlhood through the coming-of-age stories of four little black girls living in the SF Bay Area. With support from the Ford Foundation, she produced two seasons of *Basic Able*, a satirical podcast devoted to disrupting ableist representations of disability. She was the associate producer and engagement specialist for the feature documentary film, *River City Drumbeat*, which follows a black drum corp in Louisville, Kentucky. She also currently serves as an impact producer on the documentary film *Mossville: When Great Trees Fall*, which tells a story of environmental racism's lethal impact on a historic black community in Louisiana.



## EDITOR

Sarah Garrahan is a documentary producer and editor from San Antonio, Texas. She holds a MA in Creative Documentary from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a MFA from Duke University in the Experimental and Documentary Arts. She was a co-producer and additional editor on the hybrid documentary *The Infiltrators* by Cristina Ibarra and Alex

Rivera, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 and was awarded both the Audience and Innovator Awards for the NEXT section. She was an editor on *Building the American Dream* by Chelsea Hernandez, which premiered at SXSW in 2019. She is currently editing Jasmin López's the feature documentary, *Silent Beauty*.

## COMPLETE CREDITS

### Featuring

Araceli G. Guerrero, Esq.

Jose Osorio, Esq.

Alma D. Puente, Esq.

Gladdys J. Uribe, Esq.

Elizabeth Uribe, Esq.

### *Also featuring, in order of appearance*

Rudy Chacon

Luis Uriarte

Victoria Salgado

Yonny Romero

Lupita Ortiz

Claudia Medina

Director, Producer

Priscilla Gonzalez sainz

Producer

Laura Reich

Co-Producer

Liz Fields

## PRODUCTION

Camera

Nathan Reich

Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz

Liz Fields

Guisel Contreras

Production Sound

Veronica Lopez

Kelsey Jonikas

Rusty Eagle-Hall

James Dwyer

Joshua Wilkinson

Production Assistant

Edgar Ramos

Kaustubh Singh

Jessica Hurtado

Research Assistant

Jessica Q. Chen

Technical Support

Lydia Richards

Hunter Delaney

## POST - PRODUCTION

Editor

Sarah Garrahan

Post - Production Supervisor

Eric Gressingh

Assistant Editor

Kaustubh Singh

Additional Editing

Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz

Nico Sandi

Sound Supervisor  
Michael Kowalski

Sound Editor  
Andree Lin

Sound Mix  
Jesse Herrera  
Original Score By  
Jorge Corante

#### POST - PRODUCTION

Post - Production Support  
Todd Gilbert  
Jose Lizarraga  
Jim Smith

Graphics  
Eric Gressignh

For EFILM:

Supervising Digital Colorist  
Jason Hanel

Finishing Producer  
Patrick M. Allen

Finishing Assistant Producer  
Jordan Anonuevo

Finishing Color Assist  
Zac Stanford

Data I/O Manager  
Angie Alavez

Image Science  
Michael Kannard

#### THANK YOU

Ismael Bautista  
Rosa Bordenave  
Martha Chias  
Roxanne Davila  
Estrella Delgadillo  
Vanelly Flores  
Adan Guerrero  
Christy Osorio  
Taylor Stephens

Joel Puente  
Adrian Uribe  
Jackeline Witron  
The Lost Parrot Cafe  
Shane Boris  
Sue Ding  
Skylar Economy  
Barbara Doyle  
Tim Durban  
Robby Campbell  
Arcelia Sainz Gonzalez  
Angelica Gonzalez  
Tina Graves  
Marinna Guzy  
Chelsea Hernandez  
Travis Knox  
Peter Kurie  
Eunyoung Kim  
Sora Kim  
Dan Leonard  
Ben Lopez  
Lyntoria Newton  
Nick Peterson  
Spencer Santini  
Elivia Shaw  
Jim Smith  
Monica Wise Robles  
Rahdi Taylor  
Velissa Robinson  
The Goldroom

Supported by

Tribeca Film Institute - IF/Then Shorts

For Tribeca Film Institute:

Executive Producer Amy Hobby  
Supervising Producers Mridu Chandra,  
Chloe Gbai, Caitlin Mae Burke

STATUS PENDING won the IF/Then Shorts Pitch competition at the 2019 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.

This film was produced by Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz, which is solely responsible for its content.

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