



AMERICAN HERITAGE AWARDS

Joining Forces, Rising to the Challenge
June 21, 2019



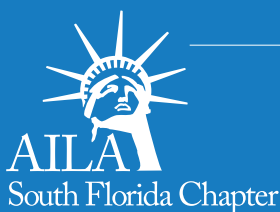
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WELCOME!

AMERICAN HERITAGE AWARDS

CONTENTS

About the Council.....	3
2019 American Heritage Awards Sponsors	4
American Heritage Award Honoree.....	7
Featured Entertainment	9
American Immigration Council Leadership and Staff	11
“Celebrate America” Creative Writing Contest Winner	17
AILA Dreams Winners	19



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About the Council

We envision an America that values fairness and justice for immigrants and advances a prosperous future for all.

What We Do

The Council brings together problem solvers and employs four coordinated approaches to advance change—litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy, and communications. With this synergy, the Council works to advance positive public attitudes and create a more welcoming America—one that provides a fair process for immigrants and adopts immigration laws and policies that take into account the needs of the U.S. economy.

How We Do It

- **We use the courts to demand a fair process for immigrants.** The Council works to achieve justice and fairness for immigrants under the law. The Council is highly respected for its willingness and ability to bring cutting-edge lawsuits that hold the government accountable for unlawful conduct and restrictive interpretations and implementation of the law.
- **We use the facts to educate the public on the important and enduring contributions that immigrants make to America.** The Council is a national leader in challenging the myths and misinformation that too often dominate the political and public debate around immigration. Through research and analysis, the Council promotes the development of fair and rational immigration policies that reflect fundamental American values.
- **We use communications strategies to change hearts and minds on the issue of immigration.** We employ audience-centered communication strategies and community engagement to change the way people think about and act toward immigrants and immigration. Our work is informed by multiple disciplines and grounded in the values of inclusion.
- **We use cultural exchange to connect American businesses with the global market of ideas and innovation.** The Council sponsors interns and trainees for programs that secure the prosperity and cultural richness of a globally engaged society. Our experts provide direct support and training to participants, host communities, and attorneys involved in the Exchange Visitor Program.

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Martine Kalaw

Martine Kalaw is an author, speaker, and community advocate who brings a unique mix of experiences to her personal and professional endeavors, as well as her impassioned advocacy efforts to reform U.S. immigration law.

Martine was born in Zambia but lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until the age of four, when she immigrated to the United States. Her early years in the United States, living without authorization, and her seven-year battle in removal proceedings inspired her memoir *Illegal Among Us: A Stateless Woman's Quest for Citizenship*.

Martine's incredible journey led her to a career as a global learning and development consultant. Today, she builds and manages worldwide programs that help identify and prepare future leaders—including undocumented youth—for the workforce. She also helps her clients navigate America's complex immigration system by liaising between the client and the immigration lawyer.

As a graduate of Hamilton College and Syracuse University's Maxwell School, Martine holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a focus on immigration law. She has shared her deeply moving story on the TEDx stage and in various media outlets across the United States.

Martine's journey serves as an important reminder that despite our surface level differences, we are all connected by our shared human experiences and the deep desire to belong.



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Hari Kondabolu



Hari Kondabolu is a comedian, writer, and podcaster based in Brooklyn, NY. He has been described by *The New York Times* as “one of the most exciting political comics in stand-up today.” In 2018, his Netflix special *Warn Your Relatives* was released, and he was named one of *Variety*’s “Top 10 Comics to Watch.”

Hari is a former immigrant rights organizer in Seattle, WA. He earned a Master’s Degree in Human Rights from the London School of Economics in 2008. He was the NYU’s APA Institute’s “Artist in Residence” for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Dave Santiago & Latin Affair



Dave Santiago & Latin Affair is a 10-piece salsa band based in New York and Orlando. They play original as well as traditional Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Latin music with the dancer in mind. Their recent CD release *Dave Santiago & Latin Affair Rumbeando En El Solar* has taken the East Coast by storm—playing at the most popular venues and competing with the top salsa bands in the industry.

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Tell Me a Story

by Kate Jentz

Carmel, Indiana



The rain splashes down
It covers the world
Like a blanket of water
That's been gently unfurled
Drops land on the window
Knocking to come in
I open my book
I'm ready to begin

But the book has no words,
Not a single at all
I drop the book
And watch it fall
I grab my coat
And head for the door
I'm searching for stories
I'm searching for more

Up the avenue
Across the street
Lies an old house
With people to meet
Wind in my hair
Hope in my eyes
My Abuela steps onto the porch
Where a story lies

"Tell me a story."
That's what I say
To my grandmother
On that rainy day
She responds with a smile
And points to a chair
Abuela begins
As rain splashes her hair

She tells of festivals,
Dances and lights,
Fiestas and siestas
On warm summer nights
"This is my story."
Abuela starts to explain
"I was a little girl
Living in Spain."

"Why did you leave?"
I wonder aloud
Her shoulders square

Tall and proud
"There was a war
That broke out
Our family fled
And traveled about
Looking for a home,
Safe and sound

America
Was the land we finally
found
I met new people
From all different places
Everyone was unique
All different races."

Her smile twinkles
And a tear slips by
"America is beautiful"
Is all I reply

"America is beautiful."
Abuela says loud and bold
"Every immigrant has a
story
and every story must get
told."
I listen as her words fill my
heart
Every culture is beautiful
Like a piece of art
I smile to myself
Knowing that it's true
"America is beautiful
Because of immigrants like
you."
I look at Abuela
As I utter these words
She simply points to the
sky
She points at the birds

The eagles glide
And soar through the air
A rustle of wind
Blows through my hair
I step off the porch
To get a better view
Abuela smiles
And steps down, too

Our eyes meet
As Abuela starts to speak
She grabs my hand
And the eagles reach their
peak
"You have to stay strong
Like an eagle with might
When things get tough
You have to fight."

"Thank you!"
I call as I start to leave
I know what to do
I have a story to weave

Down the avenue
Across the street
Lies my house
With people to greet
Hope in my eyes
Wind in my hair
I rush inside
With lots to share

I dash to my bedroom
Pick the book off the floor
And write Abuela's story
Until my hand is sore
I think about Abuela,
America's glory,
And immigrants' impact
On our country's story

I'm busy working
When I hear a knock
"Come in!" I call
The only response is a
quiet walk
I set down my pen
My sister walks in
She asks for a story
And so, I begin



The AILA Northern California Chapter would like to congratulate tonight's honoree:

Martine Kalaw

And special thanks to the
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AILA Dreams Winners

AILA Dreams is a new speech contest and professional development opportunity for AILA members. Through the contest, the Council challenges AILA attorneys to write and speak about immigration in forward-thinking and aspirational ways. Congratulations to the winners of our inaugural AILA Dreams speech contest.



“An Immigrant Is Not So Foreign”
Mandy Zhang Feuerbacher
Los Gatos, California



“This Is America”
Lorena Rivas
Tulsa, Oklahoma



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and La Verne A. Ramsay, Suhi Koizumi,
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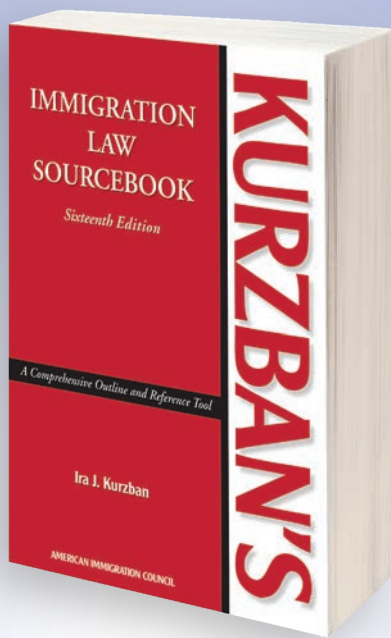
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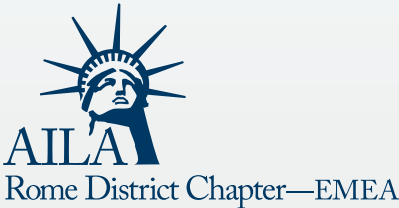


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Martine Kalaw

*and continue to be proud
supporters of the American
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*and continue to be proud
supporters of the American
Immigration Council!*

On behalf of the



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