



7<sup>th</sup>

# BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT 2014

Living, Working, Growing Together

**October 24, 2014**

Weinberg Park Heights JCC  
5700 Park Heights Avenue , Baltimore

7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The **2014 Baltimore Immigration Summit** is a one-day event which brings together academics, service providers, activists, community leaders, and others working with and for immigrants in our region. Baltimore is an area with a growing and diverse immigrant population, as well as local government that views immigrants as an important part of the city's resurgence. The theme of this year's Summit is **Living, Working, Growing Together.**

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**WE THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING THE SEVENTH BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT**

**Jewish Museum of Maryland at the Herbert Bearman Campus**  
**Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore**  
**Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs**

**Towson University:**

College of Liberal Arts  
Center for Student Diversity  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice  
Department of Psychology



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**7:30 – 8:15 a.m. REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m. WELCOMING REMARKS**

Greetings from Baltimore County by Councilwoman Vicki Almond  
Introduced by Lainy Lebow-Sachs (President, Baltimore Jewish Council)

Opening Remarks by Terry Cooney, Dean of Liberal Arts (Towson University)  
Introduced by Harjant Gill (Towson University)

**9:00 – 9:50 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Hostile Nation: Compulsive Deportation and Inhumane Treatment of Underage Immigrants and Refugees Redefines American Values and Identity”  
by Sheena Wadhawan (CASA de Maryland)  
Introduced by Terry Cooney (Towson University)

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION I (COMBINED PANELS)**

**Auditorium:** *Meeting the Critical Needs of Unaccompanied Central American Minors in Baltimore*

Ruben Chandrasekar (International Rescue Committee)  
Tawnya Brown (Bethany Christian Services of Maryland)  
Pat Letke (Bayview Care-A-Van)  
Rosy Gale (Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore)  
Adonia Simpson (Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore)

**Community Room:** *Protecting Immigrant Rights: Combatting Exploitation, Notario Fraud and Discrimination in the Workplace*

Robert Asaro-Angelo (US Department of Labor)  
Michael Stracka (U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration)  
Sally Dworak-Fisher (Public Justice Center)  
Alberto Ruisanchez (Unfair Employment Practices)  
Robin M. Stutman (Executive Office for Immigration Review, US Dept. of Justice)

**Board Room:** *Living and Learning Together: Providing Educational Services and Promoting Belonging*

Stephen Mogge (Towson University)  
Gilda Martinez-Alba (Towson University)  
Judith Cruzado-Guerrero (Towson University)  
Marina Gross (Anne Arundel County Public Schools)  
Alba N. Morales (Anne Arundel County Public Schools)  
Diana Rivera (Anne Arundel County Public Schools)  
Angela Swecker (Anne Arundel County Public Schools)

**11:45 a.m. –  
12:50 p.m.**

**LUNCH**

Special Remarks by Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**BREAKOUT SESSION II**

**Auditorium:** *The Maryland DREAM Act & DACA: How to Raise Awareness and Improve Communication*

Elizabeth Alex (CASA de Maryland)  
Jennifer Audlin (Baltimore County Public Schools)  
Gustavo A. Minaya (The Community College of Baltimore County)  
Nellie Pharr-Maletta (The Community College of Baltimore County)

**Community Room:** *Addressing Human Trafficking Within the Baltimore Immigrant Population*

Rebecca Noto (International Rescue Committee)  
Morgan Weibel (Tahirih Justice Center)  
Amanda Rodriguez (Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention)

**Board Room:** *Social Service Providers' Experiences Working with Latino Immigrants in Baltimore City: A New Immigrant Settlement Destination*

Nalini Negi (University of Maryland Baltimore)  
Jamie Roberts (Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center)  
Katelyn Victor (Robert H. School of Business, University of Maryland Baltimore)  
Marc Goodman (University of Maryland Baltimore)

**2:15 – 3:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION III**

**Auditorium:** *Working Together to Advocate for Undocumented Crime Victims*

Donna Batkis (Johns Hopkins Hospital)  
Jessica Román (Criminal Injuries Compensation Board)  
K. Brooke Welch (Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore)  
Ruth Blom Barkley (Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City)

**Community Room:** *Overcoming Adolescent Ethnic/Racial Conflicts in Baltimore*

Mónica Guerrero Vázquez (Centro SOL)  
Dinorah Olmos (Johns Hopkins University)  
Colin Tozer (Digital Harbor High School)  
Ileana Gonzalez (Johns Hopkins University)

**Board Room:** *Addressing Language Barriers and the Needs of Limited English Proficiency Communities*

Virginia Rosa (Maryland Legal Aid)  
Kevin Meadowcroft (International Rescue Committee)  
Angela Cabellon (Department of Human Resources)  
Jean Henningsen (Seedco)

**3:20 – 3:30 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS**  
Santiago Solis (Towson University)



## KEYNOTE



### **Hostile Nation: Compulsive Deportation and Inhumane Treatment of Underage Immigrants and Refugees Redefines American Values and Identity** by Sheena Wadhawan, CASA de Maryland

**Sheena Wadhawan** is the Legal Program Manager at CASA de Maryland (CASA), the largest immigrants' rights organization in Maryland. She joined CASA in 2011 as a staff attorney specializing in employment law and workers' rights, and has been leading the program since 2013. CASA has over 50,000 low-income immigrant members at the forefront of the immigrants' rights movement. When there is a crisis or benefit that impacts the immigrant community, CASA is a first responder. The recent surge of unaccompanied children fleeing severe violence and danger in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador has brought to CASA's doors an increasing number of traumatized and fearful children in need. CASA attorneys are counseling children facing imminent deportation, which in many cases means certain violence, sexual exploitation and even death. CASA's legal staff, trained in trauma-informed client counseling, works to ensure these children receive the services they need. In addition, CASA has worked to shift the public and policy discussion about this issue towards the children and humane solutions rather than partisan posturing, while it continues to push for administrative action to stop the deportations that are tearing apart immigrant communities.

From the outset of her career, Wadhawan has remained dedicated to a client-centered, community-based practice of law — a model combining law and organizing to create lasting, community-based change. Prior to joining CASA, Wadhawan had a private social justice law practice where she specialized in tenants' rights and represented low-income clients in housing-related matters including homeowners facing foreclosure and defending post-foreclosure evictions. Wadhawan started her legal career in the Oakland City Attorney's Neighborhood Law Corps where she used legal and non-legal remedies to organize and support Oakland's lowest-income communities in improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods, including litigating against wrongful evictions, and for the preservation of affordable housing for low-income seniors. Wadhawan served as Vice President of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California in 2010. Wadhawan currently serves as the Vice Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights District of Columbia State Advisory Committee. The Minority Bar Coalition awarded Wadhawan with their Unity Award in 2010. An immigrant herself, Wadhawan speaks Hindi, Punjabi and Spanish.

# 2014 BIS PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Santiago Solis** and **Harjant Gill**, Summit Co-Coordiators, would like to also thank the wonderful individuals who made up the 2014 BIS Planning Committee. They helped in innumerable ways and were a joy to work with.

**Elizabeth Alex**, CASA de Maryland

**Madeline Barnett**, Baltimore Jewish Council

**Joanna Basuray**, Towson University, Department of Nursing

**Leonie Brooks**, Towson University, Department of Psychology

**Elizabeth Clifford**, Towson University, Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

**Ilene Dackman-Alon**, Jewish Museum of Maryland at the Herbert Bearman Campus

**Mandee Heintz**, Baltimore Jewish Council

**Michael Masatsugu**, Towson University, Department of History

**Lisa O'Reilly**, Archdiocesan Immigration Coalition

**Lea Ramsdell**, Towson University, Department of Foreign Languages

**Catalina Rodriguez**, Baltimore City Mayor's Office

**Debbie Seeberger**, Towson University, Office of the President

**For more information visit:**

<http://www.towson.edu/baltimoreimmigrationsummit/>

or write to us: [immigrationsummit@towson.edu](mailto:immigrationsummit@towson.edu)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**, for supporting the Summit and continuously demonstrating an unwavering commitment to immigrants in Baltimore City.

**Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore**, for donating the use of this space and facilitating today's Summit.

**The Towson University administration and Acting President Timothy Chandler**, for Towson's support of the Summit, and for helping to create an environment at Towson that is welcoming to all, and that encourages civic engagement among faculty, staff and students.

**Sheena Wadhawan**, our keynote speaker, for devoting her time and sharing her story with us.

**Danielle Douglas** Towson University Graduate Assistant, for her administrative support.

**Towson University student volunteers**, Thomas D'Adamo, Erik Gomez, Monika Grigore and Melissa Ventura, we greatly appreciate your time and contribution to the success of the Summit.