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Advocates Demand Release of Individuals Endangered in Texas Detention Facility

Conroe, TX – Last night, the law firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, through their pro bono work with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, Innovation Law Lab, Santa Fe Dreamers Project, and the Immigration Justice Campaign, a joint initiative between the American Immigration Council and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, filed a group habeas petition demanding the release of individuals detained in the Joe Corley Detention Facility in Conroe, Texas.

Reports of conditions within this Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility outside of Houston have revealed startling trends of crowded rooms, inadequate medical care, and detained individuals being coerced into signing forms waiving ICE of liability. The clients represented in the lawsuit include an epidemiology and hygiene specialist who [wrote about his concerns](#) over limited space and lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the *Houston Chronicle*.

Karen Lucas, Director of the Immigration Justice Campaign, said, “The Justice Campaign is honored to work alongside Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP and our local partners to expose the conditions inside the Joe Corley Detention Facility and to advocate for the immediate release of individuals from immigration detention. Detention should not be a death sentence. But during the pandemic, close quarters and the disastrous failure to follow even basic precautions, like providing enough soap and masks, threaten the lives of everyone in ICE custody and government personnel and risk overwhelming local hospitals. The commonsense solution is clear. Robust implementation of longstanding, effective and humane community-based alternatives to detention is urgent as COVID-19 spreads through detention centers.”

Katherine Marquart, Pro Bono Counsel & Director at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, said, “It has been such a privilege to work alongside the Immigration Justice Campaign and its local partners over the last few months to advocate for the rights and safety of so many brave men and women living in dangerous, unsafe conditions. We are proud to have had the chance to fight for these individuals, to lend a voice to this important cause, and to reunite them with their family and loved ones.”

Linda Corchado, Director of Legal Services at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, said, “Knowing that our clients faced life or death consequences arising out of prolonged detention during a pandemic, we chose to continue representation even as the El Paso ICE Field Office transferred our clients to facilities across the country. Notably, at Joe Corley, our clients experienced arbitrary denials of their

parole requests and continue to live under dangerous detention conditions. Facing hurdle upon hurdle, we are grateful for our partnership with local organizations, the Justice Campaign, and Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP to continue this fight for justice."

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The [American Immigration Council](#) works to strengthen America by shaping how America thinks about and acts toward immigrants and immigration and by working toward a more fair and just immigration system that opens its doors to those in need of protection and unleashes the energy and skills that immigrants bring. The Council brings together problem solvers and employs four coordinated approaches to advance change—litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy, and communications. Follow the latest Council news and information on [ImmigrationImpact.com](#) and Twitter [@immCouncil](#).

The [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. Follow the latest AILA news and information on [ThinkImmigration.org](#) and Twitter [@AILANational](#).

[Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP](#) is a leading international law firm. Consistently ranking among the world's top law firms in industry surveys and major publications, Gibson Dunn is distinctively positioned in today's global marketplace with more than 1,400 lawyers and 20 offices, including Beijing, Brussels, Century City, Dallas, Denver, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Munich, New York, Orange County, Palo Alto, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Singapore, and Washington, D.C. For more information on Gibson Dunn, please visit our [website](#).

[Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center](#) is a nonprofit dedicated to serving the legal needs of low-income immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, victims of crime, and families seeking reunification in the El Paso and Cd. Juarez area. We have served nearly 40,000 people from over 77 different countries since opening our doors in 1987. Our vision is that of a country where all immigrants have access to high-quality legal representation based on the principles of justice and human rights.