



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 8, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT:
Hillary Moglen
HMoglen@wearerally.com, (323) 892-2080

Statement from Dreamers and Attorneys Following 9th Circuit Decision in Case Defending Civil Rights of DACA Recipients

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision today on a claim from six Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries who argued that the government’s decision to rescind DACA violated their rights under the Due Process Clause of the Constitution. The court ruled in favor of continuing the program, noting that the rescission of DACA is “arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise not in accordance with law.”

Following today’s decision, **Mark Rosenbaum**, lead attorney for the plaintiffs and Director of Opportunity Under Law at Public Counsel, issued the following statement:

“The historic decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals keeps in place the injunction against rescission of the DACA program and reaffirms that the government acted ‘arbitrarily and capriciously’ in terminating the successful program for over 700,000 recipients. Stating that ‘it is no hyperbole to say’ that recipients ‘like plaintiff Dulce Garcia embodies the American Dream,’ the court rejected the Administration’s position that DACA was illegally effectuated. It’s time that our government end its cruel campaign against hundreds of thousands of young men and women who are serving the only nation they have ever known, bettering all our lives and addressing the needs of our most disadvantaged communities. Today the Statue of Liberty flashed a wide grin.”

Luis Cortes, an attorney representing the plaintiffs and partner at Immigrant Advocacy & Litigation Center, issued the following statement:

“This is a huge victory and a big relief, not only as an attorney but as a DACA recipient. This administration has tried to strip away the protections that hundreds of thousands of immigrants have relied on for years, and we hope this is a big step toward reversing that trajectory.”

Norma Ramirez, a plaintiff in the case and DACA recipient, issued the following statement:

“I don't regret making the decision to join the lawsuit. I don't regret standing up and saying that we matter. I don't regret making it harder for them to reject and degrade us. Therefore, I thank you and all the lawyers and litigation team... for this opportunity and support.”

The “Dreamers case” is the first lawsuit from DACA beneficiaries seeking to block the Trump Administration from ending the program.

Originally filed as *Garcia v. United States*, Public Counsel, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLC and Immigrant Advocacy and Litigation Center, PLLC represented six DACA beneficiaries claiming the government's decision to rescind DACA violated their rights under the Due Process Clause of the Constitution. *Garcia* was consolidated with four other lawsuits brought by the State of California, the City of San Jose, the County of Santa Clara and the University of California. The six DACA beneficiaries are also represented by Laurence Tribe, professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School; Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of University of California, Berkeley Law School; and Leah Litman, assistant professor of constitutional law at University of California, Irvine Law School.

To read the full decision, please visit <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/general/2018/11/08/18-15068%20Opinion.pdf>.

For more information on the case originally filed as *Garcia v. United States*, please visit <http://www.publiccounsel.org/stories?id=0235>.

###

Public Counsel is the nation's largest pro bono law firm. Founded in 1970, Public Counsel strives to achieve three main goals: protect the legal rights of disadvantaged children; represent immigrants who have been the victims of torture, persecution, domestic violence, trafficking, and other crimes; and foster economic justice by providing individuals and institutions in underserved communities with access to quality legal representation. Through a pro bono model that leverages the talents and dedication of thousands of attorney and law student volunteers, along with an in-house staff of more than 75 attorneys and social workers, Public Counsel annually assists more than 30,000 families, children, immigrants, veterans, and nonprofit organizations and addresses systemic poverty and civil rights issues through impact litigation and policy advocacy. For more information, visit www.publiccounsel.org