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IMMIGRATION



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Li Ma, 50, wipes away tears as she discusses her son Steve Li's impending deportation. Friends and family are rallying to Li's cause — including making a Facebook page — to keep him from being sent to Peru.

Unaware he was illegal, man faces deportation

By Jessica Kwong
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Steve Li was living up to his — and his parents' — American dream until his untold past caught up to him.

The 20-year-old City College of San Francisco student was chasing his goal to open a medical clinic serving the immigrant community, when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials knocked on the door of his Ingleside apartment more than a month and a half ago.

Now he faces deportation to a country



Courtesy Marilyn Luu

Steve Li, City College of San Francisco student.

where he has no friends or family. While experts say his situation is not unusual, his case now has the support of thousands.

"One day I was getting ready to go to school to see my friends and teachers, and the next day I was locked in jail with criminals and gangsters and being treated like I wasn't a person," he said during a telephone interview from a detention center in Florence, Ariz.

Li, whose legal name is Shing Ma Li, was born in Peru but always thought he was in the United States legally because

Deportation continues on A16

CAMPAIGN 2010

Long run for votes comes to a close

Majority in state already have cast ballots by mail

By John Wildermuth,
Wyatt Buchanan
and Heather Knight
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

The election campaign that never seemed to end finally reaches the finish line today as an estimated 9.5 million voters will cast ballots across California.

While polls elsewhere in the country suggest the possibility of a Republican sweep that could grab control of the House from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats and possibly capture the Senate, there's no guarantee that a GOP wave will make it past the Sierra Nevada.

In the top-of-the-ticket races, Democrats Barbara Boxer and Jerry Brown and Republicans Carly Fiorina and Meg Whitman closed out their efforts Monday by once again barnstorming the state in a final attempt to push their supporters to the polls today.

But those pleas were lost on
Election continues on A9

While polls elsewhere in the country suggest the possibility of a Republican sweep, there's no guarantee that a GOP wave will make it past the Sierra Nevada.

▶ **Poll closing times:** A guide to when results will begin coming out of states across the nation. **A8**

▶ **In Bay Area:** GOP complains about mailers trying to get out the vote for a dead candidate. **C1**

☪ SOCIAL SERVICES

Medical-legal teams help patients

By Victoria Colliver
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

When Natasha Jabari needed legal help to fight a pending eviction, she found it at an unlikely place: her health clinic.

The 65-year-old San Francisco woman, who has high blood pressure, a heart disorder, anxiety and depression, could feel the building stress of receiving the eviction notice from

her sister, and that exacerbated her health problems.

She spoke with her social worker, who sent her down the hall to a legal aid attorney who holds weekly office hours at the clinic, Sister Mary Philippa Health Center, a free or low-cost clinic affiliated with St. Mary's Medical Center.

The attorney is helping her sort through her legal options. "It's like a guardian angel

stepped in," Jabari said earlier this month after her second appointment with the lawyer. "The worries are still there, but the fear has subsided. ... It has the equivalent therapeutic of any medicine."

The new legal clinic, which started in July at the center, is one of a growing number of "medical-legal partnerships" in the Bay Area designed to serve
Clinics continues on A16



Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle

Natasha Jabari suffers from health issues that were exacerbated by the stress of receiving an eviction notice. She felt better after she got legal help from a clinic at Sister Mary Philippa Health Center in San Francisco.

FROM THE COVER

Medical-legal partnerships

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the poor and indigent.

Many health problems have an underlying legal component. For example, unsafe or unsanitary housing conditions are rooted in the landlord-tenant relationship. The partnerships are designed to make it easy for doctors to refer patients to attorneys, typically legal aid lawyers, who are routinely on site in their health clinics and hospitals.

"A patient comes in with an asthma attack. If you send that patient out and just treat them for the asthma, they may be back two weeks later for that same condition if they live in an apartment with mold, cockroaches or rodents," said Dr. Dana Weintraub, clinical assistant professor at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, who helped form the Peninsula Family Medical Foundation in 2004.

Weintraub, who teaches a class at Stanford on medical-legal issues, said getting doctors and lawyers to work together in the clinic or hospital helps them both better serve the people who need them.

Model spreads across U.S.

The model was developed in 1993 by Dr. Barry Zuckerman, chief of pediatrics at Boston Medical Center, who was tired of having his ability to help children limited by the medicine he could prescribe. For example, he could prescribe medication for asthma, but if the child lived in a mold-ridden apartment, the asthma problem could persist.

The concept soon spread across the country, with the Peninsula program being the first in the Bay Area followed by one in Marin. In the past year, new programs have started up in San Francisco, Contra Costa and Napa counties.

These partnerships help children with special needs get educational services or people with health problems navigate their insurance, Medi-Cal, food stamp or other government programs. They also help patients facing foreclosure or financial problems prevent their utilities from being shut off and further jeopardizing

their health.

The National Center for Medical Legal Partnership now counts more than 90 legal partnerships in its network and involves more than 200 hospital and health centers nationwide. A bi-partisan bill is before Congress which would authorize as much as \$10 million for a project to test and study the partnerships.

"It's an idea that's very simple ... but we're talking about two very distinct professions that have very different ways of looking at the world and aren't historically collaborators," said Ellen Lawton, executive director of the national center. "Once you overcome some of those perceptions within each profession, you realize how much more powerful you can be together."

Lawton said the Bay Area has been a leader in creating course curriculum about these partnerships for law students. That includes a joint program at Stanford and UC Berkeley.

The Bay Area also has several partnerships that focus on specific conditions, such as the Diabetes Law Collaborative in Santa Clara County and the Mental Health Legal Services Project in West Contra Costa County.

Raegan Joern, an attorney who started the mental health partnership at Rubicon Legal Services in Richmond about a year ago, said mental health and physical health issues are connected.

"By helping people with these social issues, we're going to improve health outcomes," she said, adding the program has received funding from the California Bar Foundation and the Contra Costa County Bar Association.

A personal story

One of her first clients was 57-year-old Rodney Castillo, of El Sobrante, a former construction worker who is bipolar and lost his unemployment benefits in December 2009 despite his inability to work because of the side effects of medication he was taking to control hepatitis.

Castillo's social worker referred him to Joern, who was able to resolve the matter and get him \$214 a week in retroac-



Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle

Natasha Jabari was sent to a legal clinic while visiting Sister Mary Philippa Health Center.

Bay Area medical-legal partnerships

These programs offer legal services that are an extension of health care facilities:

Program	Health partners	Legal partners
East Bay Medical-Legal Partnership	Children's Hospital Oakland	East Bay Community Law Center
Peninsula Family Advocacy Program	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (Stanford); Ravenswood Family Health Center (East Palo Alto); San Mateo Medical Center	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Marin Medical-Legal Partnership	Marin Community Clinics	Legal Aid of Marin
San Francisco Medical-Legal Partnership	San Francisco General Hospital	Bay Area Legal Aid
Silicon Valley Medical Legal Partnership	Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (pediatrics)	Legal Advocates for Children and Youth
Diabetes Law Collaborative	Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	Health Legal Services (branch of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley)
St. Mary's Medical Center Medical-Legal Partnership (San Francisco)	Sister Mary Philippa Health Center (St. Mary's Medical Center)	Bar Association of San Francisco's Volunteer Legal Services Program; Latham & Watkins (St. Mary's clinic only)
Silicon Valley Medical-Legal Partnership	Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	Legal Advocates for Children and Youth
Mental Health Legal Services Project (West Contra Costa County)	West County Adult Mental Health (San Pablo); Richmond Health Center	Rubicon Legal Services (Richmond)
Bayview-Hunters Point Medical-Legal Project (pilot)	Southeast Health Clinic (San Francisco)	Volunteer Legal Services Program
Napa Valley Medical-Legal Partnership	Napa County Health and Human Services Alcohol and Drug Program; Clinic Ole; Queen of the Valley Medical Center (Community Outreach)	Legal Aid of Napa Valley

Source: Medical-Legal Bay Area Regional Coalition.

tive pay. Castillo, who has stopped receiving unemployment and is supporting himself on food stamps as well as gigs as a musician, used some of the money to fix his teeth. Now off the debilitating medication, he's

planning to return to school to get certified as a drug counselor and is back on the job market.

"I'm in pretty good shape now to sing and play music, so I'm going for broke," he said. "To get that money to get my

dental work done was huge. Now when I look for work, I can smile at the guy who might hire me."

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