



## ICONN Staff Spotlight: Amanuel

### *Manager of Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Services*

Amanuel arrived as a refugee from Eritrea by way of Ethiopia in 2010. He fled his home country and persecution on the basis of his religion. Amanuel arrived in an Ethiopian refugee camp, where he lived for four years and eight months until he was approved for admission and resettlement in the United States.

**On December 11, 2015,  
Amanuel became a naturalized  
American citizen.**

Taking the Oath of Citizenship is a welcome end to a trying journey that often spans years. The path to citizenship begins with the complicated process of first acquiring permanent residency (a green card), and ends after approximately 3-5 years of residing, working, and paying taxes in the United States. Amanuel came to the United States as a refugee and, after many years, was able to become an American citizen.

It is only after acquiring permanent resident status that one can begin the process of becoming an American citizen.



*"When I work with my clients at IICONN, I relate to leaving and arriving empty-handed and share what I've learned in order to help them advance in America. Last year, the Refugee Services team at IICONN resettled 89 refugees."*

*- Amanuel (pictured here following his taking the Oath of Citizenship in December)*

Generally, there are only four routes available to permanent residency:

- employment
- family ties
- refugee or asylee processing
- the diversity lottery

**There is no list, or line, or wait time for undocumented immigrants. Their opportunity for citizenship is at best, severely limited.**

Read more about the devastating impact of deportation on our blog [Know Your Rights - IICONN Shares Critical Information With Immigrant Community](#).

Until we can find a pathway that will allow legal status for our undocumented friends, family, and neighbors, **IICONN is here to help.**

We provide **confidential counseling** to immigrants unsure of their immigration status or immigration options. We can assist with **adjustment of immigration status, petitions for family members** of permanent residents or US citizens, **citizenship preparation, Temporary Protective Status (TPS) applications**, as well as **support** to immigrant victims of crime including human trafficking.

Additionally, our immigration attorneys and network of pro bono attorneys can **represent individuals facing deportation.**



**IICONN counts on donations it receives from generous members of our community to continue our important work. To learn more, to volunteer, or to make a donation, please visit [www.iiconn.org](http://www.iiconn.org).**



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