## The Catino-Picayune

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# 287(G) AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION TRAP



Local Law Enforcement is Now Immigration Enforcement!

#### **BY Contributing Writer**

Police departments, including in cities like Kenner, have signed agreements to share data with federal authorities, flag undocumented individuals during arrests, and hold people in jail past their release date to allow ICE to pick them up.

Detainees are often held in remote private prisons with limited access to lawyers or interpreters. Many never see a courtroom before being deported.

### Louisiana: America's Immigration Trap



#### More Than Just ICE Raids

It's not just about ICE knocking on doors. Louisiana has built an infrastructure that systematically weakens immigrants' ability to defend themselves—legally, financially, and emotionally. Detainees are often held in remote private prisons with limited access to lawyers or interpreters. Many never see a courtroom before being deported.

#### 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

"If someone is appealing their immigration court case, those cases eventually can go to the federal appellate circuits," and in Louisiana, that means the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New Orleans. The 5th Circuit has a long track record of siding with immigration enforcement, making it one of the toughest courts in the country for immigrants.

So immigrants don't just face a local judge—they face a federal legal machine stacked against them from the district court to the appellate level.



#### Your Driver's License Could Get You Detained

State agencies, including the DMV and Social Security offices, have also been quietly sharing data with federal immigration officials. Something as simple as applying for a license, updating your address, or using a public service could result in targeted ICE

enforcement.

#### **Detention Centers are Expanding**

Louisiana now has one of the largest immigrant detention capacities in the country. New facilities are being built in rural parishes. These private detention centers often profit off the number of people detained, giving financial incentive to keep beds full and rights ignored.

Louisiana has more ICE detention centers per capita than any other state.

They're mostly in rural, hard-to-reach towns (Basile, Jena, Pine Prairie, Winnfield, Ferriday)

#### A Perfect Storm for Deportation

In Louisiana, the cards are stacked against immigrants at every level:

- Local cops cooperating with ICE
- Courts that almost never release detainees
- State agencies quietly feeding information to federal databases
- Private prisons cashing in on longer detentions



#### ICE Detention Centers in Louisiana:

Guantánamo Detainees Are Being Moved to Louisiana

- South Louisiana ICE Processing Center – Basile, LA
- Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center – Jena, LA
- Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Pine Prairie. LA
- Richwood Correctional Center Monroe, LA
- River Correctional Center Ferriday, LA
- Jackson Parish Correctional Center Jonesboro, LA
- Winn Correctional Center Winnfield, LA
- Allen Parish Public Safety Complex –
   Oberlin, LA
- LaSalle ICE Processing Center Jena, LA
- Bossier Parish Medium Security Facility – Plain Dealing, LA
- Natchitoches Parish Detention Center – Natchitoches, LA

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