

LAW

Government Agrees to Settlement for Raiding Reporter's Home, Seizing Confidential Files



SOCIETY

Fined \$13,000 by State, Farmers Are Fighting Back Against 'Discrimination' Ruling



EDUCATION

6 Steps to Subtract 2 Numbers: Common Core Homework in 1 Photo



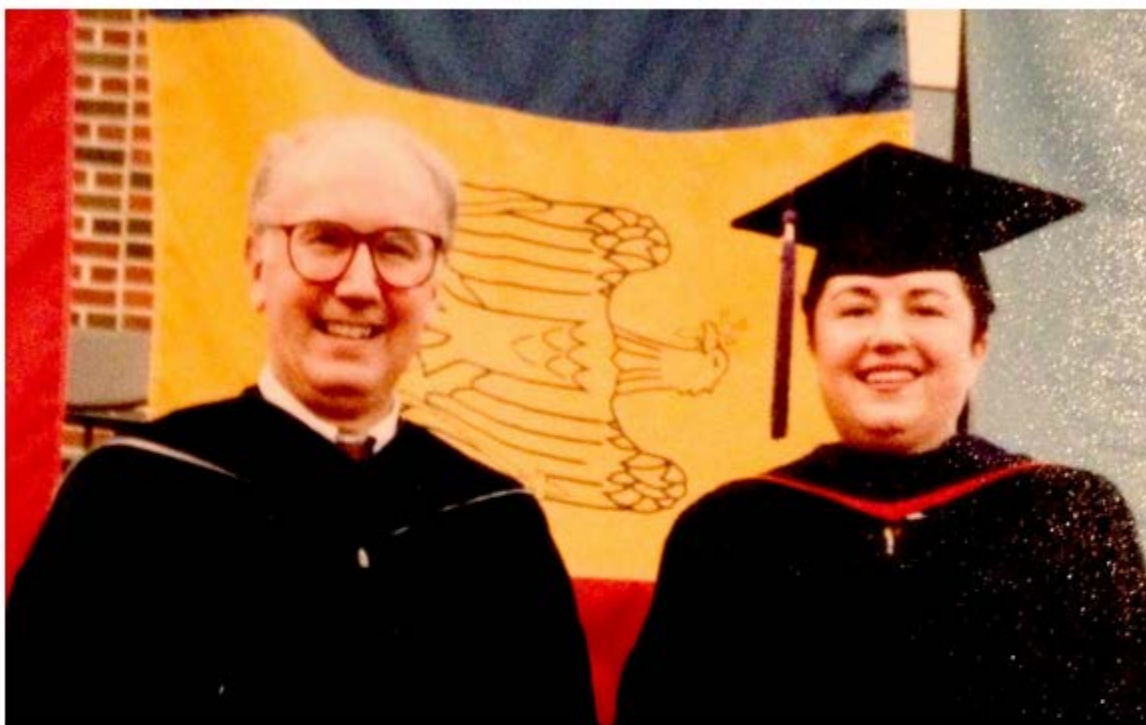
ECONOMY

Democrat Who Championed Ex-Im Loses Top Staffer to Key Position at Bank



Why Is This Immigrant So Fired Up Against Amnesty?

Kelsey Harris / @KelsRenHar / July 25, 2013 / [Leave a comment](#)



Virginia Prodan and her Southern Methodist University Law School Dean at Prodan's graduation from SMU Law School. The school surprised Prodan with the Romanian flag.

It was 1988. Virginia Prodan had no money, spoke no English, and had two children with a baby on the way. But she was finally in the United States. She was finally free.

Prodan, now a Dallas attorney, escaped Communist Romania and was granted political asylum by the United States. She immediately fell in love with the freedom and possibility in America.

She worked hard, graduated from Southern Methodist University law school, and raised three successful children — all without any help from the government.



Virginia Prodan and family at her private citizenship ceremony in Dallas, TX. February 23, 1994

She takes pride in her journey and has built a career on it. Her journey now frames her commitment as a lawyer to helping immigrants come to America legally.

“I believe that the law should be respected,” Prodan said in a [discussion on a recent Heritage Google+ Hangout](#). “You should have a chance to come to the United States and flourish.”

Many of Prodan's clients have been waiting for years to complete the legal immigration process. They've paid a lot of money and made a lot of sacrifices to become Americans the right way, Prodan said.

Prodan and her clients agree the immigration system is broken. But that doesn't mean illegal immigrants should be able to receive amnesty—a measure she feels would change the culture of the United States.

"You're not going to get people to obey the law if you don't hold them accountable," she said.

Prodan said she believes amnesty rewards people who broke the law and encourages more illegal immigration. Why would people go through the legal immigration system if they know they could break the law and still eventually be granted an amnesty by the U.S. government?

"We have to fix the immigration law that we have right now, and, more than that, we have to enforce it," Prodan said.

>>>Hear more of Prodan's story and her fight for the right approach to immigration reform.

Heritage Live: A Conversation About Immigration Reform

Rob Bluey / @RobertBluey / July 10, 2013 / [Leave a comment](#)

The immigration debate takes center stage in Washington today. President Obama is [meeting with the 26-member Congressional Hispanic Caucus](#) at the White House, and House Republicans are [gathering for a critical meeting to plot their course](#).

At Heritage, we'll be hosting our own conversation. We invite you to join us for a Google+ Hangout at **1 p.m. today**. You can watch it live on this page or [follow us on Google+](#) for an update.

We'll be answering your questions about immigration reform and discussing the policy, politics and real-life consequences of amnesty. To ask a question, please leave a comment below or send me a tweet [@RobertBluey](#).

Our panel includes:

- **Derrick Morgan**, who leads a team of public policy researchers and analysts as vice president for domestic and economic policy at The Heritage Foundation. ([@ddmorganindc](#))
- **Jessica Anderson**, deputy political director for Heritage Action for America, responsible for identifying, equipping and training grassroots activists. ([@JessAnderson2](#))
- **Isaiah Cohen** of Harrisburg, PA, whose fiancée is waiting to come lawfully to the United States from the Philippines. ([@Yeshaya_C](#))
- **Virginia Prodan**, a Dallas attorney who escaped Communist Romania and was granted political asylum by the United States in 1988. ([@VirginiaProdan](#))

If you'd like more information on immigration, download Heritage's **FREE e-book**, "[A Better Way: 10 Steps for Fixing America's Broken Border and Flawed Immigration System.](#)"

[VIDEO](#)