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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Staff Attorney Immigrants' Rights Project

Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project (IRP) seeks a full-time, bilingual (Spanish/English) staff attorney to join its Unaccompanied Children's team. This attorney will divide their time between direct representation of unaccompanied children (UCs) and impact litigation on their behalf. They will join our UC team that includes five attorneys, a social worker and four support staff. This position is currently grant funded through September 30, 2020. The grant is contingent on renewal each year.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Public Counsel is the largest *pro bono* public interest law firm in the country. Founded in 1970, it is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law and addressing economic, racial, and other inequities by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Public Counsel operates eight legal projects: Children's Rights, Community Development, Consumer Rights, Homelessness Prevention, Immigrants' Rights, Veterans' Rights, the Audrey Irmis Project for Women & Girls' Rights, and our impact litigation project, Opportunity Under Law. Public Counsel has a full-time staff of over 130. We seek to have a racially inclusive staff.

Public Counsel's IRP provides direct legal representation to non-citizens seeking asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), VAWA, T and U visas, and other relief in immigration court. In addition to direct representation, IRP engages in advocacy at the local and national levels, represents detained immigrants, recruits and trains hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys each year, handles appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and conducts impact litigation challenging governmental action. For 30 years, IRP has been at the forefront of protecting the rights of immigrants in Los Angeles.

JOB SUMMARY

Public Counsel seeks an attorney for its UC team. The UC Staff Attorney will spend 50% of their time providing direct representation to UCs in removal proceedings before the Los Angeles and Van Nuys Immigration Courts. This includes representing children in state court to obtain predicate orders related to SIJS and representation before USCIS for those children with asylum claims, SIJS petitions, and/or other applications for relief. The staff attorney will work handle all

aspects of a client's case, including appeals to the California Court of Appeals and Board of Immigration Appeals if necessary.

This position will also be part of the UC Impact Litigation Project, which represents unaccompanied children in appeals and litigates individual and class action cases in federal and state court. The attorney will spend the other 50% of their time working on impact litigation, including filing appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the California Court of Appeals and representing immigrant children in federal court. The UC Staff Attorney will use impact and appellate litigation as a tool to craft and enforce legal protections for immigrant children, statewide and nationally. They will also handle appeals arising out of the UC team's direct legal services caseload, including appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Administrative Appeals Office, and the California appellate courts. Additionally, they will provide technical assistance to Public Counsel staff and pro bono attorneys on individuals cases before immigration, state, and federal courts presenting potentially appealable issues (for example, by drafting sections of briefs submitted in support of motions or applications pending before the immigration court or the asylum office).

ESSENTIAL JOB SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

- Juris Doctor degree with California Bar membership or able to sit for the July California Bar exam;
- Fluency in Spanish;
- Excellent research, analytical, and written skills;
- Strong case management, legal research and writing skills;
- Ability to work well under pressure;
- Competence in and dedication to working with others of diverse cultural, geographic, and economic backgrounds including individuals with a history of severe trauma;
- Commitment to immigrants' rights and the mission of Public Counsel;
- Ability to engage in strategic thinking about the systemic impact of individual clients' cases to expand protections for immigrant children.

PREFERRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Prior work experience with children;
- Two years experience practicing immigration law, with particular preference for experience in removal defense and representation of children seeking asylum and/or SIJS (will consider law school clinic experience and internships);
- Clerkship experience;
- State or federal court litigation experience, including law and motion practice;
- Appellate litigation experience before administrative agencies and state and federal courts.

START DATE AND COMPENSATION

This position is available immediately. The UC Staff Attorney is a full-time, exempt position. Salary is commensurate with abilities and experience. Excellent benefits.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Continuous until position is filled. Candidates are encouraged to apply immediately as we anticipate hiring within weeks of this posting.

TO APPLY

Please email in one PDF the following: cover letter, resume, at least two references, and a legal writing sample. Write in the email subject line: "UC Staff Attorney Position." Send this to: Sara Van Hofwegen, Supervising Senior Staff Attorney, at irpjob@publiccounsel.org

Only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No phone calls please.

Public Counsel is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, political affiliation, condition of physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation, in accordance with requirements of Federal and State laws.

All qualified applicants with criminal histories will be considered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring.