FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Immigrants’ Rights Project (IRP) seeks to host a recent graduate for a fellowship to begin in the fall of 2022.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Public Counsel is the largest pro bono public interest law firm in the country. It is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law and addressing economic, racial, social, and other inequities by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Immigrants’ Rights Project is a team of advocates who collaborate with clients and communities to fight fearlessly for legal protections and a just immigration system. We provide holistic services, including direct representation and a robust pro bono asylum program, and engage in impact litigation.

OPPORTUNITY

IRP seeks to host a recent graduate for a fellowship beginning in the fall of 2022. The fellow will join the Pro Bono Asylum team, consisting of a Supervising Senior Staff Attorney, Senior Staff Attorney, Social Worker and half-time Paralegal. The goal of the fellowship is to expand the capacity of the Los Angeles pro bono legal community to meet the needs of family units seeking asylum and related relief before the Los Angeles Asylum Office and the Los Angeles Immigration Courts. Public Counsel’s pro bono network has had significant training on asylum, but continues to need more training to provide comprehensive representation of families in removal: specifically, the training required to pursue SIJS and other affirmative relief. The fellow will engage in some or all of the following depending on the fellow’s capacity and the team’s needs:

- Conduct intakes of families (children, parents, legal guardians) in Spanish and English to assess the children’s eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and other potential relief;
- Provide technical assistance and training to pro bono attorneys on remedies available to children in removal proceedings and trauma informed practices;
- As needed, co-counsel or provide representation to children in consolidated proceedings in immigration court and before California state juvenile courts and USCIS;
- Develop training materials (including briefing) for volunteer attorneys to address emerging legal issues.

We encourage anyone with interest to apply, and will also be happy to discuss other fellowship ideas consistent with our mission. Applicants who are interested should send their resume and a cover letter to Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Katka Werth, at kwerth@publiccounsel.org. Applications should be submitted by July 2, 2021. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

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, gender identity 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.