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Immigrant Defenders Law Center
California ChangeLawyers® Post-Bar Legal Fellow
Los Angeles or San Diego, CA
Start Date: Mid-October 2020
Application Deadline: September 14, 2020

About Immigrant Defenders Law Center

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef) is a next-generation, 501(c)3 social justice law firm that defends our immigrant communities against injustices in the immigration court system. We believe that the right to counsel in deportation proceedings is a necessary step towards ensuring due process for all. Our model of universal representation is built on this principle. It is our long-term goal to ensure that no immigrant is forced to go to court alone.

With services covering the areas of Los Angeles, Inland Empire, Adelanto, Orange County, San Diego, and border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, ImmDef has become one of the largest legal services providers in Southern California.

About the California ChangeLawyers® Legal Fellowship Program

California ChangeLawyers® (formerly California Bar Foundation) is a statewide foundation that empowers the next generation of lawyers, judges, and activists to create a more diverse legal profession, a fair justice system, and a better California. The foundation believes that a state as diverse as California should have a justice system led by advocates of all ethnicities and races.

ChangeLawyersSM Fellowships support bright, diverse ChangeLawyersSM who are committed to righting historical wrongs. Grants are awarded to legal aid organizations to cover the cost of hiring legal fellows from diverse backgrounds. This is a double impact investment. The foundation supports organizations on the front lines of social justice while at the same time creating jobs for diverse lawyers. This creates better, more authentic outcomes for communities—communities who can see and interact with lawyers who look like them.

Position Description

With support from California ChangeLawyers®, Immigrant Defenders Law Center seeks to hire a Post-Bar Legal Fellow to be placed in our Litigation and Advocacy team and work in conjunction with our legal services teams and help support ImmDef's work in the following areas: habeas, judicial and administrative appeals, impact litigation, and advocacy as it relates to unaccompanied minor children's rights under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization

Act, rights of families and individuals subjected to the Migrant Protection Protocols, detention conditions, civil liberties, due process, Rehabilitation Act, equal protection, access to counsel, and government accountability. The Litigation and Advocacy team is fast-paced, court deadline-driven practice with a focus on federal district court and appellate litigation. The fellow will have ample opportunities to learn about federal practice, immigration court practice, and gain significant experience and exposure to all aspects of strategic litigation including fact-investigation, client interviewing, drafting motions and declarations, and legal research and writing.

Qualifications and Requirements

Fluency in either Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, or Punjabi is preferred but not required. The applicant must hold a J.D. and should either be awaiting bar results or planning to sit for the next available exam. We are seeking applicants with demonstrated interest or experience in any of the following areas of the law: immigration, civil rights and civil liberties, criminal justice, district court litigation, appellate law or any other areas of social justice concern. Individuals with law school clinic experience or prior paralegal experience are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be able to work collaboratively but also be self-directed and self-reliant, highly organized, flexible, and able to work in a high volume setting with potentially limited resources.

Salary Range

This is a 10-week fellowship opportunity grossing \$10,000.

Reports To

Munmeeth Soni, Director of Litigation and Advocacy and Abigail Lloyd, Supervising Attorney for Cross-Border Initiative

Primary Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Post-Bar Fellow will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Draft motions, briefs, and other filings for ImmDef's immigration court, administrative and state appeals, and federal habeas and appellate matters.
- Conduct legal research and prepare memoranda concerning novel legal theories, examining national legal trends relevant to strategic litigation, and/or any other legal issue pertinent to existing case docket.
- Evaluate proposed regulatory and policy changes to provide technical assistance to ImmDef attorneys and assist in preparing comments and position statements on ImmDef's behalf.
- Interview client and witness declarants and draft declarations.
- Create and implement fact investigation to support ImmDef's larger strategic litigation in the areas of: unaccompanied minor children's rights under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, rights of families and individuals subjected to the Migrant Protection Protocols, detention conditions, civil liberties, due process, Rehabilitation Act, equal protection, access to counsel, government accountability, and/or any other issue impacting ImmDef's clients or immigrant communities.

To Apply

Applications should be submitted to Munmeeth Soni at meeth@immdef.org and should include a detailed cover letter, resume, three references, and a writing sample of no longer than 5 pages. Applications that do not contain all of the above-listed required materials will not be considered.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, and not later than the posted deadline. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled, and applicants selected for interviews will be duly notified. Please no inquiries or phone calls.

ImmDef believes in second chances. As an organization, we will rely on individualized assessments in the hiring of those with past criminal convictions. We encourage all qualified applicants to apply for a position fighting for our immigrant communities!

Immigrant Defenders Law Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.