Organization: The Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic of Main Street Legal Services, Inc. at CUNY School of Law

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works New York State Family Security Project

Location: CUNY School of Law, Long Island City, NY

The Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic (INRC) at the CUNY School of Law was one of the first immigration law clinics in the nation and has a distinguished record of litigation and advocacy in support of communities and their organizations. The INRC responds to meet community need and most of the cases on our docket are selected strategically to test or develop an area of law. The INRC represents individuals at the agency level, in federal and immigration court proceedings and at the trial and appellate levels. We undertake individual cases referred to us by community organizations and various collectives in advancement of campaigns for social and economic justice. In addition to our litigation work, we represent community organizations by providing legislative and policy counsel on a variety of matters and undertake community education programs in New York. The Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic operating within Main Street Legal Services, Inc. (MSLS) will host a one-year fellowship sponsored by Equal Justice Works designed to foster family security and community education through the provision of immigration legal services. The attorney selected for the Fellowship will be housed at the CUNY School of Law. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the fellowship must begin no later than January 30, 2018 and last for one year.

The Equal Justice Works NY State Family Security Project Fellow will work with INRC faculty and students in a fast-paced, innovative, academic environment providing direct services to those seeking stability and permanence in the United States and coordinating a variety of community education programs relating to immigration enforcement. The direct services docket includes, but is not limited to: affirmative and defensive asylum matters, refugee representation, criminal immigration, general deportation defense, suppression and representation of detained clients. Our clients come from diverse communities and speak a variety of languages. Our non-litigation work has recently focused on supporting those who are losing temporary status (i.e. DACA and TPS) while also studying recent trends in immigration enforcement. A major project that the Fellow will coordinate
and execute involves developing toolkits, reports, and community education materials to help defend those facing overbroad and vague gang-related allegations to justify their deportation. Much of this project will involve project work beyond Manhattan in Long Island and the Hudson Valley.

**Fellowship Description**
The Equal Justice Works New York State Family Security Project Legal Fellow will:

- Work with professors and students in INRC to document, develop resources and provide community education materials relating to the use of gang-related allegations in immigration enforcement in Long Island and beyond
- Help coordinate and create support services for immigrant CUNY Law students, working across CUNY campuses
- Represent clients in immigration court and before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Provide screening and intake
- Prepare immigration applications
- Provide legal advice and legal aid
- Educate the community on the impact of evolving immigration law and policy
- Engage pro bono attorneys to provide legal assistance to immigrants and their families
- Position is a one-year Fellowship, with a possible one-year extension contingent upon continued AmeriCorps funding.

**Qualifications**
The ideal candidate will have the following:

- The ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only conviction for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable pursuant to Equal Justice Works review and approval)
- A demonstrated commitment to public interest work and strong desire to assist indigent clients
- Experience representing clients in immigration matters (both at the agency and court level)
- Strong writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills
- The ability to work collaboratively in a variety of contexts including with students, medical professionals, community organizers and educators
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments
- Law school clinic, externship, summer or other relevant practice experience a plus
- Involvement with advocacy projects, report-writing or supporting community organizing a plus
- The ability to begin the fellowship no later than January 30, 2018
• Proficiency in Spanish is preferred
• Willingness to attend a mandatory substantive immigration law training in New York City in February 2018, as well as the mandatory Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training in Washington, DC in October 2018 (Note that travel costs for these trainings will be covered by Equal Justice Works).

Salary & Benefits
The Fellow will receive annual living allowance, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses. Additionally, Fellows receive an education award, health insurance, and other benefits. Interested applicants should contact Nermeen Arastu, nermeen.arastu@law.cuny.edu, with any follow up questions or inquiries about the additional benefits offered by CUNY School of Law.

Benefits and Professional Opportunities provided by AmeriCorps:
• Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
• Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
• Childcare assistance (if income eligible).
Additional benefits offered by CUNY Law are competitive with similar fellowship positions at law schools throughout the country.

Application Instructions
Interested candidates should email: 1) Letter of Interest, 2) Resume, 3) Short Writing Sample (under 5 pages), and 4) List of References to: hr_recruitment@law.cuny.edu no later than December 26, 2017 with the subject line: AmeriCorps Fellowship – [Your Last Name].

The Letter of Interest should clearly refer to the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellowship position. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow is scheduled to begin the term of service no later than January 30, 2018.

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepting on a rolling basis until December 26, 2017, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
CUNY School of Law is committed to enhancing our diverse community by actively encouraging people with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women to apply. Applicants and employees will not be discriminated against on the basis of any legally protected category, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We take pride in our pluralistic community and continue to seek excellence through diversity and inclusion. EEO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer.