



RAPID RESPONSE LEGAL FELLOW

Funded by California Bar Foundation

Hosted by the Immigrant Defenders Law Center

Riverside , CA or Los Angeles, CA

About California Bar Foundation Legal Fellowship Program:

Launched in 2015, California Bar Foundation’s Legal Fellowship Program supports diverse, emerging leaders of the legal profession who are committed to representing low-income and underserved populations in California. Our goal is to generate career opportunities for diverse attorneys who want to make a social impact.

California Bar Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation. At CBF, we believe that as trustees of the justice system, lawyers have a special responsibility to ensure access to justice. We are working toward a future where empowered donors and community leaders are working together to build a better, more accessible justice system for all Californians. Through this fellowship program, along with our diversity scholarships and grants, California Bar Foundation is catalyzing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and, by extension, the justice system as a whole.

About the Host Organization, the Immigrant Defenders Law Center:

The Immigrant Defenders Law Center (“ImmDef”) is a next-generation, social justice law firm that provides high-quality representation and legal services to immigrants in Southern California. Our staff is comprised of advocates and activists from the immigrant rights community who collectively have decades of experience fighting for the rights of immigrants in Southern California and beyond. Our organization was founded with the belief that no immigrant should be forced to go into court alone, and we see our universal representation programs as a first step towards that goal. Learn more about us at www.immdef.org.

ImmDef is thrilled to collaborate with CBF to host a Rapid Response Legal Fellow in either our Riverside or Los Angeles office. We will give preference to applicants who are interested in our Riverside office, as a goal of this Fellowship is to increase access to justice in lesser served areas of California.

Fellowship Highlights:

- Fellow will assume a caseload of complex immigration removal defense cases with a focus on increasing representation for communities impacted by new immigration enforcement tactics;
- Fellow will be given opportunity to engage in cutting edge litigation and be encouraged to pursue new and novel defenses to deportation;
- She/he will participate in the Los Angeles Raids Rapid Response Network and will work collaboratively with partners in the Inland Empire to develop resources for immigrant communities in underserved areas;
- She/he will receive guidance and mentoring from experienced and passionate immigrant rights lawyers.

Qualifications:

- Law degree + CA bar license or intention to take CA bar exam in July;
- Experience (including internships) in the practice of law, preferably in immigration and/or social justice law;
- Experience and/or interest in working with detained immigrants and their families is essential;
- Experience and/or interest in the intersection of criminal and immigration law is a plus;
- Strong case management, legal research, and legal writing skills required;
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to zealously pursue new and untested legal theories;
- Spanish language proficiency preferred (will be tested at time of interview);
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative and work collaboratively with partners is important;
- Enthusiasm for working in a start-up non-profit environment;
- Willingness and ability to travel locally throughout Southern California is a must;
- Candidates from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession are strongly encouraged to apply;
- **Passion for social justice for immigrants required.**

Terms & Benefits:

The one-year Rapid Response Legal Fellowship will begin in September 2017 and continue through September 2018. The Fellow will be paid a competitive public interest salary commensurate with experience and within ImmDef's attorney salary scale which starts at \$53,500 per year. The Fellow will receive a generous benefits package, including health, dental, sick and vacation time, 11 paid holidays per year, and our office is closed between 12/25 and 1/2. The Fellow will also be invited to participate in all California Bar Foundation fellowship programming and convenings, and will have the opportunity to collaborate with California Bar Foundation's statewide community of legal fellows, scholars and grant recipients.

Application Instructions:

Email cover letter, resume, references, and brief writing sample (5 pages or less) to: Lindsay Toczykowski, Executive Director, Immigrant Defenders Law Center: AttorneyJobs@ImmDef.org. In the subject line please write FIRST NAME_LAST NAME_FELLOW_ APPLICATION.