

ECBA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT (VLP) IMMIGRATION STAFF ATTORNEYS for REMOVAL DEFENSE

We are seeking to fill full-time positions based in the Western New York State for the Immigration Program of the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP).

We are looking for three (3) Staff Attorneys for our Batavia, NY office to join our nine (9) attorneys handling work under the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) contract at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, and some WNY county jails which hold immigrant women. This is a public defender model program where we represent all low income detained people that are facing deportation and are not otherwise represented.

The ideal candidates will be admitted to practice law, have at least one year experience in litigation, preferably in immigration removal proceedings, and want a career in litigation defending low-income immigrants detained at the Batavia Federal Detention Facility who are subject to removal for a variety of reasons including criminal convictions, unlawful entry and visa overstays. The ability to speak both Spanish and English *fluently* is very highly preferred. In the alternative, fluency in French and Mandarin are also very desirable. Those without previous experience, but possessing the desire and language skills are encouraged to apply. If the potential candidate possesses two or more years of immigration litigation experience but does not speak a language other than English, s/he is also encouraged to apply.

Also required for all positions are strong organizational skills to track and report required data about the work in a timely and accurate manner; an ability to work cooperatively with fellow staff and supervisors; the means and willingness to travel between the Buffalo office and the Batavia office, and occasionally to different locations in the eight counties of Western New York, as needed (a driver's license is required); strong oral and written advocacy skills; a willingness to work independently while also taking direction and operating as part of a team; the organizational ability required to juggle many cases efficiently; and the flexibility to handle other tasks which the attorney may be called upon to handle at VLP, such as community outreach and education.

Please send a resume, a cover letter clearly explaining your interest and qualifications. Include contact information for 3 references and send your materials to: Robert M. Elardo, Executive Director/CEO, ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. at relardo@ecbavlp.com. There is an immediate need. Please apply ASAP.

For information on VLP, see www.ecbavlp.com

VLP is an equal opportunity employer. Salary is based on experience. VLP is a non-profit agency with excellent fringe benefits including fully paid health insurance, free parking, long term disability insurance, life insurance, and generous leave time. The work atmosphere is congenial, respectful and flexible.