

Senior Staff Attorney: Immigration Program – Removal Defense

The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is seeking a full-time Senior Staff Attorney to join its Immigration Program, in their Batavia, NY office. This office handles 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.



Duties/Responsibilities:

- handle individual caseload and represent clients before DOJ-EOIR, DHS, and BIA
- act as a mentor for Immigration Staff Attorneys in the Batavia office
- act as an additional resource for Paralegals and Social Workers in the Batavia Office
- hold case review meetings with Immigration Staff Attorneys assigned to your group
- monitor new Immigration Staff Attorneys and ensure that they progress through the training protocols
- report any concerns related to work product among the Immigration Staff Attorneys
- assist with monthly grant reporting as directed
- special projects as directed
- other duties may be assigned

Requirements/Skills - Required:

- admitted to practice law
- three years' experience in immigration law with a focus on removal defense
- organizational skills to juggle many cases efficiently while also being able to track and report required data about the work in a timely and accurate manner
- ability to work cooperatively with fellow staff and supervisors while also being able to work independently
- the means and willingness to travel (a driver's license and regular access to a vehicle are required)
- strong oral and written advocacy skills
- flexibility to handle other tasks which the senior staff attorney may be called upon to handle at VLP, such as community outreach and education
- legal research software proficiency

Requirements/Skills – Preferred:

- fluency in Spanish
- experience working with individuals in immigration detention including individuals with criminal history
- demonstrated commitment to representing low income immigrants

TO APPLY: Please send a resume, a cover letter clearly explaining your interest and qualifications. Include contact information for 3 references and send your materials to: Brenda Cisneros, Supervising Attorney, ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. at bcisneros@ecbavlp.com

Applications will be reviewed as received.

VLP is an equal opportunity employer. Salary depends upon experience. Excellent benefits including paid health insurance, a cafeteria plan for dependent care and transportation costs, long term disability insurance, life insurance, 403b plan, Simple Employee Pension Plan, and generous leave time.

Employee paid dental insurance is also available. The work atmosphere is congenial, respectful and flexible. For information on VLP, see www.ecbavlp.com

VLP staff is currently primarily working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate that the person hired will start out working from home.