



## **IMMIGRANT DEFENSE PROJECT 2026 SUMMER INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) is a national nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes fundamental fairness for immigrants accused or convicted of crimes. IDP seeks to minimize the harsh and disproportionate immigration consequences of contact with the criminal legal system by working to transform unjust deportation laws and policies, and by educating and advising immigrants, their criminal defenders, and other advocates.

IDP is now accepting applications from law students seeking internships for summer 2026. Our interns get unique exposure to both the criminal and immigration systems and an opportunity to develop substantive legal expertise. They can work on these issues from a holistic perspective that includes litigation, policy, advocacy, and community engagement.

Based on the intern's interests and program needs, potential projects for this term could include:

- Supporting our *Padilla* team by providing analyses on the immigration consequences of open criminal trial-level cases under the supervision of an attorney, conducting legal research to assist with ongoing plea negotiations, and finding counsel and/or providing referrals for clients in need of legal representation.
- Supporting our national hotline by providing legal analyses to hotline callers, including immigrants and their loved ones, attorneys, and advocates, under the supervision of an attorney.
- Supporting our impact litigation by conducting research on cutting-edge legal arguments challenging criminal grounds of removability.
- Developing resources for public defender offices, immigration legal service providers, and community members regarding the immigration consequences of contacts with the criminal legal system.
- Supporting our federal policy team by conducting legal analysis of legislation, executive orders, and federal agency directives.

We have helped many of our past interns find employment at public defender offices, immigrant rights organizations, and other social justice organizations. We work hard to ensure that interns benefit from their experience and provide training and a dynamic work environment.

IDP's summer internship program runs for ten weeks. IDP is currently working remotely and has adapted its processes to ensure that staff maintain face-to-face contact through videoconferencing. IDP prides itself on having a flexible and friendly work atmosphere where attorneys are passionate about their work and eager to share their expertise. We will consider applicants from any jurisdiction within the U.S.



**To Apply:**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and references to the Intern Hiring Committee at [internships@immdefense.org](mailto:internships@immdefense.org) with the subject line "Summer Internship Application."

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled, but we encourage interested applicants to apply by November 28, 2025. Please note that applicants must seek outside funding from their law schools or other funders. We are happy to support these efforts.

*The Immigrant Defense Project is an Equal Opportunity Employer that actively recruits women, people of color, persons with disabilities, persons with diverse gender and sexual identities, immigrants, and formerly incarcerated persons.*