



40 West 39th Street, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10018
Tel: 212.725.6422 • Fax: 800.391.5713
www.ImmigrantDefenseProject.org

Job Announcement

Immigrant Defense Project

Immigration Attorney (Family Court and Community Specialist) (Full-Time)

This position could be filled by a staff attorney or senior staff attorney, depending on experience.

Organization Background

The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) is a New York City-based nonprofit that works to secure fairness and justice for all immigrants by transforming the racially-biased U.S. criminal and immigration systems. IDP was founded over twenty years ago to address the crisis of escalating criminalization and mass deportation, and our work attacks the injustices at the intersection of the criminal and immigration systems via a multi-pronged strategy. We strengthen immigrant defense through training and expert advice, challenge unfair laws and enforcement policies and practices through impact litigation, shape just policies through advocacy, work alongside communities and advocates through alliance building and education, and challenge negative narratives about immigrants through strategic communications.

IDP is a relatively small organization with big impact. Achievements include leading successful campaigns to protect immigrants from aggressive deportation tactics and playing an instrumental role in ensuring immigrant New Yorkers receive effective legal immigration advice after arrest. IDP has been central to strategic Supreme Court litigation campaigns, such as *Padilla v. Kentucky* strengthening the rights of immigrants in criminal proceedings, and several key immigration cases that have restricted the government's overreaching and damaging interpretations of mandatory deportation and other immigration laws. IDP also operates a unique legal support hotline that provides cutting edge legal analysis for thousands of community members and attorneys annually and serves as a clearinghouse for ICE enforcement trends in New York City and beyond. In addition to training attorneys across New York, IDP develops Train-the-Trainers workshops for public school teachers, legal service providers, and other community-based organizations, on a range of topics, from complex criminal and immigration laws to community rights issues such as Know-Your-Rights with ICE.

Position Summary

The full-time Immigration Attorney will provide expert consults, advice and referrals to immigrants and their loved ones, advocates, and attorneys and to family defense attorneys practicing in Article 4 (child support), 8 (family offense), and 10 (abuse and neglect) proceedings in Family Court. The Attorney will identify and develop materials to educate and empower community members impacted by the criminal-immigration system with support from other staff

and develop materials for family court attorneys as needed. The Attorney will work primarily with a staff that currently includes one paralegal, two Senior Staff Attorneys, and a supervising Attorney. **This position could be filled by a staff attorney or senior staff attorney, depending on experience.**

Essential Job Responsibilities:

- Advise Spanish-speaking and other immigrants and their families on criminal immigration law issues through IDP's hotline.
- Recruit, train, coordinate, and supervise volunteer hotline attorneys and interns, in consultation with Senior Staff attorneys.
- Monitor criminal-immigration legal and enforcement developments and timely produce advisories and other resources for impacted community members and allies.
- Provide expert consults and regular continuing legal education trainings to family defense attorneys on the immigration consequences of state court contacts.
- Identify and develop practice aids and trainings for family defense attorneys representing non-U.S. citizen clients, as necessary.

Qualifications

- JD degree and bar admission in good standing in New York, or willingness and eligibility to promptly seek admission.
- Two or more years of related experience that includes representing immigrants with convictions in removal defense proceedings or affirmative applications for immigration benefits.
- Experience in family law preferred.
- Ability to synthesize complex immigration legal issues for non-attorneys in written and oral communications.
- Demonstrated commitment to immigrant rights and social justice issues.
- Exceptional organizational and written and oral communication skills; ability to timely respond to and balance numerous requests for assistance.
- Ability to work in a respectful, non-judgmental manner with impacted individuals (including people accused or convicted of serious crimes), and to work collaboratively, respectfully and supportively.
- Ability to speak publicly on IDP's behalf in coalitions, meetings, and before the media.
- Written and oral fluency in Spanish is required.
- Strong command of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Google Suite (Docs, Slides, Sheets, etc.), Adobe Acrobat, and other standard productivity software.

Compensation

Salary commensurate with relevant experience

Generous benefit package provided by IDP's fiscal sponsor, Fund for the City of New York

To apply:

We are looking to fill this position as soon as possible and will be screening applications and interviewing on a rolling basis. Please submit cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to jobs@immdefense.org with the subject line "Family Court and Community Specialist Attorney." Writing samples and three references will be requested for those interviewed. No phone calls please.

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.