



IDP Internships

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 has a rolling application for law students seeking Term-time and Summer internships. Our interns get unique exposure to both the criminal legal and immigration systems and an opportunity to develop substantive legal expertise. They can work on these issues from a holistic perspective that includes policy, litigation, and community outreach.

Based on interns' interests and program needs, potential internship projects include:

- Know Your Rights presentations and trainings, particularly regarding ICE enforcement.
- Work with community-based organizations on local and state campaigns.
- Provision of detailed legal analyses to criminal defense attorneys, immigration lawyers and other advocates, and immigrants and their loved ones on their cases through our free national hotline and Padilla Support Center.
- Tracking ICE enforcement trends; facilitating monthly roundtable of lawyers and advocates.
- Support for impact and strategic litigation on IDP issues before the Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, and BIA (e.g., immigration detention, categorical approach defenses to deportation, constitutional defenses to conviction-based deportation, ICE enforcement).
- Assisting in review and case development in post-conviction relief motions and appellate proceedings.
- Policy research and advocacy on various issues relating to the intersection of criminal and immigration law and policy (e.g., sanctuary city policies, ICE enforcement, state-level criminal justice reform, federal immigration law, state drug law and policy, immigration detention).

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 get the most out of their experience and provide trainings and a dynamic work environment.

To apply:

Please submit cover letter and resume to internships@immdefense.org. Please note that applicants must seek outside funding from their law schools or other funders. We are happy to support these efforts. Term-time internships will also be considered if applicants can commit a minimum of 12 hours/week.

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.