



2023 CRIM-IMM LITIGATION FELLOW

Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) is looking to sponsor a legal fellowship candidate who is eligible to receive funding through a post-graduate law school fellowship for a one-year term. Once the candidate is selected, IDP will work with them to craft a fellowship proposal and submit a joint application to the sponsoring law school. The start date for this fellowship is September 2023.

IDP's litigation team engages in targeted litigation to further our mission of securing justice and fairness for immigrants affected by the criminal legal system. For over twenty years, IDP has played a key role in fighting for immigrant rights before the courts against the backdrop of increasingly draconian laws and policies that use the criminal legal system as a mechanism for deportations and adverse immigration consequences. Our litigation work challenges the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and arrests, with a focus on ensuring immigrants do not face discrimination in criminal justice reform efforts, on expanding immigrants' access to post-conviction relief, on protecting application of the categorical approach in immigration cases, and on combating criminal bars to persecution-based relief. Our litigation further fights against the expansion of immigration incarceration, and unjust and abusive DHS and ICE enforcement practices.

Position Summary

The Crim-Imm Litigation Fellow will work primarily with IDP's litigation program and will provide support to IDP's hotline. For IDP's litigation program, the fellow will be responsible for conducting legal research and drafting legal memoranda, and assisting with drafting and finalizing of briefs and litigation materials. The fellow would also support IDP's advanced litigation trainings and support IDP's federal and state advocacy work as it relates to litigation. For IDP's hotline, the fellow will be responsible for fielding inquiries from hotline callers, conducting legal analysis, providing referrals, and providing additional support to IDP hotline staff. The Fellow would also participate in and support IDP's organizational needs as needed, including internal meetings, roundtables, and working groups. The Fellow will be supervised by a Supervising Litigation Attorney.

Core Responsibilities

- Support IDP's litigation team in amicus briefing, technical assistance, and litigation support for cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, Circuit Courts of Appeals, BIA, and Immigration Courts regarding the immigration consequences of prior convictions and criminal system contact.

- Contribute to practice advisories and sample pleadings.
- Support IDP's facilitated litigation and policy coalitions and working groups.
- Monitor legal developments in the immigration field.
- Provide trainings and CLEs on immigration and criminal law topics.
- Provide support as "attorney of the day" for the IDP paralegal and other staff on the hotline as needed. Provide analysis and advice, and referrals to community members and advocates through IDP's hotline. Ensure that IDP's CRM database includes accurate case information and is updated timely.
- Work collaboratively with staff across the organization to support advocacy campaigns, develop legal resources, and respond to and analyze changes in local, state and federal policy.
- Communicate the IDP litigation team's work and goals to multiple audiences, including administrative agencies, elected officials, and fellow advocates.
- Collaborate to maintain the litigation team's internal systems.

Qualifications

- Experience with litigation before the federal courts or immigration agencies on issues involving criminal legal system contact and ICE enforcement.
- Excellent legal research, writing, and editing skills.
- 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.
- JD degree. Admission in good standing to any state bar or pending application for admission, and ability to seek admission in the Second Circuit and other federal courts.
- Oral fluency in Spanish is a plus.
- Prior coursework in administrative law and federal courts is also a plus.
- Strong command of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Google Suite (Docs, Slides, Sheets, etc.), Adobe Acrobat, and other standard productivity software.

TO APPLY

Please submit a resume and cover letter to jobs@immdefense.org. In your letter, please include the name(s) of the legal fellowships for which you would like to apply and the applicable deadline(s). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

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.