



## **IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ATTORNEY**

### **Central Islip, NY - Full time, Exempt position**

Empire Justice Center, a highly respected, statewide nonprofit law firm, is seeking an Immigrant Rights Attorney to join our team. This is an opportunity to join one of the most effective organizations serving low income individuals and families in New York State.

Empire Justice Center attracts and employs dedicated, determined and passionate advocates who, together, make a significant impact on the lives of low income New Yorkers. We achieve our successes through a combination of direct legal representation and high impact litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, and by providing training and technical assistance to other advocates who are working towards the same goals.

Our organization offers staff an exciting and dynamic working environment and a strong commitment to teamwork, diversity, and personal/professional development.

### **The Position:**

The Immigrant Rights Attorney is a critical member of our growing Immigration Practice Group and will work on the new Liberty Defense Project, a recently created initiative funded by the State of New York. This statewide initiative is currently funded under a one-year contract.

The Immigrant Rights Attorney in the Long Island office will also work as a part of a multifaceted team of attorneys and paralegals who provide supportive advocacy and legal services in public benefits, family law, and housing.

The primary focus of this position will be to provide legal counseling for immigrants facing possible detention and deportation with direct representation in immigration law matters to mostly Spanish speaking immigrants on Long Island. The attorney will be based in our Central Islip office but will serve both Nassau and Suffolk County residents, including those on the east end of the Island.

### **Primary responsibilities will include:**

- Liaison for the Legal Defense Project on Long Island
- Providing direct representation to immigrants in:

- Removal proceedings
- Naturalization and adjustment of status
- U Visa petitions
- Asylum applications
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions
- Federal Court appeals
- Administrative appeals
- Other immigration and civil matters

**Candidates for this position will:**

- Be able to independently handle a diverse immigration caseload
- Be admitted to practice law in New York
- Have at least five (5) years relevant work experience
- Be able to produce high quality written material, meet tight deadlines, and to work both independently and as part of a team
- Have strong analytical and writing skills
- Be experienced in interviewing and counseling clients, preferably in both English and Spanish
- Be willing and able to travel to serve clients in a geographically wide-spread area

**Bilingual in Spanish strongly desired.**

**Salary and Benefits**

Salary is commensurate with experience and based on the organization's salary scale. With five (5) years' experience the starting salary could be \$59,000, depending on experience.

Empire Justice Center offers a generous benefits package, including health insurance, pension and life insurance, vacation, holiday, personal and sick time. We are an organization that supports and encourages a work/life balance.

Empire Justice Center is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and desires a diverse work force. People of color, women, persons with disabilities, persons who are elderly, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. If interested e-mail a cover letter, resume, writing sample and three professional references to: (no phone calls or hard copies please) incomplete applications will not be considered.

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