



Immigrant Defenders Law Center
California ChangeLawyers® Post-Bar Legal Fellow
Los Angeles or San Diego, CA
Start Date: Mid-September 2020
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

About Immigrant Defenders Law Center

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef) is a next-generation, 501(c)3 social justice law firm that defends our immigrant communities against injustices in the immigration court system. We believe that the right to counsel in deportation proceedings is a necessary step towards ensuring due process for all. Our model of universal representation is built on this principle. It is our long-term goal to ensure that no immigrant is forced to go to court alone.

With services covering the areas of Los Angeles, Inland Empire, Adelanto, Orange County, San Diego, and border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, ImmDef has become one of the largest legal services providers in Southern California.

About the California ChangeLawyers® Legal Fellowship Program

California ChangeLawyers® (formerly California Bar Foundation) is a statewide foundation that empowers the next generation of lawyers, judges, and activists to create a more diverse legal profession, a fair justice system, and a better California. The foundation believes that a state as diverse as California should have a justice system led by advocates of all ethnicities and races.

ChangeLawyersSM Fellowships support bright, diverse ChangeLawyersSM who are committed to righting historical wrongs. Grants are awarded to legal aid organizations to cover the cost of hiring legal fellows from diverse backgrounds. This is a double impact investment. The foundation supports organizations on the front lines of social justice while at the same time creating jobs for diverse lawyers. This creates better, more authentic outcomes for communities—communities who can see and interact with lawyers who look like them.

Position Description

With support from California ChangeLawyers®, Immigrant Defenders Law Center seeks to hire a Post-Bar Legal Fellow that will focus on advocating for and increasing awareness of South Asian detainees' right for equal and fair access to civil rights and liberties. This ChangeLawyersSM Fellow will focus on documenting the South Asian experience in detention centers with the goal

of producing a report on the findings and recommendations. These findings may lead to systematic change through advocacy or impact litigation.

Qualifications and Requirements

Fluency in Punjabi, Hindi, or Urdu is required. The applicant must hold a J.D. and should be awaiting bar results. We are seeking applicants with immigration experience, including immigration paralegal experience, organizing experience, and/or law school clinic experience. Applicants should work collaboratively but also be self-directed and self-reliant, highly organized, flexible, and able to work in a high volume setting with limited resources. This position requires regular travel to detention facilities, and occasional travel to Tijuana, Mexico. The applicant must have reliable transportation and be able to cross the US-Mexico border.

Salary Range

This is a 10-week fellowship opportunity grossing \$10,000.

Reports To

Munmeeth Soni, Director of Litigation and Advocacy, and Supervising Attorney for Cross-Border Initiative.

Primary Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Post-Bar Fellow will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Work with ImmDef's Director of Litigation and Advocacy and Supervising Attorney to identify and document civil liberties' violations occurring within Southern California's detention centers towards the South Asian detainee population;
- Establish a process to reach out to South Asian immigrant detainees held in Southern California facilities, create an intake for purposes of gathering information pertaining to their conditions of confinement, linguistic and cultural accommodations, and religious liberties, and travel to facilities to interview detainees;
- Create a database for the information gathered and create mechanism for analyzing the data;
- Engage in limited scope advocacy to challenge and improve conditions of their confinement including drafting demand letters, filing administrative complaints, seeking humanitarian parole, representing individuals at their bond hearings under the supervision of a licensed attorney, and/or assisting with any litigation; and,
- Identify community stakeholder and participate in community organizing, advocacy, and awareness efforts to keep the public informed of detention conditions for South Asian immigrant communities;

To Apply

Applications should be submitted to Munmeeth Soni at meeth@immdef.org and should include a detailed cover letter, resume, three references, and a writing sample of no longer than 5 pages. Applications that do not contain all of the above-listed required materials will not be considered.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, and not later than the posted deadline. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled, and applicants selected for interviews will be duly notified. Please no inquiries or phone calls.

ImmDef believes in second chances. As an organization, we will rely on individualized assessments in the hiring of those with past criminal convictions. We encourage all qualified applicants to apply for a position fighting for our immigrant communities!

Immigrant Defenders Law Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.