

**Job Announcement  
Staff Attorney (full-time preferred)**

IRIS – Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, Inc. ([www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org)), a dynamic nonprofit organization in New Haven CT, has an opening for a Staff Attorney in its Legal Department. We strongly prefer that the Staff Attorney work full-time (40 hours per week), but will consider applicants seeking part-time work (30 hours per week) as well. IRIS is a refugee resettlement agency providing high quality and culturally sensitive assistance to immigrants and refugees in Connecticut. Our goal is to help immigrants establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut’s communities. IRIS currently serves clients from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Cuba, Sudan, Egypt, and Venezuela, among others.

**IRIS’s Legal Department:** IRIS offers legal services, among its other services. IRIS’s Legal Department provides representation to: 1) refugees and asylees applying for lawful permanent residence, naturalization, and reunification with family members; 2) immigrants filing for asylum; 3) immigrants in deportation proceedings; and 4) as of August 2021, Afghans trying to evacuate from Afghanistan during the current humanitarian crisis. The Legal Department consists of four full-time attorneys, each of whom covers one or more of the practice areas listed above, as well as two full-time paralegals, a law fellow and several interns.

**Description of Staff Attorney Position:** IRIS is looking for a Staff Attorney who can cover cases in the first category listed above (representation of refugees and asylees applying for lawful permanent residence, naturalization, and reunification with family members). Refugees who gain legal entry into the U.S. and are resettled in Connecticut by IRIS are required to file for legal permanent residence (green cards) a year after arrival. Each of these “IRIS Clients” will need the Staff Attorney’s assistance in filing their applications. Later, after being in the U.S. for five years total, IRIS Clients may also file for naturalization (citizenship). The Staff Attorney will also represent IRIS Clients on applications for citizenship, preparing them for and accompanying them to their naturalization interviews in Hartford. Additionally, where IRIS Clients seek to file family petitions to bring loved ones left behind in their home countries to the U.S., the Staff Attorney will represent IRIS Clients on those applications as well. There are several different types of family petitions.

The Staff Attorney should be prepared to work largely out of IRIS’s New Haven office. Due to Covid, there is some flexibility with working remotely, but this is mostly an in-office position. The Staff Attorney should work well with other attorneys, paralegals and volunteers. The Staff Attorney will report to the Director of Immigration Legal Services.

**Requirements:** The Staff Attorney should be a licensed member of a state bar in good standing, qualified to represent clients in immigration matters. The Staff Attorney shall have a J.D. from an ABA-accredited law school. The Staff Attorney must have strong advocacy, writing, communication and

organizational skills, as well as the ability to handle numerous demands and shifting priorities in a fast-paced environment. The Staff Attorney must have a demonstrated commitment to the mission of IRIS and awareness and sensitivity to multicultural issues.

**Candidates must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and comfortable coming into contact with other people.**

**Salary:** The salary being offered with this position will depend on the candidate's experience. Full medical benefits are included.

**Benefits include:** vacation (3 weeks/year), personal days (3 days/year), holidays per IRIS schedule, sick leave

Health, vision, dental, life, and disability insurance

Eligible for 403b retirement plan after one year of service

To apply, send an email to [humanresources@irisct.org](mailto:humanresources@irisct.org) with the following:

- A subject line that says "STAFF ATTORNEY: [Candidate first and last name]"
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Contact information for two references