

**IRIS- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services
Job Posting
Staff Attorney -- Asylum**

IRIS – Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, Inc. (www.irisct.org), a dynamic nonprofit organization in New Haven CT, has an opening for a Staff Attorney in its Legal Department. The Staff Attorney will focus exclusively on representing Afghans on their asylum cases. 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, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras, 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 removal proceedings; 4) Afghan residents of CT who filed applications for humanitarian parole on behalf of family in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in August 2021; and 5) Afghans who were evacuated from Afghanistan after the takeover and resettled by IRIS in the New Haven and Hartford areas. The Legal Department currently consists of six attorneys, each of whom covers one or more of the practice areas listed above, and two paralegals.

Description of Staff Attorney Position/Requirements: IRIS is looking for a Staff Attorney to represent the clients listed in the last category above. Beginning in the fall of 2021, IRIS resettled over 400 Afghan evacuees. These evacuees were given a grant of humanitarian parole by the U.S. government, meaning they were afforded a legal status that is only temporary (typically their parole period is two years). It is essential that during this two-year period they try to make their legal status permanent. One important way of doing so is by applying for asylum. This is the work the Staff Attorney will be focused on.

Ideally the Staff Attorney will have significant asylum experience; familiarity with the Afghan community is a plus. There is some flexibility with remote work, but the Staff Attorney should be able to work out of the New Haven office when useful. Travel to the USCIS Asylum Office in Newark or Manhattan will be necessary once a client’s interview is scheduled. The Staff Attorney will report to the Director of the Legal Department. The Staff Attorney position is full-time (40 hours per week), and pay will be commensurate with experience. Full medical benefits are included.

Prerequisites: 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 should have strong advocacy, writing, communication and organizational

skills, as well as the ability to handle multiple 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.

Fluency in English is required

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

Compensation: based on experience

Benefits: Health, vision, dental insurance. Life insurance. Short- and long-term disability insurance. Vacation (3 weeks / year), Personal days (3 days/ year), sick leave (12 days/ year), holidays per IRIS schedule (currently 12 days/ year). 403b retirement plan after 1 year of employment

To apply, send an email to humanresources@irisct.org with the following:

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