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Job description

Full-time Staff Attorney 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 full-time Staff Attorney (40 hours per week) in its Legal Department.

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, Sudan, Egypt, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras, among others.

IRIS is looking for a full-time staff attorney to represent immigrants in removal proceedings.

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; and
- 3) immigrants in removal proceedings.

The Legal Department currently consists of six full-time attorneys and two full-time paralegals, each of whom covers one or more of the practice areas listed above.

Description of Staff Attorney Position:

IRIS is looking for a Staff Attorney who can cover cases in the third category listed above:

The representation of immigrants in removal proceedings.

The Staff Attorney will represent clients as part of the CT Coalition for Immigrant Freedom (CCIF), a New Haven-based removal defense project that seeks to provide universal representation to immigrants in removal proceedings. As such, the Staff Attorney will work closely with both IRIS case

managers and attorneys at peer legal services organizations who serve these same clients.

The Staff Attorney will handle all aspects of clients' removal cases, including scheduling and conducting client meetings, preparing and submitting asylum applications, drafting motions to the EOIR, and appearing in immigration court.

The Staff Attorney will also handle any ancillary legal matters such as representing clients in probate court and petitioning for SIJ status with USCIS, preparing and filing U-visa petitions, or any other available forms of immigration relief.

The position is largely New Haven-based but could require some travel to MA or NH, depending on whether any clients are housed in detention facilities. Travel to Hartford will also be necessary for court appearances, on the occasions they arise. The Staff Attorney will report to the Director of Immigration Legal Services.

Requirements:

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

In submitting an application for employment, the applicant grants IRIS permission to check references as well as question anyone who might be familiar with the candidate's job performance.

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 some experience representing individuals in removal proceedings, and ideally would have a significant background in this area.

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
Fluency in Spanish is strongly preferred.

Compensation & Salary: The salary of this position is belong to commensurate with 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.

Job Type: Full-time

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

A subject line that says “Staff Attorney –Asylum” and your name

A cover letter

An attached resume including three professional references (at least two direct supervisors)