

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY (Falls Church/Alexandria)

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

The Legal Aid Justice Center is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that partners with communities and clients to achieve justice by dismantling the systems that create and perpetuate poverty. Justice means racial justice, economic justice, and social justice.

From its offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church, LAJC is a fierce advocate for low-income clients and communities in Central and Northern Virginia, and its work broadly impacts the entire state. Just in the past year, our team of attorneys and organizers won a class-wide injunction ordering healthcare reforms in a women's prison, secured a national settlement providing new avenues for relief to over 400 traumatized asylum-seekers whose children were taken from them at the border, worked successfully in partnership with community leaders to demand police accountability, and won major legislative reforms regulating school policing.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services under four key program areas: Civil Rights & Racial Justice, Economic Justice, JustChildren, and Immigrant Advocacy. LAJC boldly tackles issues of systemic injustice and aims to raise public and policymaker awareness of some of the most pressing challenges facing low-income Virginia residents. For more information, visit www.justice4all.org.

About the Immigrant Advocacy Program

LAJC's **Immigrant Advocacy Program** supports low-income immigrants in their efforts to find justice and fair treatment. In addition to representing clients with individual legal issues, we promote systemic reforms to reduce the abuse and exploitation of immigrants, and advocate for state and local policies that promote integration and protect immigrants from aggressive immigration enforcement. Current campaigns include challenges to ICE over-detention of immigrants, resisting family separation in all of its different forms, and our De-ICE Virginia campaign seeking to cut the bonds of cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

About the Position

LAJC seeks a bilingual immigration attorney for our Falls Church office, with regular office hours at the Tenants and Workers United community center in the Arlandria/Chirilagua neighborhood of Alexandria. The attorney will provide individual legal consults and know-your-rights presentations to residents of the City of Alexandria who fear arrest by ICE, and emergency legal response services (including bond hearings, Motions to Reopen, and Reasonable Fear Interviews) for Alexandria residents arrested by ICE. The attorney will also have the opportunity to work on and ultimately develop impact litigation challenging ICE detention and enforcement abuses in Virginia, and promoting the civil rights of immigrant residents of Alexandria.

This is a grant-funded position, currently funded by the City of Alexandria through the end of 2020, with continued renewal at the discretion of the City Council. Applicants must have a strong commitment to immigrants' rights, and have a sufficient level of Spanish fluency to interview and counsel clients in Spanish without the assistance of an interpreter. The ideal

candidate has prior experience with immigration law, whether professionally or through a law school clinic.

**Required
Qualifications**

- Strong commitment to immigrants' rights;
- Experience working directly with immigrant clients;
- A sufficient level of Spanish fluency to interview and counsel clients in Spanish without the assistance of an interpreter;
- Membership in the bar of any state, and ability to practice before the immigration court and USCIS;
- Reliable personal transportation; and
- An ability to multi-task and balance a variety of responsibilities.

**Preferred
Qualifications**

- Prior experience with immigration law, whether professionally or through a law school clinic;
- Membership in the Virginia bar or confirmed eligibility to waive in; and
- Experience working for a public interest law firm, legal services organization, or other nonprofit as an attorney or in a pro bono capacity.

Location

LAJC's Falls Church office, with regular office hours at a community center in Alexandria

Start Date

As soon as possible

Salary

Salary range is \$54,500 to \$88,500 based on a formal salary scale that depends on years of relevant experience.

Benefits

Exceptional fringe benefits include generous leave, health, dental and optical insurance, 403(b) retirement plan, student loan repayment assistance, fully paid CLE and Virginia bar membership, and a great work environment.

**Application
Instructions**

Email a cover letter, resume, legal or advocacy writing sample, and three references to Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg at hiring@justice4all.org.

The position will be open until filled; applications will be reviewed beginning on February 3, 2020.

The Legal Aid Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, experiences, and communities to apply. The Legal Aid Justice Center is committed to strengthening the voices of our low-income clients, working in collaboration with community partners, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty. We strive to take on the issues that have broad impact on our client communities and to be responsive to client input. Recognizing the particular impact of racism on our clients and staff, we devote special attention to dismantling racial injustice. All applicants must be dedicated to working in and sustaining an environment that enables staff and clients to feel empowered, valued, respected, and safe. In reviewing applications, we look for evidence that applicants have experience and/or thoughtfulness in working with traditionally marginalized populations.