2012 – 2014 IMMIGRATION PROJECT FELLOWSHIP

Description of Pisgah Legal Services:

Founded in 1978, Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to the pursuit of justice by providing legal assistance and advocacy to help low-income people in Western North Carolina (WNC) to meet their basic needs and improve their lives. With 18 staff attorneys and more than 300 volunteer attorneys, PLS helps low-income people avoid homelessness, escape domestic violence, access health care and meet other basic needs. In 2010, PLS assisted more than 10,800 people in crisis. PLS’ main service area includes six WNC counties, and PLS serves immigrants in 17 counties.

The Justice For All Project:

PLS’s Justice For All Project (JFAP) serves Western North Carolina’s growing population of recent immigrant residents. JFAP provides direct representation to low-income immigrants who are eligible to secure legal immigration status and/or work authorization. JFAP is focused on serving the needs of our most vulnerable community members, including women and children, victims of violent crimes and sexual assaults, and detained immigrants in removal proceedings. JFAP’s most common cases include: VAWA Self-Petitions, U Visa Petitions, Adjustment of Status Applications, Naturalization Applications, TPS Applications, NACARA Applications, Family-Based Visa Petitions, and Removal Defense including Motions for Bond, Cancellation of Removal, and Asylum Applications.

Immigration Project Fellowship:

Pisgah Legal Services is interested in hosting a rising third-year law student, judicial clerk, and/or recent law school graduate interested in applying for a post-graduate fellowship to work with and expand our Justice For All Project. Please note that fellowship applicants must identify and obtain their own funding source to cover their salary and benefits for the duration of the fellowship period. We anticipate that such legal fellowships will be applied for from Equal Justice Works and the Skadden Fellowship Foundation. However, we also welcome applications from individuals who are eligible for any other relevant fellowships, including those connected to specific schools or organizations. Applications must be submitted to the relevant fellowship organization(s) in Fall 2011 for a fellowship to commence in Fall 2012.
PLS welcomes fellowship applicants describing possible projects that fit within its mission and areas of work and need as described above. Appropriate project proposals may include one or more of the following:

- Direct representation of Western North Carolina immigrants in removal proceedings and/or detained at the local Henderson County Detention Center.
- Creation, development, and coordination of a large-scale pro bono effort to provide immigrants in Western North Carolina with legal representation in removal proceedings and/or applications for battered immigrant relief.
- Creation, development, and coordination of a project focused on the needs of immigrant children and family reunification.
- Creation, development and coordination of onsite immigration clinics throughout the 17 westernmost counties of North Carolina staffed primarily by pro-bono attorneys and intake volunteers.
- Community organization of local immigrant populations, including local farm workers, to enforce legal rights, and providing leadership development and direct legal services to underserved immigrant communities, including victims of employment-related crimes.
- Development of an outreach/education campaign for law enforcement agencies and community based organizations regarding immigration and civil relief for immigrant victims of crimes.

Please note that above is not an exhaustive or specific list of immigration projects that PLS would be willing to consider. We invite all fellowship applicants with an immigration project proposal that would fit within PLS’s mission and areas of concern, as described above, to apply. Fellowship applicants are also encouraged to add their own legal, policy, and/or community outreach component to their project proposals, as appropriate and as required by their prospective funding source.

**Practice Areas:** Civil Rights & Liberties/Racial Justice Issues, Farm Worker/Migrant Worker, Immigration, International Law/Human Rights, Litigation, Non-Profit

**Qualifications:**

Fellowship applicants must possess:
- Juris Doctor Degree by Summer 2012 from an ABA-accredited law school.
- Bar membership in U.S. based jurisdiction, or sitting for July 2012 state bar exam.
- Fluency in Spanish.
- Experience in Immigration Law through law school classes, clinics, and/or internships. (Please note that the degree of experience required is dependent on applicant’s project proposal and the necessity of that experience.)
- Excellent legal research and writing skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and organizational abilities.
- Ability to work independently, multi-task, and problem-solve.
- Demonstrated interest and commitment to poverty law and the advancement of immigrant rights.
North Carolina bar membership, and significant experience in immigration law are not required but preferred.

Please also note that if you are seeking to apply for either a Skadden or EJW Fellowship that these programs have specific eligibility criteria and you should refer to the respective websites for further information.

**Salary:** Commensurate with fellowship obtained.

**Application Instructions:**

All fellowship applicants please send the following to employment@pisgahlegal.org:

- Cover Letter.
- Resume.
- Unofficial Transcript.
- Legal Writing Sample (5 to 10 Pages).
- List of References (at least 3).
- One- to Three-Page Summary of a Fellowship Project Proposal. This proposal need only be an outline of what type of fellowship project the fellowship applicant might like to pursue. However, one to two paragraphs should directly address what type of legal fellowship the applicant is interested in applying for (EJW, Skadden, etc.) and how their proposed project would be a competitive fit to the requirements and goals of that particular fellowship.

Pisgah Legal Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Racial minorities, women, elderly, and disabled are encouraged to apply. Please visit: http://www.pisgahlegal.org/about/job-opportunities for more information.

**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2011