



Immigration Attorney and Program Director, Immigration Removal Defense

Wanted: an experienced immigration attorney to lead and develop Building One Community's new removal defense program. The ideal candidate will have the vision and the drive to make Building One Community the premier removal defense non-profit in Connecticut. We have committed funding and staffing to launch this program and make this vision a reality. The removal defense program director will be a member of B1C's overall leadership team and work alongside our existing immigration legal services practice, which focuses on affirmative representation.

Building One Community celebrates our 10th anniversary in 2021. We have grown to become a vibrant, comprehensive resource center that serves immigrants across southwestern Connecticut with workforce development, family services, English Language Learning, and immigration legal services. The latter began in 2016 and now serves more than 600 families and individuals each year. Creating a new removal defense practice will enable a tremendous expansion of our reach and ability to assist the immigrant community.

Position summary: The Program Director for Immigration Removal Defense is a full-time position that will provide direct representation to immigrants in removal proceedings and other complex immigration cases. He/she will initially lead a team of two Immigration Justice Corps Fellows and a paralegal. The Program Director will be supported by an established administrative structure to enable focus on legal representation and practice development priorities.

The Program Director will also help build B1C's ties with other public interest legal service providers in Connecticut to provide more representation in immigration court, and assist in building public opinion in favor of assured legal representation for immigrants facing deportation.

He/she will be a member of B1C's program management team and report to the Deputy Director.

Essential duties:

- Represent Connecticut residents in proceedings in Immigration Court and at the appellate level
- Represent individuals in a limited number of cases before the Asylum Office in Newark, NJ
- Provide or coordinate representation in state court for children eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Coordinate with the affirmative practice side on cases involving both affirmative and defensive aspects

- Build a sustainable removal defense practice, with a team including recent Immigration Justice Corps Fellows, volunteer attorneys and DOJ Accredited Representatives, and paralegal staff, working alongside the existing Immigration Legal Services practice
- Provide legal supervision and mentorship to removal defense legal staff and volunteers
- Implement sound case management practices
- Participate in public outreach and community education initiatives on immigration issues
- Collaborate with other organizations and pro bono attorneys to help build statewide capacity to provide removal defense representation

Skills/Qualifications:

Required

- 3 to 5 years immigration law experience
- Significant removal defense work
- Admitted to practice law in any state (admission in Connecticut a plus); admitted or able to be admitted to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals
- Willingness to travel to immigration court in Hartford, CT and the asylum office in Newark, NJ
- English/Spanish language proficiency
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Strong commitment to B1C's mission

Strongly preferred

- Appellate experience
- Experience advocating for Special Immigrant Juveniles in state court
- Proven experience supervising staff in immigration cases
- Proven ability to work both independently and in a team setting

To apply for this position, please submit your resume and a cover letter to jobs@b1c.org. Resumes without a cover letter will not be reviewed; no telephone calls please.

Building One Community is an Equal Opportunity Employer