



Creating pathways to new beginnings.

Immigration Legal Services Fellow

Call for Fellows/Project Proposals for Equal Justice Works/Skadden Fellowships (or other relevant post-JD fellowships)

Host Organization: Rian Immigrant Center (Boston, MA)

Deadline to apply for consideration as a fellowship applicant for the Fall 2021 application cycle: June 18, 2021

Rian Immigrant Center seeks eligible 2L law students to work collaboratively with Rian to propose a fellowship project for the Fall 2021 post-JD fellowship application cycle (Equal Justice Works, Skadden, or others). Rian would serve as the fellow's host organization if the fellow is selected for a fellowship.

Rian, formerly the Irish International Immigrant Center, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that empowers immigrants and refugees from more than 120 counties by providing the legal, education and resource and support services they need to build successful lives. Rian's Immigration Legal Services (ILS) program provides full representation, advice and counsel, and other legal support in a wide-range of family-based and humanitarian immigration legal matters. The ILS team is currently comprised of nine attorneys, one Board of Immigration Appeals-accredited representative, two program assistants and several interns and pro bono/volunteer attorneys. Last year, we served approximately 2,000 immigrants and refugee families as they navigated immigration law and policy. Our clients are all low-income, many are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and they cannot afford the services of a private attorney.

The fellowship project will aim to address the unmet needs of Rian's client population. The substantive nature of the fellowship project is open for discussion. Rian hopes to work collaboratively with the fellow to propose a project that meets a demonstrated need, fits within the parameters of our immigration legal program and also appeals to the preferred interest area(s) of the fellow. The types of cases that Rian attorneys take on include representation for the medically complex in deferred action and visa extension applications, domestic violence and crime victim-based petitions, special immigrant juvenile status petitions for abandoned, abuse and neglected minors, family reunification petitions, adjustments of status to permanent residence, consular processing, naturalization, Temporary Protected Status, and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applications, amongst others. ILS attorneys represent individuals before US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Boston Immigration Court, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as local probate and family courts. ILS formally partners with many Boston-area organizations to provide consultations, full case representation and other legal support to their immigrant clients. Our partners include the women's shelter

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Rosie's Place, Boston Medical Center, Health Law Advocates, Boston Public Schools and Jewish Vocational Services.

An ideal candidate for a fellowship at Rian will be proficient in another language in addition to English, with strong preference for Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Portuguese or Cape Verdean Creole. They will also have employment or internship experience in immigration law, especially in family-based and humanitarian cases; have a demonstrated commitment to legal services; have taken a course on or related to immigration law or policy in law school; and have the comfort and desire to work directly with clients who have experienced trauma, are medically-complex, are homeless and/or have mental health challenges.

Interested candidates should email Jackie Kelley at jkelly@riancenter.org with a resume and a brief statement of interest.