



Call for Post-JD Fellowship Proposals

Host Organization: Rian Immigrant Center (Boston, MA)

Deadline to apply for consideration as a fellowship applicant for the Fall 2023 application cycle: July 28, 2023

Rian Immigrant Center seeks to collaborate with an eligible 2L law student to propose a project for the Fall 2023 post-JD fellowship application cycles (Equal Justice Works, Skadden, or others). Rian will serve as the fellow's host organization and employer if the fellow is selected for a fellowship grant.

About Rian Immigrant Center and the Immigration Legal Services Program

Rian, formerly the Irish International Immigrant Center, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that empowers immigrants and refugees from more than 120 countries 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 ten attorneys, one DOJ-accredited representative, two paralegals, an intake specialist and several interns and pro bono/volunteer attorneys. Each year we serve thousands of immigrants and refugees as they navigate immigration law and policy. Our clients are all low-income, many are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and most cannot afford the services of private counsel.

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, abused 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 before 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 Rosie's Place, Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Health Law Advocates, Boston Public Schools and the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative.

Proposed Fellowship Topic

The fellowship project will aim to address an unmet need of Rian's client population. Rian hopes to work collaboratively with the fellow to propose a project that meets one of our demonstrated needs, fits within the parameters of our immigration legal program and also appeals to the preferred interest area(s) of the fellow.

ILS considers proposing a project to add a new area to our immigration practice, building on our existing *pro se* assistance work, based on a witnessed and serious community need: providing *pro se* assistance to newly-arrived asylum seekers who must file asylum applications in order to meet the one-year filing deadline. Given the time-intensive nature of asylum representation, many newly-arrived immigrants cannot find non-profit representation to assist them in the limited time frame of their filing deadlines. Furthermore, many new-arrivals, not yet work-authorized and perhaps in debt from the arduous journey to the United States, cannot afford the representation of private counsel. Receiving competent *pro se* assistance from Rian attorneys, through a project managed and executed primarily by the fellow, would allow asylum seekers to meet their critical deadlines, avoid adverse immigration consequences, obtain work authorization to potentially hire counsel in the future, and put them on the path to obtaining safety in the United States. As Rian's ILS team does not historically engage in asylum work, this project would represent a novel expansion of services for our organization. Rian hopes to pilot this project in collaboration with our existing partners at medical institutions, schools and shelters.

We will consider other fellowship topics that applicants may wish to propose.

Ideal Fellowship Candidates

An ideal candidate for an ILS fellowship 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.

How to Apply: Please send a statement of interest and resume as a PDF to career@riancenter.org with **Post-JD legal fellowship** as the subject line.

Rian Immigrant Center is committed to a policy of providing equal employment opportunities for all and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, creed or religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. We encourage applications from all those interested and qualified, especially BIPOC, immigrant and first-generation American applicants.

ABOUT THE RIAN IMMIGRANT CENTER

Rian Immigrant Center offers a comprehensive, multi-service approach to supporting families from more than 126 countries. Rian provides the immigration legal, resource and support services, and educational support immigrants need to gain stability, security, and build pathways to success. Rian was founded in 1989 by a group of immigrants, and we have assisted over 40,000 immigrants make successful transitions to new beginnings in New England.

In addition to our services, rooted in the tradition of welcoming others and social justice, we help newcomers find community, and stand up for immigration policies that are humane and just. We are proud to continue the tradition of welcoming immigrants to this country and working together to create a better future for all. Rian strives to intentionally create an environment for staff, individuals we serve and others, that fosters intercultural belonging, and is anti-racist and equitable. We are committed to valuing and promoting anti-racist ideas and policies.

Working at Rian: Our staff of thirty-five+ includes immigration attorneys, social workers, educators, youth workers and others, who bring enthusiasm and a commitment to our mission and the work at the Center. We work as one team. Our generous benefits package includes a hybrid work environment with flexible work time, health benefits, 20 vacation days, 15 holidays, 5 sick days, a 403(b) plan, and occasional off-site community building time together.