

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project

Information and Registration Day for New Volunteers



Who Are We?

Objectives & Missions



- Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project is a public interest legal organization serving some of the most vulnerable immigrants in the Los Angeles area.
 - We Defend
 - Our organization provides pro-bono direct representation to unaccompanied children in immigration removal proceedings and people who are deemed incapable of presenting themselves in immigration removal proceedings.
 - We Empower
 - We also provide community education to unaccompanied minors in the Los Angeles area and to adult detainees at Adelanto Detention Facility.

Esperanza's History



- Esperanza began its existence nearly 15 years ago as the Los Angeles Detention Project of [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. \(CLINIC\)](#). Originally CLINIC's Los Angeles Detention Project focused solely on "Know Your Rights" presentations, securing legal representation from pro bono attorneys, reporting on systemic and detainee-specific problems, and advocating for improvements and reform.
- After over a decade of success in representing immigrants in Immigration Court, winning relief from removal, and securing much-needed reforms, CLINIC in 2008 devolved its control over to local affiliate Catholic Charities of Los Angeles.
- In 2008 the project was renamed the Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project.

Esperanza's History

- Since 2008, Esperanza has grown from a staff of 5, to more than 15. Esperanza has continued to bring hope to Southern California's immigrant communities through legal education and representation
- Two aspects of our work:
 - Direct Representation
 - Community Education



Direct Representation Services

- **For Unaccompanied Children: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**

- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is a specific form of relief that benefits any minor who has been abused, neglected, or abandoned by either one or both parents for who reunification with one or both parents is not viable and in whose best interest it is to remain in the United States. A state court with jurisdiction over the juvenile is required to make these findings. With the state court orders the juvenile may apply for SIJS and adjustment of status to legal permanent residence.

- **For unaccompanied Children: Asylum**

- Asylum may be granted to a person who seeks protection within the US borders due to a history of persecution or an existing fear of future persecution due to the individual's race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group. The persecution must be perpetrated by the government in the individual's country of origin, or the government must be unwilling or unable to control the perpetrator.

- **Detainee Rights**

- Since the case of *Franco v Holder*, legal representation must be provided to individuals the court determines to be incapable of representing themselves due to mental incapacitation. The detainee rights workgroup specialize in criminal immigration defense for individuals who are part of the "Franco Class." Cases include asylum, withholding of removal, CAT and criminal immigration defense.

- **Affordable Services Program – NEW! (see next slide)**

Affordable Services Program – NEW to Direct Representation!

- As part of Esperanza's ongoing mission to represent low-income immigrants before immigration authorities and those in removal proceedings, we created the Affordable Services Program (ASP). We created this program because we saw that there was a segment of the community, be it because they are aged-out or priced-out, that were underserved and desperately in need of trustworthy professional legal services, at an accessible and affordable price.
 - Our focus is on providing family and minor immigrants with legal assistance. ASP does this in three ways:
 - Through legal consultations to analyze each client's case and identify potential forms of immigration relief.
 - Through low cost direct legal representation of immigrants before the Executive Office Of Immigration Review (EOIR) / Immigration Court and before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
 - Providing guidance and assistance in completing *pro se* Motions to Change Venue and Change of Address forms

Community Education Programs

- The Community Education Program is designed to provide access to critical information for the most vulnerable immigrants. Community Education enables individuals to understand and navigate their way through their legal proceedings.
 - **(LOP)** Legal Orientation Program for Adelanto Detention Facility
 - Services for Detained Adults
 - General Orientations, One-on-One Interviews, Pro Per Assistance, Pro Bono Placement
 - **(LOPC)** Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Released Minors
 - Services for Immigrant Children and Custodians
 - Know Your Rights Classes, Legal Screenings, Matching to Pro Bono Attorneys, Self-Help Workshops, Social Services/Education
 - **Immigration Court Help-Desk – NEW! (see next slide)**
 - **Pro Bono Program**

NEW Immigration Court Help Desk (ICH)

- The new Immigration Court Help Desk located at the Los Angeles Immigration Court is designed to offer immigrants individual and group information sessions, as well as self-help workshops so that they can have the tools to more effectively represent themselves in court.
 - **Basic Services:** ICH staff will assist respondents with basic motions
 - Motions to reopen, motion to change venue, change of address forms
 - Filling out applications and forms for types of reliefs: Asylum Part I and II, U-VISA, Cancellation of Removal for LPRs and Non-LPRs etc.
 - **Pro Bono/ Referral Services :** For cases meeting certain criteria
 - ICH staff might refer respondents to appropriate organizations or attempt to secure pro bono assistance

Pro Bono Program

- The objective of the pro bono program is to fill the gap between the needs of the population we serve and limited resources that exist for indigent immigrants.
- This broad mandate means we seek skilled and passionate volunteers from various backgrounds and fields of work.
- Pro Bono intersects with all of Esperanza's programs



Get Involved!

- The Pro Bono Program will seek to match you with an appropriate opportunity having regards to your interests, expertise, availability, and of course, the needs of the organization and our clients.
- Irrespective of how you choose to get involved, you have the potential to make a difference to our organization and the lives of our clients.



Attorneys



JD Law Students



Volunteering



Desired Volunteers

- We Need Volunteers Who Are
 - Passionate about immigration and social justice
 - Detail oriented and organized
 - Enthusiastic and creative
 - Possess strong communication and writing skills
 - Bilingual in English and Spanish (preferred but not required)



A Couple Things to Know...

- Security of our clients is paramount
- Fingerprints and background check
- Confidentiality is important
- Working with children
- Working with trauma survivors



Requirements:

- Other than interpreters, volunteers are expected to commit at least 8 hours a week for a minimum of a semester or six month period.
- Volunteer work takes place between Monday and Friday during regular business hours.
- Background check
- Confidentiality
- Time Recording
- Can-do attitude and flexibility



What Specific Opportunities exist?



Volunteer Opportunities: Interpreter/Translator

- What will you do?
 - Interpret for clients at USCIS asylum interviews and practice interviews
 - Anaheim, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana
 - Translate Documents
- You will also
 - Help a child at risk of deportation
 - Learn about immigration law
 - Advance social justice for minors
 - Connect to immigrant rights advocates
 - Develop professional interpretation skills



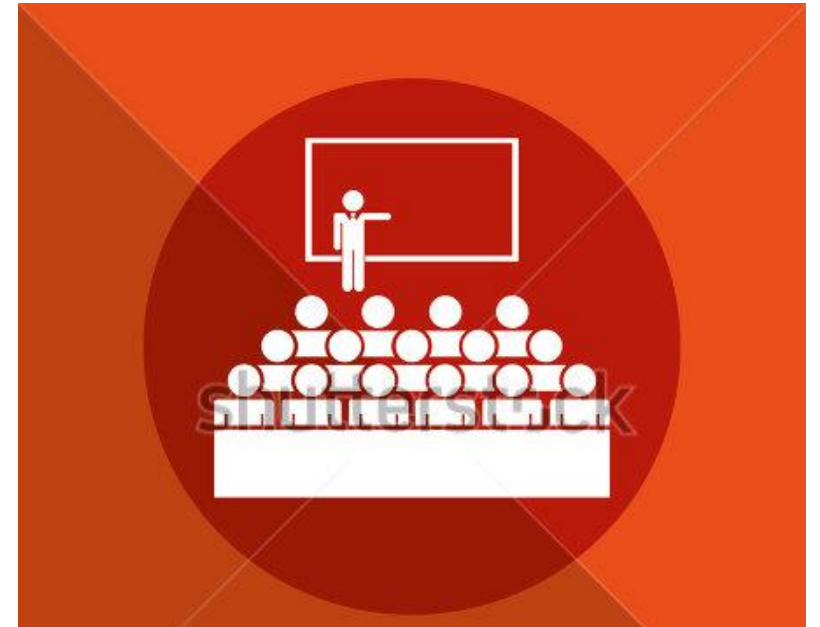
Interpreter Requirements and Training

■ Requirements

- Working proficiency in English and Spanish
- Driver's license or willingness to travel on public transportation
- Experience working with children is a bonus
- We have a particular need for interpreters for Mayan languages including Kanjobal, Mam, Quiche, etc. If you or someone you know can help, let us know!
- No prior experience needed
- Flexible schedule

■ Training

- Talking to the attorney and client
- Reviewing the client's declaration
- Attend a training workshop
- Practice, practice, practice!



Volunteer Opportunities: Administrative Assistance

■ Duties include:

- Answering phones, copying filings
- Answering email enquiries, filing, and database upkeep
- Outreach to language schools, law schools, local bar, and legal organizations
- General research for events and programs
- Creating flyers, forms, and presentations

■ Requirements

- Attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and follow instructions
- Creativity and initiative

■ Training

- General Orientation
- Not specific
- Close supervision
- Open door policy



Volunteer Opportunities: Event Planning

- What will you do?
 - Training Workshops (Interpreter, Pro Bono Attorney)
 - Wellness Activities
 - Social Events
- Requirements
 - Attention to detail
 - Ability to work independently and follow instructions
 - Creativity and initiative
- Training
 - General orientation
 - Not specific
 - Close supervision
 - Open door policy



Volunteer Opportunities: Fundraising

- Plan events
- Suggest ideas
- Engage with the community
- Requirements
 - Attention to detail
 - Ability to work independently and follow instructions
 - Creativity and initiative
- Training
 - General Orientation
 - Not specific
 - Close supervision
 - Open door policy



Volunteer Opportunities: Social Media/Community Outreach



- Web development and design
 - PHP, HTML, JavaScript
- Facebook
- Generally help us be more IT savvy. For example, help us with Mail Chimp.
- Training
 - Learning on your own
 - Not specific
 - We are relying on your skills
- Requirements
 - Have some working knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Php, or WordPress



JD Opportunities:

- Summer Internships
- Fall and Spring Externships
- Year long fellowships



JD Law Students



- Work under the supervision of Esperanza Attorneys to defend immigrants in removal proceedings.
- Work under the supervision of our Community Education Managers to educate and empower immigrants in their legal cases.
- Requirements:
 - Must have strong legal research and writing skills.
 - Experience in immigration law, asylum law, criminal law, probate law and civil procedure is a bonus.
 - Spanish language skills preferred but not essential.
 - Desire to learn immigration removal defense.

JD Responsibilities:

- Interview clients, conduct legal research and investigate country conditions
- Research and author legal memoranda and briefs on novel legal issues
- Attend court hearings and appear in court
- Empower children and detained adults through “Know Your Rights Presentations” and workshops



Attorneys

- This opportunity is perfect for new attorneys seeking trial experience, attorneys seeking to expand their expertise, and immigration attorneys.



- You Can Help:
 - a child survivor of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.
 - an individual fleeing from persecution and seeking asylum.
 - An entire family in removal proceedings
 - a detainee at Adelanto to remain with family in the US.
 - a detainee at Adelanto get bond.
- Not quite ready to take your own case?
 - Be a Guardian Ad Litem.
 - Volunteer in our office on our cases.
 - Assist at a Pro Se workshop.

Come to a training!

Contact us about learning more!

We provide individualized assistance!

Job Opportunities

- Job openings at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project are advertised by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles on behalf of Esperanza.
- For current opportunities see <http://www.Idealist.org> . To apply, please follow the instructions provided in the job advertisement.
- At least half of our current staff started at Esperanza as volunteers



FAQs



- Where to park at Esperanza?
 - Parking lot at Colombia Ave & James M. Wood Blvd
- What do I need to do for the background check?
 - Fingerprint & confidentiality forms. Fingerprints can be done for free at the Archdiocese office at 3424 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90010 with appointment. Call at (213)637-7000 for available times. Other locations are available also.
- What are the hours?
 - For interpreters it is on a case by case basis.
 - For volunteers it is Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.
- What is the office environment like?
 - Everyone is very helpful and friendly! ☺ Don't be shy to ask questions.
- Can I work from home?
 - Ideally you will work in the office, however working from home is a possibility for certain projects.
- Can I get school credit for volunteering?
 - If you can organize this with your school we will happily certify your hours and work.

Recap: General Requirements and Training Overview

- Requirements
 - Attention to detail
 - Ability to work independently and follow instructions
 - Creativity and initiative
- Training
 - General Orientation
 - Not specific
 - Close supervision
 - Open door policy

- Have particular skills or talents you think we can use? Let us know!



"I change myself, I change the world" –Gloria Anzaldua

"The best way to find yourself is to loose yourself in the service of others." –Gandhi

"When the story of these times gets written, we want to say we did all we could and it was more than anyone could have imagined!" -Bono