



Fall 2023 California Legal Services Intern

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 18 priority deadline

LOCATION: Hybrid / must be based in Northern California

Project ANAR is seeking fall interns for Afghan immigration legal services! This position is hybrid, with most work conducted remotely and weekly/monthly in-person client work in the Bay Area. Law students will be prioritized but undergraduates are eligible. Interns are expected to work roughly 15 hours a week and start on or around September 15, 2023, for 12 weeks. Details can be finalized based upon individual semester schedules.

Organizational background: Project ANAR is an Afghan community immigration Justice organization, co-founded and led by Afghan American women. Project ANAR works nationally to advocate for pathways to family reunification and refuge for Afghans outside the U.S., permanent legal status for those in the U.S., and ultimately, an end to the systems that displace Afghans. Project ANAR's work consists of legal services, community education, and advocacy. Our direct legal services work is primarily focused in Northern California. Project ANAR began out of necessity as a legal services mutual aid effort to assist our own loved ones seeking a pathway to refuge in August 2021, particularly through Humanitarian Parole applications. Our legal services work presently focuses on assisting the hundreds of Afghan parolees in our region who are set to run out of temporary legal status between August and September 2023, and need outreach, education, and direct legal assistance to pursue asylum, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and other pathways. We also increasingly track issues faced by and offer assistance to Afghans who arrive via the Southern Border and find themselves detained in ICE custody and/or in removal proceedings. As an Afghan community organization, we also advocate more broadly for our diaspora community, in coalition with other community organizations, immigration organizations, and others. Past work has included an amicus brief challenging the seizure of Afghan assets, and co-hosting a town hall to hold government officials accountable to answering our community's questions. Project ANAR is a project fiscally sponsored by Pangea Legal Services, a 501(c)3 non-profit immigration organization based in San Francisco, CA. We lead our own work and mirror their horizontal leadership and pay structure and pay all of our staff equally, regardless of background or education level. Project ANAR's team works primarily remotely, but does limited in person client work in the San Francisco Bay Area, usually every 2 weeks.

Logistics: Interns are expected to work 15 hours a week. We encourage interns to seek external funding for their internships or class credit.

Description:

Interns will work primarily in direct legal services with California-based Afghan parolees. 80,000 Afghans have been relocated to the U.S. under temporary parole status since August 2021, with the majority facing a looming deadline to pursue asylum and access permanent legal status here. The Bay Area is one of the primary resettlement locations for Afghans in the U.S.

Interns will assist with attorney and legal assistant work, and/or take on tasks that attorneys and legal assistants conduct, including client screenings and intakes, working on asylum applications, legal



research, Temporary Protected Status Applications, Adjustment of Status applications, and/or assisting in defensive asylum/removal proceedings cases.

Interns may also assist with family reunification cases, including humanitarian parole and refugee follow-to-join petitions. Interns may also assist with other projects as needed, including some advocacy projects and community outreach and education efforts.

Interns will have an opportunity to engage in coalition work with other organizations, and contribute to the development of Project ANAR resources.

Responsibilities:

- + Completing client screenings and intakes, including at on-site tabling events
- + Supporting all stages of the asylum application process, including drafting I-589s, interviewing clients & drafting declarations, conducting country conditions research, and assisting with interview preparation
- + Assisting with advocacy at the Asylum Office for cases that surpass the decision deadline and following up with clients to collect data and assess case outcomes
- + Assisting with other types of immigration applications as needed, including parole, TPS, SIV, family based petitions, and responding to RFEs and NOIDs
- + Staffing in-person legal clinics and other community events approximately once per month
- + Assisting in virtual and in-person Know Your Rights legal presentations
- + Monitoring trends and changes related to U.S. immigration policy towards Afghans
- + Assisting in development of legal resources and materials
- + Assisting with advocacy and litigation projects as needed
- + Working collaboratively with team of attorneys, legal assistants, volunteers, and other interns
- + Attending weekly team check-ins and individual check-ins with supervising attorney

Requirements:

- + Prior law school coursework and/or practical experience in immigration law
- + Ability to work remotely and to join regular weekly meetings
- + Familiarity with Google Suite
- + Commitment to trauma-informed client interactions
- + Ability to track news and trends related to Afghan immigration and to adapt to changing policies
- + Commitment to teamwork and collaboration
- + Strong communication skills
- + Dari, Farsi, and/or Pashto fluency (oral and written, but particularly oral) strongly preferred

Please contact legal@projectanar.org with any questions.