



AMERICORPS JD PROGRAM- New York State Family Security Project

AGENCY DESCRIPTION: _The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (VLP) provides quality free civil legal services to low income people and effectively involves volunteers in the delivery of those services. A substantial portion of VLP's staff is dedicated to immigration legal services.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The New York State Family Security Project will engage 106 law students to serve as AmeriCorps members around the state of New York who are focused on fostering family security and community education through the delivery of high-quality legal services.

AmeriCorps JD: New York State Family Security Project

New York State Family Security Project law student members will improve family stability and community safety in the state of New York. Law student members serving at organizations that host Equal Justice Works New York State Family Security Project Legal Fellows will focus specifically on assisting the Fellows with representing clients in immigration court and before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), screening clients and preparing immigration applications, providing brief legal advice and legal aid, educating the community on the impact of evolving immigration law and policy, and engaging pro bono attorneys to provide legal assistance to immigrants and their families.

Attitude and General Responsibilities

- Support program staff, your supervisor, and administrative staff in duties as appropriate and necessary.
- Consult with your supervisor if you have any ideas, issues, or concerns, offering analysis and solutions whenever possible.
- Practice sound health habits, including getting sufficient rest, to effectively perform the position requirements.
- Respect confidentiality of clients, staff, and other AmeriCorps members.

Program leadership

- Make connections with individuals and volunteers in the community for program outreach and program enhancement.
- Assist AmeriCorps members and staff in programming and activities
- Train and assist volunteers when appropriate.

Program-specific duties

- Support the Immigration legal work of VLP and its Equal Justice Works Fellow
- Handle legal research
- Help draft/prepare briefs, memos, applications and petitions
- Observe/assist with Immigration Court work

Citizenship training and responsibilities

- Participate in AmeriCorps training and national service events as required and requested by the New York State Commission

Program training

- Participate in orientation training.
- Participate in substantive legal issue training as provided by Equal Justice Works

Skill requirements: Essential functions include the ability to:

- Be a law student in good standing
- Have prior immigration law experience either through employment, law school clinics, or classroom work
- Prior demonstrated interest in public interest and/or immigration law
- Fluency in Spanish is a plus, but not required

Program Benefits: The New York State Family Security Project AmeriCorps JD program is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides law students with the opportunity to earn an AmeriCorps education award of \$1,252 that can be used to pay educational expenses or student loans. Students may seek up to \$4,399 in additional compensation for their service, for a total of up to \$5,651 in compensation. The \$4,399 in additional compensation may be funded by a Federal Work Study Award, the student's law school, local bar foundation, and/or other public interest fellowship award. In addition, students are welcome to hold outside employment to supplement their income.

Students must complete 300 hours of service and complete these hours by September 1, 2018 unless prior approval is given by Equal Justice Works. Requirements to serve include completion of a National Sex Offender Public Registry check, state criminal background check(s), FBI Fingerprint criminal background check, and submission of proof of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency.

LOCATIONS: VLP's new office in downtown Buffalo located at 438 Main St., 7th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202

TO APPLY: Please send a resume, letter of interest, and contact information for 2 references to Emma Buckthal, Senior Immigration Staff Attorney, ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, 438 Main St., 7th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202 or ebuckthal@ecbavlp.com. Once you have secured an AmeriCorps JD service position with your host organization, apply to be enrolled in the AmeriCorps JD program through our [Student Application Manager](#). More information is available at <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/americorpsjd>.

The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Application Deadline: December 15, 2017, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.