

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:
Immigrant Children's Assistance Project (ICAP) Attorney
Harlingen, TX
Available September 1, 2008
(flexible start date)



American Bar Association
South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR)

ProBAR seeks to hire an Immigrant Children's Assistance Project (ICAP) Attorney to provide immigration counseling and representation to both detained and non-detained unaccompanied minors in South Texas. This position is based in Harlingen, Texas and will begin in September of 2008.

Description of ProBAR:

ProBAR's mission is to provide high quality pro bono representation to indigent immigrants and asylum seekers in South Texas. ProBAR, established in 1989, is a joint project of the ABA, the State Bar of Texas, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). The ICAP Attorney will work to maintain and expand ProBAR's work on behalf of unaccompanied immigrant children, which is funded by the Texas Bar Foundation, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and AILA. In South Texas, ORR detains more unaccompanied minors than in any other area of the United States. Children who are detained in this region come mainly from Central America. Over the years, ProBAR has developed innovative legal theories for children applying for asylum and other forms of relief.

Job Responsibilities and Position Description:

The ICAP Attorney will provide a full range of legal assistance to unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children who are held in ORR custody, as well as to those living in and around the Rio Grande Valley. The ICAP Attorney will regularly visit children's detention centers, and provide legal orientations and direct representation in children's cases including asylum, U & T visas, and Special Immigrant Juvenile status petitions. The ICAP Attorney will assist other ICAP team members with coordinating pro bono representation for children applying for relief from removal. The ICAP Attorney will also help to educate family court judges, other lawyers, and child welfare workers about potential immigration remedies for children. He/she will also assist with social service referrals, and contribute to relevant national advocacy efforts. The ICAP Attorney will be trained and supervised by ProBAR's Director and ICAP Pro Bono Coordinator. The ICAP Attorney will supervise four paralegals, and work closely with the ICAP Pro Bono Coordinator, other legal service providers, ORR and the Vera Institute of Justice, the immigration court, detention center staff, and the private bar to serve the needs of unaccompanied immigrant children.

Qualifications Sought: The Children's Attorney should have knowledge and experience in immigration law and immigration court procedures, and preferably, in working with children; ability to work well as a team player; ability to supervise and delegate; flexibility and strong communication skills; and an appreciation of multicultural perspectives. The candidate must be admitted to any state bar, or have taken a bar examination and be waiting for results by the start date. Spanish proficiency is required.

Compensation: The Children's Attorney will be hired as staff of the American Bar Association, and will receive compensation commensurate with qualifications and a generous benefits package.

Application: Please submit, by mail or e-mail, a cover letter describing your interest in the position, along with a resume, writing sample, and three references to: Meredith Linsky, Director, ProBAR, 301 E. Madison Avenue, Harlingen, Texas 78550 as soon as possible. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, and an interview will be required of finalists. Please direct questions to Meredith Linsky at (956) 425-9231 or by e-mail to: linskym@staff.abanet.org.