

SUMMARY:

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) seeks a **full-time Spanish-speaking legal advocate** to join NWIRP's Legal Orientation Program (LOP) unit in Tacoma, WA. Applicants must be **fluent in English and Spanish**. Additional languages are encouraged. The selected applicant must be able to start the position as soon as possible. A minimum two-year commitment to the position is expected.

Under the supervision of an attorney, the legal advocate will work alongside a team primarily providing services to individuals detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC). To carry out core work duties, the LOP legal advocate is required to pass a federal background check and NWIPC security clearance. Please be aware that these security/clearance requirements may change in the future.

In LOP, you will make weekly visits to the NWIPC and help give detained individuals essential information about court procedures and available options for legal relief prior to their immigration hearings. In addition to providing these LOP services, a core aspect of the position is to complete data entry for grant reports and other administrative tasks to ensure the orderly running of the program.

The anticipated hours of work are Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, with a 30 – 60 minute unpaid lunch. Under NWIRP's current COVID policies, new staff members must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination (unless eligible for an exemption). NWIRP staff providing LOP services at the detention center are expected to use face masks when meeting with detained individuals. At the time of this posting, NWIRP staff is operating in a hybrid model, and some in-office work will be expected of this position (at least two full days per week).

This position involves some travel to client meeting locations. A valid driver's license will be required in order to meet these expectations.

ABOUT NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT:

Founded in 1984, NWIRP is a nationally-recognized legal services organization on the front lines of defending and advancing the rights of immigrants. Each year, NWIRP provides direct legal representation and assistance in immigration matters to thousands of people with low incomes who come from over 150 countries and speak over 60 different languages. NWIRP challenges unjust policies through high-impact lawsuits and advocates for laws and policies that respect the rights of immigrants. NWIRP is also a trusted provider of immigration-related community education for immigrant communities and social service providers. NWIRP has a staff of over 150 and an annual budget of over \$20 million. NWIRP serves the community through four offices in Washington State (Granger, Seattle, Tacoma and Wenatchee), but the impact of our work is felt nationwide.

NWIRP's Legal Orientation Program (LOP) Unit is located in Tacoma, WA. NWIRP's LOP unit serves immigrants detained at the NWIPC, the vast majority of whom are unrepresented. Through the LOP, a team of attorneys, DOJ Accredited Representatives, and legal advocates give detained individuals essential information about court procedures and available options for legal relief prior to their immigration hearings. The LOP consists of four primary components: (1) group orientations; (2) individual sessions; (3) self-help training in the form of pro se workshops; and (4) referral of cases to pro bono attorneys.

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION:

This is a non-exempt, hourly position, with a base salary dependent on experience. The beginning annual salary is \$66,531.38 (\$36.55 per hour) and is higher depending on years of directly relevant experience. For example, if you have 10 years of directly relevant experience the annual compensation would be \$77,950.77 (\$42.83 per hour); 20 years would be \$89,043.22 (\$48.92 per hour).

NWIRP is proud to be a unionized employer and this full-time position is covered by NWIRP's Collective Bargaining Agreement. NWIRP offers a generous benefits package, including:

- Fully paid health, vision & dental plans for employee-level coverage with employer-funded HRA and HSA options
- FSA and Dependent Care accounts
- Automatic employer contribution of 3% to 403(b) retirement plan
- Generous paid vacation (16 days during your first year)
- 12 days of paid health leave per year
- 16 days paid vacation in your first year (with additional days in subsequent years)
- 12 weeks of paid parental leave after 6 months of employment, plus the ability to extend with State-paid leave
- 14 paid holidays with the ability to float 5 holidays
- Paid authorized absences for attending workshops, conferences and other educational/training programs
- Employer-paid disability, life, AD&D and long-term care insurance
- 4 weeks of paid sabbatical after every five years of employment at NWIRP
- Eligibility to earn compensatory time
- Relocation bonus, if relocating over 100 miles for the role
- Free parking on-site

NWIRP is an eligible employer under the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY, EQUITY AND REPRESENTATION:

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project is an equal opportunity employer committed to having a diverse staff, board, and volunteer base reflective of the communities we serve and that enhances our ability to create a vibrant environment where all members of the NWIRP community thrive. We strongly encourage applications from individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants (including individuals who were formerly detained, undocumented, or who have navigated the immigration legal system), women, people with disabilities, members of the LGBT

community, and other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups.

NWIRP is committed to providing a work environment free from discrimination and harassment. NWIRP does not discriminate on the basis of class, race, color, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, political ideology, age, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability. Excepting any undue hardship, NWIRP will provide reasonable accommodations upon request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. Please contact HR@nwirp.org.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Legal advocates are expected to:

- Under attorney supervision:
 - Conduct weekly in-person presentations in Spanish and English to persons detained at the immigration detention center in Tacoma, WA;
 - Conduct intakes in one-on-one in-person sessions with detained individuals;
 - Conduct in-person self-help workshops for unrepresented detained individuals seeking relief from removal;
 - Assist in the maintenance of the schedule for daily detention center visits, record phone and email messages regarding detained individuals to be seen, and provide other administrative support for the LOP program, including creating information packets, maintaining files, etc.;
- Perform data entry regarding the services provided at the NWIPC, including the preparation of monthly status reports;
- Maintain and adapt ongoing working knowledge of significant policies, laws, and trends in immigration law, particularly as it impacts low-income immigrants and those impacted by the criminal justice system;
- Translate documents and provide interpretation;
- Review and edit documents for accuracy and completeness;
- Perform administrative tasks related to grant reporting, such as timekeeping, submitting timesheets, tracking training, and other duties in a timely manner;
- Participate in NWIRP's outreach, community education and development efforts; and
- Perform other tasks and responsibilities assigned by supervisory staff depending upon NWIRP's needs.

Physical demands: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit, stand and walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; talk and hear; utilize a phone, computer, keyboard, pen and paper. Job duties may require occasional work outside core business hours. Travel will be required within the city of Tacoma. Travel reimbursements apply.

Emotional demands: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to discuss topics including, but not limited to: discrimination; child abuse, neglect, and abandonment; domestic abuse; sexual assault; human trafficking; violence, and psychological trauma. The employee must carry the emotional demands of working in a detention center environment multiple times a week.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Demonstrated commitment to advancing and defending the rights of immigrants and willingness to support NWIRP's [mission, vision, and values](#);
- Oral and written fluency in English and Spanish (additional languages are encouraged);
- Excellent written and oral communication, and presentation skills, and the ability to present information clearly and concisely (verbally and in writing);
- Experience working in a legal setting is preferred;
- Familiarity working with interpreters is preferred;
- Commitment to working with a diverse community and in a challenging working environment;
- Commitment to creating a welcoming and professional inclusive environment for staff and clients;
- Ability to provide trauma-informed and culturally inclusive legal representation;
- Availability to complete work with flexibility, striving to accomplish work during NWIRP's core business hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Pacific), but understanding that evening and weekend hours may be required to meet urgent deadlines;
- Experience working with competing, strict deadlines and multitasking;
- Ability to work independently (with competing deadlines) as well as in a team environment;
- Sound judgment and decision-making skills;
- Strong organizational skills;
- Proficiency in use of web-based software, Microsoft Office applications, including Word and Excel, and web peer-to-peer communication platforms; Familiar with G-suite tools like Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Gmail; and
- The applicant must have a valid driver's license as the position involves some travel.

REPORTS TO:

Supervising Attorney

TO APPLY:

You will need to upload a single file document including your cover letter, resume, and list of 3 references via our careers page: <https://secure3.entertimeonline.com/ta/90199.careers?CareersSearch>. For your cover letter, please describe 1) how your lived or work experience makes you a good fit for this role; and 2) what are some challenges you are aware of that pose barriers to providing legal advocacy to immigrant client populations. **The deadline to apply is July 19, 2024. However, qualified applicants will be considered for the position on a rolling basis from the date of this posting until the position is filled.**