



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS



Equal Justice America Immigration Fellowship for a Columbia law graduate with the Dilley Pro Bono Project

The Dilley Pro Bono Project, a collaboration of the American Immigration Council, American Immigration Lawyers Association, CLINIC and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, is pleased to announce a post-graduate fellowship for graduating or recently graduated Columbia Law School students in partnership with Equal Justice America.

Since 1993, Equal Justice America has provided opportunities for law students and lawyers to work with legal aid programs across the country. The Dilley Pro Bono Project provides free legal services to asylum-seeking mothers and their children who are detained at the South Texas Family Residential Center (“STFRC”) in Dilley, Texas. The Dilley Project’s on-the-ground team of lawyers, legal assistants, and weekly volunteers work to ensure every family receives access to counsel and critical legal information while detained. The Project simultaneously monitors, documents, and sheds light upon ongoing civil and human rights violations that occur at STFRC.

Equal Justice America is funding a two year fellow from Columbia School of Law to serve as an attorney with the Dilley Pro Bono Project while employed at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. The position will begin in Fall 2020 and conclude in Fall 2022. The fellow’s duties will include, but not be limited to:

- Providing Know Your Rights presentations;
- Training and supervising volunteer attorneys and non-attorneys, as experience permits;
- Providing direct representation in credible and reasonable fear proceedings before the asylum office;
- Representing the Dilley Project at local coalition meetings and participating in local and national advocacy initiatives concerning asylum-seeking families;
- Identifying and documenting civil and human rights violations, including: failure to provide adequate medical care, failure to comply with regulatory and statutory rights imbedded in the expedited removal process, violations of educational and religious rights, violations of the Rehabilitation Act, and lack of language access for rare language speakers; and
- Providing direct representation before the Executive Office of Immigration Review in removal proceedings, custody/bond proceedings, and negative credible and reasonable fear review hearings.

The fellow will also provide quarterly reports to Equal Justice America and share their fellowship experience with the Equal Justice America community through frequent blog articles and other means. **The fellow will receive a competitive salary equal to a first-year attorney at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, plus a generous benefits package.**

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Applicants must graduate with a J.D. degree from Columbia School of Law in May 2020, or must have graduated from Columbia School of Law May 2016 or later.
- Applicants must be admitted or have an application for admission pending in any state. Bar admission to the State of Texas is strongly preferred.
- Applicants must be bilingual in English and Spanish (speaking, oral comprehension, reading and writing).
- Strong writing and communication skills;
- Ability to work well in an unpredictable and high stress environment;
- Willingness to work untypical hours, including nights and weekends;
- Previous experience working in immigration law, with refugee populations, children and/or asylum-seekers is highly preferred.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications must include a resume, three references, and a detailed cover letter describing how you would contribute to the Dilley Project's work and your desired start/end dates. Application may be submitted electronically to: Robert Doggett, Executive Director, at RDoggett@trla.org, and Shalyn Fluharty, Managing Attorney at the Dilley Pro Bono Project shay@caraprobono.org . Please use "EJA-Dilley Fellowship" as the email subject line. Please cc Dan Ruben, Executive Director of Equal Justice America at dan@equaljusticeamerica.org . The deadline for applications is January 31, 2020.