



2019 Summer Program – Legal Intern

About Safe Passage Project

Safe Passage Project provides free lawyers to 800 child refugees who are being deported.

Many children embark alone on the long and dangerous journey to the United States seeking protection. They are fleeing trauma such as gang violence and recruitment, abuse, and sexual assault. In 2017, the federal government reported apprehending over 40,000 immigrant children seeking entry to the United States. Closer to home, the New York Immigration Court has more than 15,000 cases involving children on its docket.

Immigrant children are not afforded free legal representation by the government, regardless of their age. As a result, more than half of immigrant children must go through immigration proceedings without the aid of a lawyer. Unable to effectively argue their claim for the legal protections they may qualify for, more than 80% of these children are issued deportation orders. To many, this means returning to the danger from which they fled.

This is where [Safe Passage Project](#) steps in, providing free legal assistance to these refugee and immigrant children in New York City and Long Island who are facing removal despite their strong legal claim to stay in the United States.

Check out recent press on our work in [The New Yorker](#) and [Glamour](#).

About the Legal Intern Role

We seek law student interns to be an exciting addition to our team of lawyers, paralegals, and social workers. Interns will be assigned either one or two supervisors, have regular check-in meetings, and have two designated feedback sessions with their supervisors. We will offer a day-long comprehensive orientation at the beginning of the summer to give support and guidance for us to have a great summer. Cases may involve Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, U non-immigrant status, and DACA renewals. The work may involve supporting staff attorneys who are directly representing children or help guide volunteer lawyers who take on an individual case.

Responsibilities

Interns receive hands-on experience, such as meeting clients, helping write affidavits, and helping prepare legal filings. Interns also help develop case strategy, conduct legal research, review reports about country conditions, and conduct initial screenings. Interns also work together on a broad, coordinated research project and present their research to the staff at the end of the summer. Interns must take ownership of their projects, track their assignments, provide feedback to their supervisors, and share creative legal strategies that they may think of.

We seek someone who is

- A law student in good standing at an accredited law school
- Open to giving and receiving feedback
- Flexible and willing to roll up your sleeves and work on a variety of assignments
- Able to meet deadlines and work independently
- Some interns will spend a few days a week in our Garden City office (we reimburse LIRR train tickets)
- Enthusiastic to work in a scrappy, innovative environment

Compensation

We are unable to offer compensation for the internship, but we encourage finding external funding. We reimburse for travel to our Garden City office on Long Island and to court hearings, but not for travel to our NYC office.

General Information

- Official starting date: Monday, June 3, 2019. There is a required orientation that day.
- Full-time commitment for at least eight weeks. Interns can ask us to break up the weeks into two blocks and to take a week off in between them. Interns can choose to intern for more than eight weeks.

How to apply

Please submit a resume that lists any language skills and a cover letter to internships@safepassageproject.org. Please use the subject line "Legal Intern" in your email.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Our application period closes on March 1, 2019.

Safe Passage Project is an equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color, LGBTQ people, veterans and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.