

2021 Summer Program – College Intern



Safe Passage Project provides free lawyers to over 1,000 immigrant youth. 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 government reported that they apprehended over 40,000 immigrant children seeking entry to the United States – a number that has held depressingly steady. 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 removal 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 immigrant youth in New York City and Long Island who are facing removal despite their strong legal claim to stay in the United States. Our lawyers both directly represent clients as well as mentor pro bono volunteer attorneys who take on cases with Safe Passage Project. The most common forms of relief we seek for our clients are Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and asylum. We regularly practice before NYC Immigration Court, NY Family Court, the Asylum Office, USCIS, and the Administrative Appeals Office.

About the College Intern Role

We consider college interns to be an important and exciting addition to our diverse 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. While our internship will be fully virtual this summer, we will offer a comprehensive orientation at the beginning of the summer and several virtual brown bag lunches throughout the internship with staff attorneys discussing important legal topics and participating in Q&A sessions with our interns. Interns will work on cases that may involve Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, U non-immigrant status, adjustment of status, naturalization, or DACA renewals. You will work with Safe Passage staff who are directly representing clients or supporting pro bono volunteer attorneys.

Responsibilities

Interns receive hands-on experience with a variety of tasks. These tasks may include country condition research, interpretation at virtual client meetings, translation of documents from Spanish to English, , participating in virtual legal screenings, and observing virtual Immigration

Court and Family Court appearances. Interns must take ownership of their projects, track their assignments, and provide feedback to their supervisors.

We seek someone who is

- Either attending college or has graduated from college
- Fluent in Spanish or another language spoken by the young people we serve (please indicate your language skills in your application)
- Open to giving and receiving feedback
- Flexible and willing to roll up their sleeves and work on a variety of assignments
- Able to meet deadlines and work independently
- Enthusiastic to work in a scrappy, innovative environment

Compensation

We are unable to offer compensation for the internship, but we encourage finding external funding.

General Information

- Official start date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021. There is a **required** orientation that day.
- Full-time commitment for at least six-eight weeks.
- We are willing to consider a candidate with a later start date (mid June/early July) if the candidate seeks to end their internship in August.

How to apply

Please complete the short questionnaire, submit a resume that lists any language skills, and submit a cover letter [here](#).

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Our application period closes on March 15, 2021.

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