



Law Student Opportunities: Summer 2022

For over 90 years, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has been the frontline law firm for low-income people in Los Angeles. LAFLA is committed to promoting access to justice, strengthening communities, fighting poverty, and affecting systemic change through representation, advocacy, and community education. Applications for our Summer Law Clerk Program are reviewed on a rolling basis. Interested students may apply online at <https://lafla.org/get-involved/probono-volunteer/>.

***Special Announcement:** LAFLA has launched the [Equity and Inclusion Fellowship \(LEIF\) Program](#). LEIF application information will be available online in January 2022.

For the Summer 2022 Program, law students may apply for positions with the following teams:

Asian Pacific Islander Outreach Project (API Project) is charged with the task of assisting and connecting API, limited English proficient or monolingual individuals and families to legal services in all of LAFLA's substantive areas. The API Project specializes in working with survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, torture, and other related crimes in the areas of family and immigration law, as well as others. Clerks will staff and screen language lines, staff community clinics, draft pleadings, interpret/translate, and prepare pleadings. Bilingual capacity in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Hindi or Japanese is required.

Economic Stability Workgroup (ESWG) seeks law clerks to work on either government benefits cases or student loan cases. Clerks will interview clients, conduct legal research, draft pleadings, and prepare cases for administrative hearing or trial. Clerks may also help staff clinics.

Eviction Defense Center/Right to Counsel (EDC/RTC) advocates for Los Angeles renters by defending them in eviction proceedings, advocating for repairs in slum housing, protecting renters' rights under local rent control laws, and preserving subsidized housing. Clerks will write research memoranda; draft pleadings, discovery, and motions; prepare cases for trial; interview clients; help develop materials on Know Your Rights Webinars; and make appearances in Superior Court with their supervising attorney. Certified law students may also argue motions under the close supervision of one of our attorneys.

Homeless Prevention Workgroup focuses on assisting clients who are at-risk of homelessness in maintaining their housing and in removing barriers to housing for those who are already homeless. Students will be exposed to multiple substantive areas of law with a particular focus on issues involving housing, government benefits, reasonable accommodations, and expungement of criminal records. Law clerks will develop skills in client interviewing, research and writing, and litigation. Spanish bilingual capacity is preferred.

Housing and Communities Workgroup (HoCo) advocates for the creation and preservation of affordable housing, increasing economic power of low-income communities, bolstering environmental justice and equity, combatting unlawful housing practices and defending and strengthening civil rights. Students will assist with legal research and litigation tasks such as investigations, discovery, client interviewing, and drafting documents, as well as staff a weekly community legal clinic, and participate in coalitions with community organizations. Students may also assist with transactional law tasks, such as reviewing real

estate due diligence materials, drafting acquisition/property management or loan financing-related documents, and preparing memorandums of understanding.

Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) Team focuses on community lawyering in a health care setting. The team meets clients where they are most vulnerable, at the doctor's office, conducted remotely during COVID-19 Stay-At-Home Orders. MLP works to overcome legal barriers so clients can focus on their health. Students will be exposed to multiple substantive areas of law and will develop skills in client interviewing, and research and writing. Law clerks will conduct intake, meet with clients remotely, prepare court pleadings, immigration petitions, and declarations.

Restoring Communities (ReCo) workgroup focuses on assisting those with criminal records in removing barriers to successful re-entry back into society. The team's work covers all areas of law from housing to family law and occupational licensing and specializes in criminal record clearing/expungement. Students will conduct intake and meet with clients remotely, conduct research, draft motions, prepare petitions and declarations and have the opportunity to attend hearings with workgroup attorneys.

Renters Small Claims (RSC): RSC is a new project at LAFLA that assists tenants sued in small claims court for COVID-19 back rent and works to help tenants with bringing affirmative cases against their landlords for harassment, failure to provide a habitable premises, and failure to return security deposits. RSC works to educate tenants on the small claims court process and assist them with presenting their case at their small claims court hearing. Students will have the opportunity to conduct client intake and interviews; assist in preparing for and presenting at RSC's tenant-assistance clinics; and draft pro per letters and small claims court filings.

Racial Justice: The Racial Justice Law Clerk will work directly with the Director of Racial Justice and Equity on administrative appeals, litigation, and policy work across LAFLA's substantive practice areas. The law clerk will help with development of LAFLA's racial justice training program, planning and programming for LAFLA's Race Equity Initiative, and provide support on individual cases as needed. The law clerk will develop skills in research and writing, policy, and litigation.

Santa Monica Office provides a unique opportunity to experience a holistic approach to practicing law. The office provides low-income Santa Monica residents with a wide range of legal services including housing, family law, government benefits assistance, and affirmative litigation. Students will have the opportunity to conduct client interviews; draft pleadings, discovery, motions and declarations; prepare cases for trial and staff the domestic violence clinic located at the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Supporting Families Workgroup (SFWG) focuses on family and immigration law. Students will conduct intake interviews, meet with clients, prepare court pleadings, immigration petitions, and declarations. Candidate should have experience working with domestic violence and crime survivors. Spanish bilingual capacity is strongly preferred.

Veteran's Justice Center (VJC) provides holistic legal services to low-income veterans in Los Angeles County with a particular focus on (1) housing and communities, (2) economic stability, (3) VA benefits, and (4) employment barriers. VJC clerks will have the opportunity to develop expertise in multiple substantive areas of law, and to develop skills in litigation, research and writing, client interviewing, and policy work. Veteran candidates are highly encouraged to apply.