



Law Student Opportunities: Spring 2023

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 spring law clerks and externships are open and reviewed on a rolling basis. Interested students may apply online at www.lafla.org/get-involved/probono-volunteer.

For spring 2023, 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 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.

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 accommodation, 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.

Immigration Access Workgroup (IAWG) focuses on immigration law, in both affirmative and defensive representation, including asylum, VAWA, U-Visa, T-visa, and other immigration reliefs. Law clerks will have the opportunity to conduct client interviews, perform legal research and country conditions research, participate in discovery and evidence collection, draft declarations and briefs, and more. Law clerks may also get to work closely with torture survivors. Both virtual and hybrid schedules are available. Spanish bilingual capacity strongly preferred.

Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) Team focuses on community lawyering in a health care setting. The team meets clients where they are most vulnerable, not only providing legal services to patients in person, but also participating in clinical meetings and providing trainings to healthcare clinicians and staff. MLP works to overcome legal barriers so clients can focus on

their health. Students will be exposed to multiple substantive areas of law including housing, government benefits, immigration, family law, and others. Students will develop skills in client interviewing, and research and writing. Students will conduct intake, meet with clients, prepare court pleadings, immigration petitions, and declarations.

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 the 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.

Restoring Communities (ReCo) workgroup focuses on assisting those with criminal records, remove barriers to successful re-entry back into society. This groups 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.

Self-Help Access Centers LAFLA's Self-Help Legal Access Centers ("Centers") provide assistance and resources to litigants who lack attorney representation. We operate in four Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse locations: Long Beach, Inglewood, Santa Monica, and Torrance. Our Centers are primarily focused on assisting self-represented litigants in the areas of Family Law, Unlawful Detainers (Evictions), Restraining Orders, Name Changes, Wage Garnishments and Bank Levies.

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.

Survivor and Family Justice (SFJ) focuses on family law to include domestic violence restraining orders, child abduction/safety emergency orders, parentage actions, custody and visitation orders, and dissolution of marriage. Law clerks will conduct client interviews, prepare court pleadings and client declarations, prepare cases for trial and staff the domestic violence clinics located in downtown Los Angeles and/or Long Beach.

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.