



Fellowship Opportunities

1. **Organization Name:** *Catholic Charities Community Services, Dept. of Immigration Services (CCCS)* - the Department of Immigration Services serves indigent and low-income immigrants and refugees throughout metropolitan New York and at fourteen satellite offices in its ten-county jurisdiction. With a staff of five lawyers and eleven paralegals, the Department provides low-cost and free legal representation to documented and undocumented immigrants. The Department's attorneys provide direct representation in litigated removal proceedings in administrative court, in the federal appellate and district courts, and in hearings and other proceedings in USCIS asylum and adjudication offices. The attorneys specialize in political asylum; cancellation of removal; family-based immigration; naturalization; cases involving immigrant victims of domestic abuse, severe forms of trafficking, and serious crimes; and cases of abandoned, abused, or neglected minors who have been detained at the border and are currently in detention in New York facilities.

2. **Are you a 501 (c)(3)? If not, what is your tax exempt status?** CCCS is 501(c)(3).

3. **Are you an IOLA grantee?** Yes.

4. **Contact information including name, telephone number and email address for applications.** Raluca Oncioiu, Program Director, 212-419-3762, raluca.oncioiu@archny.org.

5. **How many interns can your organization use?** We can use up to three (3) interns, preferably on a full-time basis (40 hours per week).

6. **Please fill in specific job descriptions for all internships below along with minimum time frame (e.g. 4, 6, 9 or 12 months). You may use the form to list all internships you wish to offer.**

Name of Internship (e.g. Family Law Project)	Job Description	Number of Months
1. <i>Unaccompanied Immigrant Children in Federal Custody</i>	Thousands of children - many of whom are quite young, and all of whom have crossed the U.S. border on their own – find their way into the United States every year. They come seeking a haven from war, civil conflict, persecution and domestic abuse, gang violence, or simply to escape oppressive poverty.	Minimum 9 months; 12 months preferred. Bilingual Spanish

	<p>Since 2002, children who have been apprehended the Department of Homeland Security are placed in the custody of the Office for Refugee Resettlement (ORR) until they can be released to a sponsor in the United States, placed in foster care, granted immigration relief (such as asylum, or special immigrant juvenile status), or be deported. In the New York area, these unaccompanied immigrant children are housed in two facilities, one located in Queens and the other in Dobbs Ferry, NY.</p> <p>The intern would assist CCCS and the St. John’s Law School Refugee and Immigrant Rights Clinic – which the staff attorneys teach and supervise – to provide legal orientation presentations at the facilities and legal representation in family court and immigration court proceedings.</p>	preferred.
<p>2. <i>The “Pro Bono Panel” of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.</i></p>	<p>Having been recognized as a regional leader in asylum/refugee legal representation, CCCS was appointed to the “Pro Bono Panel” of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. As a member of the “Pro Bono Panel,” CCCS has agreed to take on free representation on complex legal appellate matters involving immigration and asylum defense. Presently, the office is representing various matters in the Second Circuit, including the review of claims for asylum based on forced marriage, forced sterilization, and review of the REAL ID’s constitutionality under international law. The intern would assist in these and other cases.</p>	4-6 months minimum.
<p>3. <i>Complex Immigration Cases & Cases in Immigration Court</i></p>	<p>The intern will be trained and mentored in immigration law (including asylum, trafficking, and domestic violence cases) and will work closely with a supervising staff attorney. At least one of the staff attorneys, including the director of the department, will be available every day to advise and answer questions on substantive law and procedures. In addition, the intern will attend immigration workshops, webinars and trainings on a regular basis.</p> <p>The intern will have responsibility to prepare – under attorney supervision and direction – complex immigration cases. This will include performing legal research, drafting affidavits and legal memos, and assembling evidence for final submission. The intern, under staff attorney supervision, will also represent clients in court or in administrative hearings and thus</p>	Minimum 6 months; 9 or 12 months preferred.

	be responsible for client direct and cross-examination preparation.	
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7. **Any other perks of working in your program? (e.g. great coffee, the most compelling clients, fun colleagues etc.)** 1) Our clients have very compelling cases. 2) Our interns will be mentored by two well-respected senior immigration attorneys, who also teach an immigration clinic At St. John's University School of Law. 3) Our interns will be able to hone their litigation skills in immigration court, as well as do legal research, interact with clients, prepare cases for hearings, and draft legal briefs.

Case Examples: CCCS represents many unaccompanied immigrant minors who are held in federal custody. One of the minors the office represents is an exceptionally talented soccer player who represented his country, El Salvador, in a Central American Championship in Mexico, in 2007. He recently fled to the United States after members of the gang Mara 18 kidnapped him, drugged him, and beat him when he refused to join them. Another example is a young Honduran girl who was raped and impregnated five times by her biological father – who was eventually arrested and convicted but released from jail after a year. In both cases, CCCS has advanced theories of persecution under the 1980 Refugee Act as well as petitions for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

8. **Is there any other information you would like us to have regarding potential fellowships in your organization?**

CCCS has provided immigration legal services since 1979. CCCS's immigration attorneys, three of whom have at least eight years of immigration law experience, supervise a team of paralegals and interns and provide direct representation in administrative interviews and court proceedings before the immigration courts and other federal and state tribunals. Additionally, they teach law school clinics, provide training and serve as a resource to local practitioners from community-based organizations.

What uniquely distinguishes CCCS from other providers – whether new or old – is the combination of:

- Reliability (immigrants often turn to us after they have been victimized by unscrupulous *notarios* or inexperienced practitioners);
- Longevity (our immigration department has been continuously available to people in need of help, not just when they first come to our offices, but over their lifetime);
- Experience in immigration law and procedures (a majority of our staff has been working in the immigration field for seven years or more, and one of the staff attorneys and several of the paralegals have been practicing for well over a decade);
- Effective quality assurance protocols (we use a state-of-the-art immigration and case management database, that was customized to our specifications, to ensure that no deadlines are missed and that the thousands of cases that are open in our office are monitored and followed-up on);

- The record of our work with so many community-based organizations that serve New York's immigrants, whether by helping them directly or by indirectly offering technical assistance.

Please return by April 1, 2009 to ekocienda@nycbar.org or by fax at (212) 398-6634.