



STAFF ATTORNEY

DETENTION PROGRAMS

"PIRC is the link, it is the hope, it is the light that guides immigrants to safety."

-Michele Pistone, Villanova Law Director of Clinic for Asylum, Refugee, and Emigrant Services

POSITION DESCRIPTION

PIRC is looking for a dynamic attorney who would like to join the Detention Programs team. PIRC is on the front line of legal advocacy for vulnerable immigrants in the midst of a continually changing legal landscape. If you want to hone your legal skills and make a difference in the lives of hundreds of detained immigrants, become a part of PIRC's team.

PIRC's Detention Programs provide education and direct legal representation to vulnerable immigrants, detained by the Department of Homeland Security in Pennsylvania immigration detention facilities. PIRC provides Legal Orientation Program (LOP) services at the York County Prison in York and at the Berks County Residential Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania. PIRC also provides direct representation and pro se legal assistance to detained immigrants facing removal from the United States including the most vulnerable immigrants who are survivors of torture or other trauma, living with a mental illness, or illiterate. The PIRC Detention Programs team provides services to immigrants from countries and cultures across the world, defending them in immigration removal proceedings.

JOB PURPOSE AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Provide direct services under PIRC's Legal Orientation Program (LOP), including on-site group legal orientations, individual consultations, self-help workshops, and pro bono attorney referral services in two detention facilities; provide pro se assistance, as possible, to detained vulnerable immigrants in removal proceedings.
- Provide trial and appellate representation to detained clients facing removal under PIRC's Vulnerable Persons in Detention program including asylum-seekers, lawful permanent residents, and members of the community without status. Represent individuals deemed incompetent to represent themselves before the immigration court under the National Qualified Representative Program (NQRP), an extension of representation rights under the 2011 Franco-Gonzalez class-action decision.
- Assist with identifying cases for referral to pro bono attorneys and law clinics.
- Assist with special projects, such as PIRC's pro bono Bond Project, as assigned.
- Work closely with the Managing Attorney and Executive Director to ensure compliance with contract and grant requirements for PIRC's programs.
- Provide assistance at legal clinics within the community, occasionally, as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Other tasks, as assigned.
- Law degree and license to practice law before the bar of any state in the U.S., required.
- Fundamental knowledge of immigration law and immigration court procedures and practice, preferred.
- 1+ years of immigration practice in removal defense preferred. Relevant clinical experience or course work will be considered.
- Experience working with detained immigrants, preferred.
- Strong written and oral advocacy skills, required.
- Teaching experience and/or group presentation experience, highly desirable.
- Fluency in Spanish, required.
- Well-organized and able to work well independently and collaboratively under pressure, required.
- Demonstrated commitment to immigration issues and public interest law, preferred.

TYPE

Exempt position; full-time

Salary Range: \$51,000-\$53,000 to start. Based on experience, education and training.

LOCATION

York, PA

Relocation Assistance is available through PIRC for those willing to relocate to help us advance our mission!

Historic York County, located in the Susquehanna River Valley of South Central Pennsylvania, is a short drive from Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Baltimore, and within easy access to Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and New York City. With its low-cost living, the Susquehanna River Valley offers a quality of life, with [Harrisburg and Lancaster ranking in the top 20 places to live in the U.S.](#) More information can be found [here](#) and information about Lancaster County [here](#).

WHY PIRC

For immigrants in our community and in detention, the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) provides a unique combination of immigration legal services, advocacy, and education that provide protections to the most vulnerable immigrants in Pennsylvania. PIRC is an experienced provider of free, accessible, multilingual immigration services that empower, protect, and transform lives.

The staff at PIRC are its greatest strength. At PIRC, we strive to create a collaborative environment that encourages the sharing of ideas and victories, no matter the how large or small. PIRC offers a comprehensive benefits package including simple IRA with employer match, life insurance, health/dental/vision insurance, generous paid leave and flextime policies in a reflection of the organization's ongoing commitment to self-care. Members of PIRC are passionate, intelligent, and hardworking individuals all committed to the common cause of providing access to justice for immigrants.

Please send a cover letter, résumé, three references and a related writing sample to Jessica Snyder, Human Resource and Facilities Manager, at jsnyder@pirclaw.org

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. The Hiring Committee will begin screening resumes upon receipt.

PIRC is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive workplace. PIRC encourages applications from all qualified individuals, without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, citizenship or any other consideration prohibited by law.