

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY POSITION

DESCRIPTION

The Alameda County Public Defender has adopted a holistic model of representation. Our Immigration Unit is designed to connect a vulnerable population with critical resources while providing high quality and comprehensive legal services at the nexus of the criminal justice and the immigration systems.

By the assignment of the Public Defender, the Immigration Attorney will represent eligible clients of the Public Defender in removal proceedings before the local Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Circuit Court of Appeals and in other immigration matters in order to avoid deportation in the future.

This Immigration Attorney position is classified as a “project provisional” position in Alameda County. Additional information is available upon request.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Incumbents are expected to perform highly competent legal work, representing individuals with complex “crimmigration” issues in civil removal proceedings. The immigration attorney position furthers efforts towards the Office’s “holistic defense” model of public defense.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- (a) Defend individuals against removal from the United States, which includes representing detained and non-detained noncitizens in removal proceedings before the Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. This also includes challenges to immigration detention, legal and constitutional challenges to DHS and EOIR conduct before federal district courts, as well as post-conviction relief in state courts.
- (b) Represent noncitizens in other non-removal matters in order to avoid likely or imminent deportation in the future.
- (c) Advocate on behalf of noncitizen clients within the Alameda County criminal legal system, by engaging with judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and other service providers.

- (d) Conduct intakes and initial investigation of clients needing immigration representation to determine whether clients are eligible for Public Defender immigration services and whether they are legally eligible for immigration relief.
- (e) Work closely with attorneys in the Juvenile Branch Office in order to identify clients who are eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, as well as other immigration relief. Seek predicate orders before the Juvenile Court and pursue SIJS on behalf of eligible clients.
- (f) Provide legal consultations to public defenders practicing criminal defense regarding the immigration consequences of criminal convictions for individual noncitizen defendants accused of crimes in Alameda County on an as-needed basis.
- (g) Provide screening and brief advice to individuals regarding post-conviction relief options for vacating, modifying, reducing, reclassifying prior convictions in order to mitigate or avoid immigration consequences.
- (h) Represent noncitizens on post-conviction relief motions to vacate or modify previous convictions in order to mitigate or avoid immigration consequences.
- (i) Represent noncitizens on “clean slate” remedies, including 1203.4 dismissals, and participate in clean slate intake processes and at clean slate community events.
- (j) Stay abreast of rapidly changing crim/imm related case law coming out of the Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Board of Immigration Appeals, and other relevant authorities.

Applicants should be prepared to be assigned to carry out duties in any of the above outlined areas, including specific assignments in one of the above-outlined areas for set periods of time.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Current active membership and good standing with the California State Bar.
- Relevant experience representing noncitizens in immigration matters and/or providing immigration advisals pursuant to *Padilla v. Kentucky*.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Spanish fluency;
- 3 years or more removal defense experience, including with clients who are detained by immigration authorities;
- Post-Conviction Relief litigation experience;
- Experience advising criminal defense attorneys as to immigration consequences of criminal convictions;
- Federal court practice experience;
- Demonstrated ability to use and prioritize a holistic, trauma-informed and client-centered approach to legal practice.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Written and oral communication
- Legal research
- Analysis and problem solving
- Planning, organization, and time management
- Concentration for long periods at a time
- Knowledge of philosophy and practice of public defense in the United States
- Knowledge of laws, ethics, and policies governing the Public Defender's Office
- Ability to present legal arguments effectively in oral and written form
- Ability to inspire confidence in clients and work effectively with colleagues and representatives of other agencies
- Ability to handle legal correspondence and procedures with tact and accuracy
- Appropriate decision making
- Interpersonal sensitivity
- Flexibility
- Performance in a stressful environment
- Ability to prioritize and meet competing deadlines

Starting salary is \$63.23 hourly, \$5,058.40 biweekly, \$131,518.40 annually.

Alameda County offers a comprehensive and competitive benefits package that affords wide-ranging healthcare options to meet the different needs of a diverse workforce and their families. We also sponsor many different employee discounts, fitness and health screening programs focused on overall well-being.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume (indicating language fluency), and at least 3 references to raha.jorjani@acgov.org.