

UNHCR Regional Office Washington Fellowship

Background

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's Regional Representation in Washington, DC, seeks a post-graduate Legal Fellow to work with its Protection and Solutions Unit (PSU) beginning in August or September 2018, for a minimum of one year.

PSU serves asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons in the territory of the United States, promoting protection in law and policy, as well as resettlement and local integration. The unit informs government officials, attorneys, and NGOs about international standards of refugee protection and protection for stateless persons. Staff regularly meets with partners to discuss U.S.-specific refugee protection and stateless matters, provides comments on proposed legislation and regulations, submits *amicus* briefs on select issues, monitors U.S. government compliance with international standards, and conducts training and public presentations to a range of audiences. PSU also monitors detention conditions of asylum-seekers and stateless persons and works in support of the development and use of alternatives to detention. Additionally, PSU provides information on the laws, policies, and procedures for seeking asylum and related protection in the United States to asylum-seekers, NGOs, attorneys, and others assisting asylum-seekers. Throughout all of these endeavors, UNHCR maintains close communication with government partners at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and other agencies to ensure that our cooperative relationship is maintained.

The candidate should be able to demonstrate a guaranteed funding source for the duration of the fellowship, and should develop and lead a substantive project under the supervision of lawyers in the unit. Potential topics include models for pro bono assistance for asylum-seekers; statelessness in the United States; training for community-based organizations serving asylum-seekers at the border or elsewhere; and/or protection needs for individuals (or sub-groups of individuals) with refugee or asylee status integrating into new communities. Creative or innovative thinking around other project needs is also welcome.

The Legal Fellow will work full-time with UNHCR's PSU in Washington, DC. UNHCR will work with the Fellow to craft a project that will bring about systemic change for people of concern to UNHCR in the United States. Additional job responsibilities may include support for strategic litigation, assistance to individual cases approaching the office, support on policy research and advocacy, and research and analysis of international refugee law matters.

Qualifications and Experience

- Must be a 2018 degree candidate or recent graduate from a U.S. law school
- Coursework in U.S. immigration law; international law; refugee law; and/or human rights
- Preference for experience in U.S. immigration; and/or specific experience with immigration detention, asylum, and immigration law as relates to refugees and asylum-seekers
- Preference for Spanish language skills
- Experience with legal clinics in law school, or other forms of direct service experience to immigrants, would be particularly helpful
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Detail-oriented, with strong research & legal analysis skills
- Self-directed, with able to multi-task and prioritize with minimal supervision

How to Apply

To apply for this position please submit:

- Cover letter, explaining your interest in a fellowship with UNHCR
- Resume (including indication of language skills)
- Writing sample of 5-10 pages
- Project proposal: please give a brief (no more than 2 pages) description of the work you would like to do. Your proposal should explain why the work is important and how you think it would complement UNHCR's work
- A brief mention of the funding source to be secured to enable your engagement as a fellow, and confirmation of your ability to work full time and make a one-year commitment

Please send application materials to farmera@unhcr.org. Note in the subject line "UNHCR PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS UNIT – Fellowship." There is a rolling deadline, but we welcome early applications.

For more information on UNHCR Regional Office Washington, visit: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/unhcr-in-the-united-states-and-the-caribbean.html>