AMERICORPS JD PROGRAM- New York State Family Security Project

AGENCY DESCRIPTION:
Cornell Law School’s Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic (FLAC) opened its doors in August of 2015, and is one of the few law school clinics in existence to represent farmworkers. FLAC’s caseload balances both immigration and employment matters, and its client base includes undocumented as well as documented workers. FLAC also teams with community partners across the country to work on both cases and research projects of critical importance to farmworkers in the broadest sense, nationally and internationally, in the fields and in production plants.

POSITION SUMMARY:
The New York State Family Security Project will engage 106 law students to serve as AmeriCorps members around the state of New York who are focused on fostering family security and community education through the delivery of high-quality legal services.

AmeriCorps JD: New York State Family Security Project
New York State Family Security Project law student members will improve family stability and community safety in the state of New York. Law student members serving at organizations that host Equal Justice Works New York State Family Security Project Legal Fellows will focus specifically on assisting the Fellows with representing clients in immigration court and before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), screening clients and preparing immigration applications, providing brief legal advice and legal aid, educating the community on the impact of evolving immigration law and policy, and engaging pro bono attorneys to provide legal assistance to immigrants and their families.

Attitude and General Responsibilities
• Support program staff, your supervisor, and administrative staff in duties as appropriate and necessary.
• Consult with your supervisor if you have any ideas, issues, or concerns, offering analysis and solutions whenever possible.
• Practice sound health habits, including getting sufficient rest, to effectively perform the position requirements.
• Respect confidentiality of clients, staff, and other AmeriCorps members.

Program leadership
• Make connections with individuals and volunteers in the community for program outreach and program enhancement.
• Assist AmeriCorps members and staff in programming and activities
Train and assist volunteers when appropriate.

**Program-specific duties**
- Gain an understanding of the legal issues facing farmworkers in upstate New York, as well as their rights and remedies under immigration and employment laws
- Conduct fact investigation and legal research on ongoing FLAC cases
- Draft fact and legal memos, court pleadings, and other case-related documents
- Observe and/or take the lead in court hearings
- Engage in client and witness interviews, including intake interviews with farmworkers in need of legal assistance
- Participate in regular FLAC staff meetings and one-on-one supervisory meetings to discuss and review case work
- Attend legal trainings, and other community events in upstate New York regarding the rights and legal remedies available to farmworkers

**Citizenship training and responsibilities**
- Participate in AmeriCorps training and national service events as required and requested by the New York State Commission

**Program training**
- Participate in orientation training.
- Participate in substantive legal issue training as provided by Equal Justice Works

**Skill requirements**: Essential functions include the ability to:
- Engage in thoughtful and creative fact development and legal research on ongoing cases and new intakes
- Respectfully and attentively interact with Spanish-speaking farmworkers, either directly or through use of an interpreter
- Learn how to timely and diligently document case developments, client interactions, and legal work in FLAC’s case files and case management system
- Timely comply with all AmeriCorps financial and reporting obligations

**Program Benefits**: The New York State Family Security Project AmeriCorps JD program is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides law students with the opportunity to earn an AmeriCorps education award of $1,252 that can be used to pay educational expenses or student loans. Students may seek up to $4,399 in additional compensation for their service, for a total of up to $5,651 in compensation. The $4,399 in additional compensation may be funded by a Federal Work Study Award, the student’s law school, local bar foundation, and/or other public interest fellowship award. In addition, students are welcome to hold outside employment to supplement their income.

Students must complete 300 hours of service and complete these hours by September 1, 2018 unless prior approval is given by Equal Justice Works. Requirements to serve include completion of a National Sex Offender Public Registry check, state criminal
background check(s), FBI Fingerprint criminal background check, and submission of proof of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency.

**TO APPLY:**
Students wishing to apply for a summer law clerk position should please send the following information via email to FLAC Clinical Teaching Fellow Briana Beltran, briana.beltran@cornell.edu:
(1) a cover letter,
(2) a current resume,
(3) two references (at least one employer reference),
(4) a legal writing sample, and
(5) an unofficial law school transcript.

Once you have secured an AmeriCorps JD service position with your host organization, apply to be enrolled in the AmeriCorps JD program through our **Student Application Manager**. More information is available at [http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/americorpsjd](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/americorpsjd).

Cornell Law School is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Application Deadline: **January 16, 2018**, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.