

NYU Law Immigrant Rights Project

Volunteer Opportunities:

Immigration Court Help Desk with Catholic Charities

Description: Catholic Charities runs a pro se helpdesk at the Federal Immigration Court to assist immigrants in removal proceedings in understanding their rights and learning to navigate the immigration system effectively. Volunteers provide one-on-one information sessions and assist immigrants fleeing persecution with the process of applying for asylum.

Foreign language skills or prior immigration experience is appreciated, but not required. Catholic Charities attorneys will provide training to volunteers.

Time Commitment: The clinic is held on various days of the week, typically from 9:00am-12:00pm. Students can attend as frequently as they are able to.

Skills you would gain: Trauma-informed interviewing and counseling; Learn about Immigration Court and removal proceedings; Experience working with clients and preparing persecution claims

Next Steps: You must attend a required training hosted by Catholic Charities. The next training is Sept. 18 at 5:30 PM at the American Express Tower downtown. Email Breanna at bs3412@nyu.edu to RSVP.

New Sanctuary Coalition Pro Se Clinic

Description: At New Sanctuary Coalition's clinic, teams of 3 volunteers work with people seeking asylum, applying for SIJS (a special status for children who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected), or otherwise fighting their deportation. As a pro se clinic, our focus is helping our friends (we don't call them "clients") navigate the Kafkaesque immigration bureaucracy to fight their own case. That means: (1) doing an intake that will help our volunteer lawyers screen for all forms of relief; and (2) preparing specific applications, such as for asylum (the I-589).

Time Commitment: The clinic meets **weekly at NYU Law**, usually Golding, from 6:00-8:30 PM. Attendance on consecutive weeks (so that you can work with a friend start to finish, usually 2-4 weeks) is encouraged but not required.

Skills you would gain: Trauma-informed interviewing; "Client" interaction in the context of community organizing/movement work (ask Nathan about ways to get involved beyond legal clinic sessions); Experience with legal empowerment work

Next Steps: NO RSVP IS NECESSARY but we encourage you to come to our training on Sept. 27 at 5:00 PM in VH 214 or simply shadow an experienced volunteer team once. Email Nathan at ndy207@nyu.edu to be put on the mailing list for updates.

New Sanctuary Coalition English for Empowerment

Description: New Sanctuary Coalition is launching an ESL English course with a focus on legal empowerment themes. Lessons will take place at New Sanctuary Coalition's offices (239 Thompson St.), on Thursday among a regular community assembly for our undocumented friends. As this is a new initiative, assisting can include course development or only teaching. Basic Spanish proficiency required.

Time Commitment: Lessons will take place on Thursday from 7–8:30 (tentative time), but weekly availability is not a prerequisite to participation.

Skills you would gain: Community organizing; Teaching and practice with demystification of (inter alia) legal themes for lay audiences

Next Steps: Please email Nathan at ndy207@nyu.edu for more information.

On Campus/Student Organizing Opportunities:

1L IRP Rep: Serve as a liaison between IRP and 1L's in promotion and outreach, programming, etc. Join either the NSC or the ICH program.

1L NYU Sanctuary Coordinator: Attend all NYU Sanctuary Meetings & keep the IRP Board updated on actions and needs, specifically legal needs, of the group.

To Apply: To apply: Email nyulawirp@gmail.com with a short paragraph expressing your interest in the position.