

The Empire Justice Center will be hosting up to four pro bono scholars beginning just after the February 2019 bar examination. The positions available are in our Long Island, White Plains and Albany office. The job descriptions are as follows:

Central Islip - The Long Island Office of Empire Justice Center represents immigrants at risk of removal (deportation) through a statewide grant, the Liberty Defense Project. The PBS will represent immigrant New Yorkers under the supervision of the Senior Staff Attorney in removal proceedings, applications for asylum, special immigrant juvenile status and Violence Against Women Act self-petitions. The PBS will also prepare and deliver Know Your Rights presentations to provide information to the immigrant communities on Long Island. Empire Justice Center's clients are mostly Spanish speakers, so spoken and written competence in Spanish is essential for this position. Access to a reliable car is also essential.

White Plains: The Empire Justice Center Yonkers office provides direct representation in immigration law matters to low income, primarily Spanish speaking immigrants, living in the Lower Hudson Valley. We provide representation in removal proceedings, U and T visa petitions, family-based immigration, applications for asylum, TPS, naturalization, and Violence Against Women Act self-petitions, for survivors of domestic violence. The Pro Bono scholar will assist staff attorneys in all these practice areas, in research and writing, evidentiary development, client interviewing, drafting of affidavits, and motion practice. The scholar will assist in Community Education Events, and may represent clients, under attorney supervision, in the New York Immigration Court, and at administrative hearings. Fluency in Spanish is highly desired.

Albany: The Pro Bono Scholar will be part of a public benefits team engaged in State and Federal Court litigation, including class action litigation, claims brought under 42 USC §1983 and declaratory judgment actions. Recent cases have successfully challenged the State's improper application of the public assistance resource rules and the denial of public benefits to immigrants receiving Temporary Protected Status. The pro bono scholar will also assist in representing appellants in Federal Court regarding denials of Supplemental Security Income.

Students who are interested in applying for one of these positions should visit <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/sites/default/files/document/files/2018-03/InterestedStudents.pdf> for more information about the Pro Bono Scholar Program. Students from law schools in New York apply for the position through the Pro Bono Coordinator at their law school. Out-of-state law schools that are interested in having their students participate in the program should contact the Program's Executive Director, Mindy Jeng at probonoscholars@nycourts.gov for more information about the program. The deadlines for application are established by each school, and are usually in the fall.