



IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC

POSTED on October 27, 2022

Position: Articling Student - Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic (IRLC)
Full-time (35 hours per week) for a 12 month term, including PLTC.
Start date: May 2023

Reporting to: Staff Lawyer, Clinic Lead, IRLC

The Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic (IRLC) is seeking an articling student who is passionate about working to uphold the rights of refugees and immigrants, and wishes to develop their experience in this area of the law.

The full-time role offers an opportunity to be closely involved with IRLC's direct client-service and public interest advocacy work. Students will work in all program areas, including assistance in client advocacy, litigation, public education, research and outreach.

The Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic ([IRLC](#)) is the only legal clinic dedicated to refugee and immigration law in British Columbia. IRLC provides free legal advice and representation, with interpretation services, for low-income people across BC on immigration and refugee law matters. We aim to reach those who fall through the cracks of our legal system and provide them with excellent, respectful, and caring legal advice and representation. Alongside our casework, we advocate for change on issues that repeatedly come up for our clients by engaging in systemic litigation and law reform efforts. We provide legal education to community groups and service providers across BC. Clinic staff also serve as mentors to law students and junior lawyers interested in the refugee and immigration law field.

The clinic was jointly created by the Province of British Columbia and the Law Foundation of BC after the BC Government's External Review of Legal Aid services recommended a refugee legal clinic be established to "take on urgent and complex cases" and supplement the legal aid system.

The IRLC operates as an independent program, hosted by ISSofBC. The Articling Student would be an employee of ISSofBC.

Scope of Position

We expect that the articling student would participate in the full range of the clinic's activities. Specifically, the articling student would have an opportunity to work on the following types of cases:

- Judicial reviews at Federal Court of decisions from the Immigration and Refugee Board, Canada Border Services Agency, or Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada
- Refugee claims and appeals
- Applications requesting humanitarian and compassionate considerations
- Inadmissibility cases at the Immigration Division and Immigration Appeal Division
- Detention reviews at the Immigration Division
- Sponsorship appeals at the Immigration Appeal Division
- Applications to defer removal and motions to stay removal

The articling student would have an integral role in the clinic's work on the above kinds of files, benefiting from training and gaining experience the following facets of our work, including, when appropriate given the development of their skills and the circumstances, conducting some of the work themselves:

- Assisting clinic staff in client intake, and eventually conducting client interviews, including follow-up preparations for client meetings both in summary advice matters and full representation matters.
- Assisting in the preparation of submissions, affidavits, applications and other materials, and eventually, drafting such materials themselves. The aim will be to enable the articling student to develop the ability to write legal memos, opinions and submissions that are clear, well-organized and succinct, and that suits the purposes of the communication;
- Attending and observing hearings at the Federal Court and Immigration and Refugee Board; at some point in the articles, the student will be able to have principal conduct of a tribunal hearing at the Immigration and Refugee Board (refugee or non-refugee);
- Conducting legal research in relation to client cases, including identifying issues, selecting appropriate resources, analyzing, applying and communicating legal research results.
- Assisting in the clinic's systemic litigation and law reform work including through research and writing, and participation, as appropriate, in coalition meetings with other advocacy groups. The opportunities for community outreach in a traditional way are still somewhat limited at present on account of the pandemic, but the clinic continues to be involved in educational outreach delivered by video and the student would be able to participate in all of that;
- Participating in training offered from time to time to clinic staff or to the Law Foundation's network of funded staff lawyers and advocates;
- Participating in staff meetings and file meetings among staff.

Skills and experience:

- Demonstrate a commitment to equity and inclusion including a personal approach that values all individuals and respects differences in regard to race, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and socio-economic circumstance
- Demonstrated commitment to social change work, including through community involvement, work, and/or life experience
- Demonstrated interest in the refugee and immigration field
- Self-reflective, critical thinker about their work, with an aim to improve systems and outcomes
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy, and ability to multi-task, organize and meet deadlines.

Process:

Individuals interested in this role are invited to submit:

- An expression of interest in letter format (PDF)
- A resume or CV (PDF)

Please email in PDF format. Please use subject line “Articling student position” and email to info@irlc.ca.

Closing Date: By 4pm on November 25, 2022 - applications will be considered on a rolling basis

Compensation: This is a 12-month articling student position (including the duration of the student’s PLTC participation) with a salary of \$48,370.88; employer coverage of PLTC fees; and an extended benefits plan.