



**Family Detention Legal Internship Program
San Antonio, Texas
Summer 2018**

Position Summary: The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) is offering ten week unpaid summer internships with our Family Detention program based in San Antonio, TX. The Family Detention program coordinates the **Karnes Pro Bono Project**, which provides pro bono legal services to detained families as they navigate the expedited removal process. Because the process moves so quickly, many families suffer from serious procedural and due process defects. The goal of the Project is to ensure that families have a fair chance to present their stories and have an opportunity to apply for asylum.

Background: Thousands of mothers and young children fleeing horrific violence in Central America, Mexico, and around the world are detained in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas. In order to be eligible for release from detention and for asylum, these traumatized families must establish a “credible fear” of returning to their home counties. To do so, they must prove that they meet the basic requirements for asylum. The families receive credible fear interviews (CFI) within days of arrival at the detention center. Families that establish a credible fear at their interviews can be released from detention so they can continue the asylum process. Families that don’t establish a credible fear can have their cases reviewed by an immigration judge or by the Asylum Office.

Available positions: We have a total of nine internship positions available: six for law students, and three for undergraduate students. The positions have varying responsibilities, which are discussed below.

Responsibilities: Generally, the student’s primary responsibilities would include:

- Regular travel to the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas;
- Provide pro bono legal services and pro se assistance to immigrant families detained at the Karnes County Residential Center;
- Provide pro bono legal services and pro se assistance to recently released families and those families residing in the jurisdiction of the San Antonio Immigration Court;

- Conduct thorough intakes, prepare families for credible and reasonable fear interviews, and screen clients for trauma, abuse and trafficking;
- Draft declarations, conduct legal research, and draft legal memoranda and pleadings;
- Opportunities to represent families in immigration court and before the Asylum Office;
- Assist with advocacy and litigation efforts to end family detention;
- Participate in volunteer recruitment, management, and outreach;
- Assume administrative responsibilities including timekeeping, case management, and other tasks as needed for program compliance.

Qualifications:

- Enrolled in law school, or recently graduated and pending bar results; or
- Enrolled in undergraduate degree-seeking program; and
- Fluency in Spanish;
- Experience in immigration or family law preferred;
- Experience working with children preferred; and
- Driver's license and access to a car preferred.

To Apply:

Send cover letter, resume, writing sample, and references to apply@raicestexas.org. Please indicate "Family Detention Intern Summer 2018" in the subject line. RAICES may be able to assist with housing for early applicants. **Deadline to apply is February 15, 2018.**

For more information about RAICES please visit: www.RaicesTexas.org.

RAICES 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.