

Centro Legal de la Raza Seeks to Sponsor Fellows for 2022-2024 Fellowships

The Organization: Founded in 1969, Centro Legal de la Raza is a legal services agency protecting and advancing the rights of low-income, immigrant, Black, and Latinx communities through multilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. By combining quality legal services with know-your-rights education and youth development, Centro Legal de la Raza ensures access to justice for thousands of individuals throughout Northern and Central California. Centro Legal has hosted numerous Skadden and Equal Justice Works fellows in the past.

The Fellowship: Centro Legal provides an ideal training ground for recent law school graduates seeking experience in providing direct legal aid to low-income individuals and families in a community-based setting. Centro Legal invites third-year law students and recent law school graduates to propose and collaboratively develop innovative fellowship projects for submission to the Skadden and Equal Justice Works Fellowship programs, as well as other similar fellowship programs.

This fellowship cycle, Centro Legal will sponsor a candidate for Skadden and Equal Justice Works in its Workers Rights Program, and will consider sponsoring additional Equal Justice Works or other fellowship candidates in any of our program areas:

- **Workers' Rights Program:** Centro Legal's Workers' Rights Program serves low-wage workers employed in industries where wage theft and other serious workplace violations are commonplace. We provide consultations, pro per assistance and legal representation to uphold essential worker protections. We work in close collaboration with low-wage worker organizers and worker centers to ensure our legal services and education work supports collective efforts by workers to improve working conditions.
- **Tenants' Rights Program:** Centro Legal's Tenants' Rights Program is committed to quelling the ongoing displacement of tenants from low-income and historically excluded communities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, where communities of color, in particular, are facing a crisis of fraudulent evictions, predatory rent increases, landlord harassment, and housing discrimination. We provide consultations, pro per assistance, and legal representation to tenants at risk of or facing eviction. We also assist tenants in all other aspects of the landlord-tenant relationship—from demands for repairs of uninhabitable housing conditions, to administrative hearings contesting illegal rent increases. In pursuit of justice and inclusion for all tenants, we collaborate with local governments to develop and enforce local housing laws, and we conduct community education and outreach regarding tenants' rights.

- **Immigrants' Rights Program:** Centro Legal's immigration practice is focused on serving the needs of our community members who are most impacted by the deportation machine, including families living in poverty, long residing undocumented immigrants and families, youth, victims of violent crimes, asylum seekers, and detained individuals in removal proceedings. Our removal defense practice specializes in cases that are urgent and often involve novel legal issues. Centro Legal's immigration team has expertise in complex detained cases, including individuals deemed mentally incompetent by the court who are appointed counsel.
- **Litigation Program:** Centro Legal's Litigation Program brings affirmative lawsuits in state and federal court to (1) protect the rights of low-income immigrant, tenant and worker clients, and (2) improve living and working conditions more broadly. We collaborate with other respected nonprofit organizations and private firms to fully litigate these cases and provide excellent professional development to our staff and fellows.

Possible Fellowship Projects: While Centro Legal seeks project proposals in any of our issue areas, we especially welcome proposals that seek to establish innovative partnerships with community-based organizations that are already serving our clients in other capacities. For example, we are interested in building medical-legal and school-based partnerships. We welcome proposals that would involve more than one of our program areas, and are happy to work in collaboration with the fellow applicant to develop a proposal.

Application Details:

Applicants must be in their third year of law school or recent law school graduates. Spanish language proficiency is required.

Please include a detailed cover letter including a discussion of your interest in working with Centro Legal and the communities we serve, as well as a brief description of your project proposal or your interest in the project areas described above. Please also attach your resume, list of three references, a writing sample, and law school transcript. Please submit applications by email to jobs@centrolegal.org with the subject line "Legal Fellowship Proposal."

Centro Legal de la Raza will review applications as they are received. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.