



Operation Lone Star Defense - Immigration Contract Attorney (Remote)

Thousands of people have been arrested near the Texas-Mexico border under Operation Lone Star (OLS), Governor Abbott's border initiative. Most have been charged with committing criminal trespass, a misdemeanor. Others have been charged with felonies, including human smuggling. Upon being released from state criminal custody, non-citizen clients are almost always taken into federal immigration custody and face the possibility of removal. The Lone Star Defenders Office (LSDO)—the indigent defense hub for OLS—is seeking an attorney to provide immigration support to these clients.

The Immigration Contract Attorney is an independent contractor and not an LSDO employee. Though the role will include communicating with clients on immigration issues, the Immigration Contract Attorney would not provide direct representation in immigration cases.

The Immigration Contract Attorney would provide support to non-citizen clients in a number of ways, including: (1) preparing and providing know-your-rights trainings to clients in state criminal custody, (2) advising clients on bond in the U.S. with pending immigration cases about next steps, (3) helping connect clients with partner organizations or law school clinics for direct representation in asylum applications, and (4) having one-on-one meetings with non-citizen clients facing felony charges about *Padilla* consequences and other immigration matters.

Ideal candidates are passionate about immigration defense; can collaborate effectively with appointed criminal defense attorneys and LSDO client advocates; and have strong organization skills to handle communications with a large volume of clients. Most importantly, we are looking for people who can provide high-quality, effective advice.

We will pay \$100 an hour. Estimated workloads are between 5-10 hours per week but that will vary per week. The role will be remote as the jails facilitate virtual visits via Zoom.

Requirements & Expectations

- You must be fluent in Spanish.
- You must be licensed to practice law in any state; Texas preferred. You cannot have received any public disciplinary action by any licensing authority within the last 5 years.
- You must maintain an office that is capable of email, telephone, and Zoom conferences.
- You must have at least two years of experience practicing immigration law.
- You must have adequate time and capacity to conduct timely visits with clients.
- You must remain apprised of changes in the immigration legal landscape.

To apply, email a Cover Letter and Resume to jobs@lsdefense.org.

For more information on LSDO, visit www.OLSdefense.org