

**Staff Attorney: Immigration Program – Removal Defense**  
**BATAVIA, NY OFFICE**

The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is seeking 2 full-time Staff Attorneys to join its Immigration Program, in their Batavia, NY office. This office handles work, under the Office of New Americans (ONA) State contract, at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia. This is a public defender model program where we represent all detained people that are facing deportation and are not otherwise represented.



*This position will work out of our Batavia, NY office with the ability to work a hybrid remote/in-office schedule after the successful completion of the 3-month introductory period. Office culture values work/life balance with reasonable working hours and discourages weekend work. Generous PTO and benefits.*

**Duties/Responsibilities:**

- handle individual caseload and represent clients before DOJ-EOIR, DHS, and BIA defending detained low-income immigrants who are subject to removal for a variety of reasons including criminal convictions, unlawful entry and visa overstays
- work collaboratively with Paralegals and Social Workers and act as an additional resource to them
- grant/data reporting
- special projects/community outreach and education as directed
- Local travel to and from the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility is required as well as occasional trips to the Buffalo office. Valid driver's license and regular access to a reliable vehicle are required.
- other duties may be assigned

**Requirements/Skills - Required:**

- admitted to practice law (or pending bar admission)
- organizational skills to juggle many cases efficiently while also being able to track and report required data about the work in a timely and accurate manner
- ability to work cooperatively with fellow staff and supervisors while also being able to work independently
- strong oral and written advocacy skills
- legal research software proficiency
- the desire to want a career in litigation defending detained low-income immigrants

**Requirements/Skills – Preferred (not required):**

- fluency in Spanish or French
- one year experience in litigation, preferably in immigration removal proceedings

Those without previous experience but possessing the desire and/or language skills are encouraged to apply.

**TO APPLY:** Please send a resume, a cover letter clearly explaining your interest and qualifications. Include contact information for 3 references and send your materials to: Brenda Cisneros, Supervising Attorney, ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. at [bcisneros@ecbavlp.com](mailto:bcisneros@ecbavlp.com). **Applications will be reviewed as received.**

**BENEFITS:** Salary depends upon experience. VLP provides excellent benefits including health insurance, long term disability insurance, life insurance, a Simple Employee Pension Plan, and generous leave time. Dental insurance, FSA and Dependent Care FSA, and 403b plans are also available through employee contributions.

VLP is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

***Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required unless the individual qualifies for a reasonable accommodation as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New York State Human Rights Law and/or guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. VLP may grant requests for reasonable accommodations to this requirement on the basis of disability or sincerely held religious beliefs.***

For information on VLP, see [www.ecbavlp.com](http://www.ecbavlp.com)