Brooklyn Defender Services
NYIFUP Immigration – Social Worker

BDS is one of the largest public defense providers in the United States. We represent nearly 40,000 clients per year in a variety of legal proceedings in New York City, primarily indigent criminal, family, and immigration defense. BDS represents clients who have diverse, complex and multi-faceted needs in a high volume and very fast-paced setting.

BDS’s Immigration Practice advises our criminal defense colleagues and help devise strategies to minimize the immigration impact of our clients’ criminal proceedings. We help clients apply for citizenship, green cards, visas for domestic violence or trafficking victims, and other immigration benefits. Finally, we have a robust removal defense practice; we secure our immigrant clients’ release from immigration detention and defend them against deportation. Since November 2013, BDS has been serving as assigned counsel under the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP)—a first-in-nation program that provides legal representation for indigent New Yorkers in detained removal proceedings.

Brief Description of Job: The Immigration Practice Social Worker will team up with the Immigration Practice’s NYIFUP attorneys and paralegals to provide comprehensive legal representation to our clients in deportation proceedings. BDS advocates for clients who have diverse, complex and multi-faceted needs in a very fast-paced setting. BDS seeks an energetic social worker to become an integral part of the NYIFUP team to advocate for immigrant clients, both in and out of court.

Responsibilities: Social workers team up with attorneys to provide comprehensive legal representation and to determine case strategy to Immigration involved clients. Social Workers will conduct client assessments, and provide both written and oral advocacy for clients. In addition they conduct client assessments, provide crisis intervention, develop service plans, refer clients for services, communicate with service providers about clients' needs, and conduct visits to detained individuals.

Qualifications: Applicants must have a Masters Degree in Social Work with, at least, two years of professional social work experience. In addition, applicants must be licensed or willing, and eligible, to become licensed within two years of hire date. Strong writing skills are a must for this position. Applicants must also be willing to work as part of a team in a very fast-paced environment and need to possess excellent writing, interpersonal, analytical, and organizational skills. Strong preference will be given to applicants who have experience working in immigration proceedings.

Bi-lingual social workers are strongly encouraged to apply. Spanish is preferred.

How to Apply: Please submit resume to Gittel Kagan, Director of Social Work, at gkagan@bds.org.

BDS is an equal opportunity employer which supports a policy of non-discrimination in all employment practices including, but not limited to, hiring, transfer, promotions, training, compensation, benefits, layoffs, and terminations.

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