

5/4/06 JOB ANNOUNCEMENT from Ivy Suriyopas (CJC F04):

NOTICE OF STAFF COUNSEL POSITION: **Staff Attorney - Immigration Specialist.**

**The National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation in Washington, DC,** invites applications for a staff counsel position. The successful candidate will specialize in conditions of confinement litigation involving immigration detainees.

THE NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT:

Founded in 1972 by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Prison Project seeks to ensure constitutional conditions of confinement and strengthen prisoners' rights through class action litigation and public education. Our policy priorities include reducing prison overcrowding, improving prisoner medical care, eliminating violence and maltreatment in prisons and jails, and minimizing the reliance on incarceration as a criminal justice sanction. The Project also publishes a semi-annual Journal, coordinates a nationwide network of litigators, conducts training and public education conferences, and provides expert advice and technical assistance to local community groups and lawyers throughout the country.

The work of the National Prison Project has never been more vital than it is now. The population in American prisons and jails has tripled in the past 15 years with the predictable consequence that facilities are overcrowded; medical systems are overwhelmed; work, education, and treatment programs are inadequate; and idleness and inadequate supervision lead to greater levels of violence. As our national prison and jail population has climbed to over two million persons, it has grown increasingly racially skewed. On any given day, one-third of all African-American males are under some form of criminal justice supervision, and for black males in their twenties, one in every eight is in prison or jail. These trends have been exacerbated by the impact of the "war on drugs," with three-fourths of all those convicted of drug offenses being persons of color. The consequences of these racial disparities in the criminal justice system reach beyond the prison gates: as a result of state felony disenfranchisement laws, an estimated 13% of all black males are not eligible to vote.

The Project, currently with a staff of seven attorneys, has fought and continues to fight unlawful prison conditions and practices through successful litigation on behalf of prisoners in more than 25 states. Since 1991, the Project has represented prisoners in five cases before the United States Supreme Court. It is the only organization litigating prison conditions of confinement nationwide on behalf of men, women, and juveniles. In light of the new threats to civil liberties affecting immigrants, the Project now intends to expand its focus to encompass conditions of confinement in immigration facilities.

## JOB DESCRIPTION:

This posting is for a new position for a staff counsel who would specialize in litigation involving conditions of confinement for immigration detainees. Staff counsel are responsible for a substantial caseload of major class actions in federal court and work closely with other staff lawyers and local counsel. The work includes drafting of pleadings and briefs, discovery and motion practice, and trial and appellate litigation. In addition, staff counsel provide technical assistance and expert legal advice to local ACLU affiliates, cooperating attorneys, and others who seek assistance from the Project. They are also expected to engage in public speaking and to articulate ACLU views to the media and a variety of audiences on a broad range of prisoners' rights and criminal justice issues and civil liberties concerns.

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- \* Applicants must have litigation experience, preferably in federal courts;
- \* Excellent analytical skills;
- \* Ability to write clearly and communicate effectively;
- \* Commitment to civil liberties and public interest law;
- \* Ability to travel extensively;
- \* Familiarity with criminal justice issues and immigration issues is desirable.

## SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Salary commensurate with experience, within parameters of ACLU compensation scale. Excellent benefits package provided.

## APPLICATIONS:

Applications should consist of a current resume, the names and phone numbers of three references, and at least one legal writing sample. Applications should be sent to:

E.M. Bigelow

Re: Staff Counsel, Immigration Specialist, NPP-11

National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union

915 15th Street, NW, Seventh Floor

Washington, DC 20005

OR

[hrjobs@aclu.org](mailto:hrjobs@aclu.org) re: NPP-11

Applications will be accepted until position is filled, which will not be before June 5, 2006.

Please indicate in your cover letter where you found this job posting. The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals to apply.