

**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES (SMRLS)
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

Position: Bilingual (Spanish/English) Immigration Staff Attorney--Mankato, Minnesota

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. (SMRLS) is seeking a bilingual (Spanish/English) immigration staff attorney for its Mankato, Minnesota office. This is a new position funded by a grant through the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs to expand SMRLS' capacity to provide direct legal services to crime victims. This grant is funded for one year and is renewable for up to five years. The position will handle immigration cases for immigrant crime victims.

SMRLS is a non-profit law firm which receives federal, state, local, public, and private funding to provide free legal help to low income and elderly people who reside in 33 counties of southern Minnesota, including the St. Paul metropolitan area. As Minnesota's oldest legal aid program (founded in 1909), SMRLS has established a tradition of partnership with the private bar, a bi-partisan Legislature, the Minnesota Supreme Court, and other Minnesota Legal Services Coalition programs in providing access to justice. SMRLS has an experienced, dynamic staff of 55 attorneys and 45 additional staff. Hundreds of volunteer attorneys help staff provide legal assistance to approximately 10,000 eligible persons each year.

SMRLS is a client-centered organization which is committed to its Mission of providing a full range of high quality legal services, in a respectful manner which enable clients to: enforce their legal rights; maintain freedom from hunger, homelessness, sickness and abuse; and empower persons and ensure equal opportunity, thus, helping persons to help themselves and become economically self-reliant, to the extent their individual abilities and circumstances permit. SMRLS has adopted Practice Standards and Guiding Principles to accomplish its Mission and has established case priorities which govern the types of cases which will be accepted for representation.

SMRLS values, welcomes and promotes diversity in all aspects of its work. SMRLS serves clients from a wide range of backgrounds. SMRLS has adopted a Racial Justice policy to guide the firm's work towards racial equality.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Provide legal assistance to immigrant victims of domestic violence and violent crimes in VAWA cases, U visa cases, U visa adjustment of status, and removal of conditions cases. Handle other types of immigration cases as needed. Conduct community outreach to an increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee client community throughout SMRLS' entire 33-county service area. Applicants will maintain a caseload in compliance with SMRLS' practice standards and comply with SMRLS' policies, practices, and guiding principles. Some day travel required. SMRLS may also shift job duties to other substantive areas to meet client need.

QUALIFICATIONS: Must either be licensed to practice law in Minnesota or be a candidate for Bar admission. All applicants must speak, read, and write **Spanish**. Prior experience working with immigrant victims of domestic violence and low-income clients is strongly preferred. Prior experience with immigration law, legal aid, or other non-profit agencies is preferred. Non-academic experiences, as they relate to an interest in working with low income individuals, will be given weight. Applicants should have strong public speaking skills, excellent writing skills, and good judgment. Applicants should learn quickly, work constructively with a wide variety of persons, and work well independently and also as part of a team.

Position Open: Immediately

Salary: \$46,956 and up D.O.E., pursuant to scale. Benefits provided.

Apply on-line at www.smrls.org or submit cover letter, resume, and three references to:

Xer Xiong, Legal Secretary
Southern MN Regional Legal Svcs.
450 N Syndicate Street, Suite 285
St. Paul, MN 55104
xer.xiong@smrls.org

**SMRLS IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY IN THE WORK PLACE. WOMEN, MINORITIES, AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**