



Staff Attorney

Full-time / 37.5 hours per week

The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) International is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides services to survivors of torture. TASSC recognizes the psychological effects of torture and assists survivors with their immediate medical, legal, housing, and employment needs. TASSC's wraparound services are designed to encourage and supplement the efforts of survivors who come to us seeking independence, self-sufficiency, and healthy futures. Four programs are the cornerstones of our work and address the main areas of concern for many survivors: social, psychological, legal, and advocacy. All members of TASSC are eligible for services that are provided with personalized and purposeful support.

TASSC is looking for a Staff Attorney, reporting to the Legal Services Program Manager, to work with the Legal Services Program (LSP) on a full-time schedule to prepare and successfully complete asylum claims for survivors of torture.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure all eligible survivors receive high-quality legal representation by exercising due diligence and strongly advocating for each survivor;
- Identify survivors who are eligible for legal services through TASSC's LSP by conducting individual interviews with survivors referred by TASSC's clinical case managers and social work interns;
- Work with TASSC's Clinical Services, and Health and Psychological Wellness services teams to provide trauma-informed legal assistance to all survivors throughout the entirety of the asylum process;
- Identify, analyze, and respond to legal and/or procedural changes that affect survivors of torture and other asylum seekers, including statutory changes, executive orders, proposed regulations, and decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals or the federal courts;
- In collaboration with TASSC's Advocacy and Outreach Program Manager, engage in advocacy on behalf of survivors of torture by meeting with members of Congress, legislative aids, and other local officials at the Department of Homeland Security, its various agencies, and the Executive Office of Immigration Review;
- Mentor pro bono attorneys, interns, and fellows through the asylum process;
- Attend individual merits hearings at Baltimore and Arlington immigration courts to represent asylum seekers;
- Attend regular TASSC staff meetings, interdisciplinary meetings, legal program meetings, clinical meetings (as necessary), Communities of healing, Legal Orientations, and other TASSC workshops and events;

- Play an active role in TASSC's annual June Survivors Week;
- Help lead monthly Legal Orientations and workshops;
- Represent TASSC at meetings of other legal service providers in the DC Metro Area;
- Prepare and submit periodic reports documenting compliance with requirements under the various grants that fund LSP.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Law degree (JD) from an ABA-accredited US institution and admission to any state bar;
- Prior experience preferred in direct representation of asylum applicants, preferably survivors of torture or other serious trauma, before USCIS Asylum Offices, the EOIR's Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the federal courts, or local courts;
- Commitment to working with survivors of torture, and commitment to the campaign to rid the world of the scourge of torture;
- Desire to work effectively with all TASSC staff, including the Legal Services Program Manager, legal interns, fellows, pro bono attorneys, psychologists, clinical case managers, advocacy consultants, job counselors, and social work interns;
- Ability to communicate patiently, respectfully, and empathetically with individuals from diverse backgrounds, including survivors of torture coming from many different countries;
- Ability to manage numerous tasks simultaneously, work under pressure, and identify and properly analyze legal issues, all while meeting deadlines;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills characterized by clarity and accuracy;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively, including with volunteers;
- A team-building, collegial approach to interacting with coworkers;
- A commitment to learning about the effects of torture on survivors, their families, and their communities.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Flexibility
- Sense of humor
- Resourcefulness
- Personal integrity in handling ethically complex and confidential situations
- Self-motivated and comfortable working in stressful situations
- Strong research and analysis skills
- Trauma-informed and sensitive listening and communication skills
- Fluency in a second language a plus (particularly Amharic, French, or Arabic)

