



Host Site: DNA-Peoples Legal Services, Inc.

Topic of Project: Tribal/Indian Law & General Practice

Location: Chinle, AZ; Window Rock, AZ; Tuba City, AZ; Keams Canyon, AZ; Flagstaff, AZ; or Farmington, NM

* DNA will work with Fellow to determine which office would be most appropriate

Description of Fellow Project:

The RSLC Fellow will work alongside and under the supervision of Navajo and Hopi-licensed attorneys to provide outreach, community legal education, and a full spectrum of legal assistance. Legal assistance provided is determined by, and focused on, the legal needs presented by residents in the Navajo and Hopi communities. By providing services, and living in the community, the Fellow learn first-hand about legal issues that commonly impact our Navajo or Hopi clients, legal remedies we pursue to address these issues, and some unique challenges to serving our tribal communities. Typically, most client needs are in the area of family law (domestic violence prevention, custody/child support, guardianship), followed closely by consumer, housing, income maintenance, juvenile and education issues. Some issues are unique to the Navajo or Hopi communities and require specialized knowledge of tribal law, customs, and traditional cultural beliefs. The Fellow working under this project will not specialize in one area of law but will work (as most DNA attorneys do) on a broad range of issues.

The Fellowship permits the student to participate fully in regular office activities, under attorney supervision, including intake, applicant interviews, case acceptance meetings, data collection and timekeeping, legal research, community outreach, document preparation, and court appearances. With this breadth of integration, the Fellow will gain knowledge of Navajo or Hopi law, plus a very realistic understanding of the daily professional life of a DNA attorney.

Applicant Qualifications:

Proficiency in a second language is not required for this Fellowship, but DNA may give preference to Navajo and Hopi speakers. Proficiency in Spanish would also be helpful but is not required.

