Host Site: Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.

Topic of Project: Family Law

Location: Riverhead, NY

Description of Fellow Project:

The Student Fellow will work within the Domestic Violence Project (DVP), which assists survivors of domestic violence in obtaining permanent orders of protection, orders requiring abusers to keep away from the abused and orders excluding abusers from the home. The Project also assists the survivor in establishing child custody orders, visitation orders and child support orders to prevent the abuser from using the children as pawns in their struggle to exert control over the abused individual. Our attorneys spend a great deal of their time in the Family Courts located in Riverhead and Central Islip. The fellow would have ample opportunities to attend court with them, to interact directly with clients and to interact with staff and volunteers of local domestic violence agencies.

The Fellow will also work with the Director of Community Projects to engage in community outreach to the largely invisible population of non-English-speaking women residing and working in the region and living in abusive situations. Many of these are unaware of our services or if they are, do not realize that their undocumented status, while making them ineligible for many of our services, does not make them ineligible for assistance with legal issues surrounding abuse. Outreach would begin with making connections with local grass-roots organizations working with this population in order to establish trust and avenues for communication and referrals.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be in-person. Proficiency in Spanish would be helpful but not required. The Fellow will be based in the Riverhead, and due to the size of the geographic region involved and the very limited availability of public transportation, the Fellow will need to have their own vehicle. Mileage will be reimbursed by NSLS (not including daily mileage to and from the Riverhead office).