



Host Site: Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

Topic of Project: Expungement/Re-Entry

Location: Pacoima, CA

Description of Fellow Project:

Antelope Valley ("AV") is a vast rural area located in the northern part of Los Angeles County, encompassing nearly 1,170 square miles of Mojave Desert, the area is home to 370,000 people living in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale as well as several small, unincorporated census-designated communities. On top of striving to support regions pervasively impacted by homelessness, NLSLA has long identified the Antelope Valley as a priority region due to the disparate and unjust treatment of persons of color. Notably, in 2010, Special Counsel to the County Board of Supervisors expressed concern that Black residents were just 17% of the population in Lancaster but accounted for 42% of arrests. Moreover, in 2015, the US Department of Justice uncovered that Antelope Valley sheriffs engaged in a pattern of unconstitutional stops and searches, excessive force, and biased policing that primarily preyed on communities of color.

To build upon NLSLA's commitment to prioritize racial equity and respond to systemic barriers faced by Antelope Valley residents, the Student Fellow will be a part of NLSLA's Clean Slate Initiatives (CSI) practice, which assists system-impacted adults and youth with getting a fresh start by helping them remove the legal barriers they face because of their criminal records. The Fellow will support and expand capacity for several ongoing CSI clinics that serve Antelope Valley residents, including an expungement clinic, a traffic ticket workshop, and a pro per advice clinic for individuals who are on probation or parole. The Fellow would be responsible for completing research, drafting legal documents, meeting with clients, filing court documents, and providing general support to the CSI team.

Additionally, the Fellow will assist in the development of long-needed pro per materials and/or practice guides to better enhance service delivery for the team's high-volume practice, which has experienced a significant uptick in the demand for services since the July 2023 launch of a community reentry center based in the AV.

Lastly, the Fellow will have opportunities to engage in systemic work, which could involve supporting litigation, policy advocacy, coalition work, or attending/engaging in meetings facilitated by federal, state, or local officials.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:





The Fellowship will be hybrid.

