



## 2025 LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

Catholic Migration Services (“CMS”) is currently accepting 2025 spring and summer legal internship applications for our **Tenant Advocacy**, **Immigration**, and **Workers Rights’ Programs**. CMS is a nonprofit provider of legal services primarily serving low-income residents of Brooklyn and Queens and is an affiliated agency of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

Interns will be responsible for legal research, drafting legal memoranda and other documents, factual investigation, assisting in hearing/trial preparation, development of educational and outreach materials, client interviewing, and a host of other needs that arise in CMS litigation and advocacy efforts. Interns also may have opportunities to observe CMS attorneys in court or administrative agency proceedings.

The **Tenant Advocacy Program (“TAP”)** at CMS assists tenants – primarily residents of Queens – with a wide array of housing-related legal services ranging from brief advice to full representation in court proceedings. TAP assists tenants with matters such as eviction defense, obtaining needed repairs, combatting landlord harassment and rent overcharges, obtaining renewal leases, and obtaining rent increase exemptions for seniors and persons with disabilities. We typically litigate cases in Queens Housing Court and at administrative agencies, and also periodically represent clients in Queens Supreme Court and the Second Department. Because TAP also has tenant organizers, our legal team and organizers collaborate to lead community education events and bring group cases.

The **Immigration Program** at CMS is comprised of three units: Removal Defense, Affirmative Filings, and Naturalization. Removal Defense represents immigrants who are before Immigration Court seeking forms of relief such as defensive asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, cancellation of removal for lawful permanent residents and non-lawful permanent residents, motions to reopen, and 212(C) waivers. The Removal Defense team also files affirmative asylum petitions, U visas, T visas and I-130 family based petitions associated with a removal case before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”). The affirmative filings team files R visas, religious worker petitions, consular processing family petitions, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions, I-130 family petitions, inadmissibility waivers, I-90 green card renewals, and adjustment of status applications. The Naturalization team submits naturalization applications and N-600 (application for certificate of citizenship for people who derived or acquired US citizenship through their parents) applications before USCIS. We are seeking summer interns to assist with our removal defense and affirmative work.

The **Workers’ Rights Program** at CMS works towards strengthening the enforcement of workers’ rights through affirmative litigation, policy reform, individual representation, and

community education. In collaboration with workers' centers and community-based organizations citywide, the Workers' Rights Program provides advice and representation to hundreds of low-income and immigrant workers each year facing a range of problems, including wage theft, entitlement to paid and unpaid leave (family leave, sick leave, etc...), discrimination, unemployment insurance, and other basic workplace rights. The Workers' Rights Program represents clients at various city, state and federal enforcement agencies, as well as in state and federal courts.

### **General Information**

Applicants should be currently enrolled in an ABA accredited law school. The internship is unpaid, however CMS will support the applicant's effort to obtain funding from outside sources (e.g., their law school, Equal Justice America, etc.).

### **Application Instructions**

Interested applicants should email a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and two references directly to the program to which they are applying:

#### For Immigration Internships:

Raluca Oncioiu  
Managing Attorney, Immigration Program  
Email: [roncioiu@catholicmigration.org](mailto:roncioiu@catholicmigration.org)

#### For Tenant Advocacy Internships:

Jonathan Cohen  
Managing Attorney, Tenant Advocacy Program  
Email: [jcohen@catholicmigration.org](mailto:jcohen@catholicmigration.org)

#### For Workers' Rights Internships:

David Colodny  
Managing Attorney, Workers' Rights Program  
Email: [dcolodny@catholicmigration.org](mailto:dcolodny@catholicmigration.org)