



Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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COMMUNITY LAW CENTER

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Organizational Profile

The Community Law Center provides free legal services to low-income residents from 48 cities around the Bay Area. Started in 1994 with the help of law students and faculty from Santa Clara University School of Law, it has helped over 4,000 individuals in consumer, employment, immigration and workers' compensation matters. Each year approximately 100 law students and 35 undergraduate students from Santa Clara University handle and assist with cases under the supervision of attorneys at the Law Center.

Most of the Law Center's clients are monolingual Spanish speakers. Many are recent immigrants from around the world who are unaware of their legal rights in the United States. The Law Center makes an effort to remedy confusion and hardship imposed by missing or incorrect information regarding legal rights in these communities.

The Community Law Center offers free **advice clinics** in the areas of Consumers' and Debtors' Rights, Family Immigration, and Workers' Rights by scheduling appointment consultations. All consultations are confidential and many need the assistance of an interpreter. During the consultation, law students interview clients privately, and then speak with an on-site supervising attorney regarding the cases. The students then relay the attorney's advice back to the clients. All of the cases are screened and some are opened for full representation.

The Community Law Center also runs a **Community Workshop Program** in the areas of Workers' Rights, Consumer Rights and Tenants' Rights. These free workshops are presented in the community (i.e. at parent groups, ESL classes, etc.) to low income individuals and are designed to increase community awareness and enhance understanding of rights within each area. The presentations are conducted by law students under the direction of an attorney who specializes in each field.

SCU Student's Role

SCU students who choose this placement will act as interpreters for clients and law students during interviews. Arrupe student participation may involve interpreting at clinics and/or at a community-based workshop. **Arrupe students must commit to no less than 16 hours over the quarter and must be available for the full duration of the clinic(s) or workshop(s) they are assigned to.** Law Center staff will work with students' schedules to fulfill the 16 hours. **AT NO TIME** should students ever give legal advice – or anything bordering on legal advice.

Interpreters and Translators – Students must be fluent in Spanish. Native Spanish speakers preferred. Duties at the Center will include interpreting and translating for law students and their clients in either spoken or written form.

NOTE: Because of the nature of the clinics, the times are NOT exact, but will depend upon the length of client interviews. Therefore, the clinics sometimes end earlier than the stated time and yet there may be times when the interviews go past the stated hour. Arrupe students must be flexible in participating on an "as needed basis" at clinics (refer to clinic schedule in binder). Please make your choice with flexibility and your availability in mind.

To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.