Position Summary: The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) is offering a 4-5 month unpaid Fall internship with the Family Detention program based in San Antonio, TX. The Family Detention program oversees the Karnes Pro Bono Project which provides pro se assistance and pro bono legal services to detained families as they navigate the credible fear process. Because the process moves so quickly, many families suffer serious procedural and due process defects. The goal of the Project is to ensure that families have a fair chance to present their stories and have an opportunity to apply for asylum.

Background: Hundreds of mothers and young children fleeing horrific violence in Central America are detained in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas. In order to be eligible for release from detention and be able to apply for asylum, these traumatized families must establish “credible fear” where they must prove that they meet the basic requirements for asylum. The families have been receiving credible fear interviews (CFI) within days of arrival at the detention center. Families that establish a credible fear can be released from detention so they can continue the asylum process. Families that don’t establish a credible fear can have their cases reviewed by an immigration judge or by the Asylum Office.

Responsibilities: The student’s primary responsibilities would include:

- Regular travel to the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas;
- Provide pro bono legal services and pro se assistance to immigrant families detained at the Karnes County Residential Center;
- Provide pro bono legal services and pro se assistance to recently released families and those families residing in the jurisdiction of the San Antonio Immigration Court;
- Conduct thorough intakes, prepare families for credible and reasonable fear interviews, and screen clients for trauma, abuse and trafficking;
- Draft declarations, conduct legal research, and draft legal memoranda and pleadings;
- Opportunities to represent families in immigration court and before the Asylum Office;
• Assist with advocacy and litigation efforts to end family detention;
• Assume administrative responsibilities including timekeeping, case management and other tasks as needed for program compliance.

**Qualifications:**
• Enrolled in degree-seeking program. Preference given to Women’s Studies, Political Science, Mexican American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Bilingual/Bicultural studies, Humanities, Public Policy, Psychology, Social Work, etc.
• Fluent in Spanish;
• Experience in immigration or family law preferred;
• Experience working with children preferred;
• Driver’s license and access to a car preferred.

**To Apply:**
Please visit bit.ly/rowdycorps

*RAICES is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.*