

Our ref: PM
Your ref:
Date: June 2022

Dear Applicant

Re Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker – IAAS Level 2

Thank you for your interest in this post to work in our Croydon office .

I am pleased to enclose:

1. Job Description and Person Specification for Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker
2. Guidelines for Applicants
3. Organisation Summary

Applications should be made on our application form which can be downloaded [here](#) or from our website at www.swllc.org/about-us/jobs/

The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 July 2022 at 9am. Applications should be sent by email to recruitment@swllc.org.

Yours faithfully

Patrick Marples CEO
South West London Law Centres |

SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES
Legal Action for Local Communities

JOB ADVERT – Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker IAAS Level 2

South West London Law Centres (SWLLC), one of the largest and most progressive Law Centres in the country, is seeking an experienced Level 2 IAAS accredited Asylum/Immigration Solicitor or Caseworker to provide casework mainly under a Legal Aid Agency contract, on either a full-time or part-time basis, to work on a project targeting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to improve their immigration status. Our immigration team is highly respected and was again rated as “Excellent” in a independent peer review by the Legal Aid Agency in January 2022. The Law Centre is well known and highly regarded, winning the Legal Aid Firm/Not for Profit in the 2020 LALY Awards.

We can offer flexible working and generous benefits.

POST:	Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker IAAS Level 2
Salary:	Up to £35,644 p.a., depending on experience
Term:	Permanent
Based at:	Croydon

The closing date for the post is 11 July 2022 at 9am with interviews soon after. The post is available for an immediate start. If you would like to discuss the post further, please email recruitment@swllc.org. Applications should be made on our application form which can be downloaded [here](#) or from our website at www.swllc.org/about-us/jobs/.

SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES
Legal Action for Local Communities

JOB DESCRIPTION

POST:	Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker IAAS Level 2
Salary:	Up to £35,644 p.a. depending on experience with an employer and employee pension contribution of 4% each
Reports to:	Immigration Team Leader
Holidays :	29 days plus bank holidays
Functional Links:	Caseworker/Volunteers within the immigration team; Senior Management Team and Branch Administrators
Term:	Permanent
Based at:	Croydon

Key Tasks

- 1 The post-holder will predominantly work under a project to help those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to improve their immigration status by advising and representing those who live or work in South West London in the whole range of immigration and asylum cases including: settlement, variation and extension of leave, asylum, deportation, removal, nationality and EU cases. The predominate areas of work are undertaken under the legal aid scheme with areas out of scope being covered by grant funding under a London Council funded project.

Duties & Responsibilities

- 2 To ensure that all advice, assistance and representation complies with the requirements of our Lexcel quality mark and where publicly funded complies with the requirements of the Legal Aid Agency and Lexcel quality mark
- 3 To ensure all casework is recorded within our case management system and prompt billing and payment of work undertaken. The post-holder will be expected to meet billing and time recording targets which are set in accordance with the overall requirements of the Law Centre's annual budget and our contracts. The current target is £50,000 per annum. Against this an allowance will be made for grant funded work.
- 4 To ensure that the terms of all Law Centre funders are kept to in relation to advice & casework including providing reports as required. To report on the work of the Law Centre to the management committee as required.

- 5 To participate in team meetings and to carry out file reviews in accordance with Lexcel requirements.
- 6 To participate in staff meetings from time to time.
- 7 To be responsible for your own word processing, filing and case recording within our case management system and maintenance of an electronic file.
- 8 To advise and provide training and talks to Law Centre staff and volunteers and to frontline advice agency staff within the Law Centre's catchment area as necessary.
- 9 To attend meetings of coordinating bodies as required.
- 10 To share the work of maintaining everyday necessities.
- 11 To provide cover for colleagues during absences.

Advice & Casework

- 12 To provide immigration and asylum advice and casework service to clients of the Law Centre. This is to include interviewing clients, advising them of their rights and responsibilities, assessing suitability and effectiveness of alternative courses of action, advising on potential challenges and legal procedures.
- 13 To assist other teams in the Law Centre in helping clients resolve any immigration/asylum matters.
- 14 To assist clients in liaising with other people and organisations to resolve their immigration/asylum problems where possible.
- 15 To represent clients at Immigration Tribunals and do the necessary preparation and research.
- 16 To visit clients at their homes if appropriate.
- 17 To instruct and attend Counsel's chambers with clients as appropriate.
- 18 To supervise as required any immigration/asylum advice and casework conducted.

London Councils Sub-Regional Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers

- 19 To take an active role in London Councils Sub-Regional Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers project. This is a partnership project with South London Refugee Association.
- 20 To take referrals from South London Refugee Association and other sources as part of this project.
- 21 To assist the senior management team in reporting and complying with the project reporting and monitoring requirements.
- 22 To take part in project meetings and events as and when required.

Professional Development

- 23 To attend courses on new legislation, specialist skills and the use of information technology.
- 24 To keep up to date with the changes in relevant legislation.
- 25 To read the relevant law journals.
- 26 To maintain IAAS level 2 accreditation, DBS checks and relevant authorisation through the SRA or OISC.
- 27 To discuss regularly with the Immigration Team Leader your job performance and personal career development.

- 28 To be appraised regularly and to engage fully in this process to further personal development and maximise your contribution to SWLLC.
- 29 To undertake such training as is necessary to maintain your accreditations.

Social Policy

- 30 To be alert at all times to the social policy implications of issues presented by clients.
- 31 To take appropriate action to influence social policy in regard to these issues.

Equal Opportunities

- 32 To have regard at all times in the planning and execution of duties to SWLLC's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Other Duties

- 33 To play a full role in the organisation supporting colleagues to maximise their effectiveness.
- 34 In addition to the tasks and duties listed in this job description to undertake such duties as may be identified and which are generally compatible with the functions of the post.

SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES
Legal Action for Local Communities

PERSON SPECIFICATION

POST:	Immigration Solicitor/Caseworker IAAS Level 2
Salary:	Up to £35,644 p.a. depending on experience with an employer and employee pension contribution of 4% each
Reports to:	Immigration Team Leader
Functional Links:	Caseworker/Volunteers within the immigration team, Senior Management Team and Branch Administrators
Holidays :	29 days plus bank holidays
Term:	Permanent
Based at:	Croydon

Essential Experience

1. Experience of working under a Legal Aid Agency Contract specification for Public Funding (Legal Aid) and Legal Help with demonstratable billing targets.
2. At least two years' full-time equivalent experience of immigration/asylum casework and representation covering a wide range of cases to meet the IAAS Level 2 accreditation.
3. Ability to manage a varied caseload of sufficient appropriate matters to meet the billing target currently of a minimum £50,000 per annum.
4. Ability to draft appropriate documentation in all areas and procedures of Immigration/Asylum law.
5. Commitment to equal opportunities as set out in the principles and policies of South West London Law Centres.

Essential Skills

6. Registered IAAS Level 2 caseworker.
7. Relevant accreditation with SRA or OISC and DBS check.
8. An intelligent and highly motivated person who is accustomed to taking significant decisions and having a high level of personal accountability.
9. Ability to work independently with a proven ability to prioritise work and to meet deadlines.
10. Ability to take strategic overview and to plan for the long term.
11. Ability to liaise and work effectively in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders.

12. Excellent communication skills: you must be able to relate well to colleagues, clients and third parties, in person, in writing and on the telephone, despite the pressures of the role.
13. Understanding of the problems which face diverse communities.
14. Ability to be self-servicing: you will be expected to manage most of your own typing, filing and billing and payment of cases.
15. Ability to use computer and information technology including management information systems and to be self-servicing. Must be proficient in Microsoft operating systems (Word, Excel, and Office).
16. Ability to working collaboratively within SWLLC.
17. You must be very well organised in order to work well under pressure without compromising standards.

Desirable Experience and Skills

18. A wide range of representation experience in immigration tribunals and ability to recognise cases that could be subject to judicial review or to be taken through the higher courts.
19. Current enhanced DBS check.
20. Current IAAS supervisor accreditation.
21. Experience of giving successful training or talks.

SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES

Legal Action for Local Communities

ORGANISATION SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POST

Context of the Post

We are seeking an experienced Asylum/Immigration Solicitor or Caseworker to provide casework under a partnership project with South London Refugee Association. We are taking part in a sub-regional project to assist homeless people or those at risk of homelessness to improve their immigration status. The project will be partly funded under a grant from London Councils as well as casework undertaken under our Legal Aid Agency contract. The project will be part of London Councils London-wide Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers initiative. The project is funded for 2 ½ years from July 2022 but casework and legal aid funding will extend beyond the end of the project. We are looking for someone on either a full-time or part-time basis. You will be taking referrals predominantly from South London Refugee Association who are the lead in this sub-regional partnership. The client group will be predominantly assisting homeless people working through community support workers. We are looking for someone who can show the care and attention to our clients and the command of detail which is a hallmark of our work.

The successful applicant will need to be able to demonstrate that they satisfy the Legal Aid Agency Standards to represent unaccompanied minors and be accredited at IAAS level 2 as they will need to be able to take on and develop a caseload. You will also need to get an enhanced DBS check.

Our immigration team is a small friendly, experienced and respected team of caseworkers and solicitors. We won Legal Aid Team of the Year - Solicitors Journal Awards 2017, where we were commended on our work with extremely vulnerable individuals, including victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. One judge was said to have been highly impressed by our submission in the knowledge that our fellow short-listees were 'elephants against mice in terms of resources.' We were the only Law Centre to be shortlisted. We regularly get referrals from the Refugee Council, South London Refugee Association, Helen Bamber Foundation and Freedom from Torture (Medical Foundation). We have a strong emphasis on quality – the team was again rated as "Excellent" in an independent Peer Review for the Legal Aid Agency in January 2022, Feedback from the review included:

"There was evidence of good quality work being carried out on the files reviewed which led to some positive outcomes being achieved and on complex legal matters."

“The Provider worked in a way that was cost effective with awareness of the Costs Assessment Guidance and was diligent and persistent” in respect of seeking funding for client’s cases.

“All of the files reviewed showed a good awareness and knowledge of the law that needs to be followed across a diverse range of immigration and asylum issues.”

“An exceptional level of client care was provided to vulnerable clients. A large proportion of the files reviewed related to clients who were vulnerable as a result of their youth, mental illness, physical illness, or experience of trauma (sometimes all of these).”

The Law Centre

SWLLC is a community based legal practice and a registered charity. Our history dates back to 1974 when the first Law Centres in Wandsworth were created. We became SWLLC in 2004 through the merger of a number of Law Centres in South West London.

We now work across six South West London boroughs (Croydon, Merton, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth) helping people to understand and enforce their legal rights. In doing so, we address the root causes of social injustice – poverty, family breakdown, unemployment and exploitation. SWLLC provides full legal casework, representation and advice in the following areas of social welfare law: Community Care, Debt, Employment, Housing, **Immigration & Asylum** and in a limited way in Welfare Rights. We represent clients in all courts and tribunals. In 2021/22 we helped 6664 people through casework/representation, being the housing duty solicitor schemes at Croydon, Kingston and Wandsworth County Courts giving emergency representation in possession hearings for rent and owned homes and at the warrant stage for evictions, and through our pro bono schemes.

SWLLC has a long history of using volunteers and running one of the largest pro bono advice schemes in the country covering a wide area of legal problems. Since the pandemic these are now all run virtually.. We estimate in any one year over 400 volunteer lawyers will help with our clinics. There are 16 firms involved with the clinics as well as individual solicitors.

You can find out more from our website www.swllc.org of the scope and breath of work carried out by the Law Centre. .

Our Croydon Office is a short walk from either East or West Croydon stations

SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES
Legal Action for Local Communities

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Please read these notes carefully before filling in your application form, as the decision to shortlist for interview will be based solely on the information provided on the application form.

General Guidelines

1. Give only information which is relevant to the post.
2. Complete all sections of the form. You will need to do this in order to be fairly compared to other candidates. All information given is treated as confidential.
3. Complete a rough draft first. This avoids mistakes and untidiness and enables you to organise and review the information you put on the form.
4. Get feedback from other people and make sure you give examples, which demonstrate your ability to do the job.
5. Complete the form in type, word processor, black ballpoint or ink.

Selection Criteria – The Person Specification

The skills, experience and qualification described in the Person Specification are the criteria against which you will be assessed and short-listed. Make sure you have covered each section of the Person Specification in your application form.

Employment

When completing this section include relevant part-time work or work taken on a voluntary basis. Outlining your previous work experiences or other responsibilities may help you to uncover relevant skills, which are clear signs of your ability to do the job.

Further Information

In section four of the application form you should try to show how you are able to do the job. Rather than simply repeating your career history, look at the skills and experience required for the job and provide evidence that you possess them. Concentrate on the things you know and what you can do rather than on what other people in your group or workplace can do.

References

Where possible at least one of your referees should be a previous employer; either your present or most recent employer. If you have not previously been employed, or have not worked for some time, give the name of someone who knows you sufficiently well to confirm the information given and who can comment on your ability to do the job. (You must not provide a relative or partner's name as a referee.)

Monitoring Information

This section is included in order to monitor the effectiveness of SWLLC's Equal Opportunities Policy, which aims to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly. All information is treated in confidence and used only for statistical monitoring.

The monitoring section of the application form is not used as part of the selection process. Consequently, if for example you have a disability, and this is an item in the person specification, **do also mention it in the main part of your application form.**

Finally – take a copy of the form and keep it to remind yourself of what you have said if you are called for an interview. Good Luck!