

Site Information:

Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)

1305 N. Flores

San Antonio, TX 78212

Executive Director:

Jonathan D. Ryan

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Agency Goals and Objectives:

RAICES provides legal help to people who want to immigrate to the United States, adjust their residency status, apply for refugee status, or apply for asylum in the United States. The center consists of several lawyers who each work with clients separately, and also who collaborate on specific tasks. RAICES works with both paying and pro bono cases. As well as assisting private clients, RAICES assists juveniles who have been detained for illegal entry into the US.

Intern Tasks, Duties, and Responsibilities:

- Translating letters and other client documents
- Helping take notes during client declarations
- Research on political and cultural background for client sending countries
- Observing Juvenile Detainee court
- Compiling legal forms and information
- E-mail communications

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Internship:

The internship allowed me to explore many different types of legal cases, learn about immigration and asylum law in the US and internationally, and developing my research and translation skills.

Because I worked with many lawyers and assistants in the office, I had flexible hours and many mentors from which to learn. The center has both a friendly and a productive atmosphere.

One weakness is that the agency does not have a specific internship program, so my internship did not follow a structured plan.

Recommendations to Future Potential Interns:

Potential interns should consider RAICES if they prefer to work independently and want to learn about immigration and refugee law on an international and local scale.

Legal services for immigrants and refugees are in high demand in San Antonio, and RAICES appreciates extra help. I recommend e-mailing Jonathan Ryan before visiting the center to inquire about an internship.