



Background Information about Islington Law Centre

Islington Law Centre was founded in 1972. We offer high quality rights based advice, assistance and legal representation to people living, working or studying in the London Borough of Islington and beyond. We provide legal advice services free and do not charge individual clients for our services.

Islington Law Centre is a full member of the Law Centres Network (LCN) and participates fully in joint initiatives and policy development in partnership with other Law Centres.

The Law Centre currently employs 35 people and is based in offices near the Angel, in the south of the London Borough of Islington.

We receive funding from the local authority, the Legal Aid Agency (with whom we have contracts to provide publicly funded Legal Aid), City of London law firms, Charitable Trusts, Foundations and independent donations.

We are a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Our turnover is in the region of £1.5 million per annum.

Services Provided

The Law Centre holds the Law Society's Lexcel Quality Mark, which is subjected to an annual independent audit process. The Law Centre is contracted to provide publicly funded legal advice and representation by the Legal Aid Agency in the following areas of law; Immigration & Asylum, Housing & Debt, and Public Law, and to manage the Duty Desk Scheme at Clerkenwell and Shoreditch County Court.

In addition to providing publicly funded work, we offer services funded by other sources in: Debt, Education, Housing, Immigration and Asylum, Public Law and Welfare Benefits.

Staff Structure and Volunteers

The Law Centre is run by a Senior Management Team: Director Stuart Hearne, Deputy Director Matt Brown.

The Law Centre staff is currently comprised of 12 qualified solicitors or barristers, the majority of whom are practising solicitors with many years PQE. We have 14 specialist caseworkers, Reception and Referral staff and project support staff.

We have at least one Supervisor for all areas of law practised with the majority of areas having two in order to provide continuity during periods of holiday or absence.

Immigration work at Islington Law Centre

Islington Law Centre is home to our Community Facing Immigration Team (CFIT) and to the Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit (MiCLU).

CFIT provides immigration and asylum advice and representation for members of our local community. CFIT has a reputation for excellent casework with strong results, innovative outreach to ensure that hard to reach individuals are able to defend their rights, and high quality strategic legal work, building on evidence accrued through their community facing work. The team consists of four solicitors, a senior caseworker, and a casework assistant.

MiCLU is a specialist legal and policy hub which has the aim of making the immigration and asylum systems safer and fairer and work in the best interests of children and young people. MiCLU has been at the forefront of developing child-centred and trauma-informed legal practice in the UK. MiCLU provides direct legal representation to children and young people with complex immigration and asylum issues who would not secure representation elsewhere. We also use strategic litigation to advance specific issues affecting children and young people. The team consists of four solicitors, two senior caseworkers, a legal research and information officer and a policy officer.

Our teams are committed to working collaboratively both within the Law Centre and with external organisations to maximise the limited resources of the sector. Our work is driven by the experiences of our clients ensuring that clients feel involved, empowered and supported.

About The Role

The post-holder will be a key part of a busy and supportive team. Our services are in high demand, and solicitors and caseworkers therefore require support with administrative tasks so that they are able to focus on achieving progress for clients in their legal cases. This post will therefore be an important source of support for lawyers, and for clients in terms of ensuring that administration of cases is undertaken to the same high quality as our legal work.

The post-holder will have the opportunity to be part of a team working hard to improve the lives of individuals facing significant challenges as they work towards securing a safer future. A commitment to social justice, and to providing high standards of client care are therefore essential.