

**Refugee Family Services
and
The Georgia Refugee Public Policy and Education Initiative**

SUMMER NON-PROFIT CLERKSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ABOUT REFUGEE FAMILY SERVICES: Refugee Family Services (RFS) is a metro-Atlanta non-profit that serves approximately 2,500 refugee/immigrant women and children each year. RFS provides critical human services, youth programs, health services, education programs and domestic violence prevention programs. This work furthers our mission to support the efforts of refugee women and children to achieve self-sufficiency in the United States by providing education and economic opportunity. We provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services through our Community and Youth Center, located about 20 minutes away from Emory in Stone Mountain. Our more than 30 full-time employees include people from Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia, Kurdistan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Latin America and the United States. Collectively, they speak 20 languages and all are fluent in English.

ABOUT THE GEORGIA REFUGEE PUBLIC POLICY AND EDUCATION INITIATIVE: RFS has taken the lead in starting the Initiative, which is committed to promoting local and state policies that support the integration of refugee newcomers and their local communities in Georgia. We held our first Refugee Public Policy Forum in January 2008, and we are now preparing for a 2009 coalition convention. We are actively involved in community organizing with refugee-led community groups, and developing a state-wide network of alliances in the “mainstream” community. We are seeking to develop policy recommendations on critical issues impacting the refugee community.

CLERKSHIP TERMS: RFS is seeking law students to fill full-time summer clerkship positions that will focus on issue-specific legal analysis and fact gathering in support of policy development, as well as grant writing for the policy and direct service programs of the agency. Areas of focus might include:

- Education law and practice on the ground that impacts the Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in metro-Atlanta’s school districts. With more than 144 languages spoken by students’ families in one school system alone, this is a critical issue. Issues include: No Child Left Behind’s provision for supplemental education services, English as a Second Language (ESL) learning and parent involvement; state laws on parent involvement; implementation of ESL regulations in specific districts; teacher certification.
- State voting laws and driver’s licensing laws and practices that impact the refugee and immigrant community.

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and its protections for Limited English Proficient people when accessing government services.
- Early childhood education.

To learn more about Refugee and Family Services please stop by Professor McKanders' office to pick up materials or visit their website at <http://www.refugeefamilyservices.org/>.

Students interested in applying for this position should submit a resume, writing sample and undergraduate and law school transcript to Professor McKanders at mckanders@utk.edu or in her mail folder. All applications should be received no later than January 16, 2009. Candidates will be selected for telephone interviews with Refugee and Family Services.

**Note this position is unpaid, however, students will be eligible to apply for summer stipends through the law school to fund the position.*