Legal Internship

Organizational Background

Established in 2001, the International Legal Foundation (ILF) is a leading global advocate for the right to counsel. Our mission is to make justice a reality for poor people by fighting to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Around the world, we provide criminal defense services and build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions.

Headquartered in New York, the ILF has current programs in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, and Tunisia. We work with ministries of justice, bar associations, lawyers, prosecutors, and police to expand access to justice for vulnerable people. By bringing international criminal defense experts together with local lawyers to provide professional mentorship and exchange, the ILF is raising up a new generation of public defenders. Our work prevents torture and mistreatment, promotes alternatives to detention, encourages positive youth development, and builds fair and credible institutions.

For more about us, visit www.theilf.org.

About the Internship

The ILF is currently seeking law students and exceptional undergraduate students for unpaid remote internships/externships with our New York office. This is an exciting opportunity to work with the leading global advocate for the right to counsel for the poor. Interns will have the opportunity to engage in all aspects of the ILF’s work in developing effective criminal legal aid systems in post-conflict and transitional settings.

The ILF is seeking multiple interns/externs for the fall 2020 (with extension through spring 2021 possible) to intern remotely with our New York office. The internship is Monday to Friday, 12 to 15 hours per week.

If interns are able to secure funding through their schools, and travel requirements allow, there is also the opportunity to travel to one of our international offices.

This internship is unpaid, and we are willing to work with students to fulfill requirements for receiving intern/extern credit.

Intern/extern tasks may include (but are not limited to):

● Researching law in countries emerging from conflict or in transition
● Writing memos on relevant legal issues
● Assisting in the preparation and publication of policy papers, reports, and articles
● Helping implement and improve data collection methods in our country offices
● Creating material for social media and other public outreach
● Assisting in the writing of grant applications and reports, as well as internal reports, brochures, and other written material
● Assisting in the preparation of presentations on legal issues
Qualifications

Ideal interns/externs will have the following skills/experience:

- Currently enrolled in law school or other academic program
- Commitment to issues of social justice, interest in indigent defense
- Exceptional research and writing skills
- Outstanding organizational skills
- Ability to work independently and to multi-task effectively
- Flexibility and enthusiasm for working in a fast paced environment
- Basic familiarity with social media
- Experience with Adobe Creative Suite a plus
- Familiarity with social media campaigns for NGOs
- Past experience working in the international development, indigent defense, and/or NGO sector a plus
- Cultural sensitivity and cross cultural communication skills

Application Process

Interested applicants should send a thoughtful cover letter, resume, and brief writing sample to internships@theilf.org. Please specify in your cover letter which days and hours you would most likely be able to intern, based on your class schedule and other commitments.

The International Legal Foundation is proud to be an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusive hiring, and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, orientations, experiences, and communities to apply.