



The International Legal Foundation (ILF) Fellowship

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is seeking lawyers with extensive criminal defense experience to join its International Fellows program and provide training to local lawyers in developing and transitional legal systems through day-to-day, case-by-case mentoring.

This program provides criminal justice professionals with the opportunity to have a direct and positive impact on their fellow attorneys abroad and in the process contribute to the sustainable development of countries at a pivotal transition point.

Fellows are the backbone of the ILF's success in its program countries. Since 2001, nearly 100 Fellows from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, India, Australia and New Zealand have helped transform the role of local lawyers in Afghanistan, Tunisia, Palestine (West Bank), Nepal, and Myanmar from passive participants in the criminal justice system to proactive advocates for their clients. As a direct result of these pro bono placements, clients languishing in detention have been released and many innocent accused have been acquitted. Fellows have helped local lawyers develop foundational defense skills and techniques, challenge unlawful policies and practices, and push litigation strategies that have improved the justice systems in all of the countries in which the ILF works.

Program Details:

ILF staff works with Fellows prior to their departure to prepare them on law, practice and context, as well as connecting new Fellows with prior Fellows and local staff. On the ground, Fellows will start immediately to work up cases with the lawyers, conduct legal discussions, and shadow lawyers at their court appearances. The mentoring also includes assisting these lawyers as they interview clients, conduct investigations, write motions, prepare witness examinations, and practice oral argument. In general, the ILF seeks to empower and build the capacity of local legal service providers by providing them with the skills and ability to deliver client-centered, rights-based, comprehensive and holistic representation to all clients.

International Fellows will also help plan and execute trainings with lawyers, paralegals, members of the local bar association and other justice sector stakeholders. They may also participate in meetings with government officials, other NGOs, and donors involved in rule of law projects, as representatives of the ILF. Fellows should be willing to work to develop the skills and capacity of other support staff and assist in developing institutional policies and procedures. Through this process, International Fellows make pivotal, concrete contributions to the rule of law and legal aid reform.

Fellows work and live abroad for approximately 90 days, and will likely travel between several offices within a country over the course of the fellowship. Placements are dependent on current programming needs, developmental stage of the relevant office, and funding.

Opportunities are ongoing, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years experience of practicing law in criminal defense or other relevant criminal justice direct service
- Demonstrated expertise in providing quality legal representation
- Experience training, supervising or mentoring lawyers
- Strategic litigation experience or appellate practice is a plus
- Experience representing vulnerable populations is strongly preferred
- Experience working in developing or transitional countries, and in high-risk and politically sensitive environments is a plus
- Note that there are no language requirements for this position

How to Apply:

please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to fellows@theilf.org. Please include country program preferences and availability. Qualified candidates will be contacted for a first-round interview.

For more information about the ILF and this fellowship opportunity, contact Senior Program Director, Holly Hobart, at [212-608-1188](tel:212-608-1188) or fellows@theilf.org.

About the ILF

The ILF is a not-for-profit organization created for the purpose of establishing public defender systems in post-conflict and transitioning countries. The ILF operates on the belief that indigent representation is crucial to a functioning criminal justice system, and a functioning criminal justice system is crucial to long term rule of law development. Without defense lawyers to ensure that judges, prosecutors and police officers follow the law, reform and reconstruction of the justice system is impossible. For the past ten years, the ILF has focused solely on providing criminal defense services to the poor, first in Rwanda, now in Afghanistan, Nepal, the West Bank, Tunisia and Myanmar.