

The logo for the International Legal Foundation (ILF) features the letters "ILF" in a large, white, serif font on a dark blue background. To the right, the full name "THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, white, serif font on a grey background.

THE INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL FOUNDATION

2017/2018 International Fellowships – Myanmar

Yangon, Myanmar • November 2017 or Later

“International Fellows are the backbone of the ILF’s success in post-conflict and transitioning countries. They work side by side with our local lawyers, helping teach them to think differently, to do more, and, beyond the skills training, inspire them and teach them that they are not alone in the work that they do.”

~Jennifer Smith, ILF Executive Director

The International Legal Foundation (ILF), a not-for-profit organization which establishes public defender systems in post-conflict and transitioning countries, seeks experienced criminal justice system lawyers to serve as International Fellows in our new country program in Myanmar. We will begin sending International Fellows as of November 2017 and beyond.

Qualifications: 5+ years of experience providing criminal defense legal aid; experience training and/or mentoring students or new lawyers; experience in the administration of legal aid offices and/or project initiatives. Note that there are no language requirements for this position.

The ILF’s Myanmar country program was established in June 2017, and we are moving quickly to establish our first office in Yangon, to be followed with several other offices throughout the country. Following the successful model of program development the ILF has employed in its existing country programs, we will hire two local staff attorneys in each office and necessary support staff, after which International Fellows will begin working with the attorneys.

International Fellows will engage in day-to-day, case-by-case mentorship with the staff attorneys to incrementally improve their skills and ability to zealously advocate on behalf of their clients. This includes closely supervising staff lawyers as they visit clients in jail, write motions, make court appearances, and conduct investigations. Additionally, Fellows will work with the staff lawyers to identify unconstitutional and discriminatory laws and work with local staff and ILF staff to develop strategic litigation campaigns to challenge them. The International Fellow will also help plan and execute trainings with justice sector stakeholders, and participate in meetings with government officials, other organizations, and donor countries involved in rule of law projects, as a representative of the ILF—a role that is particularly crucial early in a country program’s founding. As part of the foundational work of starting a new country program, the International Fellows will also play an important role in developing the office’s Practice Manual, motions templates, administrative policies, etc. Fellows should be willing to work to develop the skills and capacity of other support staff in this nascent office, including the paralegal and office administrator. Fellows may also be asked to assist in developing institutional policies and procedures to make the office a high-functioning, efficient and effective public defender office, and to contribute to efforts (including more administrative and logistical efforts) to expand and open new offices.

For more information about the ILF and this fellowship opportunity, contact Natalie Stephenson at (212) 608-1188 or nstephenson@theilf.org. **To apply**, please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to Nicole Taylor at fellows@theilf.org.

About the International Legal Foundation

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, and Tunisia, and soon in Myanmar. 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. By fighting against arbitrary detention, public defenders are often the first line of protection against human rights violations.

Since 2001, over 60 Fellows from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand have helped transform the role of local lawyers in these countries from passive participants in the criminal justice system to proactive advocates for their clients. As a direct result, clients languishing in detention have been released and many innocent have been acquitted. Fellows have influenced judges to change policies and practices from the bench, and have helped win landmark legal victories in court that have improved the justice systems of all countries in which the ILF works.