



## 2019/2020 International Fellowship – Juvenile Justice in Myanmar

*“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 is seeking lawyers with extensive experience in juvenile justice and criminal defense representation to train and mentor lawyers across several office locations in Myanmar. In order to contribute to the establishment of a Juvenile Justice Division in the ILF-Myanmar offices, expertise in child development, comprehensive legal services for children in conflict with the law, representing particularly vulnerable populations and experience in high-risk and politically sensitive environments strongly preferred.

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.

Since 2001, over 60 Fellows from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India 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.

The ILF opened a new country program in Myanmar in September 2017, with criminal defense legal aid offices now in operation in Yangon, Mandalay and Patheingyi. The fourth and fifth ILF-Myanmar offices will soon open in Lashio and Sittoung. The Juvenile Justice Fellow will begin the fellowship with 1-2 weeks in one of the ILF-Myanmar offices, working with staff lawyers as they interview clients; investigate cases; prepare motions, cross-examinations and oral arguments; and attend court sessions. The Fellow will then transition to working specifically with the Juvenile Defense lawyers to provide this sort of day-to-day and case-by-case mentorship to incrementally improve their skills and ability to zealously advocate on behalf of their clients. The 90-day fellowship will be split close to evenly with a month each in Yangon, Mandalay and Patheingyi. There will be a special focus on introducing best practices and special performance standards for juvenile defense representation. In general, the ILF seeks to empower Myanmar legal services providers with the skills and ability to provide client-centered, comprehensive and holistic representation to all of its clients. In addition to the mentoring, the International Fellow will help plan and execute trainings with lawyers, paralegals and other justice sector stakeholders. As part of the foundational work of starting a new division, the International Fellow will also play an important role in the development of the Juvenile Justice specific Practice Manual, updated and amended from the ILF-Myanmar Practice Manual to apply within the specific context and to the particular client base. Fellows should be willing to work to develop the skills and capacity of other support staff and assist in developing institutional policies and procedures.

**Qualifications:** Criminal defense experience, with total of 5+ years practicing law in relevant fields; demonstrated expertise in providing quality legal representation to children in conflict with the law and understanding of challenges involved in operating a juvenile specific division within a legal aid office. Experience working in developing or transitional countries is a plus. Note that there are no language requirements for this position.

For more information about the ILF, ILF-Myanmar, and this fellowship opportunity, contact Holly Hobart at 212-608-1188 or [hhobart@theilf.org](mailto:hhobart@theilf.org). To apply, please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to [fellows@theilf.org](mailto:fellows@theilf.org).