

The logo for The International Legal Foundation (ILF) features the letters 'ILF' in a white, serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

THE INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL FOUNDATION

2019-2020 International Fellowship – West Bank

Openings throughout 2019 and 2020

“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 experienced criminal justice system lawyers to take part in its groundbreaking International Fellows Program in 2019 and 2020.

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. By fighting against arbitrary detention, public defenders are often the first line of protection against human rights violations. For 15 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 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.

ILF-West Bank has four offices, in Ramallah, Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus; the International Fellows are based in Ramallah and travel to the other offices regularly. International Fellows mentor local criminal defense lawyers in the ILF’s public defender offices as they represent indigent clients in the Palestinian civilian court system. Fellows oversee criminal cases in their entirety, mentoring local staff lawyers as they visit clients in jail, conduct investigations, write motions and make court appearances. Fellows, as representatives of the ILF, also participate in meetings with government officials, other NGOs and donor countries involved in rule of law projects in the West Bank.

The West Bank office is now transitioning to independence, and so Fellows will also assist office leaders in organizing the office, developing leadership skills, advocacy, identifying legal issues, developing legal strategy and ensuring efficient case management systems.

Qualifications: Criminal defense experience, with at least 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. No language requirement (staff translators are available).

Preferred Qualifications: Experience working in developing or transitional countries, experience managing a public defender office/legal aid office or in-depth coordination with management teams thereof.

For more information about the ILF, ILF-West Bank, and this fellowship opportunity, contact David Anderson at 212-608-1188 or danderson@theilf.org. To apply, please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to fellows@theilf.org.