



## 2018 Pro Bono Fellowship –Anti-Corruption Cases in Afghanistan

*“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 federal defenders with specific expertise defending government actors in complex corruption and bribery cases.

In Afghanistan, many corruption cases are adjudicated in the Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC). ILF-Afghanistan provides public defender services to poor and vulnerable accused in that venue. We are seeking fellows to help develop that defense practice by mentoring ILF-Afghanistan’s lawyers working on these types of cases, and by helping develop a curriculum for training non-ILF lawyers to defend these types of cases. Some of this work would be done remotely, with the fellow(s) communicating with ILF-Afghanistan staff via email and Skype particularly on developing the training curriculum. Other work would be done in Afghanistan, including mentoring ILF-Afghanistan’s lawyers on providing meaningful representation in corruption cases through proactive defense investigation, identification of legal issues and arguments, and holding the State to its burden of proof.

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 on providing criminal defense services to the poor, first in Rwanda, now in Afghanistan, Nepal, the West Bank, and Tunisia.

Since 2001, over 70 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-Afghanistan was founded in 2003, and is now the largest legal aid provider in Afghanistan. We have over 70 lawyers working from 13 offices in provinces throughout the country, and have represented over 25,000 clients to-date.

**Qualifications:** Federal defenders with practical experience defending government actors in complex corruption and bribery cases.

For more information about the ILF, ILF-Afghanistan, and this fellowship opportunity, contact Betsy Walters at (212) 608 – 1188 or [bwalters@theilf.org](mailto:bwalters@theilf.org). To apply, please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to Nicole Taylor at [fellows@theilf.org](mailto:fellows@theilf.org). Note that this volunteer position will be unpaid.