



THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION

International Fellowship Opportunity

Tunisia

Beginning July or Later

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is seeking experienced criminal defense lawyers to participate in the establishment of Tunisia's first public defender program. The goal of this program is to ensure that indigent men, women and children charged with criminal offenses in Tunisia have access to effective legal representation. Tunisian law provides the right to counsel for the indigent accused, yet Tunisia faces challenges in implementing this right. The government legal aid system only provides for appointment of counsel in felony and juvenile cases, and lawyers' access to detainees is limited during the critical early stages of the criminal justice process. Appointed lawyers are often newly admitted to the Bar and rarely have sufficient training or experience. As a result, defense lawyers are usually passive, and the accused are vulnerable to arbitrary and illegal pretrial detention, coerced confessions, torture and wrongful convictions.

The ILF's International Fellows are key to the ILF's effective model for reforming criminal legal aid systems in post-conflict countries. Fellows work pro bono in the ILF's public defender offices on three-month rotations (shorter or longer times considered on a case-by-case basis), acting as senior associates and mentors to their local colleagues. Since 2003, over 55 Fellows from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand have helped transform the role of local lawyers in Afghanistan, Nepal and the West Bank from passive participants in their criminal justice systems to proactive advocates for their clients. As a direct result, clients languishing in detention have been released and many innocent accused have been acquitted. Fellows have influenced judges to change policies and practices from the bench, and have helped win landmark legal victories in court.

The ILF is now seeking an International Fellow for its Tunisia program. Currently, the earliest opening is July 2016; we additionally encourage those who expect to be able to serve later in 2016 or 2017 to apply on a rolling basis, as our need for a new fellow every few months will continue long into the future.

Fellows receive stipends to cover their living expenses while in Tunisia, and all travel expenses are paid by the ILF. Fellows must have at least five years of criminal defense experience in their home country, and experience supervising and/or training is strongly preferred. For the Tunisia program, French and/or Arabic skills are also strongly preferred, but not required. The ILF's Tunisia fellows will mentor the ILF's Tunisian staff lawyers, day-in and day-out, case-by-case, incrementally improving their skill and ability. The work includes supervising staff lawyers as they visit clients in jail, write motions, make court appearances, and conduct investigations. Fellows may 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 representatives of the ILF.

Application Instructions:

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to fellows@theilf.org with the Subject Line "Fellow-Tunisia". Please describe your relevant professional and personal experience, including any experience traveling or working abroad. For further information about this fellowship opportunity, please contact Betsy Walters at bwalters@theilf.org, or +1-212-608-1188.

About The International Legal Foundation

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated in the State of New York. Founded in 2001, the ILF, www.theilf.org, is the leading global advocate for the right of the indigent accused to legal representation. Driven by the belief that every person accused of a crime deserves to be represented by a well-trained lawyer, no matter their ability to pay, the ILF assists countries emerging from conflict or in transition to establish effective criminal legal aid systems. The ILF currently has offices in Afghanistan, Nepal and the West Bank, where it has trained lawyers to provide proactive, high-quality legal representation to over 38,000 people in need.