

# ILF

THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION

## **Natalie Rea Fellowship - West Bank** *Beginning September 2016 or Later*

*"I am very hopeful [about Palestine's criminal justice system]. I think that in Ramallah, Jenin and Hebron there is a growing understanding and appreciation for the role of zealous, effective criminal defense lawyers...What's impressive to me is how much ILF's lawyers and staff have matured individually since my first visit there in 2011, and how the office has assumed a leadership position and has become a respected voice in conversations about local criminal justice issues."*

*-Monte Ghivan, ILF-West Bank Fellow in 2011 and 2014*

The International Legal Foundation is seeking experienced criminal justice system lawyers to take part in its groundbreaking International Fellows program in the West Bank.

The ILF's Natalie Rea International Fellows are lawyers with at least five years of criminal defense, prosecution, or judicial experience who volunteer to work and live abroad on three-month assignments. International Fellows mentor local lawyers day-in and day-out, case-by-case, to help them develop their knowledge and skill and, in the process, contribute to rule of law reform. The work includes assisting local lawyers as they visit clients in jail, write motions, make court appearances and conduct investigations. Fellows may also participate in meetings with government officials, other NGOs, and donor countries involved in rule of law projects, as representatives of the ILF.

Since 2001, 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 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 three countries in which the ILF works.

The West Bank is currently undergoing a transition, presenting the region with a tremendous opportunity to strengthening the rule of law through the development of a strong, proactive criminal defense culture and practice.



*Fellow and ILF-West Bank Staff conduct one of a series of 5-day trainings with the Palestinian Bar Association*

The ILF seeks experienced volunteer lawyers to help bring about change in the West Bank's justice system. International Fellows mentor local criminal defense lawyers in the ILF's public defender office as they represent indigent clients in Palestinian civilian court system. Fellows oversee criminal cases in their entirety, mentoring Palestinian 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. Fellows will assist office leaders in organizing the office, developing leadership skills, advocacy, identifying legal issues, developing legal strategy and ensuring efficient case management systems.

The ILF is a not-for-profit organization created for the purpose of establishing public defender systems in post-conflict countries and countries in transition. The ILF operates on the belief that indigent representation is crucial to a functioning criminal justice system. 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 the past ten years, the ILF has focused solely on providing criminal defense services to the poor, first in Rwanda, and now in Afghanistan, Nepal, the West Bank, and Tunisia.



*A Fellow conducts training with ILF-West Bank Staff*

West Bank Fellows are based in Ramallah, where the ILF has an office and residence. Travel, lodging, traveler's insurance and a small living stipend are paid by the ILF; however, the organization cannot be responsible for any other expenses incurred during the assignment (e.g. health insurance). The West Bank is a transitional territory, and before applying for this fellowship, applicants should be aware of the potential risks involved in living there.

### **Qualifications**

All applicants must have at least 5 years of experience practicing criminal law, either as a defense lawyer, prosecutor or judge. Preference will be given to those with management experience who, in addition to building the legal skills of the ILF-West Bank staff lawyers, could help build the capacity of the management team, improve the office's systems and structures, including case intake, and develop a better focus on strategic litigation. Applicants should be sensitive to cultural differences and must be willing to work on Sundays. Arabic language skills are beneficial but not a requirement.

### **Salary**

Fellows are based in Ramallah, where the ILF has an office and residence. Travel, lodging, traveler's insurance and a small living stipend are paid by the ILF; however, the organization cannot be responsible for any other expenses incurred during the assignment (e.g. health insurance).

### **Application Instructions:**

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to [fellows@theilf.org](mailto:fellows@theilf.org) with the Subject Line "Fellow- West Bank". Please describe your relevant professional and personal experience, including any experience traveling or working abroad.