



## 2018/2019 International Fellowship – Capacity Building in Rakhine State

*Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar • 90 Days • Summer/Fall/Winter 2018-2019*

*“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 criminal defense representation and other relevant legal sectors to train and mentor lawyers in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Expertise in gender based violence, comprehensive legal services for women in the criminal justice system, 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 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 and Mandalay. A third ILF-Myanmar office will soon be established in another location. The International Fellow in Rakhine 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 travel to Rakhine to provide this sort of day-to-day and case-by-case mentorship to local lawyers to incrementally improve their skills and ability to zealously advocate on behalf of their clients. There will be a special focus on women in the criminal justice system. 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. The International Fellow will also help plan and execute trainings with lawyers, paralegals and other justice sector stakeholders. As part of the foundational work of starting a new regional program, the International Fellow will also play an important role in the development of the Rakhine specific Practice Manual, updated and amended from the ILF-Myanmar Practice Manual to apply within the specific context and to the particular client base in Rakhine. Fellows should be willing to work to develop the skills and capacity of other support staff in this nascent office, and assist in developing institutional policies and procedures. The ILF International Fellows will also have to be sensitive to the challenges and restrictions of working in Rakhine and proceed under considerable scrutiny from ILF-NY and in-region supervisors.

**Qualifications:** Criminal defense experience, with total of 5+ years practicing law in relevant fields; specific experience with women in conflict with the law and understanding of challenges involved in conflict-ridden areas 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 Nicole Taylor at [fellows@theilf.org](mailto:fellows@theilf.org).