

ILF International Fellows Program

Opportunities Available in Myanmar

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is seeking lawyers to join its International Fellows program in Myanmar. Lawyers with extensive public defense experience, including in public defense management, juvenile defense and with specialization in gender justice are encouraged to apply. International Fellows will provide mentoring and support to the ILF's public defenders in Myanmar who are pioneering the provision of quality, holistic criminal defense services to poor people charged with criminal offenses. ILF Myanmar now has four offices across the country with legal and support staff, with a high volume of work. The ILF Myanmar provides quality holistic legal aid through its established legal aid offices, which include specialized juvenile defense, gender justice, and civil documentation units, integrated with social work practice.

Opportunities are available through 2025, and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

International Fellow positions are volunteer/pro bono positions, but transportation, housing and a small cost of living allowance will be provided based on a minimum commitment and duration.

Since 2001, over 100 ILF Fellows from around the world have helped transform the role of local lawyers in Afghanistan, Tunisia, Palestine, Nepal, and Myanmar from passive participants in the criminal justice system to proactive advocates for their clients. As a direct result of these pro bono placements, clients languishing in detention have been released and many innocent accused have been acquitted. Fellows have helped local lawyers develop foundational defense skills and techniques, challenge unlawful policies and practices, and push litigation strategies that have improved the justice systems in all of the countries in which the ILF works. Fellows with managerial experience have supported the introduction of systems and procedures in ILF offices that facilitate quality services to clients and move towards local independence.

The need for talented lawyers to participate in the ILF's International Fellows program is great and ever critical given the need to develop innovative strategies to address democratic backsliding and the criminalization of poverty and status around the world.

Program Details:

International Fellows will receive extensive orientation prior to the start of their arrival in-country to prepare them on relevant law, practice and country context, as well as connecting new International Fellows with prior International Fellows and local colleagues. On the ground, Fellows will start immediately to work up cases with the lawyers, conduct legal discussions, and shadow lawyers at their court appearances. The mentoring also includes assisting lawyers as they interview clients, conduct investigations, write motions, prepare witness examinations, and practice oral arguments. In general, the ILF seeks to empower and build the capacity of local legal service providers by providing them with the skills and ability to deliver client-centered, child friendly, gender-sensitive, rights-based, holistic representation to their clients.

International Fellows will also help plan and execute trainings with lawyers, paralegals, social workers, and other justice sector stakeholders. They may also participate in meetings with government officials, other NGOs, and donors involved in rule of law projects, as representatives of the ILF. Fellows should be willing to work to develop the skills and capacity of managerial staff and other support staff and assist in developing supervision and office practices that improve operations and quality of legal representation. Through this process, International Fellows make pivotal, concrete contributions to the rule of law and legal aid reform.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years of experience practicing criminal defense and providing quality legal representation to persons suspected and accused of criminal offenses.
- Expertise in youth justice, gender justice, refugee and migrant issues is a plus.
- Applied litigation skills to address systemic injustices or widespread violations of rights.
- Experience training, supervising, or mentoring lawyers.
- Experience managing a legal aid or public defender training department desirable.
- Local language skills are not required but would be an asset.

How to Apply or for more information:

If interested or for more information, please contact us at fellows@theilf.org. Applicants should send a thoughtful cover letter and resume. Qualified candidates will be contacted for interview.

About the ILF

The ILF is a non-profit organization founded to address this global crisis in access to justice. Every day, millions of people are languishing in jails around the world because they cannot afford to hire a defense lawyer. For over two decades, the ILF has fought to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Around the world, we provide quality criminal defense services and build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions. Currently, we provide direct legal services in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Palestine and Tunisia and offer technical assistance in many other countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.theilf.org.