

## **ILF International Fellows Program**

### **Opportunity Available in Tunisia and Kenya**

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is seeking lawyers to join its International Fellows program. International Fellows will work on an exciting new project which will evaluate the impact that early access to quality, holistic legal aid/public defense services has on people's justice outcomes, including pretrial detention rates, case outcomes, and individual socioeconomic factors. Ideal candidates will have significant experience working as legal aid lawyers or public defenders in jurisdictions with duty lawyer schemes where lawyers routinely represent suspected and accused persons at the police station, and/or at their first appearances in court. They will also have significant pretrial litigation expertise and experience mentoring lawyers.

Placements will commence in January 2025. Opportunities are ongoing, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Interested candidates may suggest a preference for placement, though ultimately placements are dependent on current programming needs.

In Tunisia, International Fellows will support Tunisian legal aid lawyers hired by the ILF's Tunisian led-legal aid offices and will support their efforts to provide proactive legal representation to people starting at police stations, within the first 72 hours after their arrest.

In Kenya, International Fellows will work with the ILF's partner, Justice Initiatives Global, a not-for-profit entity established in Kenya in 2023. Based in Nairobi, they will support Kenyan legal aid lawyers hired by Justice Initiatives Global in their efforts to provide proactive legal representation to people from their first court appearance at a busy magistrates' court in Nairobi.

International Fellow positions are volunteer/ pro bono positions, but transportation, housing and a small monthly stipend will be provided based on a minimum commitment and duration of three months.

International Fellows are the backbone of the ILF's success in reforming legal aid systems globally. Since 2001, over 100 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, rights-based, comprehensive and holistic representation to all 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 people from the time of arrest, or at first court appearances.
- Significant and demonstrated expertise in pretrial litigation and innovative advocacy strategies that result in pretrial release, diversion, dismissal or other positive outcomes.
- 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.
- Arabic or French language skills (for Tunisia) or Swahili language skills (for Kenya) a strong plus. 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](mailto:fellows@theilf.org). Applicants should send a thoughtful cover letter and resume. Qualified candidates will be contacted for interview.

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## **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 worldwide. For more information, visit [www.theilf.org](http://www.theilf.org).

## **About Justice Initiatives Global**

Justice Initiatives Global is a Nairobi-based not-for-profit entity established in Kenya in 2023 and founded by British barrister Shamini Jayanathan OBE and American lawyer Atieno Odhiambo.