



The ILF's Global Internship Program

Established in 2001, the ILF is a leading global advocate for the right to counsel. Our mission is to make justice a reality for poor people by fighting to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Globally, we provide high quality criminal defense services, partner with civil society organizations, and build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions. The ILF is headquartered in New York, and currently has public defense offices or programming in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, and Tunisia. Through the work of its dedicated public defenders, the ILF is effectively defending the most vulnerable people in societies around the world and advancing the culture and practice of lawyering on a global scale. Our work prevents human rights abuses such as torture, protects the rights of the accused, and results in access to free, high-quality, client-centered representation for indigent children and adults. For more about us, visit www.theilf.org.

About the Internship

Interns will be exposed to a range of work in one or more countries relating to direct representation, strategic litigation, and/or policy advocacy. Intern responsibilities may include but are not limited to drafting legal memos or other communications; engaging in legal research and writing; providing support for lawyer training programs; and developing advocacy tools. This internship provides a unique, valuable opportunity for hands-on learning in a global public defense organization that provides high quality legal aid to people in need.

The internship is open to U.S. law students (1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls returning to school after the internship, LLMs and SJDs). The ideal candidate is a team player, comfortable in a fast-paced environment and possesses:

- A passion for public defense and the rights of the accused
- A demonstrated commitment to social justice and human rights
- Strong organizational skills, ability to think strategically and execute tactically
- Excellent communication, research, and writing skills
- Excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills

Prior experience interning, externing, or taking clinical coursework in criminal defense/public defense (anywhere in the world) is a plus. We are looking at providing in-person placement opportunities in New York and/or other countries beginning summer 2026.

Details:

- **Language:** English is required; proficiency in additional languages is an advantage.
- **Funding:** The ILF Global Internship Program is unpaid and travel expenses are not provided. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek external funding.
- **Dates:** Applications for spring, summer, and fall are accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled. The summer internship program will begin on Monday, June 8, 2026 and end on Friday, August 14, 2026. Summer interns are expected to intern 40 hours per week.

Application Instructions:

- To apply, please send a resume and cover letter, in English to internships@theilf.org.
- In your cover letter, please explain your familiarity with/commitment to human rights, indigent defense, international justice, community-based organizing, and/or access to legal aid and how your life experience may add to this internship.

Antiracism, diversity, and equity are critical to our organizational values and to the ILF's mission to secure equal access to justice for all. Our success is dependent upon providing the space, resources, and support that allow our global team to bring their full selves to work, and to thrive. The International Legal Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. We practice inclusive hiring and work to achieve and maintain diversity across races, genders, sexualities, abilities, and experiences. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities to apply. System-impacted people (i.e. people with past involvement in the criminal justice system, directly or through family) are also strongly encouraged to apply.