

**ILF International Fellows Program
Opportunities Available in Myanmar and Tunisia**

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is inviting passionate, experienced public defenders and social workers with experience in interdisciplinary legal advocacy and holistic defense to take part in a unique opportunity to help shape the future of indigent defense in Myanmar and Tunisia.

The ILF is a leading global advocate for the right to counsel. Around the world, the ILF provides criminal defense services and builds sustainable, effective public defense institutions.

Key to our success is that the ILF deploys International Fellows to provide intensive, case-based mentorship that empowers local lawyers and social workers in countries around the world to move from passive participants in the justice system to proactive, strategic, and highly skilled advocates. Embedded in the ILF's public defense offices for a minimum of three months, International Fellows work side-by-side with local teams to strengthen defense practices, develop litigation strategies, and help build holistic, rights-based legal aid systems in contexts where they are urgently needed.

We are currently seeking International Fellows available for placements beginning immediately through April 2027, with a minimum commitment of three months. (The ILF is most urgently seeking public defenders and social workers for immediate placement as International Fellows in Myanmar.) At this time, we are looking to place two Legal Fellows and one Social Work Fellow in Myanmar and at least one Legal Fellow and one Social Work Fellow in Tunisia. Public defenders and social workers with experience and expertise defending children and young people in conflict with the law are particularly encouraged to apply, as in both Myanmar and Tunisia the ILF has established a specialization and focus on holistic juvenile defense. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis for available positions, and early applications are strongly encouraged.

Social Work Fellows – Myanmar: The ILF is pioneering interdisciplinary defense in Myanmar, pairing public defenders with social workers to provide holistic representation to youth and vulnerable clients. Social work fellows will play a transformational role—helping to train and mentor a brand-new generation of social workers embedded in public defense offices, develop tools and frameworks, and support casework that could mean the difference between freedom and incarceration for clients.

Social Work Fellows – Tunisia: In Tunisia, the ILF is working to scale up an interdisciplinary model that we introduced to our public defense practice in 2024. Over the next year, we hope to expand this model across the country and build an organizational infrastructure (internal training, protocols and practice) needed to enable the ILF to institutionalize and grow the practice.

Legal Fellows – Myanmar & Tunisia: The ILF is pioneering holistic public defense systems in Myanmar and Tunisia. Legal fellows will mentor local public defenders, co-develop litigation strategies, lead skills-building workshops, contribute to strategic advocacy and nurture the development of an interdisciplinary defense practice. This is a chance to apply your courtroom

expertise in new contexts, and to walk away with deeper insights into justice systems under pressure.

While these are volunteer roles, the ILF provides:

- Destination country transportation
- Housing and local transportation
- A modest cost-of-living allowance
- Orientation and ongoing in-country support

Qualifications

Required:

- 5+ years of relevant professional experience in criminal defense, social work, or interdisciplinary legal advocacy, with a strong commitment to client-centered and holistic representation.
- Demonstrated experience working with people impacted by the criminal legal system, particularly individuals facing detention, incarceration, or other significant consequences.
- Strong mentoring, training, or supervision experience, with a commitment to building the skills and capacity of others.
- Experience developing and applying strategies, practices, or interventions that improve outcomes for clients, whether through legal advocacy, social work, interdisciplinary practice, or systemic advocacy.
- Ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team, including collaboration between lawyers, social workers, and other professionals.
- Proven ability to work with a high degree of autonomy in unfamiliar environments, including proactive communication, initiative, adaptability, and reliable follow-through.
- Demonstrated cultural humility, professional conduct, readiness to collaborate respectfully, and ability to navigate differences in culture, norms, professional practices, and lived experience.
- Must comply with all global Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies.

Preferred:

- Experience working with children and young people involved in the criminal legal system.
- Experience developing, supervising, or training professionals in juvenile defense, holistic defense, or interdisciplinary practice.
- Experience with systemic advocacy, policy reform, strategic litigation, or other efforts to address systemic barriers affecting clients.
- Experience working in developing, transitional, or otherwise complex justice systems.
- Relevant country language skills preferred but not required.

How to Apply

To apply, send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to fellows@theilf.org with “Fellow Application” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Learn more here: <https://www.theilf.org/careers-internships>

Questions or application materials? Reach out to: fellows@theilf.org

Whether you're a veteran public defender or an experienced social worker, this is an opportunity to make a global impact, strengthen your own practice, and help build systems of justice.

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 ILF is committed to equal opportunity and inclusive recruitment. 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 with the criminal justice system, directly or through family) are also strongly encouraged to apply.