

LEGAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

International Lawyers Project (ILP) is a UK-based international pro-bono legal charity making a significant impact on inequality and economic justice issues globally. We support reform-minded governments and civil society - from NGOs and grassroots community groups, to investigative journalists and activists worldwide - to access justice and advance their causes.

We connect our partners and the communities they support to the highest calibre of independent pro bono legal support and expertise across these themes, enabling us to strengthen citizens' voices, accelerate sustainable solutions and create systemic change in some of the world's poorest regions.

In 2022, we worked with 220 legal volunteers to deliver over 5,000 hours of support to our pro bono clients at a commercial value of approximately £3.9 million. **For every £1 we receive, we are able to provide £17 worth of pro bono legal assistance.** This demonstrates our value and effectiveness in providing emergency, tailored legal support which would otherwise be beyond the financial reach of our clients.

In addition to our casework, in 2022, ILP organised and delivered 20 legal training sessions, including 3 training sessions for government officials in low-income countries on tax and rule of law capacity building.

How our Legal Fellowship Programme Works

As well as the 3,000 expert legal volunteers we work with, we offer opportunities for law students at Masters or PhD level and postgraduates with an interest in developing their skills and awareness of pro bono work and international development projects. ILP legal fellows start work immediately on cases, alongside team members, to support our clients. We have clients in 80 countries. We are client-led and respond to requests from local actors to build their capacity, whether through formal legal training sessions, workshops, legal representation, litigation and advice, or through extended engagement and mentoring for communities, government officials, and civil society representatives. To provide this assistance we draw on a bank of highly qualified lawyers who offer their services for free. As a charity, our ultimate aim is to help our clients to create long-lasting change in some of the world's poorest regions. ILP endeavours to respond to each client's needs in a respectful, solution-oriented manner.

Our interns are buddied with one member of staff (Programme Director, Senior Director, Project Manager, or Legal Manager), and stay in that thematic or regional programme for the duration of their internship to ensure continuity with clients and cases. All legal fellows at ILP:

- Work with dynamic, supportive, fun and kind lawyer-colleagues
- Work across multiple areas of the law - including criminal, civil, finance, tax, property, natural resources and international issues
- Develop project management and client interview/engagement skills



- Develop closer relationships with activists and reformist governments who seek pro bono advice to better understand how law can support their needs
- Develop legal research skills in an international context and how to apply these to development issues
- Develop an understanding of the legal governance and management of a small charity
- Work with top volunteer lawyers from law firms and barristers chambers at the very peak of their profession

Our internships are arranged for 3-5 days a week, depending on outside work/studies, for periods of approx. 3-4 months (holidays and exam breaks are not a problem!). Interns are welcome to work from our lovely office in central London, donated by and located within Herbert Smith Freehills. Many internships are also conducted remotely and legal fellows receive the same rewarding experience. Our team and clients are diverse. The diversity of our interns has equally enriched our way of working. Since we started our virtual internship programme several years ago, we have received legal fellowship applications from all over the world, providing more opportunities for law students who often do not have access to the resources available in the UK.

Our support does not end when their fellowship with ILP is over. We provide career mentoring through the fellowship so that we can use our knowledge and network of contacts across the legal world to best support fellows to achieve their professional goals. We are always delighted to provide references and we love staying in contact with former interns and seeing what the future holds for them.