CLSLP - ISLP FELLOWSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) of the Columbia Law School (CLS) and the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) are partnering to offer a one year fellowship to a graduating CLS LLM or JD student with an interest in the intersection of law and international development. The fellowship is a testament to CLS’s commitment to public interest and social justice, and an additional opportunity to the alumni who are interested in incorporating public service into their careers. In particular, ISLP seeks a one-year fellow to assist it with the management of its projects in the fields of rule of law, natural resources, and investment and trade. The fellowship will offer a unique opportunity to participate in the strategic mobilization of deep legal expertise in support of the macro- and micro-economic development efforts of organizations and governments in low- and middle-income countries. Further, it will offer the opportunity of a close relationship of mentorship for a student, who is interested in pursuing a career in the international development field, as well as connections with high-level lawyers, development aid agencies, and governments.

The fellow will be based in ISLP’s New York office. The fellow may also agree with ISLP to spend part of the fellowship in one of ISLP’s target jurisdictions. An annual funding of $40,000 will be provided by CLS and ISLP to the selected candidate. ISLP will also provide health insurance coverage.

About ISLP

The ISLP is a small, dynamic, New York- and London-based nongovernmental organization that helps communities, developing country governments, and civil society organizations navigate increasingly complex trends and forces in development. ISLP provides support to its clients in order to level the playing field between developing country governments, civil society organizations, and affected communities on the one hand and multi-national and supra-national actors (including multi-national corporations and international financial institutions) on the other. ISLP supports “just and accountable development” that is supportive of human rights and strengthens the rule of law by mobilizing its unique network of highly skilled and experienced pro bono lawyers. With on-the-ground experience in nearly 50 countries, ISLP has a unique ability to mobilize lawyers with decades of relevant experience to provide technical assistance, capacity building, training and mentoring, legal research and analysis, and direct legal counsel in significant transactional matters. Because ISLP projects are client driven, they are informed by a sensitivity to local needs, resources, and priorities, which helps to shape each project for maximum impact. For more information please visit: www.islp.org

Sustainable Economic Development Program

The economic growth of resource-rich developing countries may be inhibited, if their general economic potential is not managed in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner. ISLP offers technical assistance, training, support in drafting laws, and regulations, and direct assistance with the negotiation of major natural resource and investment agreements to carefully selected governments. ISLP’s government clients under this program have included Liberia, The Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Guinea, Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar.

ISLP seeks a qualified and motivated fellow to support the work of the Sustainable Development Program. The fellowship will provide the fellow with valuable experience in strategically developing and managing projects, with a focus in Africa. It will also afford the fellow the opportunity to attend relevant conferences, workshops, and other events; to work closely and form connections with outside experts, and partner organizations in the economic development field; and to benefit from the close mentorship afforded by ISLP’s closely-knit staff. To ensure these outcomes, ISLP will work with the fellow to design a tailored fellowship experience. On a day-to-day basis, the fellow will work closely with the Program Director, who will provide frequent feedback and mentorship. ISLP’s Executive Director will also meet with the fellow on a regular basis to discuss the fellowship and to offer support for the fellow’s professional development. Given
the nature of ISLP, the fellow should be highly motivated, work well under tight deadlines, and be comfortable working with a small, dedicated, and highly skilled team in an informal, non-hierarchical, and fast-paced environment. Project management responsibilities of the fellow will require thoughtful, diplomatic, and timely communications with high-level lawyers, foreign government officials, local civil society organizations, international NGO partners, and others.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

A fellow would be expected to:

- Assist in the development and implementation of projects by:
  - working with clients to elaborate their needs and determine how ISLP can best meet those needs;
  - compiling and updating briefing materials regarding legal, political, historical, and cultural issues relevant to a given project;
  - drafting Terms of Reference for our projects to our target jurisdictions;
  - communicating with clients and volunteer attorneys to ensure the proper and timely implementation of the projects;
  - devising strategies to address legal issues related to our projects; and
  - supporting ISLP’s pro bono lawyers with legal research for legislative drafting projects, preparation of materials for trainings, and comparative research projects.
- Conduct diligence on potential projects including potential client governments, civil society organizations, and local context.
- Conduct legal research, prepare research agenda for external research teams, and oversee production of externally produced research as required.
- Assist program staff in developing, orchestrating and participating in roundtable discussions on key issues that arise in ISLP’s work.
- Help cultivate ISLP’s base of pro bono lawyers for specific focus areas.
- Help build ISLP’s portfolio of partners and clients by identifying new potential partners and drafting outreach materials.
- Assist in reporting to grantors.
- Accompany program staff and/or volunteers on in-country assignments to develop or assess impact of projects.

**Qualifications and Experience**

The fellow must have the following qualifications:

- Graduate of Columbia Law School who is a member of the Class of 2018, pursuing a J.D. or LL.M. degree (graduating in October 2017, or February or May 2018);
- Excellent organizational skills, including attention to detail and the ability to manage numerous tasks simultaneously, work independently to meet goals, and follow up until a task is completed;
- Diplomacy, flexibility, patience, persistence, excellent inter-personal skills, a sensitivity to cross-cultural issues, and high ethical standards;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- A demonstrated interest in international law projects that promote the rule of law, and sustainable economic development in emerging markets and developing countries.
Preferred qualifications include:

- Experience working or living in Africa; and
- The ability to work in French.

**To Apply**

Please send a CV, cover letter, and brief writing sample to Katerina Drisi: kdrisi@islp.org, with a copy to Rebecca Hinde: rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu. Applications must be received no later than Monday, April 16, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. Interviews will be conducted by a Committee comprised of CLS and ISLP officers. The fellowship is expected to commence in September 2018.