



# Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

*Fighting for the human rights of Haiti's poor*

## IJDH Legal Internship

### About Us

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and its Haiti-based affiliate, the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), have over 15 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights, in Haiti and abroad. We work in four areas: 1) *impact litigation* to force open the doors of Haitian, international and U.S. courts for precedent-setting human rights cases; 2) *documentation* to provide public officials, human rights advocates and grassroots activists the reliable information they need to speak up for human rights in Haiti; 3) *transnational grassroots advocacy* to compel governments and powerful institutions in Haiti and abroad to respect Haitians' human rights; and 4) *systemic capacity building* to develop a corps of Haitian lawyers and advocates trained to fight for sustainable change in their country.

The organizations' successes include spearheading the Raboteau Massacre trial, considered Haiti's best complex litigation, and *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, one of the most important human rights cases in the Americas and the only Haiti case ever decided by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The New York Times called the BAI's Mario Joseph "Haiti's most prominent human rights lawyer."

### Project Description

IJDH has two part-time legal internship positions open for the Fall of 2012.

The Legal Intern will be working closely with a team of lawyers in the United States on advocacy and legal work aimed at seeking accountability from the United Nations (UN) for causing Haiti's cholera epidemic. Cholera broke out in Haiti in October 2010, and the country is now fighting to contain the world's largest cholera epidemic. Overwhelming evidence has established that reckless disposal of human waste on a UN peacekeeping base in Mirebalais poisoned Haiti's rivers with a particularly deadly strain of cholera bacteria and caused the epidemic. IJDH and BAI represent victims of cholera in their quest for justice from the UN. In November 2011, we filed claims on behalf of 5,000 victims of cholera seeking a) investments in water and sanitation infrastructure to control the epidemic, b) compensation for the victims and c) a public apology. The UN has yet to accept responsibility and respond to the victims' claims. CAP works with Haitian grassroots groups and international advocates in a broad-based campaign to push the UN to take action to stop cholera's killing.

### Intern Responsibilities

Interns will work with and be supervised by IJDH attorneys on the following:

- Conducting domestic, international and comparative legal research and producing memoranda summarizing the research;
- Participating in case management, including overseeing the collection and processing of documentation related to individual clients' claims, managing victims' databases, and reviewing evidence;

- Preparing advocacy documents, including human rights reports, op-eds and case summaries for publication;
- Supporting advocacy in the United Nations system, U.S. Congress and other international forums; and
- Participating in media work to advocate for human rights in Haiti, including drafting press releases, talking points and op-eds.

## Qualifications

- Current 2L or 3L with a background in international law and human rights;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Proficiency in standard computer applications;
- High level of initiative and motivation;
- Ability to handle sensitive client relationships and protect the confidentiality of our work and our communications.
- Proficiency in French and/or Haitian Creole a plus.
- Interns must be available for a minimum of 10 hrs/week for the duration of the internship.

## Funding

This is a part-time, unpaid internship.

## Application Procedure

Law students interested in the position of Fall Legal Intern should submit a cover letter, resume, transcript, short writing sample, and contact information for two references as soon as possible. Please send all application materials electronically to Beatrice Lindstrom ([beatrice@ijdh.org](mailto:beatrice@ijdh.org)) by **September 1, 2012**. Include “Legal Intern Fall 2012” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

## Contact Information

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