



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Fighting for the human rights of Haiti's poor

Haiti Legal Fellowship

About Us

The *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) is Haiti's leading public interest law firm. The BAI has over 17 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights, in Haiti and abroad. We work in close collaboration with our U.S.-based partner, the Institute Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) in four areas: 1) *impact litigation* that opens the doors of Haitian, international and U.S. courts to precedent-setting human rights cases; 2) *documentation* that provides 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* that compels governments and powerful institutions in Haiti and abroad to respect Haitians' human rights; and 4) *systemic capacity building* that develops a corps of Haitian human rights 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 first Haiti case ever decided by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The New York Times called the BAI's Managing Attorney, Mario Joseph, "Haiti's most prominent human rights lawyer."

Project Description

The BAI is seeking to fill two one-year legal fellowship positions in Port-au-Prince, Haiti starting in September 2013 (start date is somewhat flexible).

Our projects often shift depending on the needs of our partners and clients. But we anticipate that the legal fellows will be responsible for coordinating one or more of the following projects:

- Seeking justice and accountability for victims of gender-based violence;
- Investigating human rights violations in prisons and using advocacy and litigation to improve prison conditions;
- Pursuing the claim against the United Nations on behalf of 15,000 victims of the cholera brought to Haiti by UN troops
- Using legal advocacy and grassroots mobilizing to fight for the realization of the right to housing and other "economic, social and cultural rights" for persons displaced by the earthquake. This project includes protecting displaced communities from unlawful forced evictions from displacement camps;

Fellow Responsibilities

Legal fellows will be responsible for coordinating international advocacy in support of the ongoing work of the BAI, as well as working closely with the Haitian lawyers in the office on domestic

litigation, media advocacy, and grassroots organizing related to a broad array of issues that advance the work of the BAI and IJDH.

Given our small office and large volume of work, fellows will be given a high degree of responsibility from the start. Accordingly, fellows must be highly motivated, responsible and communicative. Fellows will work closely with BAI attorneys on the following:

- Coordinating communication between U.S. and Haitian lawyers;
- Facilitating human rights delegations and fact-finding trips;
- Preparing advocacy reports incorporating legal research and fact finding;
- Conducting trainings on various topics ranging from computer literacy to international law standards;
- Participating in litigation, including legal research, preparing documents for the court, case management and reviewing documentary evidence;
- Collaborating with victims and victims' organizations to help develop advocacy plans; and
- Engaging with Haitian and international media to draw attention to human rights violations.

Qualifications

- Bachelors and J.D., or equivalent law degree (bar admission not required);
- Fluency in French, and either prior Creole knowledge or a willingness to learn;
- Experience in civil or criminal litigation a plus;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Proficiency in standard computer applications;
- High level of initiative, independence and motivation;
- Willingness and ability to live and work under fast-paced and challenging conditions; and
- Ability to handle sensitive client relationships and protect the confidentiality of our work and our communications.

Funding

We are unable to offer a stipend at this time, but are happy to work with applicants to secure funding.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, short writing sample, and contact information for two references. Please send all application materials electronically to Nicole Phillips (Nicole@ijdh.org). Include "Haiti Legal Fellow" in the subject line.

Contact Information

Nicole Phillips
Nicole@ijdh.org