



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti *Fighting for the human rights of Haiti's poor*

IJDH Legal Internship – Summer 2013

About Us

The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and its Haiti-based affiliate, the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), have over 17 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights, in Haiti and abroad. We work 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 most successful complex litigation, and *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, one of the most important human rights cases in the Americas and the first Haiti case to be decided by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and four precedent-setting rape cases in 2012. The New York Times called the BAI's Mario Joseph "Haiti's most prominent human rights lawyer."

Project Description

IJDH is seeking to hire a full-time legal intern for the Summer of 2013.

The Legal Intern will work 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;

666 Dorchester Avenue | South Boston, MA 02127 | (617) 652-0876 | info@ijdh.org | <http://ijdh.org>

- 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 contributing to social media work.

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 preferred.

Funding

This is an unpaid internship.

Application Procedure

Law students interested in the position of Summer 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) by **January 31, 2013**. Include "Legal Intern Summer 2013" in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Contact Information

Beatrice Lindstrom, Esq.
Staff Attorney, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
666 Dorchester Avenue
South Boston, MA 02127

beatrice@ijdh.org
(404)217-1302