



Be Just Legal Fellowship 2015-2017

About Us

The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) are a partnership of Haitian and U.S. human rights advocates with over 19 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights in Haiti and abroad.

Fellowship Description

With the generous support of the Bertha Foundation, IJDH is offering a two-year legal fellowship for an emerging lawyer committed to pursuing a career in public interest law. The Foundation's Bertha Justice "Be Just" Initiative is a global network of public interest lawyers that provides solidarity and training to movement lawyers around the world. The Bertha Foundation currently supports 6-8 fellows at BAI in Haiti. The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to develop the skills necessary for lawyers from the Global North to support social change movements and progressive lawyers in the Global South.

The IJDH Be Just Fellow will work closely with IJDH and BAI teams in the U.S. and Haiti on advocacy and legal work, including groundbreaking litigation seeking to hold the United Nations accountable for introducing cholera to Haiti, and advocating for fair and inclusive elections in Haiti. The Be Just Fellow will also serve as a liaison between the BAI Fellows in Haiti and the broader Bertha Network.

Fellowship Details

The fellowship position is for two years starting any time between April 2015 and September 2015 and provides an annual stipend of \$35,000 and health benefits. The Fellow will be based at IJDH's office in Boston, with regular travel to Haiti. Exceptionally strong candidates based in New York may be considered.

Responsibilities of the Be Just Fellow include:

- Regular travel to Haiti to promote integration of BAI Fellows into Be Just Network activities, including facilitating film discussions, providing technical support to access social media and webinars, and planning for network events;
- Regular communication with the BAI Fellows from the U.S., including collaborative work, training and writing;
- Conducting domestic, international and comparative legal research;
- Producing internal memoranda and drafting legal documents for submission to court;
- Participating in case management and working with confidential client files;
- Supporting the organization and implementation of domestic and international advocacy campaigns in collaboration with partner organizations;

- Developing political strategies and engaging directly with national legislators, UN officers and other powerful international actors;
- Drafting advocacy documents, including human rights reports, op-eds and case summaries for publication;
- Assisting with composition of fundraising and grant proposal documents, as needed;
- Engaging with international media, including drafting press releases and educating press on recent case developments.

Qualifications

In our small, busy office, fellows are given a high degree of responsibility from the start and are incorporated as valued members of the legal team. Accordingly, the Be Just Fellow must be highly motivated and reliable. In order to successfully support Haitian grassroots empowerment, the candidate must possess exceptional humility, a keen sensitivity to issues of race, class, colonialism and imperialism, and a commitment to earning trust.

- Bachelors and J.D., or equivalent law degree;
- Fluency in French or Haitian Creole required, as well as basic proficiency or willingness to learn the other language;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated cross-cultural sensitivity;
- Proficiency in standard computer applications;
- High level of initiative, independence and motivation;
- Ability to handle sensitive client relationships and protect the confidentiality of our work and our communications;
- Prior experience in Haiti or other similar environments desired.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, short writing sample, and contact information for two references electronically to beatrice@ijdh.org by **April 1, 2015**. Please include “Be Just Fellow” in the subject line.

Contact Information

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IJDH is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate in its hiring practices.