



Haiti Voting Rights Associate

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 20 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights in Haiti and abroad.

Job Description

After four years without any national elections in Haiti, all mayors, legislative deputies and two thirds of senators have termed out. That leaves the country with only eleven elected officials in office—the president and ten senators. Presidential, legislative and local elections are scheduled for 2015 to fill all offices except ten senate seats. Voting could be pushed back to early 2016.

BAI and IJDH engaged in limited voting rights advocacy around elections in 2006, 2009 and 2010-2011. These efforts had some impact on the public debate in Haiti and the U.S., but all of these elections were deeply problematic, involving violations of the voters' rights that led to Haiti's current political crisis. BAI and IJDH are committed to investing more resources to support free and fair Haiti elections in 2015-2016 through strategies including media work, fact checking, and ground sourcing initiatives.

IJDH seeks a highly motivated, resourceful, self-directed Haiti Voting Rights Associate to lead the organization's voting rights initiative from Boston, under the guidance of IJDH Executive Director and other members of the voting rights team, in consultation with the BAI Managing Attorney.

Position Details

The position is full-time for 8-10 months, depending on final elections scheduling, starting as soon as possible (preferably in July 2015) and provides a monthly salary of up to \$3,500 and health benefits. The position will be based at IJDH's office in Boston, with possible regular travel to Haiti, depending on the individual's skill set. Exceptionally strong candidates based in other locations and available for regular travel to Boston may be considered.

Responsibilities of the position include:

- Implement the voting rights initiative based on strategies and priorities identified by the voting rights team; keep the team on track and on schedule.
- Educate oneself thoroughly on Haitian elections current and past, including the Haitian Constitution and electoral law, in order to develop a complex understanding of the context.
- Travel regularly to Haiti to gather information and promote the use of the ground sourcing platform through Haitian radio and Haitian partner meetings (depending on skills) or plan and support trips to Haiti for IJDH consultants to do so.

- Gather updated election information and disseminate it through the elections blog site, social media and other media.
- Document elections developments and issues through articles and analyses.
- Engage with international media, including writing press releases and educating press on recent developments.
- Promote positive international engagement with Haitian elections through education of international governments and citizens and through a watchdog role.

Qualifications

In our small, busy office, program staff are given a high degree of responsibility from the start and are incorporated as valued members of the IJDH team. Accordingly, the Voting Rights Associate must be highly motivated and reliable. In order to successfully support Haitian partners, the candidate must possess exceptional humility, a keen sensitivity to issues of race, class, colonialism and imperialism, and a commitment to earning trust. Desired qualifications include:

- Bachelors degree required; legal, policy, or journalism degree a plus;
- Some combination of:
 - Fluency in French or Haitian Creole, with basic proficiency or willingness to learn the other language; OR
 - Experience with ground sourcing sites and campaigns; OR
 - Experience with voting rights campaigns
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and time management skills;
- Strong team player with a desire to collaborate with others;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated cross-cultural sensitivity;
- High level of initiative, independence and motivation;
- Proficiency in standard computer applications;
- Prior experience in Haiti or other similar environments a plus;
- Experience producing or editing multimedia a plus.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume, combined in a single PDF named [Familyname Givenname] to team@ijdh.org by **June 20, 2015**. Please include “Voting Rights” in the e-mail subject line.

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