



Position Title: Bertha Justice Fellow
Start Date: September 1, 2021
Location: US / Haiti
Reports to: IJDH Senior Staff Attorney

**Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
Bertha Justice Fellowship 2021-2023**

About Us

IJDH is a U.S.-based human rights non-profit organization. IJDH works in partnership with its Haiti-based sister organization, *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), bringing together litigation, advocacy, training, and grassroots solidarity to tackle the root causes of injustice, which impacts basic human rights in Haiti. Founded in 1995, BAI is a public interest law firm that has worked for over two decades in constitutional and international human rights law. BAI staff founded IJDH in 2004 as a U.S.-based solidarity organization and partnership of human rights advocates in Haiti and the U.S. Together, IJDH & BAI work to defend rule of law, enable justice, and push for accountability and rights in Haiti.

For over 25 years, programming has achieved significant milestones in advancing justice and human rights, spanning areas of [rule of law](#), [access to justice](#), [pursuing redress for human rights harms](#), and addressing the challenges that [affect public confidence in the legal system](#) to protect, deliver justice, and safeguard rights. IJDH and BAI's work integrates litigation, advocacy, capacity building, and grassroots empowerment. These strategies taken together (i) establish a [precedent of accountability](#) through litigation, (ii) increase the [participation of local civil society and individuals in](#) challenging injustices and [enforcing their rights](#), and (iii) [build networks and movements](#) that stand up for recognition and accountability to human rights in Haiti.

Fellowship Description

IJDH is offering a two-year legal fellowship for a new lawyer passionate about movement lawyering and supporting movements for justice in the Global South. The fellowship is part of the Bertha Foundation's Bertha Justice Initiative, a global network of progressive lawyers that provides solidarity and training to movement lawyers around the world. The Bertha Foundation supports six fellows at BAI in Haiti, and one fellow at IJDH. The Fellowship at IJDH is designed to empower new lawyers to tackle human rights challenges through immersive practice in litigation and advocacy work with a 50-50 split between the U.S. and Haiti, bi-directional exchange with peer BAI Fellows, and support and training in working alongside social change movements and progressive lawyers in the Global South, including by building effective transnational advocacy movements.

The IJDH Bertha Fellow will work closely with IJDH and BAI teams in the U.S. and Haiti on advocacy and legal work across IJDH's main areas of programming that include accountability of non-territorial actors, cholera justice, international enforcement and accountability for cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations (UN) peacekeepers, and access to justice and women's rights. The Bertha Fellow will also work closely with BAI Fellows on co-engagement with the broader Bertha Network across research and writing, training and learning opportunities, and knowledge sharing & exchange.



Fellowship Details

The fellowship position is for two years, starting on September 1, 2021. It provides an annual salary and health benefits. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is planned for the fellowship to begin remotely. For the moment, travel to Haiti has also been suspended until further notice. We hope to resume in-person work in either our New York- or Boston-based offices, with regular travel to Haiti for our Bertha Fellow, as soon as is safe and practicable.

Bertha Fellow responsibilities include:

- Support on domestic and international legal and policy research; preparing pleadings for national and international forums;
- Drafting public advocacy documents, including reports, action alerts, and Op-Eds;
- Contributing to the drafting and implementation of high-level political and advocacy strategies and engaging directly with key stakeholders and collaborators;
- Managing advocacy campaigns in collaboration with partner organizations, including Haitian diaspora communities, solidarity groups and human rights organizations;
- Organizing and supporting grassroots trainings and mobilization in Haiti;
- Proactive advocacy outreach including engagement with international media;
- Providing research support including but not limited to collecting and analyzing data, maintaining accurate records, ensuring accurate citation formatting, and managing and responding to project related emails;
- Supporting legal team with administrative duties as needed;
- As with everyone else on the IIDH team, pitching in wherever needed to advance human rights in Haiti.

Qualifications

In our small, fast-paced organization, fellows have a high degree of responsibility and autonomy from the start. The Bertha Fellow must be an excellent problem-solver and strategic thinker, as well as flexible, highly motivated, and reliable. To successfully support Haitian grassroots empowerment, the Fellow further needs exceptional humility; a keen sensitivity to issues of race, class, colonialism and imperialism; and a commitment to earning trust.

Additional requirements:

- Emerging lawyers with a J.D. or equivalent law degree; LL.M.
- Fluency in French or Haitian Creole; proficiency in or willingness to learn the other language;
- Excellent research, analysis, writing, and oral communication skills;
- Familiarity with international human rights law and related principles; knowledge of the UN and inter-American human rights systems a plus;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated cross-cultural sensitivity;
- High level of initiative, resilience, independence, and motivation;
- Ability to handle sensitive 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 on a legal or policy topic, and contact information for two references electronically to hire@ijdh.org by **July 28, 2021**. Please include "Bertha Fellow" in the subject line. Applications for the position will be reviewed on a rolling basis.