



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti 2025 Externally-Funded Legal Fellowship

Position Overview

The [Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti](#) (IJDH) is offering to host a graduating law student or recent law graduate for a one or two-year externally-funded legal Fellowship focused on advancing Haitian human rights. The Fellowship is designed to train and empower new lawyers to advance social justice movements in the Global South through immersive practice in human rights advocacy within a solidarity framework.

The profound challenges Haiti is currently facing - including constitutional collapse, rampant armed group violence, political repression, and a spiraling humanitarian emergency - are symptoms of deeper structural injustices that IJDH has been confronting for more than two decades, first and foremost unaccountable foreign interference and extraction. **Join us as we work to dismantle structural inequality, confront impunity, and help Haitians enforce their human rights!**

About Us

IJDH is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that has been helping Haitians enforce their human rights in powerful countries since 2004. In partnership with its Haiti-based sister organization, the human rights law office *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), IJDH advocates, litigates, and nurtures networks to advance human rights in Haiti and to create systemic pathways to justice for marginalized communities, including by holding international actors accountable. Our current priorities include transforming U.S. foreign policy on Haiti towards practices that center Haitian rights and sovereignty; ensuring gender equity and a focus on human rights in Haiti's political transition; and advancing Haiti's claim for reparations for slavery and colonialism, including [restitution](#) for the Independence Debt coerced by France.

IJDH and BAI accomplishments include:

- Litigating in Haiti alongside local and international advocacy efforts to defend the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers and obtaining a first-of-its-kind child support judgment in Haitian court on behalf of a child fathered by a former UN peacekeeper;
- Working with victims of the 2010 UN-caused cholera epidemic in Haiti to challenge the UN's immunity in court and obtain compensation for victims, as well as to compel the UN to accept responsibility and commit to a \$400 million victim-centered response;
- Supporting the prosecution of top military and paramilitary leadership in the 2000 Raboteau massacre case, considered one of the most important human rights trials in the Americas;
- Supporting the prosecution of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier for crimes against humanity against the Haitian people; and

- Establishing models of networked collaboration that combine grassroots advocacy in Haiti with solidarity networks in the United States and other countries in order to effect change.

Fellow Responsibilities

The Fellowship position is for one or two years, starting on or around September 1, 2025 or sooner, though we will consider alternate timelines on a case-by-case basis. The Fellowship will take place remotely, with an option for regular in-person meetings in Boston, Washington DC, and San Francisco.

Fellows are fully integrated into our legal team and work alongside IJDH attorneys in a fast-paced, creative environment that values effective mentorship and collaboration. They work across the full range of IJDH's activities, including real-time advocacy in response to Haiti's [current crisis](#). Fellow responsibilities include:

- Legal research and analysis on a variety of international human rights law topics, including seeking justice for human rights violations by domestic and international actors such as the UN, international financial institutions, and corporate actors;
- Fact-finding, monitoring, and analyzing human rights developments in Haiti;
- Legal and policy advocacy that contributes to the human rights dialogue on issues that impact justice, accountability, and human rights in Haiti, including drafting submissions to human rights proceedings, presenting before human rights bodies within the UN and Inter-American systems, and engaging with Congress, U.S. government officials, other governments, and international organizations;
- Developing and managing relationships with a variety of actors, including grassroots partners on the ground, civil society organizations in Haiti and around the globe, representatives of international organizations and foreign governments, and other international solidarity partners;
- Organizing and supporting grassroots trainings and mobilization in Haiti;
- Proactive advocacy outreach that engages international media and the public in IJDH's work, including drafting public advocacy materials, talking points, and press statements, as well as contributing to social media communications;
- General project management support.

Qualifications

Ideal candidates are third-year law students, second-year LLM students, or recent law graduates with a demonstrated commitment to human rights and social justice; open-mindedness and a deep interest in learning from others; and a keen sensitivity to issues of race, class, colonialism, imperialism, and related trauma. Additional qualifications:

- Strong 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;
- High level of initiative and self-motivation, with ability to multitask and prioritize with minimal supervision;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated cross-cultural sensitivity;
- Ability to handle sensitive relationships and protect the confidentiality of our work and our communications;
- Fluency in French or Haitian Creole (candidates who are proficient and willing to work on improving towards fluency will be considered);
- Prior experience in Haiti or other similar environments is a strong asset but not required.

Funding

Fellows must secure funding from an outside source (e.g. a law school, foundation, law firm, or other funding opportunity) to support the Fellowship. Applicants should come prepared with ideas for external funding sources, but IJDH will work with selected Fellows to identify appropriate sources of funding and develop proposals as necessary.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, short unedited legal or policy writing sample (preferably on a topic relating to human rights), and contact information for two references as soon as possible. Please send all application materials electronically in one PDF to hiring@ijdh.org and include “2025 Fellow” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled, so applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications early.

IJDH is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We value a workforce that includes people of all abilities, diverse backgrounds, and a range of perspectives, particularly those who have historically been marginalized or underrepresented. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, veteran status and record of arrest or conviction, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.