

# ILF

## The International Legal Foundation

### Volunteer Lawyer Opportunity – Nepal

#### 2 positions available:

- January 1, 2012 – March 31, 2012
- April 1, 2012 – July 31, 2012

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) seeks two experienced lawyers to help build a proactive approach to indigent criminal defense in Nepal by training and mentoring a group of local lawyers. Volunteer lawyers serve in the ILF's public defender offices in Nepal for three months and are paid a stipend but no salary.

The ILF is a not-for-profit organization created for the purpose of establishing public defender systems in post-conflict countries and countries in transition. The ILF operates on the belief that indigent representation is crucial to a functioning criminal justice system. Without defense lawyers ensure that judges, prosecutors and police officers follow the law, reform and reconstruction of the justice system is impossible. By fighting against arbitrary detention, public defenders are often the first line of protection against human rights violations. For the past ten years, the ILF has focused solely on providing criminal defense services to the poor, first in Rwanda, and later in Afghanistan, Nepal and the West Bank.

Nepal is currently undergoing a transition after a period of conflict. This presents the country with a real opportunity to strengthen the rule of law through the development of a strong proactive criminal defense culture and practice.

The ILF seeks volunteer lawyers to help bring about historic change in Nepal's justice system. These volunteers, known as Kathryn Wadia Fellows, mentor local criminal defense lawyers in ILF-Nepal's public defender offices, who represent indigent clients accused of crimes. Fellows oversee criminal cases in their entirety, mentoring Nepali staff lawyers as they visit clients in jail, conduct investigations, write motions and make court appearances. Fellows, as representatives of the ILF, also participate in meetings with government officials, other NGOs and donor countries involved in rule of law projects in Nepal.

Fellows are based in Kathmandu, where the ILF has an office and residence, but occasionally travel to ILF-Nepal's district offices. Travel, lodging, traveler's insurance and a small living stipend are paid by the ILF; however, the organization cannot be responsible for any other expenses incurred during the assignment (e.g. health insurance). Nepal is a transitional country, and applicants should be aware of the potential risks involved in living there.

#### Qualifications:

All applicants must have at least 5 years experience practicing criminal law, either as a defense lawyer, prosecutor or judge. Applicants should be sensitive to cultural differences and must be willing to work on Fridays and Sundays.

Applicants should send a cover letter and resume to [fellows@theilf.org](mailto:fellows@theilf.org) with the subject line "Fellow-Nepal". Please describe your experience, including any experience traveling or working abroad, and your preferred dates of travel.