



Interested in an Exciting International Human Rights Career? Come Work With Us!

29 May 2017

The Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) is seeking a Legal Officer to begin as soon as possible. We are looking for a successful, highly motivated person who will work from Halifax, Canada. The successful applicant will be rewarded with exciting legal work, high level representational opportunities and the chance to travel globally.

The Legal Officer will have a range of responsibilities related to safeguarding human rights, including freedom of expression and the right to information, as part of a small, dynamic human rights organisation with a unique mandate. The position combines legal analysis and top level standard setting research with on-the-ground campaigning across the Global South, in collaboration with a diverse range of activists, partners and subject matter experts. Direct advocacy is a major part of CLD's work, and the position includes opportunities to engage with policy-makers at the highest level, as well as to dialogue with the world's foremost experts on human rights. The position includes travel opportunities, as well as representing CLD at various international conferences and meetings. Salary for the position will be competitive and commensurate with experience.

About the Organisation:

CLD is an international human rights organisation based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which provides expert legal services globally on foundational rights for democracy, with a particular emphasis on freedom of expression, freedom of association, the right to information and digital rights. Our major ongoing projects include:

- Supporting Myanmar's democratic transition, including by fostering the development of a robust and independent media sector and drafting new laws governing broadcasting, digital speech and the press.
- Facilitating public participation in governance in Nepal through the development and enhancement of open data and consultative systems.
- Engaging with multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Governance Data Alliance and the Open Government Partnership to promote open access to information.
- Expanding the right to information in Pakistan, through direct engagement with provincial governments to assess and improve implementation of key legislation.
- Campaigning against global threats to digital rights, such as mass surveillance, Internet shutdowns and efforts to undermine encryption and digital security.

Essential Qualifications

- A law degree (LL.B or J.D.).
- Significant demonstrable experience of working in the field of human rights, ideally specifically freedom of expression or the right to information.
- Knowledge of human rights law, particularly freedom of expression and the right to information, and awareness of mechanisms for the protection of human rights.
- Excellent written and spoken fluency in English, including an ability to draft complex legal and policy documents for a high level audience, as well as clear and concise position statements for general public consumption.
- Strong analytical and research skills, including the ability to assess legislation or policies against international human rights standards.
- Strong public speaking skills, including being comfortable addressing large audiences.
- The ability to travel internationally, sometimes for two to three weeks at a time.
- Some international experience, preferably in the Global South.
- A keen interest in and openness to other cultures, and an ability to collaborate with people from a range of cultural, religious, social and educational backgrounds.
- Ability to work effectively, often under pressure, to tight and demanding deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal skills, and comfort managing small teams.

Preferred Qualifications

- An advanced degree in law or another field relevant to our practice area (journalism, international development studies, etc.)
- 3-5 years of experience working or volunteering in the human rights field.
- Some experience having lived or worked in the Global South.
- Some basic accounting skills, such as how to develop and administer budgets.
- Some experience developing grant and funding proposals, or experience establishing and maintaining relations with international donors.
- An understanding of legal and technical issues relating to digital speech, such as net neutrality, Internet shutdowns, etc.
- The ability to work in Canada would be preferred, though we are happy to receive international applicants.
- Knowledge of additional languages, in particular Spanish or Arabic.

Those interested in applying should send a copy of their CV, cover letter and law school transcripts to Toby Mendel at info@law-democracy.org, by 23 June 2017.

The Centre for Law and Democracy is committed to diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. We value and encourage applicants for all positions without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual

orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other legally protected status. This commitment applies with regard to all aspects of one's employment, including hiring, transfer, promotion, compensation, eligibility for benefits, and termination.