



DPLF Legal Fellowship

DPLF, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization based in Washington, D.C., works to strengthen the rule of law and promote respect for human rights in Latin America through applied research, strategic alliances, advocacy and outreach.

Our vision is a Latin America in which civil society, using national and international legal instruments, participates fully in consolidation of the rule of law, and in which judicial institutions are independent, transparent, accessible, and able to fulfill their role in strengthening democracy. DPLF was founded by Professor Thomas Buergenthal, retired judge at the International Court of Justice (The Hague), and his former colleagues from the UN Truth Commission for El Salvador.

Legal Fellowship Program:

DPLF offers recently graduated lawyers the opportunity to gain experience and learn how a non-profit human rights organization functions through our legal fellowship program. Selected fellows will work in our programmatic areas (Judicial Independence, Transitional Justice, Human Rights & Extractive Industries, and Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System) under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney.

The fellowships are **not remunerated** and are for 6 or 12 month periods. Fellowships may be considered in coordination with law school fellowship programs.

The responsibilities of the Legal Fellow include, but are not limited to:

- Carrying out research and ongoing political analysis related to the organization's focus issues;
- Working with Program Officers to plan, organize, and carry out seminars, conferences, and workshops in Latin America;
- Maintaining contact and coordinating work (including technical assistance) with our NGO partners in Latin America;
- Helping prepare, coordinate and review Amicus Briefs and additional legal documentation in support of partner organizations;
- Monitoring and analyzing news & online media outlets for relevant information;
- Drafting and reviewing letters to authorities on issues related to DPLF's programs;
- Assisting Program Officers to coordinate advocacy meetings with U.S.-based decision makers, including Latin American country representatives in Washington, D.C., Inter-American System officials and U.S. government representatives;
- Aiding in the preparation of content for the organization's institutional magazine, Web site, social media and blog, including translating and/or reviewing translations;
- Reviewing and editing publications;
- Helping draft donor project reports; and
- Other duties based on DPLF's needs and the Legal Fellow's interests.



Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Maintain a high level of competence in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Knowledge of Portuguese is an advantage but not a requirement;
- Be a recently graduated law student (JD or LLM);
- Possess strong legal research and writing skills; and
- Demonstrate an interest in and knowledge of human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law.

Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter and two writing samples (one in English and one in Spanish) to info@dplf.org, with "Legal Fellowship Application" in the subject line.