



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIVE (5) VOLUNTEER YOUNG LAWYERS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING

About NETPIL

The Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL) is an umbrella organization that brings together individuals, law firms and non-governmental organizations with a commitment to engage in public interest litigation to achieve social justice. NETPIL was officially launched in May 2015 with the aim of promoting public interest lawyering and the pro bono spirit in Uganda; as well as fostering greater engagement of lawyers in public interest litigation and advocacy towards achieving social justice and greater protection of fundamental rights for all. The establishment of the Network was spearheaded by the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the School of Law, Makerere University in January 2012, becoming the first clinic established at a university in Uganda. PILAC was born out of the need to reform the training of law students by incorporating elements in the curriculum that equip students with public interest lawyering skills. PILAC seeks to promote a hands-on experiential learning as well as exposing students to 'live' cases of individuals who have been confronted by the law in its varied manifestations.

Background

PILAC has in the past been churning out students through the Clinical Legal Education (CLE) programme, the Community Law Programme and Mobile Law Clinic (CLAPMOC) and the Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL). PILAC and NETPIL have however realized that there is a gap created in career pursuit and development when the students leave the Law Development Center (LDC) and join a practice that is more commercial oriented than social-justice oriented. It has also been realized that some of the civil society organisations have human resource gaps to support crucial public interest interventions in the course of their work. Under NETPIL, this engagement seeks to support fresh LDC graduates establish themselves in social justice practice and at the same time support partners in utilizing public interest interventions.

PILAC is implementing a new project - *Using Legal Education to Promote Public Interest Lawyering and Improve on Access to Justice* as one on the Implementing Partners (IPs) under the Democratic Governance Facility Phase II project. PILAC is focusing on sphere 3 of the DGF project: *Protection of Human Rights, Access to Justice and Gender Equality*. PILAC's Area of Intervention (AoI) is specific to AoI 3.2 *Improving Access to Justice*. PILAC's interventions are to contribute to the DGF Outcome 3 which is improved public policy and law.

The project is being implemented under NETPIL with the participation of beneficiaries and synergies with other IPs. With the Project funding, NETPIL will sponsor and supervise PILAC

alumni lawyers to have semi-permanent presence with DGF Implementing Partners (IPs) for a period of eleven (11) months, May 2018 - March 2019.

The Call

NETPIL, under its mentorship mandate seeks to engage five (5) individuals with an interest in pursuing public interest lawyering. The arrangement involves mentorship opportunities with five of our partners implementing the second phase of DGF project. The candidates are to gain valuable experience and advice for career development in research, advocacy, litigation and communications in the field of social justice.

Key Responsibilities:

While at the IP organizations, the Volunteers will amongst other duties:

- Contribute to the legal advisory and client representation functions;
- Meet and interview clients for the purpose of identifying their grievances and planning appropriate legal solutions;
- Gather evidence and conduct legal research to inform any possible litigation cases or policy review processes;
- Support representation of clients in all legal proceedings including but not limited to arbitrations, negotiation, settlement meetings, court proceedings and other legal proceedings;
- Draw up legal documents for the purposes of protecting the rights and interests of the clients and/or presenting their cases before any judicial or quasi-judicial body;
- Making Court appearances and diligent follow up of court and related processes;
- Advise clients on all legal issues especially issues relating to the protection and realization of their rights;
- Interpret laws, rulings and regulations for the purposes of explaining the law to client;
- Work with Programme Officers and Managers to engage those in charge of setting health policies to implement the solutions reached through research. This will include but not limited to preparing Policy or Research briefs, reports, testimonies for public hearings, presentations and petitions on health policies;
- Contribute towards ensuring timely, quality and accurate programme quarterly and annual reporting;

In addition to individual respective tasks, the Volunteers will be expected:

- To adhere to the values of the respective IP and to actively promote their application amongst colleagues;
- To undertake tasks in a creative, self-driven and innovative fashion;
- To identify and implement additional tasks/ideas of benefit to the IP.

The attainment of the above will be reflected in the volunteer's appraisal, as well as the achievement of outputs, as described in above key responsibilities.

Qualifications and experience

- The Volunteer should be a fresh graduate (2016/2017 or 2017/2018) from the Law Development Center with a Bachelor of Laws and Diploma in Legal Practice
- The Volunteer should be a PILAC Alumni (CLE or CLAPMOC)
- The Volunteer should possess computer and internet skill

Skills and attributes:

The Volunteer will be expected to have the following skills and attributes:

- Analytical skills
- Leadership skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Team skills
- Resource mobilization skills
- Innovative spirit and willingness to use creative thinking.

Interested candidates should forward their expression and CV to netpil.secretariat@gmail.com and soryema@gmail.com

Deadline is 27th April, 2018.