

Research Assistant in International Criminal Law (part-time consultancy)

Background

1. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law was founded in 2010 in honour of the late Lord Bingham of Cornhill, one of the greatest judges of his generation. It is part of the British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL), the foremost independent research and discussion body of its kind in the UK. The Centre's activities have expanded rapidly since its foundation and it is now engaged in a wide range of research projects, events, publications and training and has a significant impact on policy developments.
2. The broad areas of research within the Centre include: the rule of law in business and finance (for example, in relation to the obligations of companies, the functions and operation of regulators, and the rule of law requirements for economic development and growth); the rule of law and democracy (including work on constitutional development and administrative justice outside the United Kingdom, and, in the United Kingdom on government proposals that have an impact on the rule of law including those concerning judicial review and legal aid); the rule of law and human rights (including work on post-2015 sustainable development goals, and the monitoring of human rights); access to justice and particularly the independence of the judiciary (such as work on judicial appointment procedures in the Commonwealth); the international rule of law (such as work on African regional and sub-regional courts and on the content of international initiatives on the rule of law).
3. The Bingham Centre has now started a new project entitled 'Sentencing Criteria in International Criminal Law: Towards Consistency, Certainty and Fairness' (Sentencing project). This sixteen-month project, funded through the British Academy / Leverhulme Small Research Grants scheme, investigates the extent to which the evolution of international criminal law (ICL) has incorporated rule-of-law-based principles of consistency, certainty and fairness that traditionally characterise criminal justice. The project addresses this problem with regard to sentencing in ICL and aims to draw lessons for the future.
4. Research will focus on the documentary sources and the case law of three major tribunals – the former-Yugoslavia (ICTY), Rwanda (ICTR) and Sierra Leone (SCSL) – and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Job Description

5. The Centre is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant (RA) to be part of the project's research team with a view to ensuring coherence and continuity of project activities. The RA will work closely with the Principal Investigator (Dr Julinda Beqiraj) to deliver the project outputs.
6. Under the direct supervision of the Principal Investigator for this project, the Research Assistant will be expected to undertake the following:

- Conduct high quality research with the aim of creating a database for the collection and analysis of the relevant documentary sources and case law;
 - Assist in the organisation of missions and conduct of interviews to be held in the Hague;
 - Draft research memos in English on specific issues relating to the project, as well as parts of the report;
 - Assist in the organisation and management of workshops and events related to the project; and
 - Any other tasks assigned by the supervisor.
7. This is a part-time, fixed-term consultancy equivalent to 1.5-2 days per week for the duration of the project. The post will be based in London with some flexibility around the distribution of hours. It will involve at least one mission in The Hague. A consultancy rate of £100 per day is available, depending on qualifications and experience.

Person specification

8. It is expected that the successful applicant will provide evidence of all of the following attributes and achievements:
- A qualification in law is essential (experience working in a legal environment may be an advantage);
 - A postgraduate qualification and/or experience working in criminal law, and familiarity with comparative models and literature in this field may also be an advantage;
 - Experience in assisting with projects (where that includes familiarity with empirical research using interviews it will be an advantage);
 - Excellent writing skills, and the ability to present material in an engaging and accessible manner (experience of preparing materials for external audiences may be an advantage);
 - Excellent organisational and administrative skills and the ability to work to deadlines;
 - A willingness and ability to interact appropriately with lawyers, judges and other legal professionals;
 - An ability and willingness to work collaboratively and collegially with colleagues.
9. Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr. Julinda Beqiraj (j.beqiraj@binghamcentre.biicl.org).

Application Process

10. The deadline for applications is **25 November 2016**. Applicants should send the following by email to bcresearchassistant@biicl.org
- A covering letter setting out their reasons for applying and how they consider that they meet the person specification for this post;

- A full curriculum vitae, including a list of publications and the names and addresses including email addresses of three referees, at least two of whom may be contacted prior to interview; and
 - A completed copy of BIICL's application cover form (available at: <http://www.biicl.org/vacancies>).
11. It is expected that interviews will take place in early December 2016 with a start date in early 2017.
 12. In order to be considered for this role, all applicants must currently have the right to work in the UK or will have the right to work in the UK by the date of commencement of employment.
 13. Applicants are encouraged to find out more about the Centre, its members of staff and activities at <http://binghamcentre.biicl.org/>. More information about the Centre's projects can be found at <http://binghamcentre.biicl.org/research>.
 14. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge receipt of applications personally, as we are a charitable organization with limited funds. If you do not hear from us regarding interviews within four weeks of the closing date, your application has been unsuccessful.