

## Research Assistant (Judicial Independence in Latin America) (part-time consultancy)

### Background

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](#), the foremost independent research and discussion body of its type in the UK. The inaugural Director of the Bingham Centre is Professor Sir Jeffrey Jowell KCMG QC. 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.

The Global Rule of Law Exchange ('The Exchange') is a new project of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of law that aims to address key challenges posed by global development and its relationship to the rule of law. The Exchange will consider the place of the rule of law in emerging economies, including on issues such as access to justice, administrative justice and corruption. It will also examine the relationship between formal and informal legal systems, and the measurement of success in rule of law interventions

The Exchange's Annual Conference will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, on 18 and 19 April 2016. It will focus on challenges to the rule of law, specifically judicial independence and corruption. In preparation for the Conference, the Bingham Centre is undertaking research into this topic. The 30/40 page paper will explore what structures, mechanisms or frameworks help achieve judicial independence in Latin America and is expected to include some country case-studies as well.

### Job Description

The Bingham Centre is seeking to appoint a consultant to work as Research Assistant on the project. The Research Assistant will be working with the Senior Research Fellows responsible for this project and other senior members of staff at the Bingham Centre.

The Research Assistant will be hired for a duration of up to 30 days between early December 2015 and end of February 2016. Depending on the candidate, the post can be part-time (e.g. 21 hours (3 days) per week on average) or full time over a shorter period.

Responsibilities include:

- Undertaking a literature review of Spanish-language and possibly Portuguese-language sources (academic and non-academic articles, books, reports, constitutional provisions, legislation and case law etc) and summarising key findings.
- Providing other editing, proof-reading, translation tasks as required
- Keeping abreast of key developments in the region

## Person Specification

It is expected that the successful applicant will demonstrate, and have evidence of, all of the following:

- A qualification in law at undergraduate and/or Masters level (essential). The qualification should be acquired in a Spanish-speaking jurisdiction (Latin America or Spain), or alternatively in a European civil-law jurisdiction (highly desirable).
- Good research skills (essential);
- Excellent understanding of Spanish and English (reading, writing and speaking) (essential). Using the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, it is likely the candidate will be either a native speaker or C2 level user in one language, and at least a C1 level user in the other<sup>1</sup>.
- Understanding of Portuguese (desirable);
- Understanding of/experience in judicial independence and appointments in Latin America, demonstrated for example through publications or previous work experience in this area (desirable)

## Further details and application process

A consultancy rate of £100 per day (7 hours) is expected, depending on qualifications and experience. This assignment can be home-based though one to two trips to London during the the assignment may be necessary. The consultant must be able to start by week commencing 7 December at the latest.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to the lead researcher, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Dr Jan Van Zyl Smit [j.vanzylsmit@binghamcentre.biicl.org](mailto:j.vanzylsmit@binghamcentre.biicl.org) or the Project Lead for the Exchange, Senior Research Fellow, Mat Tromme at [m.tromme@binghamcentre.biicl.org](mailto:m.tromme@binghamcentre.biicl.org)

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis so early application is encouraged. Applicants should send the following by 5.30 pm on **Wednesday 25 November 2015** by email to [jobs@biicl.org](mailto:jobs@biicl.org):

- The BIICL application cover form that can be downloaded at <http://www.biicl.org/vacancies>;
- A full curriculum vitae; and
- A covering letter setting out their reasons for applying and how they consider that they meet the person specification for this post. Applicants should indicate the language of instruction for your university qualifications. If you have additional language qualifications (e.g. IELTS or DELE<sup>2</sup>) then please indicate this as well.

It is expected that interviews will take place in the week beginning 30 November 2015. Only applicants shortlisted for interview will be contacted; applicants who have not been contacted within 14 days of the closing date should presume they have been unsuccessful.

Applicants are encouraged to find out more about the [Bingham Centre](http://www.binghamcentre.biicl.org), its members of staff and activities at [www.binghamcentre.biicl.org](http://www.binghamcentre.biicl.org).



<sup>1</sup>See <http://is.gd/Vl6N7C>

<sup>2</sup> International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)