

## **PROPOSAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS ASSISTING WORKERS (ILAW) NETWORK, A PROJECT OF SOLIDARITY CENTER, TO PARTICIPATE IN NYU LAW SCHOOL'S 2022 PRO BONO PROGRAM**

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Solidarity Center is a Washington, D.C.-based, non-profit, non-governmental organization, affiliated with the U.S.

labor movement, whose mission is to promote worker rights in approximately 60 countries throughout the world.

In 2018 Solidarity Center launched a new global network of international union and worker rights lawyers and scholars to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise, more effective collaboration, and joint strategizing over issues and cases that increasingly transcend national boundaries.

The network – *International Lawyers Assisting Workers (ILAW)* – operates both online through a members-only website ([www.ilawnetwork.com](http://www.ilawnetwork.com)) and phone app, as well as in person through regional and global meetings and conferences.

ILAW offers a variety of services to its member lawyers, including a global directory of labor and worker rights lawyers and allied legal professionals; a library/clearinghouse of news, research articles and case materials in the fields of labor and employment law; a space for blog-format and listserv discussion and debate on legal developments; and a forum for webinars and other topical educational and training opportunities; a biannual journal (the Global Labour Rights Reporter); and a wiki-style database of model legislation and regulations on various labor and employment issues.

An ILAW Advisory Board consisting of 20 lawyers from 20 countries (four

from Asia, four from Africa, four from South America, three from Europe, two from North America, one from Australia, and two from global organizations) provides guidance to a staff that consists of five US-based attorneys, and four regional attorneys (based in Nairobi, Bogota, Bangladesh, and Tbilisi).

For now, ILAW is focusing on several broad topic areas: global supply chain accountability, migrant worker rights, the fissured employment relationship, employment discrimination in all its forms, the informal economy, organizing and bargaining with multinational employers, occupational health and safety, climate change just transition, trade union rights, and -- over the past two years -- COVID-19-related issues.

Given the global nature of work and common trends that affect workers worldwide, an international network is needed now more than ever to effectively represent workers in these areas.

The platform provides materials in English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, and Arabic and we hope to be able to offer additional languages over time, as resources permit.

In the four years since its creation, ILAW has grown to include approximately 850 members in more than 82 countries. It held an in-person global convening in Mexico City in November, 2019, attended by lawyers from some 35 countries, and we are about to hold another in Brussels in October, 2022.

### **Overview of the Pro Bono Research Project**

Over time, the member practitioners will be expected to supply their own materials to share on the website. In the short-term, however, it is important for the site to contain as wide and deep a body of content in each of the ten subject matter areas listed above, and from as many countries and in as

many languages, as possible.

The content includes agency and court decisions and other case documents, law review and other academic articles, NGO reports, legislation, pending bills, and other relevant materials.

A number of LLM students from NYU and other law schools have worked with ILAW over the past three years to identify and populate the website with relevant materials. For this winter's pro bono project, we would offer to recruit a team of NYU LLM students from various countries who, under the guidance of supervising lawyers with expertise in the appropriate labor and employment areas, will provide additional research in one or more of these topic areas from their home countries, or elsewhere.

Moreover, we generally have other ongoing ILAW research projects where LLM pro bono student assistance is helpful and appropriate. For example, last year, two teams of NYU LLM students spent their pro bono research week involved in ongoing projects concerning 1) the impact of health and safety-related worker rights in the context of the COVID pandemic, and 2) a comparative survey of laws and regulations regarding workplace scheduling issues in various countries. Furthermore, at present we have several LLM students engaged in a comparative survey of national arbitration laws, and others who have recently been involved in a comparative study of gig economy employment status.

As we get closer to the January week in question, and taking into account the interests of those students who choose to participate, we would expect to create one or more research teams focusing on these types of worker rights-related issues.