



Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

A JOINT CENTER OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
AND THE EARTH INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Paid Short-term LLM Post-Graduate Fellowship: Addressing Legal Support Gaps and Promoting Transparency in the Context of Land-Based Investments

The [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment](#) (CCSI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute, will offer one 12-week fellowship for a 2019 graduate of an LLM program, to begin after graduation.

The role:

The LLM Fellow will work closely with CCSI's land, agriculture, and human rights team on projects related to financing legal support and advancing demand-driven transparency in the context of land-based investments. While the work will be tailored to the Fellow's interests and goals, it will primarily involve research, writing, and strategizing. The work may also include assessing contracts and other activities in support of the projects.

The projects:

CCSI is working to identify, assess, and help further thinking around innovative financing solutions for legal and technical support to communities as they seek to secure and promote their rights and interests that may be affected by agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource investments. Our research includes examining various ways in which communities' support needs can be met effectively, and reviewing the types of financing solutions that have been proposed or established to date. We also plan to take steps to help advance relevant financing solutions, including through outreach activities and by providing technical assistance to relevant actors.

CCSI is also conducting research on a demand-driven approach to land transparency that investigates—both at the international level and in specific country contexts—what is the most important and useful information to disclose and why, in order to inform strategies to strengthen land governance around investment projects. Public access to, and use of, information about land-based investment (such as agriculture and forestry projects) can serve as an important means of encouraging investments and transactions that are more responsible, result in more inclusive outcomes, and enable greater accountability. Drawing from field research and insights from the governance of other industries, CCSI will test strategic and more demand-driven approaches to transparency of land-based investment, focusing on the entire investment lifecycle, including different stages of land transactions. The project will establish an evidence-based understanding of the transparency needs, demands, and uses of communities affected by land investments (including via the civil

society actors that support them) and governments hosting such investments, with a view to understanding how transparency initiatives can move beyond mere disclosure to effectively improve outcomes.

The details:

This 12-week fellowship is offered to an LLM candidate who will graduate in 2019. The fellowship provides a stipend of \$12,000. The fellow must commit to 40 hours per week. The fellowship can begin any time after graduation, but ideally would take place over the 2019 summer. The fellow must have authorization to work in the US. (Note that F-1 students must apply for an OPT visa authorization before graduation; the turn-around time for OPT applications is multiple months and CCSI fellowship applicants are encouraged to apply for the OPT **immediately** to ensure they are able to accept any fellowship offer they might receive. Students needing more details on OPT visa authorization are encouraged to speak with the International Students and Scholars Office at Columbia or corresponding office at another institution.) Note that acceptance of the CCSI LLM Fellow Position does not preclude opportunities to apply for other LLM fellowships offered by Columbia Law School to work at other organizations once the CCSI Fellowship has ended.

What past LLM Fellows have said about the Fellowship:

- ❖ “It was an remarkable opportunity for me to see the interplay between human rights and sustainable FDI in actual practice. The theory I had learned in the classroom came to life, and that was exciting. One other thing that stood out for me was the flexibility and independence I was given to work on areas of CCSI’s work that I was most interested in. Finally, it provided me a rare opportunity to listen to, speak with and learn from the experiences of many people working to promote sustainable LSLBI in different parts of the world.” – Modupe Odele, CLS LLM ‘16

- ❖ “I would thoroughly recommend the CCSI LLM Fellowship to anyone with an interest in sustainable development and investment. During the three months of my fellowship, I was able to deeply delve into a new issue - large-scale land-based investments - as well as contributing to the ongoing work of the center. CCSI were extremely accommodating and flexible with regard to both my professional goals and personal circumstances, and I felt very supported by the fantastic team.” – Lauren Waugh, CLS LLM ‘16

About CCSI:

CCSI is a leading applied research center and forum dedicated to the study, practice, and discussion of sustainable international investment. Our mission is to develop practical approaches to maximize the impact of international investment for sustainable development. The Center’s work is organized around 3 major areas of research: Sustainable Investments in Land and Agriculture, Sustainable Investments in Extractive Industries, and Sustainable International Investment Law and Policy.

To apply:

Please send a cover letter, CV and unedited writing sample to CCSI’s Executive Coordinator, Nancy Siporin (NSipor@Law.Columbia.edu). **Applications are due by April 1, 2019.**