

Senior Legal Researcher, Land, Agriculture and Food Systems

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) is seeking a **Senior Legal Researcher** to work on our [Land, Agriculture & Food Systems](#) portfolio of projects. The position will support research, advisory work, and the organization and delivery of capacity building programs related to CCSI's work on strengthening the governance of land-based investment (including agriculture, extractive industries, renewable energy projects, and nature-based solutions).

This position will collaborate with CCSI's Director and Research Staff to execute the Center's applied research agenda on the laws, policies, and practices that shape international investment and its alignment with sustainable development and human rights.

Specifically, the incumbent will supervise and contribute to ongoing advisory, research, and technical support projects with the goal of advancing more responsible and rights-respecting laws, policies and practices in land and resource investments (e.g. agriculture, renewable energy and mining projects) at the local, national and international level. While much of CCSI's work takes a global focus, this role also drives CCSI's technical advisory work with select governments and civil society organizations, as well as CCSI's engagement of the private sector.

The position will contribute to ongoing projects, including through project and advisory work, desk research and informant interviews, organizing and facilitating events and trainings, establishing and maintaining strong relationships with collaborators, and helping to develop materials for publications, among other possible activities. It requires a high degree of initiative and independent judgment.

Responsibilities include

- Designing and implementing strategies for change and projects.
- Overseeing desktop research such as literature reviews, gathering data, doing interviews, and conducting legal or policy analysis.
- Mapping institutional, policy, and stakeholder landscapes relevant to specific Center initiatives and goals.
- Collaborating with external leaders, practitioners, and scholars, including government partners.
- Designing, organizing, and delivering research- and policy-based conferences, seminars, trainings, and workshops.
- Providing technical and advisory services to partners, including government and civil society.
- Working on the various publications, databases, and other resources; writing papers, case studies, and reports on projects.
- Liaising with donors.
- Managing interns, fellows, consultants and staff members.

Requirements: Qualifications and experience

- In-depth understanding of: the governance of land and resource investments; the field of business and human rights; international human rights law; and/or climate change.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and interest in how investments interact with sustainable development objectives, human rights law, and climate objectives.

- Substantial experience in research and advisory work, including in specific responsibilities outlined above, along with a track record of publications for diverse audiences (academic, private sector, civil society, policymakers).
- Experience working in the Global South, including collaborating with Global South-based actors (including national and sub-national governments, civil society, and social movements), global networks, and/or multilateral agencies
- Experience working with donors, including liaison, relationship building, proposal preparation, and reporting.
- Ability to convey messages in compelling, clear, and concise ways that are adapted to the Center’s diverse target audiences, both verbally (e.g. through meetings and presentations) and in writing (through publications and strategic communications).
- Skilled at engaging in multi-stakeholder dialogues and debates with stakeholders who hold diverse viewpoints.
- A demonstrated and advanced ability to think analytically, strategically, and creatively. This position also requires willingness to take initiative and learn new areas, and to work in a highly interdisciplinary, flexible, and dynamic environment.
- Excellent organizational and project management skills, both for self and for diverse teams operating in multicultural settings.
- Excellent management skills developed through demonstrated experience with managing projects and people. Ability to reliably and capably manage projects from conception through to MEL stages, and ability to manage people in an effective, inclusive, and energizing manner.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, along with a clear commitment to an inclusive and collaborative working environment, and to mentoring.
- Experience with managing projects and with narrative reporting.
- Knowledge of relevant software and willingness to learn and adapt to Center’s systems.
- Fluency in English required and proficiency in French or another second language strongly preferred. Applicants should indicate language fluency in their applications.
- Must be willing and able to travel within the US and overseas, in line with project commitments.
- A law degree or a doctoral degree in a relevant discipline.

This position is based at Columbia University in New York. Full time remote work is not possible.

Please apply [at this link](#). Note that the link is for an open-rank position; your cover letter should indicate that you are applying for “Senior Legal Researcher: Land, Agriculture & Food Systems,” and speak to the above requirements. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with a hard deadline of May 30, 2022.