

Senior Legal Researcher

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) is seeking a **Senior Legal Researcher** to help carry forward the Center's diverse research agenda. This position will collaborate with CCSI's Directors 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. The ideal candidate will also be able to lead or contribute to work related the Center's other [primary focus areas](#), including investment law and policy, natural resource governance, the energy transition, or SDG-aligned finance.

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 impact and successful project execution.
- Carrying out and 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 and civil society partners, including to build relationships of learning and influence.
- 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 various publications, databases, and other resources; writing papers, case studies, and reports on projects.
- Collaborating with CCSI colleagues to shape the direction of ongoing work, and generate ideas for new projects.
- Acting proactively and creatively to maximize the relevance, utility and unique added value of CCSI projects.

Requirements: Qualifications and experience

- In-depth understanding of the governance of land rights and land-use planning. The ideal candidate will also possess some experience related to food systems; natural resource investments, investment law and policy; the energy transition; or SDG-aligned finance.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and interest in how investments interact with sustainable development objectives, human rights law, and climate objectives.
- Substantial experience in research and/or 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
- 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.
- Ability and curiosity to learn, grow and improve, and to apply new learning in the workplace.
- Knowledge of relevant software and willingness to learn and adapt to Center's systems.
- Fluency in English required and proficiency in French is strongly preferred. Applicants should indicate language fluency of all languages in their applications.
- Must be willing and able to undertake 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, and the incumbent will need to be based in New York City.

Please apply at <http://apply.interfolio.com/123256>. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with an expected start date on or after June 1, 2023.