

Proposal of INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS ASSISTING WORKERS (ILAW) NETWORK, a project of the Solidarity Center, to participate in NYU Law School's March, 2023 Pro Bono Intensive Research Week Program.

Supervisor: Jon Hiatt, Solidarity Center, Of Counsel and former General Counsel of the AFL-CIO

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 International Lawyers Assisting Workers (ILAW) Network operates both online through a members-only website (www.ilawnetwork.com) and phone app, as well as in-person through regional and global meetings and conferences. 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.

ILAW is staffed with five U.S.-based attorneys as well as four regional attorneys, based in Kenya, Colombia, Bangladesh, and the Republic of Georgia. An ILAW Advisory Board consisting of 22 lawyers from 22 different countries provides guidance.

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; a forum for webinars and other topical educational and training opportunities; a biannual journal (the Global Labour Rights Reporter); a wiki-style database of model legislation and regulations on various labor and employment issues; and a strategic litigation fund that awards modest grants to ILAW members to support impactful worker rights-related litigation in various countries.

At present, ILAW is focusing on several broad topic areas including: climate change just transition; the impact of new technologies in the workplace; gender-based violence; global supply chain accountability; migrant worker rights; the fissured employment relationship; employment discrimination in all its forms; the informal economy; occupational health and safety; issues stemming from the regulation of remote work/telework; and organizing and bargaining with multinational employers.

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

In the four years since its creation, ILAW has grown to include approximately 950 members in more than 83 countries.

Overview of the LLM Pro Bono Research Project

ILAW normally invites LLM students to choose their pro bono assignments from among several of the research projects that ILAW has ongoing at any given time.

Over the past two years, for example, NYU LLM students have spent their pro bono research work engaged in projects concerning: 1) the impact of health and-safety-related worker rights in the context of the COVID pandemic; 2) a comparative survey of laws and regulations regarding workplace scheduling issues in various countries; 3) a comparative survey of national arbitration laws; 4) the discriminatory impact of paternity leave benefits on women; 5) litigation, legislation, and regulation of workers' just transition in the context of climate change; and 6) recent developments regarding the effects on workers of AI and other new technology in the workplace.

This March, we expect to offer a continuation of the **climate change and the labor movement** and **new technologies in the workplace** projects alluded to above, as well as others including, possibly, one on the mechanisms and prevention of **gender based violence and harassment in domestic and informal economy work**; and another on on the **gender pay gap**, looking at countries that have adopted a pay equity approach in addressing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

Frequently, we ask the students to focus their research on their home countries, or at least on their home regions, particularly where native language and familiarity with the legal structures of their own countries would be helpful.