Law Clerk at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Budapest, Hungary)
Funded UMN Human Rights Center Fellowship Placement
Summer 2020

Employer: Hungarian Helsinki Committee, HHC (Budapest, Hungary)
Contact: UMN Human Rights Center, humanrts@umn.edu
Job Title: Human Rights Center Fellow/intern

Description:

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) welcomes a UMN law student to work with its Refugee Program for a 10 week/400 hour legal internship from May-August 2020. The fellow/intern will have the opportunity to work at the Refugee Program of the HHC, a leading Hungarian non-governmental human rights organization with a globally recognized reputation. The fellow/intern will work under the leadership of the Senior Legal Officer, and will collaborate with the HHC’s activities related to litigation efforts in international fora and to advocacy aimed at denouncing human rights violations against forced migrants in Hungary (research, submission of applications to international bodies, drafting of legal and advocacy documents, etc.). The fellow/intern will have a unique chance to learn from the experience of the HHC’s legal officers to defend the right to asylum in a complex operational environment.

In this partnership between HHC and the UMN Human Rights Center, the student selected for this position will receive a taxable stipend of $5000, made possible by the generous supporters of the UMN Human Rights Center Fellowship Program. The student is responsible for all related costs, including travel, housing, and insurance.

About HHC:

The HHC a leading human rights organization in Europe with a globally recognized reputation, founded in 1989. The main areas of operation of the HHC are the protection of the rights of asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons and monitoring the human rights performance of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. Its Refugee Program defends the right to asylum in Hungary, by providing free-of-charge legal assistance to asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons; by engaging in litigation efforts in national and international fora to challenge the massive arbitrary detention of asylum-seekers; and by publicly denouncing human rights violations against forced migrants in Hungary.
The HHC’s Human Rights Legal Counselling Program has been operating since 1994. The organization has been successfully litigating at the European Court of Human Rights, representing victims of human rights violations, including asylum seekers, members of the Roma community, victims of ill-treatment, and detainees. The HHC has been working together with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) since 1998 and cooperates with a wide range of European human rights NGOs and academic institutions in the framework of transnational projects.

Experience/Education Requirements:

1L or 2L University of Minnesota Law School student. Prior course work, work experience, or clinical experience in immigration and/or human rights law is a plus. Excellent research, oral and written communication skills, organized, and detail-oriented. Fluency in a second language is a plus but not required. Demonstrated ability to advance work independently.

Job Duties:

- Carrying out analysis to be included in applications to international bodies, such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and UN bodies.
- Performing internet-based research on European countries' practices, European asylum law, and on relevant human rights issues or country of origin information in asylum cases.
- Helping in the preparation of statements of facts and legal briefs for international strategic litigation.
- Contributing to the elaboration of human rights and advocacy reports.
- Other ad hoc tasks and contributions in the fields of litigation, advocacy, training or research, as required by the staff of the Refugee program (e.g., translations, interpreting, providing help at international events, etc.).

Application:

This position is part of the Human Rights Center’s Fellowship Program, and application instructions are available online. Please send your application form, resume, cover letter, and unofficial transcripts to Sarah Thune at the Human Rights Center at humanrts@umn.edu by 5:00pm on January 31, 2020.