



International Bridges to Justice

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For Immediate Release

IBJ Announces Its 2014 JusticeMakers Fellowship Competition To End Torture

Geneva, Switzerland – April 15, 2014 - IBJ is proud to announce the 2014 JusticeMakers Competition. The Competition will award \$5,000 in project funding to applicants whose criminal justice reform projects display the most innovation, efficacy and sustainability toward the eradication of torture as an investigative tool and increase awareness and enforcement of due process rights.

One of the main components of the JusticeMakers Program is the annual competition, which identifies, trains and funds “change agents” worldwide who are committed to advocating for positive reform within their respective countries. The JusticeMakers Competition requires individuals to submit proposals detailing an innovative strategy for promoting criminal justice reforms at a grassroots level. The individual applicants are selected from a vast pool, allotted a \$5,000 stipend to fund their projects and are required to participate in training sessions sponsored by IBJ which are geared toward assisting them in the effective implementation of their projects.

At the launch of the 2014 Competition, Founder of the JusticeMakers Program, IBJ’s International Program Director, Sanjeeva Liyanage said, “JusticeMakers is the leading online platform for justice innovators and IBJ intends to harness the talents in the justice sector through this Competition. Mr. Liyanage also said, “IBJ has 46 JusticeMakers Fellows from 32 countries. We aim to add more creative and brave individuals to this active community of practice.”

IBJ initiated the JusticeMakers Program in 2008 in an effort to connect global legal aid lawyers in their quest to curb torture and legal rights abuses in their respective communities. The JusticeMakers Program fuels the international movement towards ensuring that every man, woman and child has the right to competent legal representation, a fair trial and protection from torture as well as cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. As the result of collaborative efforts and through the use of web technologies, an online community was launched, which serves the purpose of building a unified network of criminal defenders, facilitating discussions and hosting competitions which fund proposals to curb the abuse of legal rights within participants respective communities.

The Competition winners and previous JusticeMakers Fellows form lasting relationships with numerous partner organizations across the globe, including but not limited to; governmental and civil society organizations, universities, and national bar associations. All of these partnership efforts are aimed toward the creation of a criminal defender community which will raise the profile of criminal defense practices and continually strive for justice reform. In this way, the JusticeMakers Program creates an internationally-linked network of national criminal defense communities committed to the prevention of torture and cruel and unusual punishments. Sensitizing the community to the prevalence of such issues, coupled with gaining the support of local organizations has created a platform by which major reforms have taken place.

For more information about the JusticeMakers Community and to apply for a 2014 Fellowship visit <http://www.justicemakers.ibj.org> For specific questions please send an email to justicemakers@ibj.org.

About International Bridges To Justice (IBJ)

IBJ is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 by Karen Tse, an American lawyer and ordained minister to provide legal training to defense advocates worldwide in order to prevent torture, ensure adequate legal representation and the implementation of due process rights for ordinary citizens in developing nations. IBJ currently has programs in Burundi, Cambodia, China, India, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

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