



## Law Fellowships in Legal Empowerment

### About Namati

Namati is dedicated to putting the law in people's hands. We strive to build a just world, in which every one of us can take part in the decisions—and demand accountability from the institutions—that affect our lives. Namati is the leading international organization dedicated to legal empowerment.

Namati partners with civil society organizations and governments to develop, implement, and evaluate legal empowerment strategies that address five urgent global challenges:

- Delivering quality legal aid at scale
- Protecting community land rights
- Closing the enforcement gap in environmental law
- Fulfilling the right to citizenship
- Ensuring that essential services like healthcare and education are accountable to local communities.

### The Opportunity

Namati seeks dynamic, self-starting law students and recent graduates to join our team as legal fellows, with placements in Sierra Leone, India, Liberia, Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, Burma, and the United States (Oakland and Washington, DC). Below are examples of existing fellowships for which we are actively recruiting. We also invite proposals for additional placements in the above locations; Namati will collaborate with short-listed candidates to further develop project ideas.

Applicants should have a demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, rule of law, human rights, and/or development. Namati welcomes highly motivated problem solvers capable of adapting to challenging environments.

### To Apply

Namati accepts applications and proposals year-round from students and recent graduates. Please submit your CV, a recent writing sample, and a letter of interest indicating (a) the fellowship for which you are applying or, if relevant, your proposed project scope and location, and (b) the duration of your commitment (3 months minimum) to [employment@namati.org](mailto:employment@namati.org). We encourage you to visit our program pages at [www.namati.org/work](http://www.namati.org/work) to tailor your proposal to Namati's focus areas.

*Please note that Fellowships are unpaid. Namati encourages applicants to explore university-sponsored public interest funding.*



## Law Fellowship in Environmental Justice- Sierra Leone

Namati is looking for a dynamic, self-starting law fellow to join our team in Sierra Leone. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide practical, hands-on experience supporting Namati's legal empowerment programming in Sierra Leone. This fellowship is a unique opportunity to join a growing team in an exciting start-up organization. The fellow will provide support to Namati Sierra Leone's Land and Environmental Justice initiatives.

### Land and Environmental Justice in Practice

Namati Sierra Leone works in partnership with communities to strengthen the communities' ability to protect, enforce and defend their customary land rights and to support equitable and empowered community-investor partnerships. In turn, communities become properly prepared and gain access to legal representation, advice or assistance during all negotiations with investors and state actors concerning the use of community lands and natural resources. Namati Sierra Leone also supports communities in their efforts to renegotiate past large-scale land acquisition deals, which communities think are onerous, one-sided or were not fully understood.

### Fellowship Activities and Responsibilities

The Law Fellow will assist Namati Sierra Leone by participating in some of the following activities:

- **Representing** land owners/ communities to develop an equitable agreement with an investor.
- **Renegotiating** more equitable terms for existing lease agreements on agricultural land, including - protection for farming, residential, common lands and revised rent.
- **Advocating** for a policy regime on land, environment, and investment that is more equitable and sustainable.
- **Helping to develop** and implement rules between chiefdom councils and communities on interfacing with investors.
- **Clarifying** the enforcement mechanism for corporate social responsibility provisions of corporations in Sierra Leone.
- **Publishing** a report detailing the current state of land, environment, and investment practices.
- **Educating** communities on tracking and documenting violations of environmental regulations by industry players.
- **Initiating** additional strategic litigation to address violations of Sierra Leonean law as they are brought to Namati.

## **Qualifications**

- Demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, rule of law, human rights, and/or development.
- Experience in developing nation(s) a plus; prior experience in Africa is highly recommended.
- A highly motivated and self-directed problem solver, able to take personal initiative and follow tasks through to their successful completion.
- Flexible, adaptable, willing to work simultaneously on a wide range of tasks both in an office and the field.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Knowledge of Sierra Leonean languages a plus, but not required.

## **Important Information**

Namati staff will provide an orientation to legal empowerment and Namati's operations at the beginning of the fellowship. Vaccines and a visa are required to travel to Sierra Leone. This position is unpaid, but Namati will assist the fellow with housing recommendations.

**To Apply:** Please email your resume, a short writing sample and cover letter to: [employment@namati.org](mailto:employment@namati.org). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

No phone calls please. Namati is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



## Law Fellowship in Environmental Justice- India

Namati is looking for dynamic, self-starting law fellows to join our team in India. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide practical, hands-on experience supporting Namati's legal empowerment and environmental justice programming. This fellowship is a unique opportunity to join a growing team in an exciting start-up organization.

*Please note that this position will require a **minimum one-year commitment** from the fellow. We will be recruiting for two fellows for this work.*

### ***Environmental Justice in Practice***

Namati's Environmental Justice program works to clarify the processes of environmental regulation in India, and experiments with institutional and community-based interventions to improve environmental outcomes. The program works at three levels: it strives to demystify existing environmental regulatory framework, works with communities to "ground-truth" violations of law, and conducts research on environmental regulatory framework with respect to the new challenges and discourses of environmental governance. Namati partners with the Centre for Policy Research, a Delhi-based think-tank, for this program.

Namati's teams in Uttara Kannada and Kutch engage local governments to improve environmental outcomes by advocating for better land use planning. It is critical for the team to have an understanding of the laws and regulations that influence the governance of coastal land use, and how these policies are actually implemented on the ground. The legal fellow will support the program by conducting research on laws that govern coastal land use, how these are practically implemented on the ground, and the effects of their implementation on environmental resources and local resource-based livelihoods. The fellow will conduct structured interviews and focus groups with various actors involved in land use planning and implementation of these laws, and conduct analysis of legal clauses and judicial orders (state and central levels) on the question of land use planning. The fellow will be based in Uttara Kannada and Kutch, and work closely with Namati's field teams at each location.

### **Fellowship Activities and Responsibilities**

The Law Fellow will assist Namati by participating in some of the following activities:

- **Researching** laws that govern coastal land use, the status of their implementation and their effects or impacts.

- **Clarifying and demystifying** existing land use laws in effect in coastal areas through drafting of memos, educational materials, and other documents as-needed.
- **Conducting** structured interviews and focus groups with local communities on how these laws impact living space and livelihoods of fisher and coastal communities.
- **Publishing** memos and reports detailing the current state of land, environment, and investment practices in India that affect coastal areas.
- **Advocating** for a policy regime on land, environment, and investment that is more equitable and sustainable for local communities.

### **Qualifications**

- Demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, environment, rule of law, human rights, and/or development.
- A highly motivated and self-directed problem solver, able to take personal initiative and follow tasks through to their successful completion.
- Flexible, adaptable, willing to work simultaneously on a wide range of tasks both in an office and the field.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Knowledge of Hindi, Gujarati, or Kannada a plus, but not required.
- Experience in developing nation(s) a plus, but not required.

### **Important Information**

Namati staff will provide an orientation to legal empowerment and Namati's operations at the beginning of the fellowship. This position is unpaid, but Namati will assist the fellow with housing recommendations.

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## Law Fellowship- Washington, DC

Namati is looking for a dynamic, self-starting law fellow to join our team in Washington, DC. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide practical, hands-on experience supporting Namati's programming in Washington, DC, and is a unique opportunity to join a growing team in an exciting start-up organization.

### **Building a Global Movement**

Namati's Washington DC office focuses on maturing the field of legal empowerment. Together with a global network of over 280 organizations, we foster more rigorous civil society efforts, greater government commitment, and learning across borders.

Namati cultivates opportunities for grassroots practitioners worldwide to share strategies and explore synergies. We grow the field's knowledge base by curating the world's largest collection of tools, research, and impact evidence on legal empowerment. We develop and disseminate practical resources that target gaps in existing knowledge.

Namati also works with members of our global network to pursue global policy changes that advance the field as a whole. Together, we are advocating for the inclusion of justice in the UN global development framework, as well as the establishment of a global financing mechanism for legal empowerment. Namati raises the profile of legal empowerment among the wider public by creating engaging narratives and other media that tell the stories of grassroots justice efforts.

### **Fellowship Activities and Responsibilities**

The Law Fellow will undertake the following activities:

#### *Advocacy*

- **Collaborating** with partners within the Global Legal Empowerment Network to design and implement effective grassroots-level and international advocacy campaigns aimed at incorporating justice into the next round of UN Millennium Development Goals, also known as the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.
- **Advancing** discussions among governments, major development institutions, donors, and civil society about options for sustainable financing for legal empowerment, among other global policy issues

### *Research and Publications*

- **Publishing** a series of in-depth case studies on legal empowerment that capture the perspectives of practitioners, based on interviews with network members and investigative research.
- **Designing** e-learning modules and other web-based educational tutorials aimed at strengthening the work of our network members. Topics may include but are not limited to: strategies for dealing with gender-based violence, legal empowerment tools for promoting public health, and access to information.
- **Investigating** the status and implementation of national legal aid frameworks, models for scaling up community paralegal services, laws relating to land ownership, natural resource management, statelessness/citizenship rights, and more;
  - **Drawing lessons** from these national experiences and communicating them to members of the global network

### *Program Development*

- **Developing** opportunities for program development and new initiatives to further Namati's mission and/or grow the evidence base for legal empowerment, particularly in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the United States.

### **Qualifications**

- Demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, rule of law, human rights, and/or development.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Fluency in English; foreign language ability is a plus, but not required.
- A highly motivated and self-directed problem solver, able to take personal initiative and follow tasks through to their successful completion.
- Flexible, adaptable, willing to work simultaneously on a wide range of projects and tasks.

*The following are preferred, but not required:*

- Experience in advocacy and coalition-building.
- Knowledge of graphic design programs, HTML, CSS, and other coding languages.
- Experience in developing nation(s).

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## **Law Fellowship- Community Land Protection Program**

### **Oakland, Liberia, Uganda, Mozambique**

Namati is looking for a dynamic, self-starting law fellow to join our Community Land Protection Program team in Oakland, with possible post-graduate fellowship placements in Oakland, Liberia, Uganda, and Mozambique. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide practical, hands-on experience supporting Namati's community land protection work with possible opportunities for post-graduate fellows to support national NGOs' community land protection work in rural communities.

#### **Fellowship Activities and Responsibilities**

Namati's Community Land Protection Program supports communities to follow national land documentation laws to protect their customary and indigenous land claims. The Community Land Protection Program's goal is to proactively strengthen communities' ability to protect, enforce, and defend their land rights. The Program promotes an integrated community land documentation model that both supports communities to protect their lands and natural resources as well as to leverage community land documentation processes to create positive intra-community change. The Law Fellow will assist Namati by participating in some of the following activities:

- **Working in partnership with national and local organizations to support community land protection efforts;**
- **Supporting governments to enact and implement legislation that promotes community land documentation;**
- **Researching the impacts of community land protection efforts; and**
- **Advocating for increased global emphasis on protections for community land and natural resource rights.**

#### **Qualifications**

- Demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, land tenure security, rule of law, human rights, and/or development.
- Demonstrated commitment to working closely with vulnerable communities.
- Experience in developing nation(s) is a plus, but not required.



- A highly motivated and self-directed problem solver, able to take personal initiative and follow tasks through to their successful completion.
- Flexible, adaptable, willing to work simultaneously on a wide range of projects and tasks.
- Detail-oriented, committed to excellence in all work products.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Maturity and ability to be a productive, proactive member of a diverse team.
- Fluency in English
- Proficiency in Portuguese is required for a Mozambique placement.

**To Apply:** Please email your resume, a short writing sample and cover letter to: [employment@namati.org](mailto:employment@namati.org). If you are applying for post-graduate fellowship sponsorship, please include a brief description of your project proposal or areas of interest in your cover letter. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

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