### Strategic Legal Fund Expert Panel

**Start date:** From June 2024, panel members will be given the opportunity to choose which panels in 2024 they sit on (induction will take place in advance of this)

**Working Hours:** Part time voluntary post – approx. 5 hours prep for the 90-minute expert panel meeting. You are required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings per year.

**Location:** Remote

**Reports to:** SLF Project Manager – Claire Tindale

**Salary:** Unpaid – Funding is available to pay the costs of Panel members’ attendance at meetings (if required) e.g. travel to meetings and childcare. Funding is available to pay for Panel members’ time in preparing for and attending/participating by telephone in meetings. This will usually be paid at Civil Legal Aid remuneration rates (currently at £71.55 per hour) for half a day’s preparation and attendance at meetings.

**Number of roles:** 10

**Application Process**

Please submit an application form and equal opportunities monitoring form. In your application please provide details and examples of how you meet the essential and desirable criteria.

Please submit your application to slf@ilpa.org.uk no later than **5pm on 28 May 2024.**

Appointment to these roles will be based solely on the application and interviews will not be conducted. Should a large number of applicants apply then you may be set an exercise to help with the shortlisting process.

**About the Strategic Legal Fund**

Expert Panel members will work closely with the SLF Project Manager, Claire Tindale. Claire is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the delivery of the *Strategic Legal Fund*.

The SLF was established to fund strategic litigation which is defined as work where the impact is likely to go beyond an individual case, and result in changes to law, policy and practice that will benefit a wider group of people. The fund supports pre-litigation research and development, and third party interventions in cases before the courts, as well as advocacy related to the legal activities undertaken. The SLF is the only fund in the UK that focuses on funding work relating to people who are disadvantaged or discriminated against because of their migration status.

Grants can be awarded to non-governmental organisations, law firms and law centers. The Fund has been under ILPA management since 2017 and is funded by Trust for London, Esmée Fairbairn, The Legal Education Foundation, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy.

For further information about the Fund and the type of work we support see <http://www.strategiclegalfund.org.uk>

Please note we are currently working to update the SLF website after some technical issues, and so some of the information may not be up to date. If you have any questions please email slf@ilpa.org.uk

**About the role**

The post provides an opportunity to contribute strategically to supporting the NGO and legal sector working on migrants’ rights in the UK. You will gain a comprehensive understanding of the broad concerns and themes from across the migration sector. Through your participation in expert panel meetings you will gain experience of reviewing legal arguments and strategy, providing expert advice and working in an advisory capacity to a small charity.

The Expert Panel comprises of individuals with expertise in areas of immigration, asylum, nationality, housing, welfare benefits, asylum support, and public law, both in a legal and policy focused capacity.

The Expert Panel makes recommendations to ILPA about individual grant applications and advises on the strategic direction of the Strategic Legal Fund.

**About you**

The ideal candidate will be someone who wishes to make a positive contribution to the wider migration sector and is dedicated to the aims and objectives of the Strategic Legal Fund. Working knowledge of strategic litigation is not essential but you must be willing to learn, taking part in constructive discussion and be confident in your decision making abilities. You must be punctual, reliable and take a proactive approach to your voluntary commitments.

**Main Tasks:**

* Attending Expert Panel Meetings, these generally take place on a Wednesday or Thursday, 5-6.30pm, on Zoom;
* Maintaining effective communication with the SLF Project Manager and responding to requests in a timely manner;
* Make recommendations to ILPA on applications made to the SLF. Recommendations will be based on the Funding Guidelines, and in line with any priority areas which have been agreed;
* Provide advice and guidance on individual applications or projects;
* Provide recommendations to ILPA on whether applications should be funded, and make suggestions about particular areas of law on which it should focus;
* Engage with the wider evaluation of the project;
* Inform ILPA of any significant developments in the sector which may affect the work of the SLF or the areas in which it has an interest in working;
* Suggest ways in which the SLF may develop its work in line with its aims.

**Person Specification**

**Essential**

1. Good working knowledge of the asylum, refugee and migrant sector in the UK;
2. Experience of reviewing legal arguments and strategy;
3. Proven experience of working with others, including external stakeholders, to reach consensus and make effect decisions;
4. Proven experience of effective, mutually respectful and constructive communication;
5. An understanding of strategic litigation and a commitment to the aims of the Strategic Legal Fund;
6. Punctual, reliable and takes a proactive approach to voluntary commitment;
7. Able to commit to attending SLF Expert Panel meetings and willing to set aside ample time to review applications in advance.

**Desirable**

1. A working knowledge of strategic litigation;
2. Lived experience of migration

We would welcome applications from all legal practitioners and policy experts but we would particularly welcome applications from solicitors as we are currently lacking in this resource.

We strive to be an inclusive recruiter. We would particularly encourage applications from individuals from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and also those from under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and those with lived experience of migration.