



## Legal Research Intern

### Overview

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is seeking a Legal Research Intern to provide support to our [Corporate Legal Accountability Project](#), the leading global information hub about human rights lawsuits against companies. Working with our Corporate Legal Accountability team and other members of our global team, you will assist in monitoring news about lawsuits against companies over alleged human rights abuses, and help highlight affected communities' struggle to access justice. We are a small team and often ask interns to help with a variety of other tasks as well (see task description below).

We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic, reliable and well-organised. You must have, or be currently enrolled in, an undergraduate or a professional law degree (LLB/JD or similar). You should have a strong interest in international human rights issues. You will need the ability to concisely communicate and demystify large amounts of complex information. You should be self-motivated, and able to work independently while functioning well as a member of a small team. You will need research skills, but also must be willing to do some amount of routine work efficiently & accurately. Attention to detail and accurate spelling are essential. Previous experience working with websites is not necessary. You must have excellent working knowledge of English. Fluency in Spanish, Russian or Arabic is highly desirable but not essential. Other language skills (particularly good working knowledge of Chinese, French, German or Portuguese) would be very welcome, in which case some of your work will include research & input in those languages.

**Period:** At least 3-4 months part-time (2-3 days a week)

**Reimbursement of local travel costs, and lunch up to £5;** we are unable to pay any stipend or salary.

**Location:** our offices in **London or New York** (after training is completed, the intern may also work from home at times if he/she wishes).

### About us

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is an international NGO that tracks the human rights impacts (positive & negative) of over 6000 companies in over 180 countries making information available on its eight language website. We seek responses from companies when concerns are raised by civil society. The response rate is over 70% globally.

The Resource Centre has 9 paid staff in London, including the Executive Director. Our team members are also based in Brazil, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Myanmar, Ukraine & USA. The Centre is a non-profit organization, and does not accept funding from companies. Further details about the Centre are on our website (<http://www.business-humanrights.org>).

### Your tasks

1. **Online legal research & inputs:** find relevant news, commentaries, reports and court documents relating to lawsuits against companies over alleged human rights abuses; composing abstracts; categorising articles; adding and updating pages on the website, including broken links.
2. **Drafting & updating case profiles:** draft brief profiles in non-legal language explaining what the lawsuit is about, and what procedural stage it has reached.
3. **Dissemination of content:** help develop contact lists and disseminate our corporate accountability materials to legal contacts.
4. **Participate in meetings,** including fortnightly staff meetings with all staff & regional researchers.

Full-time Legal Research Interns will also spend half of their time assisting the Resource Centre's general, non-legal work, including:

- Online research & input: Finding relevant news & reports online; composing abstracts; completing an input form to add each item to our site – helping us draw global attention to how companies are impacting the rights of people and communities.
- Updating broken & outdated links on our site.
- Researching companies and creating new company sections on our site.

- Raising awareness about the Resource Centre by contacting relevant organizations.

You will be trained, supervised and supported by our staff.

Please note that this internship is not academically oriented, and does not involve extensive analysis or writing. Rather, it is a practical internship focused on bringing global attention to company conduct affecting people and communities, with the aim of promoting respect for human rights.

### Person Specification: Legal Research Intern

CRITERION	STANDARD	Essential / desirable
<b>Legal studies</b>	Have/enrolled in undergraduate or professional law degree (LLB/JD or equivalent)	Essential
<b>General research &amp; analytical skills</b>	Ability to search out & identify relevant articles & reports on the internet, to categorise & summarise them clearly & succinctly	Essential
	Academic or work experience involving research	Essential
<b>Legal research skills</b>	Ability to efficiently search out & identify relevant case information, commentaries and official documents on the internet and by other means	Essential
	Academic and/or work experience involving legal research	Essential
	Ability to compile legal research in a clear & succinct manner, adhering to the Resource Centre's house style	Essential
<b>Summarising skills</b>	Ability to summarise complex legal cases clearly & succinctly	Essential
<b>Data input capacity</b>	Ability & willingness to do large amount of routine data input on a daily basis to update the website & develop the contacts database	Essential
<b>Attention to detail</b>	Attention to detail & accuracy	Essential
<b>Language skills</b>	Excellent English: reading/writing/speaking	Essential
	Fluent Spanish, Arabic or Russian (reading/writing)	Highly desirable – but not essential
	Good working knowledge (reading/writing) of other languages, particularly Chinese, French, German or Portuguese to a standard to be able to read newspaper articles and compose brief written summaries	Desirable – but not essential
	Excellent spelling skills	Essential

<b>Information technology skills</b>	Basic proficiency in computer use, including word processing, spreadsheets (Excel), e-mail, using the internet	Essential [experience working on a website is <u>not</u> necessary]
<b>Initiative</b>	Ability to use own initiative and to work independently	Essential
	Motivated by achieving results and completing tasks	Essential
<b>Team skills</b>	Ability & willingness to work effectively as part of a small team	Essential
<b>Organizational skills</b>	Experience of organising & prioritising own work	Essential
<b>International knowledge</b>	Interest in international affairs	Essential
	General knowledge of international social & environmental issues	Essential
<b>Commitment to human rights</b>	Interest in & commitment to promoting human rights	Essential
<b>Impartiality &amp; balance</b>	Ability & willingness to present information objectively & impartially	Essential
<b>Conflict of interest</b>	No activities or membership/affiliation with organizations in conflict with the aims & objectives of the Resource Centre or which may jeopardise its image, impartiality & independence	Essential

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre strives to be an equal opportunities employer.*