The Arthur Chaskalson Pupillage Fellowship

The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) launched the prestigious Arthur Chaskalson Pupillage Fellowship in 2016. Pupillage is the formal training of pupil advocates in the practice of an advocate. A pupil advocate must successfully complete the programme and pass the national Bar Examinations to qualify for membership of the Bar.

The LRC will award one or more fellowships each year to pupils admitted for pupillage at the Cape or Johannesburg Bars. The Fellowship will be awarded to an excellent candidate committed to the achievement of a just society and the vision of the Constitution.

Only historically disadvantaged candidates will be considered and female candidates will be preferred in accordance with the LRC’s commitment to transformation of the legal profession.

The recipient of the fellowship will be paid a stipend during the year of pupillage. Following completion of pupillage, subject to the achievement of a just society and the vision of the Constitution.

Applications must be submitted to Madile Modisaesi (madile@lrc.org.za). Applications should include at least the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Academic transcript

How long is an internship?

An internship is typically a minimum of eight weeks for international students, and lesser timeframes for local students, and not longer than six months. Please submit the necessary documents at least six months in advance.

Transport and accommodation:

Interns are encouraged to make prior arrangements for accommodation and transport for the duration of their stay in South Africa. You may obtain more information and recommendations from the respective LRC regional office, should you be accepted.

How to apply:

To apply for a legal or non-legal internship at one of the LRC offices (Durban, Johannesburg, National, Grahamstown or Cape Town) or satellite offices, please send the following to interninfo@lrc.org.za

- a) the regional/satellite office you would like to intern at, b) your available dates (indicating start and end dates) and c) what citizenship status you hold.
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- c) what citizenship status you hold.
- Any other supporting document/s

CONTACT US

For more information go to www.lrc.org.za or email info@lrc.org.za

Visit our national and regional offices at the following addresses:

**National Office**
16th Floor Bram Fischer Towers
20 Albert Street
Marshalltown
Johannesburg 2001
Tel +27 11 836 9831

**Johannesburg Regional Office**
15th Floor Bram Fischer Towers
20 Albert Street
Marshalltown
Johannesburg 2001
Tel +27 11 836 9831

**Cape Town Office**
3rd Floor, Greenmarket Place
54 Shortmarket Street
Cape Town 8001
Tel +27 21 481 3000

**Durban Office**
11th Floor, Aqua Sky Towers
275 Anton Lembede Street
Durban 4001
Tel +27 31 301 7572

**Grahamstown Office**
116 High Street
Grahamstown
6139
Tel +27 46 622 9230

The Legal Resources Centre also accepts internship applications from students or professionals with an interest and/or background in fundraising, communications, marketing, management, accounting, social science research or similar fields. Non-legal interns will assist in an area of work that most closely fits their expertise.

How will you do?

Legal interns will do legal research, support litigation, assist with drafting legal memoranda, provide legal opinions, interview clients and assist the LRC with preparing applications and actions.

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The volunteering / internship programme

The LRC hosts legal and non-legal volunteers or interns from all over the world. Typically, they have completed at least one year (preferably two years) of their legal or other studies. International interns are considered to be volunteers.

The LRC will pay a stipend or remuneration interns only in exceptional cases. We do not provide any medical benefits or insurance. Medical insurance and/or travel insurance should be obtained prior to the intern’s arrival in South Africa.

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Only historically disadvantaged candidates will be considered and female candidates will be preferred in accordance with the LRC’s commitment to transformation of the legal profession.

The recipient of the fellowship will be paid a stipend during the year of pupillage. Following completion of pupillage, subject to the achievement of a just society and the vision of the Constitution.

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- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Academic transcript

Other positions at the Legal Resources Centre

From time-to-time, other positions open up in the Legal Resources Centre. The LRC employs legal staff, legal support staff such as paralegals and researchers, and non-legal staff, including communication and grant officers, financial officers and office administrators. Experience in the non-profit sector and an interest in human rights is not a prerequisite, but is helpful in the application process.

The LRC is committed to transformation; applications from previously disadvantaged candidates are therefore strongly encouraged. Candidates must be in possession of relevant qualifications and experience.

Look out for adverts in your local newspaper, on the LRC website (www.lrc.org.za) and on NGO Pulse. We also place updates on our social media platforms (Twitter: LRC_SouthAfrica; Facebook: LRCSouthAfrica; LinkedIn).

Do you want to be part of promoting justice and transformation through the law?
South Africa has changed fundamentally since 1994. The Constitution created an ambitious legal framework that paved the way for more inclusion and opportunities for all South Africans, in all spheres of life. However, despite the promise of progressive rights, South Africa has struggled to ensure that freedom and democracy deliver not only the right to vote, but also opportunities for economic and social advancement. As a result, poverty and inequality persist on a scale that threatens the transformation envisaged by the Constitution.

The Legal Resources Centre is a public interest legal organisation that is at the forefront of the fight for justice and human rights. With the Constitution as our guide, we work to transform the legal profession, provide legal services to the most vulnerable in our communities and use the law as an instrument for justice.

If you have a passion for promoting and protecting human rights, then read more!

WHAT IS PUBLIC INTEREST LAW?

Public interest law generally refers to legal practices undertaken to help and protect marginalised and poor people and to effect change in social policies in the public's interest. The term "public interest law" does not refer to a body of law or a legal field, but rather the clients represented. Our clients come from poor socio-economic circumstances, conditions of poverty, unemployment, lack of status or conditions of discrimination.

SHOULD I BE A PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYER?

Are you passionate about human rights and the Constitution?
- Do you have a drive to change society?
- Are you flexible and able to take on various roles within your career?
- Are you willing to travel, work in difficult conditions and work with marginalised and vulnerable communities?
- Can you demonstrate a background in human rights, either through previous experience, volunteering, the subjects you have taken, your thesis topic and the like?
- Do you think the non-profit sector would suit you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO AT THE LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE?

The LRC's work involves a broad range of approaches that promote holistic solutions to complex problems. Our work encompasses:

Legal Advice
Through front-desk facilities in all regional offices where clients can receive legal assistance, advice and referrals.

Working with communities
The involvement of our client communities at all levels of the legal process, ensuring that their internal organisations are supported and their needs and interests find a voice at the national level.

Litigation
We have an extensive track-record of litigation, both in court and through negotiated settlements.

Training
Provided to paralegals, community advice officers and members of the legal community.

Advocacy and communication
Engagement with media, the legal community, communities and members of civil society allows us to influence the discourse around human rights and constitutional law, share our stories and successes and invite critical dialogue.

Law reform and policy development
Submissions are made on behalf of clients to Parliament, local and international bodies and decision-making entities.

Networking
We work with a range of international, regional and local partners.

Applied research
Informs the litigation undertaken or behalf of our clients, supports test cases or challenges interpretations of the law that are not in accordance with constitutional principles.

Global and regional engagements
Our regional work is primarily aimed at the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. We also engage in the global context in order to share our considerable expertise in litigation, particularly with regard to socio-economic rights.

WHO IS THE LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE?

The Legal Resources Centre is an independent, client-based, non-profit public interest law clinic. We were established in 1979 by the late Chief Justice, Arthur Chaskalson, the late Felicia Kenteridge and Advocate Geoff Budlender. The LRC was founded on the principles that all South Africans deserve to live with dignity, without oppression and with full political and socio-economic rights.

Since 1994, the Constitution has provided the bridge to promoting and protecting human rights. However, accessing these rights remains a challenge in a country characterised by poverty and inequality. Many people are unaware of their rights, and few people can afford legal representation when their rights are violated.

This is where the LRC steps in. Services provided by the LRC to its clients are free. We provide litigation and other legal services, as well as training, community development, advocacy and front-desk facilities.

The LRC’s head office is in Johannesburg and we operate from four regional offices located in Durban, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Grahamstown. Three recently established satellite offices ensure that we are able to reach more remote communities in Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal.

We do not receive any subsidies or government funding. Like all non-profit organisations, the Legal Resources Centre relies on donors and individual givers to sustain its work.

WHAT ARE THE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE?

If you like what you have read so far, explore the available options for joining our dynamic, dedicated team!

The Candidate Attorney Programme

The LRC’s Candidate Attorney Programme trains graduates in the field of public interest litigation and constitutional law. The LRC does not provide training in criminal or family matters, except in relation to women’s and children’s rights.

Suitably qualified law graduates and those in their penultimate and final year of their LLB degree can apply for positions in our various regional offices (Durban, Johannesburg, Grahamstown or Cape Town), commencing 1 January every year. The CA programme is a two year programme.

Requirements
Candidates must have completed an LLB degree, be in possession of a valid driver’s licence, have good writing and reporting skills and a background or interest in public interest law. Sound academic results are essential. The Legal Resources Centre is an employment equity and affirmative action employer.

Closing dates for applications
Students are encouraged to apply for articles during the penultimate year of their law degree and before the end of March every year. Those in possession of their law degrees must forward their applications before the end of March.

Remuneration
Although we are a donor-funded entity, the LRC offers competitive remuneration and other benefits to its candidate attorneys.

How to apply
Look out for adverts in your local newspaper, on the LRC website (www.lrc.org.za) and on NGOPulse. We also place updates on our social media platforms (Twitter: LRC_SouthAfrica; Facebook: LRCSouthAfrica; LinkedIn).

In your application, enclose the following:
- Curriculum Vitae no longer than four (4) pages
- A cover letter motivating appointment, as well as an interest in public interest law. Sound academic results are essential. The Legal Resources Centre is an employment equity and affirmative action employer.
- A background or interest in public interest law. Sound academic results are essential. The Legal Resources Centre is an employment equity and affirmative action employer.
- Any other supporting documents such as including copies of academic transcripts, degree certificates and identity document.
- Details of two (2) contactable references.
- A writing sample on a topic relevant to the work of the LRC of not more than 2000 words.

Send your applications to the following people:
- Cape Town: Zufia Mohammed zufia@lrc.org.za Tel +27 21 481 3000
- Grahamstown: Valencia Morrison valencia@lrc.org.za Tel +27 46 622 9230
- Durban: Sandra Govender sandra@lrc.org.za Tel +27 31 301 7572
- Johannesburg: Caroline Msimango caroline@lrc.org.za Tel +27 11 836 9831

For general Candidate Attorney enquiries, contact Zama Mbatha zamam@lrc.org.za

“I get to live my passion—using the law to make the world a better place. It is a real privilege—few people are this lucky.” – Cecile van Schalkwyk, 2017 Grahamstown Candidate Attorney

“I chose this path so I could help vindicate my people’s rights and restore their dignity. This time at the LRC has humbled me, there is yet much to do, many more hands are needed.” – Mpho Raboeane, 2017 Johannesburg Candidate Attorney

“For me the chance to develop as social worker, fearless activist, leader, listener, critical thinker and friend. ” – Etkia Dechandel, 2014 Durban Candidate Attorney

“While I had never seen myself as an activist, the LRC taught me the importance of wearing multiple hats. Some days I was an activist at a rally, some a litigator in a court room, some an advisor in a government office, and others a confidante in a consultation room.” – Alexandro Robertson, 2014 Johannesburg Candidate Attorney