

Senior Lawyer
ASRRU Rights Unit
1.0 EFT, 12 months fixed term



The Human Rights Law Centre, a leading national human rights advocacy organisation, seeks a Senior Lawyer to work in our Asylum Seeker and Refugee Rights Unit. This is a new 12 month full-time position based in Melbourne.

About the Human Rights Law Centre

The Human Rights Law Centre protects and promotes human rights in Australia and in Australian activities overseas using a strategic combination of legal action, advocacy, research, education and UN engagement. The HRLC works in coalition with key partners, including community organisations, law firms and barristers, academics and international and domestic human rights organisations.

The HRLC's Asylum Seeker and Refugee Rights Unit (ASRRU) was established in 2015 to deepen our work protecting and promoting the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum. The Unit is both responsive and agenda-setting, receiving requests for assistance as well as working with asylum seeker advocacy and casework organisations to address significant systemic human rights issues.

About the Senior Lawyer Role

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen for a Senior Lawyer to work as part of our ASRRU. We are seeking a highly motivated, dynamic, skilled and collaborative individual. This position will work alongside the Unit's Director and two Lawyers and will play a vital role in contributing to all aspects of the Unit's work. People who have a refugee background are encouraged to apply. This position will be based in Melbourne. It is a full-time position for a 12 month fixed term.

Key Responsibilities

Reporting to the Director of the ASRRU, the Senior Lawyer will:

- identify opportunities for strategic litigation to promote and protect the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum and coordinate litigation in partnership with pro bono legal teams and other not for profit organisations;
- coordinate and undertake advocacy (including media appearances and public speaking), policy research and project management to promote and protect the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum;
- assist with strategic planning, liaison with funders, communication and fundraising for the ASRRU and the HRLC more broadly;
- develop strong partnerships with the HRLC's key stakeholders and donors;
- assist with the supervision of ASRRU lawyers;
- assist with the induction and supervision of legal and paralegal volunteers and interns;
- assist with HRLC events and publications; and
- undertake administrative tasks as required in a small team.

While the position will primarily focus on the HRLC's refugee rights work, the Lawyer may be required to perform the above duties in relation to other areas of the HRLC's work.

Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- at least five years relevant post-admission legal practice experience;
- relevant experience in policy and law reform;
- knowledge of and a commitment to human rights principles and practice;
- the ability to work sensitively and respectfully with refugees and people seeking asylum;
- excellent oral and written communication skills;
- strong interpersonal skills and the ability to develop relationships of trust and confidence with diverse stakeholders, including community partners, lawyers, government officials, academics, donors and the media;
- a high degree of professionalism and a reputation for integrity, discipline and attention to detail;
- ability to work efficiently and effectively under a high degree of pressure;
- ability to work effectively in a small, dynamic and motivated team

Highly Desirable

- direct experience working in or with refugees and people seeking asylum and organisations that work with them;
- experience undertaking strategic litigation;
- experience working with the media;
- experience in international human rights law; and
- experience working in a public interest, social justice or human rights not for profit organisation.

Terms and Conditions

- The salary will be up to \$92,350 per annum plus 9.5% superannuation depending on qualifications, experience and other relevant considerations.
- The HRLC has charity tax status enabling us to offer staff generous salary packaging options. The tax savings for staff who take full advantage of salary packaging options significantly increases their take home pay.
- The HRLC offers flexible working arrangements, 5 weeks annual leave, opportunities for professional development, and a professional, dedicated, collaborative and dynamic culture.
- The position will involve travel and work outside normal business hours.
- The position will be for a 12 months fixed term period.

Applications

Applications should be sent by email to Ruth Barson, Director of Legal Advocacy, at ruth.barson@hrlc.org.au and should comprise:

- a cover letter (1 page);
- a statement addressing the selection criteria (2 pages); and

- your resume.

Please make your application a single PDF document with your name in the document title.

The closing date for applications is **Sunday 28 January 2018**.

Further Information

For further information about the Human Rights Law Centre, see www.hrlc.org.au. For further information about this position, contact Ruth Barson on 0417 773 037 or ruth.barson@hrlc.org.au