

The Vance Center for International Justice Pro Bono Intensive Projects Spring 2026

Background:

The [Vance Center for International Justice](#) advances global justice by engaging lawyers across borders to support civil society and an ethically active legal profession. Since our founding in 2002, the Vance Center has made pro bono legal services available to hundreds of clients and strengthened the legal profession worldwide through sustained long-term initiatives, responsive structures, and international networks. We mobilize lawyers to take up their role as justice activists, working to uphold the rule of law, combat corruption, increase access to justice, and protect fundamental human and environmental rights.

In this upcoming intensive, we expect to offer the below **two (2) projects**. In your cover letter please include which project(s) you are interested in working on.

1. Implementation of UNCAC Resolution Questionnaire and Report

The Questionnaire is a global pro bono research initiative led by the Vance Center, in collaboration with the UN Convention against Corruption Coalition (UNCAC), to assess how countries are implementing legal protections for whistleblowers. The project seeks contributions from legal experts to complete a detailed questionnaire analyzing national frameworks, identifying gaps, and highlighting good practices in protecting reporting persons from retaliation.

The project is still ongoing, and findings will inform an independent civil society report offering recommendations to strengthen whistleblower laws and support civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts. The final report will be presented at the 11th Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in 2025, contributing to SDG 16 on justice, rule of law, and strong institutions.

The task will consist of:

- Reviewing and completing a standardized questionnaire (30 questions) regarding the legal framework and practice of whistleblower protection in a specific country.
- The responses should include relevant citations to laws, regulations, or policy documents where applicable and any examples, case studies, or practice insights.

Qualifications: Enrollment in a law degree (JD, LLM or equivalent) and strong interest in anti-corruption, rule of law, governance and human rights issues worldwide. Solid legal research and writing skills, including the ability to locate, read, and analyze legislation, regulations, and official institutional documents. Interest in comparative law and understanding how different legal systems approach whistleblower protection.

The countries to be covered in this project are: Benin, Iraq, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Croatia, Djibouti, Eswatini, Kuwait, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Seychelles, and Slovakia.

The main working languages across these countries are: English, French, Arabic, Kurdish, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Russian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Kirundi, Swahili, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Mauritian Creole, Romanian, Mongolian, Montenegrin, Nauruan, Niuean, Macedonian, Albanian, Seychellois Creole, and Slovak.

2. Verification of National Anti-Corruption Assessments (Latin America 2023–2024) towards 2025–2026

This project is a regional verification initiative designed to validate the accuracy of the objective elements of the country profiles produced in our 2023–2024 assessment of anti-corruption efforts in Latin America, as a necessary step to prepare for the upcoming 2025–2026 evaluation cycle.

Students will verify that the objective elements of each profile—such as legislation, regulations, and institutional mandates—are still in force and accurately reflected. This involves confirming whether laws and institutional frameworks remain valid or have been amended, repealed, or replaced, and documenting any updates through independent legal research and reliable sources. The purpose of this verification is to ensure that the next regional assessment (2025–2026) is built on precise, current, and evidence-based legal information.

Qualifications: Enrollment in a law degree (JD, LLM or equivalent) and strong interest in anti-corruption, rule of law, governance and human rights issues in Latin America. Solid legal research and writing skills, including the ability to locate, read, and analyze legislation, regulations, and official institutional documents. Ability to work with primary sources in following languages include:

- Spanish
- Portuguese
- English