Legal Research Assistant
Addressing Illegal Fishing

Are you interested in the intersection of ocean science and policy and want to be part of building solutions for current and future ocean issues? If so, the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, an initiative of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, invites you to apply as a Legal Research Assistant.

The Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) catalyzes research innovation and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most. COS capitalizes on Stanford’s broad expertise in ocean science and in the many other disciplines crucial to developing ocean solutions including law, engineering, computer science, political science, design and business. Our core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders in the data revolution.

Project Description
Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing contributes 10–30% of seafood in the market, jeopardizing the livelihoods of three billion people who rely on fisheries. Concurrently, environmental degradation from IUU and overfishing can exacerbate labor abuses in fisheries. There are a growing number of data sources that can help identify IUU fishing, yet there is no resource that pulls them together to offer a synoptic view. At COS, we are creating a Supply Chain Risk Tool (SCRT) that allows companies to access relevant data about IUU fishing to then identify and address risks in their supply chains. The creation of this tool, however, requires serious consideration of privacy concerns by data providers and user companies. We thus want to work with a Legal Research Assistant to explore the realm of possible data sharing policies that will inform our strategy.¹

Job Duties
The primary responsibility of the Legal Research Assistant is to support the Research Fellow and Research Manager through research, synthesis, writing, referencing, and organizing.

Specific tasks include:
- Research relevant national and multi-national data sharing policies
- Synthesize findings for the research team via internal memos and informal presentations
- Produce an internal report that evaluates the tradeoffs of different data policies relevant to the SCRT as well as case studies that provide important lessons for implementation
- Additional tasks as necessary

¹ For more information, see COS’ Outlaw Ocean Policy Practicum webpage.
Qualifications
We seek a detail-oriented, investigative, self-starting graduate student (preferably with experience in legal research) with the following interests, skills and experience:

- Strong background in data policy, privacy policy, and contracts
- Preferred experience in performing and synthesizing surveys or interviews
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment
- Superior organizational, planning and time management skills
- Demonstrated ability to organize and prioritize workload
- Attention to detail in organizing research and work products
- Strong communication skills

Start Date and Working Hours
This position requires a 10-week commitment of 8–12 hours per week, beginning in summer 2021. Start date and working hours are negotiable. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Location
This position will be based collaboratively with the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and the Gould Center for Conflict Resolution at Stanford Law School (Palo Alto, CA). Given current restrictions related to COVID-19, all work will be done remotely.

To apply
Please send the following materials to the recruiting team using the “applywithcos@stanford.edu” email address. Please include “COS IUU Legal Research Assistant Application” in the email subject line.

1) Letter of interest providing background on your experience and applicable skills
2) Resume or CV outlining your education and professional experience
3) Contact information for three references

Deadline
Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on April 12. The position will remain open until filled.

Stanford is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.