

SOUTHWESTERN ARMENIA FELLOWSHIP

Not too long ago, Armenia's Minister of Justice, Hon. Hrayr Tovmasyan, asked the Armenian legal community in the Diaspora for a particular kind of assistance: to have American-trained legal professionals' help in the development of Armenia's legal system. Southwestern Law School responded promptly, embracing the opportunity to serve the rule of law as well as a developing country and its people who are near and dear to many within the Southwestern community.

The cooperation between the Ministry of Justice and Southwestern has now resulted in an agreement to establish the Southwestern Armenia Fellowship in Yerevan, Armenia. The partnership will enable the Southwestern Fellow to work directly with the Ministry, for a one-year full-time position. As articulated in the agreement, the goal is for the position to be ongoing and "to serve the developing legal system in Armenia."



"Armenia's Ministry of Justice is delighted to have this unprecedented cooperation between the Ministry and Southwestern Law School for advancing the rule of law in Armenia."

– Hon. Hrayr Tovmasyan
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia

FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISING

The goal of the Armenia Fellowship Executive Committee is to raise \$300,000 to sustain the Fellowship for at least five years, commencing in the fall of 2012. In the current quiet phase of the campaign, the committee is seeking multi-year pledges to help secure the Fellowship's launch next fall as well as its long-term success.

ARMENIA FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Honorary Chair, Executive Committee

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Southwestern Board of Trustees

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ROLE OF THE ARMENIA FELLOW

The first Fellow's one-year term is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2012. Among other areas, the Fellow's work for 2012-13 will involve one or more of the following:

- ♦ Revising the Civil Procedure Code, including in the areas of due process and adjudication time limits.
- ♦ Redrafting the Civil Code and drafting corresponding legislation, such as related to lease agreements and mortgages.
- ♦ Reforming the criminal justice system in the areas of sentencing, incarceration, and reintegration.
- ♦ Reforming the penitentiary system, in conformity with international human rights standards.
- ♦ Developing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including arbitration and mediation.
- ♦ Revising provisions of the Judicial Code to balance independence with accountability of the judiciary, as well as focusing on ethics and disciplinary procedure for judges.



"We applaud Southwestern Law School's commitment to the development of Armenia's legal system, and look forward to our cooperation with the school and hosting the Southwestern Armenia Fellow."

– Nora Sargsyan, Ph.D.
Advisor to the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia

"A stable legal system is key to Armenia's continued growth and development, and having the cooperation of Southwestern Law School in our endeavor is truly inspired as well as inspirational. I hope that our Diaspora community will also be inspired and lend its generous support to the Southwestern Armenia Fellowship with Armenia's Ministry of Justice."

– Hon. Grigor Hovhannissian
Consul General of the Republic of Armenia

"Not only is this a nice opportunity to contribute to the justice system in Armenia, but it is also an opportunity to develop a cadre of Southwestern graduates skilled and experienced in promoting the rule of law."

– Dean Bryant G. Garth
Southwestern Law School



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