PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE REFORM IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Public-Private-Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan (PJRA) is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program. The PJRA is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and leading private attorneys in the United States to empower talented Afghan lawyers to contribute to the rule of law, peace, and prosperity in Afghanistan.

The Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program sends Afghan legal professionals to the United States to pursue graduate-level legal studies for one academic year. It is administered by the Friends of the PJRA (FPJRA), a non-profit organization established for this purpose. Participants in the program receive scholarships covering the cost of tuition, in addition to funds for the scholars' travel and living expenses in the United States. Scholarship recipients will earn an LL.M. ("masters of law") degree at a U.S. university. A small number of scholars may be selected for non-degree granting "visiting scholar" programs. The Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program is only open to applicants who have a demonstrated commitment to return to Afghanistan and to contribute to rule of law and the justice system in a meaningful way. All LL.M. Scholars must sign a pledge to return to Afghanistan upon completion of their studies; any scholars who fail to return will be obligated to repay any and all scholarship funds and benefits they have received.

Successful applicants will meet the following criteria:

- Submit a complete application according to the guidelines below.
- Have a degree in law.
- Have strong written and spoken English ability, as demonstrated by a TOEFL or IELTS score.
- Have a demonstrated commitment to return to Afghanistan and use their legal education to contribute to rule of law and the country's justice system.
- Have a clear vision for how this scholarship will assist them in their career goals.
- Have a strong academic record.

The PJRA scholarship committee will also take factors such as geography, area of legal interest, gender, and letters of recommendation into consideration in making their decisions.

Please see below for additional information on the Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program application requirements and process.

Application Instructions

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION – OCTOBER 1, 2013

All applicants for the Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program sponsored by the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan (the "PJRA") must submit the following to the Friends of the PJRA by October 1, 2013:

1. Resume

The applicant's resume must be written in English and include the applicant's contact information (full home and/or work address, telephone number(s), and email address, if any) and the applicant's full work and educational history.

2. Personal Statement

The applicant's personal statement, maximum of three pages, must be written in English by the applicant and should describe:

- The applicant's reasons and qualifications for applying for the Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program.
- What the applicant hopes to accomplish by participating in the program.
- What the applicant intends to do upon completion of the program with the legal training and education obtained.
- This must be the applicant's own work product. Plagiarism or writing by other authors will be grounds for rejection of an application.

NOTE- *The Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program is intended to assist Afghan scholars acquire the knowledge and resources to improve Afghanistan's justice system. Therefore it is expected that applicants must and will return to Afghanistan for at least two years after completion of the LL.M. Scholarship Program. It is important to clearly state this intention in the application, and to offer details that will allow the PJRA scholarship committee to assess the applicant's sincerity.*

3. Educational Transcripts and TOEFL score

The applicant must provide:

- Original, official educational transcripts issued from the degree-granting institution, or copies of such transcripts certified by the institution, for all law degrees conferred or in progress.
- Official copy of applicant's TOEFL score, with a minimum of 580 required, OR statement confirming you are registered for the October 2013 TOEFL exam.

NOTE- *The minimum TOEFL score is a requirement of our partner law schools. If you have not yet taken the TOEFL, please register for the October 2013 exam (deadlineSeptember 16) and include a statement confirming you are registered.* ***Please use TOEFL code 2546 when taking the TOEFL exam.***

Transcripts from schools, undergraduate colleges and graduate programs, other than law, may be submitted and are helpful, but not required. If the official transcripts, or copies, are not in

English, the applicant should provide certified translations in addition to the official transcripts or certified copies.

4. Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program Purpose Acknowledgment Form and Certification

The *Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program Purpose Acknowledgment Form and Certification* is a form stating the applicant's understanding of what the Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program is and that it is his or her intention to apply for the program. The form is attached below and must be signed and dated by the applicant.

5. Copy of Passport

A copy of his or her official passport issued by the government of Afghanistan.

6. Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation, in English or with English translations.

7. References

The names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of three references with whom the applicant has a professional relationship or who are familiar with the applicant's academic performance.

NOTE- References must not be the same individuals who submitted a letter of recommendation on the applicant's behalf.

Completed applications must be submitted to the email address: apply@afghanppp.org.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PJRA WILL ONLY ACCEPT ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION – OCTOBER 1, 2013

Please contact Elizabeth Mahoney at apply@afghanppp.org with any questions about the application process.

Application Timeline

October 1, 2013 ***Applications Due***

The applications for the LL.M. Scholarship Program ARE DUE by October 1, 2013. Please be sure you have sent in your application to apply@afghanppp.org with all required information, and the intended dates you will take the TOEFL if you have not already done so. For registration, test dates, and information, go to http://www.ets.org/toefl.

September 1, 2013	Afghanistan TOEFL Internet-Based Test Date
September 14, 2013	Afghanistan TOEFL Internet-Based Test Date
September 28, 2013	Afghanistan TOEFL Internet-Based Test Date
September 29, 2013	Afghanistan TOEFL Internet-Based Test Date
September 2, 2013	TOEFL Mail-in Registration Due
September 16, 2013	TOEFL Online Registration Due
October 19, 2013	Afghanistan TOEFL Paper-Based Test Date

October 25, 2013	Interview Schedule Announced
TBD – Likely November 2013	Interviews
December 2013	Preliminary Results Announced
January 2014	Final Results Announced
February 2014	School Placement Announced/visa process begins
July 2014	Orientation

Background Information

About the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan

Founded by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2007, the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan (PJRA) brings together the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. legal community, including private law firms and law schools, to support small-scale, high- impact justice assistance programs in Afghanistan. Strengthening the rule of law is a key foreign policy objective and integral to the U.S. government's overall effort to support peace and stability in Afghanistan. Through a combination of private sector contributions and grants from the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the PJRA has sought to address one of the great challenges to the rule of law: a lack of trained legal professionals in Afghanistan.

In June 2013, the PJRA completed its fifth year of sponsoring Afghan legal professionals seeking Masters of Laws (LL.M.) degrees in the United States. After their studies, scholars commit to returning to Afghanistan to advance the rule of law and alumni have gone on to found private law firms, become leaders in the Afghan government, serve in the United Nations, and work at non-government organizations.

The PJRA is in the initial stages of funding a Rule of Law Center at Herat University in Afghanistan. The Rule of Law Center will work to educate Afghan legal scholars on international legal standards and practices to advance development of a democratic and prosperous Afghan state based on the rule of law.

About the Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), headed by Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield, advises the President, Secretary of State, other bureaus in the Department of State, and other departments and agencies within the U.S. Government on the development of policies and programs to combat international narcotics and crime. INL programs support two of the Department's strategic goals: (1) to reduce the entry of illegal drugs into the United States; and (2) to minimize the impact of international crime on the United States and its citizens. Counternarcotics and anticrime programs also complement counterterrorism efforts, both directly and indirectly, by promoting modernization of and supporting operations by foreign criminal justice systems and law enforcement agencies charged with the counter- terrorism mission. More information is available at: http://www.state.gov/j/inl/index.htm.

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PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM AND CERTIFICATION

The Applicant, the PJRA, and the LL.M. Scholarship Program

I, (full name), hereby confirm that I am applying for the Afghan LL.M. Scholarship Program (the "Program") sponsored by the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan (the "PJRA"). I acknowledge that my participation in the Program is intended to promote the institutional capacity of Afghanistan for a fair and open justice system. I further acknowledge that the purpose of the Program, my participation in the Program, and the initiatives of the PJRA include addressing women's issues, legal aid, public awareness of legal rights, and the professional development of judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys in Afghanistan in order to establish a more stable and developed legal system. I further acknowledge and agree that I am applying for an LL.M. Program which I will undertake at a U.S. law school. I hereby commit to use the U.S. legal training/education and any degree I receive in a manner consistent with, and with the full intent of, advancing the Program and the initiatives of the PJRA as set forth above.

Applicant's Departure from the Program and the PJRA

I acknowledge that upon completion of the LL.M. Program, I commit myself to returning to Afghanistan in a timely manner and maintaining residence in Afghanistan for a period not less than two years starting from the date I return.

Obligations,Responsibilities,andRights

I acknowledge that I have the right to deny or accept admission to the Program offered by the PJRA. If I accept, I am obligated to abide by all Federal, State, University, and PJRA laws, regulations, and stipulations that will be relevant in my place of study. I understand that the PJRA reserves the right to withdraw my scholarship if I do not abide by these stipulations or those outlined in this document. I acknowledge that my scholarship will be withdrawn if I seek asylum in the U.S., as this would prohibit me from returning to Afghanistan, or if I voluntarily leave the U.S. legal training / education program before it is completed. I further understand that I will be liable for my conduct and academic performance during the Program.

I hereby certify that all of the information that I have provided in connection with my application for the Program is true, accurate, and complete as of the date of submission.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____

Printed Full Legal Name