The Carter Center (TCC) and the Transnational Law Institute of Washington and Lee University School of Law (W&L) offer a joint program that provides the opportunity for recent law school graduates to work as law fellows for a variety of government and non-governmental institutions in Liberia. The Carter Center has operated an Access to Justice Project in Liberia since 2006, where it works with a range of government institutions and actors to provide accessible, fair, and consistent justice. W&L’s work in Liberia began in 2008 with the Transnational Law Institute's Liberia Access to Justice Practicum, a joint program including Washington and Lee, the Louis A. Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Unique, challenging and unforgettable"

"I learnt a lot, about Liberia, the law, what makes a justice system function, how a justice system can be destroyed, about people and workplaces…and about myself"

"If I had to do the whole thing over again I absolutely would"

The law fellowship offers an opportunity to engage in legal reform and legal development at a critical time in Liberian history. Fellows are placed at various government institutions according to their backgrounds interests, and areas of demand, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Works, the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, The Land Commission, The Law Reform Commission, the Governance Commission, and the Independent Human Rights Commission. The program requires a minimum six month commitment, and fellowships are self funded.

For more information on application procedures and deadlines please visit Washington and Lee’s website at http://law.wlu.edu/carterfellows/
The program has had nineteen fellows to date who have worked on a range of issues and projects including legal review; drafting of legal documents; communication of draft laws; facilitation of educational programs to increase knowledge of law and legal process within government and public sectors; consultations and workshops on a variety legal reform topics; mentoring and coaching of legal staff and civil society organizations.

Returning fellows have attested to having gained a wide range of skills during their fellowship experience including:

- Practical legal experience
- A robust understanding of the Liberian government and the challenges it faces
- Methods of balancing legal approaches employed by the international community with the needs and expectations of Liberians
- Mentoring and coaching skills
- A deeper understanding of the concerns of other stakeholders
- Methods of balancing personal views with those of the parties they consult
- The importance of consultation to the legitimacy of any legal reform process
- The importance of outreach strategies in refocusing law reform at the local level

The flexibility, determination, perseverance and creativity required of all fellows during their work in Liberia offers fellows the opportunity to build skills that benefit them in their professional careers as well as a challenging and interesting personal experience.