

**Human Rights Fellowship Opportunity
Study of Irregular Adoptions in El Salvador**

During the Civil War in El Salvador children were stolen from families in the period in between 1980 to 1992. Some were sent to orphanages from which many were adopted into families in foreign countries. Most of the disappearances were clear-cut military crimes according to the recent judicial debate at the Supreme Court in El Salvador. While adoptive families acted in good faith, many others in the process did not. Unscrupulous lawyers forged papers for children and death certificates for parents. Certain judges became renowned for the “speed” of their overseas adoption cases. This study proposal focuses exclusively on those cases of children who were placed for adoption in foreign countries, and it seeks to analyze patterns of interaction of attorneys who recurrently appeared as legal facilitators in both administrative and judicial arenas, and benefited from fees paid by foreign adoptive families in the United States and in various European countries.

Tasks required: He/She will be responsible for conducting extensive research, and drafting both the institutional, political, economic and legal context before, during and after the civil war in El Salvador.

Qualifications:

- Graduate level student
- Experience in law or journalism a plus
- 3 years work/research experience in human rights and/or political advocacy
- Demonstrated commitment to human rights, democracy, and social justice in post-conflict countries
- Superior writing and editing, and oral communication skills
- Superb Research skills
- Spanish fluency required
- High level of initiative as well as the ability to work in a team
- Experience working or living in Latin America

Fellowship Opportunity: Interested applicants may seek to carry out this project with funding from the Human Rights Fellowship program. Regular application procedures apply; this project will be evaluated under the same criteria and priority level as all other fellowship applications. Human Rights Fellowship application and FAQs available at <http://hrc.berkeley.edu>. Direct specific questions regarding this project to the Fellowship Director at kreed@berkeley.edu.