

REQUEST
FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(EOI)
FOR PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

Issuing entity: The Vance Center for International Justice
Location: Global
Deadline: Open call

1. OVERVIEW

Reporters Shield is a membership program that defends investigative and other public interest reporting organizations worldwide (“Clients”) from legal threats and claims meant to silence critical voices (“Claims”). Reporters Shield helps reduce the risk of lawsuits through training and also funds legal assistance to fight lawsuits meant to intimidate and financially burden reporters (such as “strategic lawsuits against public participation,” or SLAPPs).

The Vance Center is assisting Reporters Shield in identifying lawyers and/or law firms (“Lawyers”) with the qualifications, skills, and experience necessary to provide legal services to Clients as described below (“Services”). Through this Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEI”), the Vance Center and Reporters Shield invite eligible Lawyers to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Successful respondents will be placed on a prequalified list of Lawyers who are approved to provide the Services to Clients. Assignment of Services will occur via requests for proposals sent to some or all the Lawyers on this list.

The Services are as follows:

- a. provision of legal pre-publication review of Client stories planned for publication according to the laws and prevailing practice in the jurisdiction, assessing whether the proposed story would appear to pose a legitimate risk of a successful claim of defamation, invasion of privacy, or similar content-based (but not intellectual property-based) violation; and
- b. provision of legal defense services against a Claim in criminal proceedings against a Client, and
- c. provision of legal defense against a Claim in civil and other proceedings against a Client.

2. INSTRUCTIONS

Interested Lawyers are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (“EoI”) which demonstrates that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform one or more of the Services, in compliance with the following instructions:

- a. Each EoI must be submitted in writing and emailed as one pdf file to RSlawyers@nycbar.org (capital letters are case sensitive), with the email line “Expression of Interest for Provision of Legal Services.”
- b. Each EoI must include the following elements:
 - i. A cover letter expressing interest in providing the Services and briefly stating which Services are being applied for (maximum 2 pages).
 - ii. Lawyers/law firm overall profile and core area of expertise (maximum 2 pages).
 - iii. Information on the proposed legal team with qualifications, technical and professional competence necessary for successful implementation of the assignment (attach CV or link to Lawyer’s bios) (maximum 2 pages).
 1. For each member of the proposed legal team, identify which Services they wish to provide and in which country/state/jurisdiction(s).
 2. For each member of the proposed legal team, provide a list of direct experience in provision of the desired Services in the last 3 years (not to exceed 2 pages).
 - iv. Evidence of practicing law at least 5 years.
 - v. A proposal estimating the legal fee range for each of the Services being applied for, as well as any willingness to discount the fees or provide full or partial pro bono services.
 - vi. A statement whether the Lawyer has been subject to any professional discipline in the last 5 years and, if any, an explanation of the circumstances.
 - vii. A statement whether the Lawyer has professional practice insurance and, if so, whether it will govern the provision of any Services to Reporters Shield Clients and, if not, confirmation that the Lawyer will not look to the Vance Center or Reporters Shield for indemnification of any professional practice claims.
- c. Each EoI must be submitted in English or Spanish. EoIs submitted in other languages will not be considered.

3. QUESTIONS

For further information about this RFEI, please email RSlawyers@nycbar.org (capital letters are case sensitive). An FAQ document will be posted on the Vance Center website and updated as appropriate, so that all potential respondents have access to the same information.

4. PROCESS

This RFEI has been posted on the Vance Center's website and distributed to its networks, including members of the New York City Bar Association, and other organizations. Any changes, additions, or deletions to this RFEI will also be posted on the Vance Center website.

EoIs will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Successful submitters will be notified by the Vance Center in writing. We regret that the expected number of submissions will exceed our capacity to reply to any unsuccessful submissions.

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The issuance of this RFEI and the submission of EoI by a Lawyer or the acceptance of such EoI by the Vance Center does not obligate the Vance Center or Reporters Shield in any manner. The Vance Center reserves the right to amend, modify or withdraw this RFEI; revise any requirement of this RFEI; waive any requirements of this RFEI that are not material; and seek clarifications and revisions of responses to this RFEI.