

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed


Members
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street, NW
Washington DC 20006

May 1, 2012

Ref: Competition for position of Executive Secretary

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am pleased to address you for the purpose of presenting my application for the position of Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. It has been my privilege over the past 20 years to work for the Commission, during the last five years as Assistant Executive Secretary. This experience has enabled me to learn about and deal with a broad range of human rights challenges in the region, and to work with all of the different mechanisms the Commission has at its disposal.

More specifically, as Assistant Executive Secretary, my primary functions have included directing the legal team in the preparation of draft reports on individual petitions and cases; supervising the group charged with assisting the Commissioners in the litigation of individual cases; supporting the Commission's work on precautionary measures; and contributing to the work of the thematic rapporteurships. One of the key functions of this position is to translate the policy decisions of the Commissioners and instructions of the Executive Secretary into practice in the range of different reports and recommendations the Commission issues.

In my current position I have also worked with our administrative team in taking decisions concerning personnel selection, the assignment of responsibilities within the Secretariat, the distribution of work and performance evaluation. The Assistant Executive Secretary also participates in the formulation of and follow-up on proposals for external funding, as well as in diverse administrative responsibilities including the authorization of expenses.

I am applying for this position with the professional objective of continuing to support the Commission in its mandate of protection and promotion. The Commission confronts tremendous challenges in the discharge of its mandate. These include achieving better compliance with its decisions and recommendations; the integral incorporation of the standards of the system in domestic law and practice; and broader

ratification of the treaties of the system. At present the Commission is confronting very particular challenges in responding to individual petitions in a way that is more timely and relevant for the users of the system, and in seeking the additional resources necessary to make that happen.

The Commission has made a crucial contribution to the protection of human rights in the region since it was established, and has evolved on the basis of the challenges confronted and the experience gained. Please accept the present application as my indication that I would welcome the opportunity to continue to support the Commission from a new perspective and would be honored to be considered in the present competition.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed