

FAU HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS CLINIC

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Project for Environmental Defender Law Center (EDLC)

1. Summary of the project

The project aims to support the non-profit organisation **Environmental Defender Law Center (EDLC)** by identifying whether and how the 2021 German Supply Chain Act and other applicable laws can be used to hold German companies accountable for the negative human rights and environmental impacts linked to their steel supply chains.

A team of 3 to 5 students from the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg will conduct a study and deliver a **report to EDLC by end of July 2023**. The student team will also **present the findings** of their report to EDLC's global NGO partners. The report will inform EDLC's strategy to hold companies accountable for human rights and environmental harm linked to steel production in Mexico, Brazil, Liberia, and South Africa.

The final report and/or a related blog post will likely be published with author credit given to participating students.

At the end of the project, students will receive a letter of recommendation from the FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic project leads and academic coordinator.

About EDLC:

The Environmental Defender Law Center (EDLC) is a non-profit organization that works to protect the human rights of people in developing countries who are fighting to protect their environment. EDLC was created in 2003 to provide a range of legal services to environmental defenders, especially by finding private lawyers to work for free on their behalf.

EDLC identifies cases where environmental defenders need and want legal assistance, and helps them without charge by [Finding Lawyers](#), [Providing Resources](#), and [Giving Grants](#). EDLC specializes in cases of international significance, where innovative legal strategies can be developed and later replicated to help other environmental defenders. EDLC is funded exclusively by foundation grants and individual donations.

Estimated project time commitment:

- 3 to 4 hours per week (research, writing and student team coordination)
- 1-hour bi-weekly meetings with project leads (see About the Clinic section below)
- 1-hour monthly check-in with EDLC partners

Project timeline:

First week of May 2023	Mandatory kick-off meeting: introducing the project, meeting student team members, learning from project leads
First half of May 2023	Mandatory hybrid meeting with EDLC partners
Mid-June 2023	Draft outline of report
Mid-July 2023	First draft of final report
End of July 2023	Final report delivered to EDLC and presentation to global NGO coalition

2. Desired student profile

- FAU students from the MA Human Rights, Law School, and Master level students from other departments with relevant human rights expertise, for example political science, philosophy or geography schools.
- A strong commitment to human rights and environmental protection.
- Fluency (written and spoken) in English is required.
- Proficiency in Portuguese, Spanish, or German is desirable but not necessary.

3. Application process

Interested students should send a CV and a short letter of interest (max 500 words) explaining their relevant academic and/or professional experience for the project, what they are currently studying at FAU and examples of previous experience working within a team dynamic.

Application materials should be sent by **Tuesday 25 April 2023** by email with the subject "Call for Application_EDLC Project" to Bruna Singh (bruna.singh@fau.de) and Stephanie Regalia (stephanie.regalia@fau.de).

About the FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic

The FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic (hereafter, the 'Clinic') is a structure which brings together students and academics at FAU to work on practice-driven projects with partner organizations. Led by doctoral students of the [International Doctorate Programme "Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World"](#), the Clinic helps students harness research skills to deliver timely and impactful projects in partnership with an external organization.

Goals

- Use academic knowledge and expertise to respond to practice-led research needs.
- Provide students with professional experience in the field of business and human rights.

- Develop students' research, writing, advocacy and communications skills.
- Fill research gaps for partner organizations.

Coordination:

The academic advisor to the Clinic is [Professor Markus Krajewski](#).

The Project with EDLC will be supervised by two doctoral candidates from the [International Doctorate Programme Business and Human Rights](#): Bruna Singh and Stephanie Regalia.

Bruna Singh

Bruna Singh has a bachelor's degree in law from the University Centre Curitiba (Brazil, 2015), and a master's degree in human Rights and International Politics from the University of Glasgow (the UK, 2018), where she attended as a Chevening scholar. She has professional and academic experience in migration, the inter-American human rights system, women's rights, and business & human rights. Before joining the International Doctorate Program-Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World, Bruna worked for a Business & Human Rights and ESG consultancy in Brazil, with projects involving mining and agricultural companies. Currently, she is a doctoral researcher at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and her research focuses on „leverage“ in the business and human rights framework.

Stephanie Regalia

Stephanie Regalia studied English law and French law at King's College London and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne for her bachelor's degree. She completed a dual master's degree in Energy & Environment at Sciences Po and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, where she was the project manager of the 2017-2018 Business & Human Rights Clinic. Prior to joining the International Doctorate Programme: Business and Human Rights at FAU, Stephanie worked in the human rights non-profit sector and trained as a lawyer in France. The focus of her doctoral research is effectiveness in mandatory human rights due diligence frameworks.