

Organisation Description

About FILE:

Founded in 2018, the Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment (FILE) is the major philanthropic initiative working to tackle climate change by scaling up environmental legal action globally.

Driven by the urgent global transition to a zero-carbon society, FILE funds world-leading global partners to deliver pioneering legal actions and emblematic precedent-setting cases with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees. Our grant portfolio includes workstreams that cut across the infrastructure and natural systems including: Just Energy Transition; Land Use; Finance, Investment and Trade (FIT); and Future of Law.

FILE's Finance, Investment and Trade (FIT) Portfolio covers three main workstreams that aim to reform investment flows to support a just, equitable and transition: (1) private finance to ensure that climate change is central to corporate/financial decision making on strategy, governance, capital allocation and risk management; (2) public finance, to reform and challenge government related lending policies and decisions; and (3) trade and investment laws, to modernise the suite of commercial laws that will facilitate financial flows in line with the Paris goal.

FILE supports the development of a strong, diverse and empowered ecosystem of partners, enabling the co-development of strategy to collectively make a meaningful impact on climate change and the protection of nature. We seek to grow the field, while increasing diversity, and facilitate successful legal outcomes through access to key research, capacity building, knowledge sharing, strategic communications and campaign alignment and learning.

The Position

Job Title: Head of Finance, Investment and Trade Portfolio

Reports to: Director, Global Legal Strategy

Location: London / Netherlands.

Salary: Highly competitive for NGO Sector

About the role:

FILE is seeking to recruit a Head of Finance, Investment and Trade Portfolio to lead FILE's granting strategy in relation to finance and investment. This exciting and challenging position requires a highly experienced lawyer – with expertise in either financial services litigation/securities litigation/commercial litigation/commercial arbitration - who will play a pivotal role in developing a diverse programme of climate finance work.

A newly created position within the Foundation that will report directly to the Director, Global Legal Strategy. You will be recognised as a leading subject-matter expert, developing and implementing cutting-edge, impactful, and evidence-based strategies and plans that ensure the Finance, Investment and Trade (FIT) strategy achieves transformational and lasting change. You will be directly responsible for FILE's FIT grant-making portfolio, working closely with the broader leadership team and aligned foundations to deliver change.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Strategic Leadership

- Working in collaboration with FILE, aligned funders and current/prospective grantees, to develop and implement the FIT strategy, priorities, and grant making plans to ensure alignment with the foundation-wide strategy.
- As a recognized subject-matter expert, provide up-to-date, professional advice to the Executive Team and Board to support the development of foundation strategies, policies, and initiatives.
- Bringing catalytic and innovative thinking, develop the FIT strategic plan and priorities to enable scale and to maximise impact in the energy sector with the resources available.
- Collaborate widely with leaders across the community of practice to drive legal and strategic innovation, enable strategic alignment, and ensure knowledge-sharing.
- Stay connected to relevant financial, geopolitical, social trends and legal developments that could impact the strategy and reflect these appropriately with other organisations, including philanthropies and bilateral donors.

2. Stakeholder and Partner Management

- Identify, cultivate and maintain excellent external relationships with the community of practice and philanthropic sector(s), acting as an ambassador for FILE's FIT portfolio.
- Provide leadership to the wider philanthropic and donor community on the need for legal interventions within the global finance and investment field.
- Identify potential grantees for FILE to deliver key aspects of FILE's strategy and due diligence their ability to deliver and lead on the development of compelling motivations for their funding.
- Working with FILE's Field-Building team, support the expansion of the community of practitioners to reinforce legal capacity, generate innovation and learning, and proactively influence global legal action.

3. Program Development, Delivery & Performance

- Together with FILE's Learning and Impact and Grant Management teams, develop and direct the delivery of an evidence-based grant making portfolio, including setting out a theory of change, clear goals, and applicable metrics related to the FIT strategy.
- Working with FILE's Grant Management team, deliver an operational plan to ensure effective prioritisation of resources, ensuring quality timeliness and alignment to wider foundation priorities and objectives.
- As a recognized subject-matter expert, provide advice, specialist guidance, and mentoring support to colleagues (within and beyond the team) to deepen the skills, capability, and professionalism of the foundation.
- Manage a small team and provide compelling, consistent, and united leadership, which creates clarity for staff and builds a sense of shared accountability for its success and that of the organization.

4. Sector Knowledge and Profile-Building

- Proactively maintain and develop extensive external networks to ensure that legal strategies remain cutting edge, are shaped by the most up-to-date research and that knowledge is shared widely.
- Contribute to the development and promotion of high-quality thought leadership and communications materials to share the FIT work within the legal and finance community.
- Undertake or commission sector-relevant research and analysis to inform the effective development, delivery, and evaluation of programmes and initiatives.

The Talented Individual

The successful candidate will be an accomplished, seasoned senior lawyer or former partner who will be implicitly driven to accelerate the transition to a equitable and 1.5 aligned future. The Head of the FIT Portfolio, will have significant experience working in the finance sector, either inhouse or as a private practitioner, with excellent networks, and the ability to develop and deliver an innovative legal granting strategy.

FILE is seeking a strategic thinker with a creative approach and an appetite for risk_who can consider the broad and complex geopolitical dimensions of the finance, energy and land use sectors, and define a clear path to action that delivers impact and system-wide change. Ideally, this person will possess a deep understanding of the issues driving a high-carbon economy, and will bring multi-sectoral experience across both public and private finance as well as working understanding of the non-profit eco-system. Key characteristics will include:

Legal and strategy:

- A range of legal experience will be considered: financial services litigation; securities litigation; commercial litigation and/or commercial arbitration.
- Demonstrable record of developing and executing sophisticated strategy, including the effective allocation of resources to achieve ambitious goals.
- Outstanding intellectual agility and the ability to analyse, think critically and understand emerging issues and opportunities in accelerating the transition to a just, 1.5 aligned future.
- Ability to weigh the risks against the potential for lasting results, make decisions accordingly, and effectively evaluate constraints and critical trade-offs.
- An entrepreneurial and creative approach to developing new, innovative ideas that will stretch the organization and push the boundaries within the field.
- Lifelong learner who is inquisitive and solves problems with bold thinking, innovation and displays a strong intellectual curiosity.

Executing for Results:

- Adept at setting clear and challenging goals and committed to improved performance, coupled with a willingness to be accountable for the oversight of implementation.
- Tenacious and accountable in driving results, yet flexible and open-minded to new approaches.
- Experienced in developing an organizational results-oriented learning culture.
- Highly comfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty; the ability to adapt nimbly and lead others through complex situations.

- Exceptional project management, prioritisation, and planning skills, with demonstrated success producing high-quality deliverables on time and within budget.

Relationships, Influence, and Communications:

- Naturally connects and builds strong relationships with diverse internal and external audiences, demonstrating strong emotional intelligence and an ability to communicate clearly and persuasively.
- An ability to inspire trust in others through compelling presentation of evidence, influence, charisma, and passion in their beliefs.
- Proven capacity to initiate and foster strategic partnerships with key external constituencies, including the legal community of practice, government, philanthropy, media, academia and civil society.
- Highly collaborative with a partnership mindset. Encourages others to share the spotlight and visibly celebrates and supports the success of the team, external partners, and grantees.
- Experience of line management, inspiring others to grow and develop.

Applications

Please send us your CV and covering letter explaining your interest in joining FILE and the contribution that you think you could make to the Foundation's overall mission in this space. Please clearly identify the role that you are applying for in the email title. All applications should be sent to careers@filefoundation.org.

This role is open for applications immediately, closing date **Friday 3rd of December 2021**. Should you have any questions, please email the careers mailbox (careers@filefoundation.org) for the attention of Keeley Hewitt.

Diversity and Inclusion

FILE is committed to challenging inequality, valuing diversity in all areas of life. We firmly believe that we are strengthened by the diversity of our staff. We actively work to ensure an inclusive culture where colleagues feel welcomed and supported to succeed and thrive. FILE strongly encourages applications from people of all cultures, backgrounds and experiences, particularly those from under-represented or historically disadvantaged communities.