



# INTERNATIONAL SENIOR LAWYERS PROJECT-UK

Serving the world community



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An introduction to ISLP-UK

## Table of Contents

Letter from the Director of ISLP-UK and the Executive Director of ISLP .....	1
Introduction .....	2
Project Development.....	3
Building An Ongoing Relationship.....	5
What Is It Like To Be An ISLP-UK Volunteer?.....	7
Facts and Figures .....	8
The Board of Trustees and Affiliations .....	9





## Letter from Fouzia Javaid, Director, ISLP-UK and Jean Berman, Executive Director, ISLP

Dear Supporters,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we announce the creation by the International Lawyers Project (ILP), a U.K.-based charity, and the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP), a U.S.-based non-profit organisation, of the International Senior Lawyers Project-UK (ISLP-UK). The ISLP family will now include ISLP, ISLP-UK and the Paris-based ISLP-Europe. Working closely together, these entities will expand and enhance the capacity of each to fulfil their common mission of capturing the resources of highly experienced lawyers and distinguished law firms to promote the rule of law, human rights and equitable economic development worldwide.

**ILP** was founded in 2004 with a similar mission to ISLP and its most notable projects were in Tanzania. Its Tanzanian work led the new, and only, post-graduate Law School in Tanzania to ask for ILP's support and partnership. ILP helped develop a core part of the School's legal practice course and, over the past two years, has sent over 50 volunteers to deliver legal training to the students and lecturers. This highly successful Law School legal education project is ongoing.

**ISLP**, which was founded in 2000 and began its active programmes in late 2001, was the original inspiration for the creation of ILP. Over the past decade, ISLP has established a strong reputation for undertaking a wide range of outstanding pro bono projects in or affecting more than 40 countries worldwide. These include, for example, legal aid and criminal law reform in Haiti, reform of mining codes and workshops on best practices in the extractive industries in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and other African countries, juvenile justice in China, and many others.

With the establishment of ISLP-Europe, ISLP significantly strengthened its capacity to engage senior lawyers with civil law training and diverse language skills in international pro bono lawyering. ILP's leadership became convinced that becoming part of the wider ISLP family would enable their vision to be more effectively realised in the UK, and that ILP's partners overseas would benefit from the resources and wider skills base that all three ISLP organisations, working together, could draw upon. ILP was delighted to find that ISLP agreed about the benefits of creating an integrated approach to international pro bono lawyering and that the two organisations had much in common.

**ISLP-UK** was created earlier this year when a formal agreement was reached bringing the two organisations together. A new Director, Fouzia Javaid, was recruited, and several new Trustees were appointed to the UK Board. We are extremely fortunate to have the support of these highly able individuals and confident that ISLP-UK will grow from strength to strength under their direction and the chairmanship of **Michael Smyth CBE**.

We look forward to working with each other, Michele O'Brien, Director of ISLP-Europe, the Boards of ISLP, ISLP-UK and ISLP-Europe, and all the staff in London, Paris and New York to capture the tremendous resource represented by experienced lawyers around the world to serve the world community, and we welcome your participation and support in this enterprise.

Yours Sincerely,

Fouzia Javaid,  
Director, ISLP-UK

Jean Berman,  
Executive Director, ISLP

## Introduction

The International Senior Lawyers Project engages experienced lawyers in pro bono projects around the world, working independently and together with support from more junior colleagues, to promote human rights, sustainable and equitable economic development, and the rule of law.

ISLP identifies needs, develops projects and recruits highly experienced lawyers to donate their time, knowledge and skills.

Project partners include international organisations, government agencies, local legal providers and institutions of legal education.

ISLP projects include:

- *Long-term on-site assignments* to advise and help build the capacity of local NGOs, government agencies and other institutions in developing countries;
- *Expert legal counsel* provided to NGOs and developing countries for significant commercial transactions, legislative reform, corporate organisation and governance, and other matters;
- *Training programmes and development of legal education*; and
- *Cross-border research and analysis* on human rights and other issues.

### Some examples of our work

Since 2010, ISLP-UK has been sending lawyers to deliver a number of graduate legal practice course modules to the only law school in Tanzania on topics such as Civil Litigation, Criminal Procedure and Advocacy. Volunteers have also been delivering training to the local lecturers as part of a 'Trainer Training' initiative, to ensure sustainability of this project. This significant three-year legal education project is currently at its mid-point, and over 50 volunteers have taken part.

Eight ISLP-UK volunteers travelled to Tanzania in 2008 to deliver a week long seminar on ADR and advocacy at the Law Society, attended by 45 local lawyers. Based on the success of the first project, ISLP-UK returned the following year to deliver additional seminars on topics ranging from contracts and finance to money laundering.

ISLP and ISLP-UK worked with Oxfam International to create panels of treaty, arms control and humanitarian law experts around the world to assist NGOs and developing countries during the forthcoming negotiations at the UN to achieve an Arms Trade Treaty.

ISLP-UK has provided a volunteer to a Jamaican human rights organisation, to provide research and advice on a judicial review case involving police brutality.

ISLP-UK and ISLP are partnering with the South African Human Rights Commission on a range of initiatives, including production and dissemination of an advocacy handbook for use in the South African Equality Courts; providing a conference rapporteur at a conference in South Africa on the rights of the disabled to be attended by 40 African National Human Rights Commissions; and providing a senior volunteer to conduct a capacity-building needs assessment and act on-site as a duty lawyer to assist with various ongoing projects.

For information on how to get involved, see the back page for our contact details.



“Working on behalf of ISLP-UK with the staff and students of the Law School of Tanzania has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life... with the right skills, support and environment, ISLP-UK helps to unlock the huge potential in such amazingly talented and creative people.”

JOHN IRVING, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING,  
BPP LAW SCHOOL,  
VOLUNTEER, TANZANIA LAW SCHOOL PROJECT

## Project Development

The work of ISLP is focused in three main programme areas: rule of law & human rights; economic development; and access to justice and legal education.



### Rule of Law

#### Tanzania Legal Education

One essential way to build the rule of law in a country is to provide a strong education for those who aspire to join the legal profession.

ISLP-UK has conducted a number of legal education projects in Tanzania. These first commenced with delivering CLE training to the Law Society of Tanzania, with courses run in Dar es Salaam and in conjunction with their annual conference in Arusha. Through this work, ISLP-UK was introduced to the Acting Principal of the Law School of Tanzania, which was then in the course of being established, with a view to assisting them in developing a core part of their curriculum and in training their newly recruited faculty staff. The Law School is the first post-graduate institution in Tanzania providing training for those wishing to

enter the profession. ISLP-UK has now been working with the School for the last two years, during which time in excess of 50 volunteers have been involved in the preparation and delivery of five curriculum modules, along with related trainer training courses. The assistance programme is scheduled to continue until at least the end of 2012.

### Human Rights

#### Building the Capacity of the Mongolian Centre for Human Rights and Development

Five ISLP volunteers went for periods of six to twelve weeks working with the Centre for Human Rights and Development. They trained CHRD legal staff, helped prepare a national discussion paper on mining and the environment, and conducted a workshop for 40 lawyers and judges on strategic commercial litigation.

© MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



#### Ministry of Justice, Liberia

Since 2007, Jim Dube, a recently retired partner of the Canadian firm Blake Cassells & Graydon LLP, has made five trips as an ISLP volunteer lawyer to work with both Liberia's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the course of each four to five week trip he provided support and advice to the Ministers and their staff on a broad range of cases and matters.



“It was astonishing actually, you start off on the Monday with the ice breakers, getting no eye contact from anybody. By the end of the two weeks, the students were up on their feet, getting involved in the legal argument, the cross examination, acting as judges and barristers. They all said they enjoyed the hands on approach and you could see their confidence growing.”

TOM PRICE QC,  
25 BEDFORD ROW,  
VOLUNTEER, TANZANIA LAW SCHOOL PROJECT

“The scope of work of the ISLP, as well as the quality, is very impressive.... We hope that this very critical role played by the ISLP in developing countries will continue. Not only does the ISLP develop structural frameworks, avert disasters, and improve economies, it also leaves behind as a legacy improved capacity among civil servants. “We are especially grateful to all those who provide financial support and professional skills to the ISLP to make this very worthy cause possible.”

– MINISTER CHRISTIANA TAH AT THE LIBERIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

CHRD is one of the leading Mongolian human rights organisations; its focus is on protecting the natural environment that is so important to a large part of Mongolia's herder population. Five highly experienced environmental and human rights ISLP volunteers have spent from six to twelve weeks over the past several years with CHRD, helping with specific litigation, law reform, coalition building, strategic planning and general capacity-building. Their achievements include, among others, developing moot court trainings that helped CHRD win the first environmental case ever won against a mining company in Mongolia, identifying laws that enabled CHRD to protect a key desert area from devastating mining activities, organising a coalition to engage with the government and industry on mining issues, and conducting a training workshop for 40 lawyers and judges on strategic environmental litigation.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Liberia Concession Agreements**

ISLP has been providing significant support to the government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Liberia since 2006. A series of projects, led by ISLP Board member and Hogan Lovells partner Joseph Bell, have concentrated on supporting a critical aspect of Liberia's strategy for poverty reduction and economic recovery, namely the review and re-negotiation of various concession agreements in the extractive and agricultural sectors. Over the course of several years, lawyers from Hogan Lovells and other global law firms, as well as individual retired lawyers, have donated thousands of pro bono hours in advising and helping to build the capacity of the Liberian government to secure stronger fiscal terms, increase revenue, improve national infrastructure and provide additional employment opportunities for the Liberian people through more equitable contract negotiations.

“What I didn't expect was the vast number of ways in which I could help the new, post-conflict government. For a retired lawyer, it has been a wonderful experience – being actively engaged in a project of clear importance.”

– JEFF WOOD, RETIRED PARTNER,  
DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON,  
VOLUNTEER, LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME



“This teaching experience has been fascinating and exhilarating, and one of the most exciting of my career as a lawyer. The students, 30 in number... were anxious to learn practical skills, readily engaged, and interactive with me in the classroom. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as their teacher. Despite the myriad of problems that currently beset South Africa, my students illustrated for me the qualities of determination, intelligence, grace and hope essential to build a better life, not only for themselves, but to better represent their clients, and by doing so, better their society as a whole.”

– STEVEN C. SPRONZ, MURCHISON & CUMMING,  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,  
VOLUNTEER, SOUTH AFRICA COMMERCIAL LAW TRAINING PROGRAMME

## Building An Ongoing Relationship

ISLP-UK is committed to building and strengthening ongoing relationships, which is a key part of ensuring that our work is sustainable and has a lasting impact. In order to achieve this, ISLP-UK sends volunteers with the requisite skills, experience and profiles to work on-site for several weeks or months to assist local NGOs, judges, local practitioners and government officials and agencies in developing countries by providing mentoring, training and capacity-building. Examples of this type of work include ISLP-UK's Legal Education Project in Tanzania and ISLP's work with CHRD. Other examples are:

### Supporting Microfinance Organisations

ISLP volunteers from law firms Wiley Rein and Akin Gump have for the past four years been advising LeapFrog, the first dedicated micro-insurance social investment fund. LeapFrog Investments was started by a former managing director of Ashoka, the U.S. organisation that identifies and provides support to people around the world who are addressing social problems in innovative ways. The idea behind LeapFrog was to create a fund that would both target strong returns for its investors and reach 25 million vulnerable people in Africa and Asia with life-changing financial services. Backed by leading banks, funds, reinsurers, and microfinance investors, LeapFrog's US\$135 million fund is the largest dedicated investor in microinsurance worldwide. It assists the very bottom of the pyramid, people who have very little access to basic necessities. What microinsurance does is enable low income people around the world to take the risk of starting small businesses and dampen financial shocks that can leave their families destitute. ISLP has been involved with LeapFrog since January 2007 when LeapFrog's founder, Dr. Andrew Kuper, asked for legal assistance with setting up and advising the new organisation.

### Legal Aid work in Haiti

As part of its Rule of Law and Justice Sector Reform Programme in Haiti, ISLP supports a network of recently established legal aid offices, or Bureaux D'assistance Légale (BALs), throughout the country. The BALs were established by Haiti's Ministry of Justice in 2008 with substantial support from the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and offer free legal aid services to indigent defendants in Haiti's provinces. Since 2010, in partnership with ILAC and MINUSTAH, ISLP has been implementing a programme of mentoring and capacity-building by experienced criminal defence lawyers for all of the BALs.

“The Law School Assistance Programme has broken new ground in pro bono education provision and, though there is still much to achieve, it is already clear that the efforts of our many volunteers are creating a lasting legacy to benefit the profession in Tanzania and those wishing to enter it. Our next step must be to encourage and support pro bono involvement by those who have benefited from the School.”

– TIM SOUTAR, CONSULTANT AT CLIFFORD CHANCE AND AN ISLP-UK TRUSTEE ON THE TANZANIA LAW SCHOOL PROGRAMME





“I don’t know if we can ever recreate the feeling associated with this project, and I think everyone involved felt that this was something very special.”

– PROF. ROBERT HILLMAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS LAW SCHOOL,  
LIBERIAN EXTRACTION PROJECT

“I want to thank you for the excellent support and advice which our team received from you throughout the period of negotiations in New York and for your continued support and advice in these last few days that helped us to reach a successful conclusion.... I know that with your help we now have [an agreement] which we can proudly reveal to the nation that represents a significant improvement in the management of our natural resources and protection of our national interest.”

– LIBERIAN PRESIDENT AND NOBEL LAUREATE ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF  
REGARDING ISLP’S PRO BONO ASSISTANCE WITH A MINING AGREEMENT  
WITH THE ARCELOR MITTAL STEEL COMPANY

“Thanks to ISLP, Minnesota public defender Leslie Rosenberg was able to come to China where she made an enormous impact on the fledgling public interest community here. Through a combination of experience, sensitivity to the China context, and unbounded energy, Leslie inspired dozens of Chinese lawyers to use law to improve their society.”

– ROBERT PRECHT, PROJECT DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION  
PROJECT (CHINA), INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE





## What Is It Like To Be An ISLP-UK Volunteer?

ISLP-UK volunteers are:

- Highly experienced
- Both full-time and retired
- Individual lawyers and law firm teams
- Knowledgeable in a range of practices
- Open and flexible.

### FAQs

#### Do I need to be specially qualified?

A few requests are for lawyers who are locally qualified or experienced in international law, but there is a wide range of pro bono needs and opportunities. Many of ISLP-UK's projects involve training in general legal skills, rather than requiring specific knowledge of the law.

#### Does my practice area matter?

No, the scope of international volunteer work with which ISLP-UK is involved is very wide. A senior lawyer with a career's worth of experience will have developed valuable skills whatever their discipline. In-house counsel can contribute industry expertise when teaming up with panel law firms.

#### What is the time commitment?

This varies with the type of project. Those involving long-term on-site capacity building or advising on highly technical projects will require overseas work for several weeks to several months. Short-term workshops overseas or desk-based research projects can be less time intensive and so can be more appropriate for practising lawyers.



## Facts and Figures

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- Since 2001, ISLP has provided more than US\$70 million worth of pro bono legal assistance.
- Every pound spent generates almost £8 of pro bono service.

### Number of Projects ISLP, ISLP-UK and ISLP-Europe is Engaged In

	2010	2009	Notes
Total number of trips made by volunteers to work on-site with partners	144 trips on 81 projects	105 trips on 70 projects	Several volunteers made multiple trips for projects
Number of desk-based projects	50	59	Includes small transactional projects
Total number of countries ISLP worked in or affected	31	25	–
Number of countries where ISLP volunteers were on the ground	19	24	–

### Countries ISLP has Sent Volunteers to Assist on its Projects

42 countries where ISLP has had on-site volunteers:

- Afghanistan
- Bahrain
- Botswana
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- China
- Czech Republic
- Dem. Rep. of Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Georgia
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Hungary
- India
- Kuwait
- Kenya
- Laos
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Peru
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe.

### Feedback

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- In 2010, an assessment of ISLP's work showed that 95% of 326 respondees agreed that ISLP had successfully matched highly qualified lawyers with the needs of a wide array of clients.
- The same margin agreed that ISLP volunteers had filled important gaps in resources and helped to achieve their goals.

### Achievements

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Some achievements made possible by ISLP projects:

- Assisting the only law school in Tanzania with developing a core part of their post-graduate legal practice course and delivering training to students and trainers
- Seeing new laws enacted, such as the law on rights of the disabled in Haiti
- Assisting in successful litigation, such as a case against Russia in the European Court of Human Rights on the right to a lawyer
- Advising the Liberian government on its negotiation of major contracts, such as a US\$3.5 billion series of mineral extraction agreements
- Building the capacity of local lawyers to reduce their reliance on legal aid.

## The Board of Trustees and Affiliations

- Michael Smyth CBE, ISLP-UK Chair of the Board of Trustees, Member of the Board of Directors ISLP and ISLP-Europe, Senior Adviser, Quiller Consultants
- Susan Hazledine, ISLP-UK Trustee, Partner, Allen & Overy
- Gavin Davies, ISLP-UK Trustee, Partner, Herbert Smith
- Nicholas Cheffings, ISLP-UK Trustee, Partner, Hogan Lovells
- Catherine Churchard, ISLP-UK Trustee, Retired Director of Legal Services, Royal Mail
- Tim Soutar, ISLP-UK Trustee, Consultant, Clifford Chance
- Robert Kapp, Founder and Co-President of ISLP, ISLP-US representative on the UK Board, Retired Partner Hogan Lovells (Washington DC)
- Ramon Mullerat, Board Member ISLP, ISLP-Europe representative on the UK Board, KPMG (Spain)
- Graham White, ISLP-UK Trustee, Executive Partner, Slaughter & May.

“I just wanted to let you know that the Dutch attorneys have been fabulous. They are all knowledgeable, thoughtful and consistently responsive. Many, many thanks!”

– JESSICA PENA, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

“It’s called pro bono, but the overall impression I’m left with, in having been with it from the outset and having gone on to deliver the course, is that pro bono is a misnomer. The rewards are plentiful; it’s exceptionally rewarding when you get to Tanzania, when you meet the students you’re assisting, when you see them grow in confidence in their advocacy, in their written work and in their presentation.”

BRENDA CAMPBELL, GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS,  
VOLUNTEER, TANZANIA LAW SCHOOL PROJECT

“I’ve never done anything like it before, I found it immensely rewarding. I think that if anybody were to get the opportunity to do a stint in Tanzania, teaching these very enthusiastic students, they would be foolish to spurn it. Having to prepare the course materials, within the space of a few weeks and then going out to teach them, the project needs someone who can cope with pressure and work hard. But everything that could be done to assist us was done. It was an extremely rewarding experience.”

ICAH PEART QC, GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS,  
VOLUNTEER, TANZANIA LAW SCHOOL PROJECT

📞 Contact Us



If you are interested in being involved in any of our projects, or would like more information on how to support or join ISLP-UK, we’d love to hear from you.

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