



# ISLP

International Senior Lawyers Project



SERVING THE WORLD COMMUNITY

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



TONY ESSAYE & BOB KAPP

Our initial instinct, that the demand for *pro bono* legal assistance among social activists, civic organizations and developing country governments would be enormous, has been confirmed.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear Friends:

As we review the 2007 Annual Report of ISLP, on the threshold of our 8th anniversary, we cannot help but feel that the organization has far exceeded the great expectations that we had for it when we set our sails on a new life's course during a lunch in a Washington restaurant in the Spring of 2000. Our dream of establishing a worldwide corps of volunteer lawyers to help address the world's most pressing problems now seems to be within reach.

We have found that we can attract highly qualified, experienced lawyers for our work, both those in active practice and those who have retired from highly productive professional careers. Without exception, these are public spirited individuals who wish to make a contribution to the solution of global problems and who seek a greater sense of personal fulfillment. At the same time, our initial instinct, that the demand for *pro bono* legal assistance among social activists, civic organizations and developing country governments would be enormous, has been confirmed. Last, and by no means least important, we have received great help and encouragement from a host of foundation funders, colleagues from the legal profession, friends and individual donors; and we have been most favored with a dedicated staff under the dynamic direction of our Executive Director.

We believe that this 2007 Annual Report demonstrates that ISLP volunteers are meeting extraordinary legal needs around the world. In 2007, ISLP implemented or substantially developed over 50 projects in or affecting more than 20 countries. One area of special accomplishment was Liberia, a country struggling to overcome decades of civil war, chaos and abject poverty. ISLP lawyers successfully renegotiated iron ore and rubber concession agreements with ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, and Firestone, respectively, to the substantial economic benefit of the Government of Liberia and ultimately its poverty-ridden citizenry. We are currently providing crucial legal assistance to the Ministry of Justice, other ministries and civic organizations in an effort to rebuild the country's shattered infrastructure.

There have been considerable accomplishments in other countries as well, ranging from providing practical commercial law training to young black lawyers in South Africa who are seeking to enter the mainstream of that country's legal profession; to providing assistance in Mongolia to public interest attorneys combating environmental destruction arising from mining operations; to providing brand name protection to Ethiopian coffee growers; to defending media freedoms throughout West Africa; to supporting Russian human rights attorneys in pursuing cases before the European Court of Human Rights; to providing trade negotiation training and support to Botswanan and Rwandan trade negotiators - to mention just a few matters.

We look forward in 2008 to a continued expansion of our legal assistance programs, as well as further outreach to Canadian and European lawyers to accompany us on our journey.

# PRO BONO WORLDWIDE

The International Senior Lawyers Project recruits highly experienced lawyers and law firms to promote human rights, the rule of law and equitable economic development throughout the world by providing pro bono services to non-governmental organizations, developing country governments and other institutions advancing these goals.

## WHAT WE DO

ISLP focuses on three program areas: (1) **human rights and social welfare**; (2) **equitable economic development**; and (3) **access to justice**. Within these, our volunteer lawyers and law firms provide essential pro bono assistance to clients around the world through:

- **Long term** on-site residencies to mentor, assist and build organizational capacity
- **Short term trainings** and workshops
- **Expert legal counsel** on corporate, transactional, litigation and legislative matters
- **Cross-border research and analysis** on human rights and other issues

## WHERE WE'VE GONE (2007 in **bold**)



- |                   |                     |                  |                   |                       |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Argentina       | ■ Chad              | ■ India          | ■ <b>Mali</b>     | ■ Romania             | ■ <b>Tanzania</b> |
| ■ Bahrain         | ■ China             | ■ Jordan         | ■ <b>Mongolia</b> | ■ <b>Russia</b>       | ■ Turkey          |
| ■ Bosnia          | ■ Croatia           | ■ <b>Kenya</b>   | ■ Morocco         | ■ <b>Rwanda</b>       | ■ The Bahamas     |
| ■ <b>Botswana</b> | ■ <b>Czech Rep.</b> | ■ <b>Liberia</b> | ■ Nepal           | ■ Sao Tome            | ■ Uganda          |
| ■ Bulgaria        | ■ <b>Ghana</b>      | ■ Lithuania      | ■ <b>Nigeria</b>  | ■ Sierra Leone        | ■ Ukraine         |
| ■ Cambodia        | ■ Hungary           | ■ Macedonia      | ■ <b>Peru</b>     | ■ <b>South Africa</b> | ■ Vietnam         |

# MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

THE INTERNATIONAL SENIOR LAWYERS PROJECT CONTINUED TO LEAD THE WAY IN INTERNATIONAL PRO BONO IN 2007, SENDING VOLUNTEER LAWYERS TO WORK ON-SITE WITH NGOS AND DEVELOPING GOVERNMENTS IN 13 COUNTRIES AND PROVIDING OFF-SITE ASSISTANCE AFFECTING MANY MORE. THE DEDICATION OF BOTH THE ORGANIZATIONS WE ASSIST AND THE LAWYERS WHO LEAVE DAILY LIFE AND PRACTICE BEHIND TO SUPPORT THEM IS INSPIRING, AND WE PROUDLY CELEBRATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

- Seattle lawyer **Doug Mooney** worked in Liberia with women's advocacy group Zorzor District Women Care (ZODWOCA) on a project to raise awareness of a recently-strengthened law on sexual assault. Together they planned a workshop that would unite men and women, town chiefs, police officers and court officials. The successful demonstration project resulted in a UNICEF grant to support an additional ZODWOCA gender-based violence project.
- Retired NY State Supreme Court **Judge Mary Davis** spent 2 months in Ulaanbaatar advising the Centre for Human Rights and Development on a strategic approach to combat human trafficking in Mongolia. CHRD enthusiastically adopted the suggestions and, with Judge Davis' help, formed the nation's first advocacy coalition on the issue.
- **Joe Hahn**, a retired partner of Maine law firm Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, spent 4 months with South African NGO Civicus analyzing laws around the world that threaten civil society's right to speak out, associate and organize.
- Supporting the University of Denver's International Human Rights & Law Advocacy Center's efforts to set up Kenya's first disability rights clinic, ISLP sent senior lawyer **Bob Golten** to Nairobi to research and draft an organizational strategy proposal.
- ISLP and the Praxis Institute for Social Justice are monitoring the trial of Peru's former President, Alberto Fujimori, via a bilingual blog ([fujimoriontrial.org](http://fujimoriontrial.org)). Minnesota lawyer **Jim Manahan** went to Lima for 2 months to train the Praxis team on trial advocacy and post expert legal analysis of the trial.

## ISLP IN-COUNTRY



Jim Dube, a partner with Toronto's Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP, spent 5 weeks in Monrovia, Liberia assigned to the Ministry of Justice. He was soon contributing to the government's case charging former transitional government Chairman Gyude Bryant with economic sabotage - i.e. allegedly misappropriating \$1.4 million from Liberia's treasury. Mr. Dube worked side-by-side with the Solicitor General on the government's written brief and attended the Liberian Supreme Court for the argument. When the decision came down, a cheer in Toronto joined those in Monrovia - the Court had dismissed a petition of immunity and ordered Mr. Bryant to stand trial. *Many thanks to Blakes for their support of 2007 and 2008 projects in Liberia.*



Russian-speaking litigator and ISLP Board member and volunteer Natasha Lisman spent 4 weeks in Strasbourg, France with a human rights NGO that is handling more than 200 cases against Russia in the European Court of Human Rights. Diving in, Ms. Lisman worked on an emergency action brought on behalf of political dissident Gary Kasparov, a case brought by families of Chechens who disappeared during the war in Chechnya, and a case involving the death of hostages inside a Moscow theater (the 2002 "Nord-Ost" siege). *This ongoing project is made possible by a grant from the Ernst C. Stiefel Foundation.*

“What we have achieved would have been unthinkable without your advice and mentoring. I am sure I speak for everyone that we appreciated the team and the role you played. We cannot thank you enough, but posterity will.”

-Dr. J. Chris Toe, Liberian Minister of Agriculture

- Retired Chadbourne & Parke partner **Eugene Sullivan** spent 3 months living and working in Moscow as an ISLP volunteer with the Public Interest Law Institute, recruiting over a dozen firms for PILI's Pro Bono Clearinghouse.
- Prof. **Robert Hillman** of the UC Davis Law School and **Louis Wells** of Harvard Business School joined **Joe Bell** of Hogan & Hartson in helping the Liberian Ministry of Mining develop a model mining agreement for use in negotiations.
- Partnering with the International Human Rights Law and Advocacy Center, ISLP sent volunteer **Bob Koehler** to Lima, Peru for 10 days to explore the feasibility of assisting Peruvian NGOs seeking reparations for Peruvian indigenous women who were involuntarily sterilized under the Fujimori regime.
- In May, **ISLP** joined several prestigious bar associations and distinguished law school professors as *amici curiae* opposing a request by the U.S. Department of Justice to further curtail communication between Guantánamo Bay detainees and their attorneys.
- ISLP Board member **Dick Winfield** spoke in June to journalists, lawyers and judges from 7 Gulf countries in support of a freer press and the importance of decriminalizing defamation and insult of public officials.
- Russell Neufeld**, former head of New York City's Legal Aid Criminal Defense Division, joined Russian NGOs for a Moscow conference on legal services for the poor sponsored by ABA/ROLI.



*“Firestone finalized”*. With this two word email from Liberia, ISLP board member Joe Bell reported the result of more than 1600 pro bono hours spent assisting Liberia with the renegotiation of its 40-year Firestone concession agreement. The project involved three trips to Liberia by Mr. Bell, a partner at Hogan & Hartson, and extended negotiating sessions in the U.S. Many additional hours were spent by Prof. Robert Hillman of UC Davis law school and Hogan associates. The new contract reflects their exceptional efforts, providing a more favorable fiscal regime, added investment, and greater commitment by Firestone to education, housing and health for workers' families. *Many thanks to the Open Society Institute for funding the costs of this project.*



Indiana lawyer Dan Byron hit the ground running. His 2 month project in Ghana with the Media Foundation for West Africa matched this seasoned media litigator with a network of West African lawyers dedicated to ending violence against journalists. His expertise was immediately put to use in a challenge to the criminal libel and sedition laws of Sierra Leone and in a case involving the abduction and presumed murder of a journalist by the government of The Gambia - seen as a test case for the use of regional courts, particularly the ECOWAS Court of Justice, in cases involving human rights violations brought by civil society organizations. *Support generously provided by the Open Society Justice Initiative.*

# pro bono fast facts

2007

ISLP clients received support from 25 law firms around the world on transactional, research and other pro bono activities

ISLP volunteers worked on-site with international partners in 13 countries

Volunteer lawyers and law firms spent 24,000 hours on global pro bono matters for ISLP

More than \$8.6 million in pro bono services was provided by ISLP volunteers



“We have relied on ISLP to help think through complex issues of international business law and practice as they affect developing countries and their citizens, as well as to provide extraordinary lawyers willing to devote significant time to resolving those issues.”

- Peter Rosenblum, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute



# AFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH LEGAL TRAINING

For the fourth year, ISLP, the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa and other partners organized a 12-week pro bono commercial law training program for historically-disadvantaged South African lawyers who have had limited opportunities to develop commercial law practices. Nine ISLP and 46 South African lawyers co-taught courses in Johannesburg and Cape Town, presenting over 60 hours of instruction on topics such as Principles of Commercial Law, Contract Negotiation and Enterprise Formation.

90 South African lawyers attended the 2007 program—the largest “class” yet—bringing the total number trained since 2004 to over 250. Participant feedback confirms that this enhanced training has helped open the door to greater participation in South Africa’s economic and civic life - the long-term mission of the program. ISLP was also pleased in 2007 to expand the commercial law education program to include five weeks of instruction for 50 lawyers in Botswana and Tanzania. *Many thanks to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Law Society of South Africa for support of these programs and to volunteer par excellence Keith Watson, Coordinator.*

ISLP also continued its partnership in 2007 with the African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), providing a one-week training on trade negotiation for 20 members of the Rwandan government trade office. Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld has committed to help develop an ongoing mentoring and assistance program to Rwanda. Weil, Gotshal & Manges continued its participation, preparing for the 2008 training in Zambia. *Funding generously provided by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.*



**2007 COMMERCIAL LAW EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTNERS:** The Black Lawyers Association of South Africa • Botswana Law Society • Brink Cohen Le Roux, Inc. • The Law Society of South Africa • The Senior Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association • Tanganika Law Society

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“All three of the US instructors opened windows to a world of which participants are either not aware or from which they are completely sheltered. I have no doubt that the programme was a turning point in several lives.”

- Dave Williams, Esq., Minchin & Kelly, Gaborone, Botswana

# LAW FIRM PROJECTS

IN 2007, AS IN PRIOR YEARS, LAW FIRMS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ISLP PROJECTS. MORE THAN 20 FIRMS AROUND THE WORLD PROVIDED CRITICAL CORPORATE, ORGANIZATIONAL AND TRANSACTIONAL PRO BONO ASSISTANCE, OFTEN INVOLVING TEAMS OF LAWYERS FROM MULTIPLE OFFICES AND PRACTICE GROUPS. A SMALL SAMPLING OF THE ASSISTANCE THEY PROVIDED FOLLOWS:

Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, is standing trial in the Special Court of Sierra Leone in The Hague, charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes including murder, rape, and the recruitment of child soldiers. To ensure that the people of Western Africa and the international media have full access to trial happenings, ISLP, the Open Society Institute, the Open Society Justice Initiative and the law firm **Clifford Chance** set up a blog ([charlestaylortrial.org](http://charlestaylortrial.org)) with detailed daily summaries and trial transcripts that has quickly become a primary resource for trial information.

**Weil, Gotshal & Manges** responded to an urgent request from the Budapest-based Mental Disability Advocacy Center for legal research and a memorandum of law on their representation of a Russian journalist and opposition party member challenging her forcible detention and “treatment” in a Russian psychiatric institution.

Responding to a request from the Carter Center, ISLP recruited John Rebol and an international team from **Ropes & Gray** for an independent study of key natural resource contracts negotiated during and immediately following years of deadly conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Cravath, Swaine & Moore** continued its ISLP project for the Millennium Cities Initiative - an assessment of the legal framework of investment in three cities in sub-Saharan Africa: Kisumu (Kenya), Bamako and Segou (Mali).

Mercy Corps, a major US nonprofit operating worldwide, requested legal assistance negotiating an agreement with

Wal-Mart for a ground-breaking initiative in Guatemala enabling local farmers to market their products to Wal-Mart supermarkets. Mercy Corps called the project “a tremendous achievement and one that we couldn’t have managed without **Latham & Watkins** expert help.”

Retired **Hogan & Hartson** partner Michael Cheroutes, together with firm associates and the maritime law firm of **Hill Betts & Nash**, undertook a comprehensive due diligence review and advised the government of Liberia on agreements made with the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry.

Partners Bob Winter and Roberta Horton and colleagues at **Arnold & Porter** worked with the NGO Light Years IP to assist the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office in registering Ethiopia’s best-known coffee varieties with over 30 countries. Additionally, a license agreement was negotiated with Starbucks coffee to distribute and promote the new Ethiopian brands.

## LAW FIRMS PARTICIPATING IN 2007 ISLP PROJECTS:

Akin Gump Strauss Hauser & Feld LLP • Arnold & Porter LLP • Baach Robinson & Lewis PLLC • Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A. • Bingham McHale LLP • Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP • Chadbourne & Parke LLP • Clifford Chance US LLP • Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP • Davis Polk & Wardwell • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP • Garvey Schubert Barer • Hill, Betts & Nash LLP • Hogan & Hartson LLP • Latham & Watkins LLP • Littler Mendelson, P.C. • Mayer Brown LLP • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP • Morrison & Foerster LLP • Ropes & Gray LLP • Shearman & Sterling LLP • Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C. • Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP • Wiley Rein LLP • Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP

“Clifford Chance’s partnership with ISLP on the Charles Taylor blog is a perfect fit with our public interest goals. International criminal justice requires harmonious transnational coordination — gathering evidence, understanding differing legal systems, and communicating progress to observers around the globe. We’re pleased that the lawyers involved from our NY, Washington, Amsterdam, London and Paris offices were able to offer this meaningful support.” - Joel Cohen, Partner, Clifford Chance US LLP

# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	2007	2006	Balance Sheet	2007	2006
Foundation & Corporate Grants	626,923	284,151	Assets:		
Individual and Board Member Contributions	129,997	172,134*	Cash and Equivalents	803,291	394,897
Law Firm Contributions	85,500	88,200**	Contributions and Accounts Receivable	46,100	150,280
Donated Legal Services	8,696,362	5,820,350	Other Assets	7,308	2,868
Donated Facilities and Other Services	240,178	214,257	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>856,699</u>	<u>548,045</u>
Interest and Miscellaneous	28,480	8,367			
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>9,807,440</u>	<u>6,587,459</u>	Total Liabilities	16,986	13,178
Expenses:			Net Assets:		
Program Services	9,385,317	6,269,746	Unrestricted Net Assets	173,556	354,340
Management and General	59,787	52,856	Board Designated Net Assets***		
Fundraising	57,491	44,724	Cash Flow Reserve	130,000	-
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>9,502,595</u>	<u>6,367,326</u>	Emergency Reserve	130,000	-
			Relocation Fund	80,000	-
Change in Net Assets	304,845	220,133	Restricted Net Assets	326,157	180,528
			<u>Total Net Assets</u>	<u>839,713</u>	<u>534,868</u>
			Total Liabilities and Net Assets	856,699	548,046

\* Reflects one-time anonymous donation of \$50,000  
 \*\* Reflects a \$20,000 donation for 2005 received in 2006  
 \*\*\* On June 8, 2007 the Board of Directors designated that a portion of the agency's accumulated unrestricted net assets be set aside for emergencies, general operating reserves and for a future relocation of the organization's offices.

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure and some pride that we present to you, our friends, partners and supporters, our first official Annual Report. ISLP has come a long way since September 10, 2001, the day I joined this exciting new enterprise. At that time, ISLP had dedicated founders, almost no money and a few ideas on how to get started. Some of those ideas were derailed by the catastrophic events of the very next day. But those events also confirmed our conviction that there is an urgent need to address conditions of poverty, oppression, conflict and despair in the world, and that the rule of law must be the foundation for meeting that need.

From just a few projects in 2002, and with great help from many volunteers, we began to develop a larger portfolio that demonstrated the validity of our concept. As we did that, individuals, law firms and foundations began to take note. 2007 was a watershed year. With significant grants, we expanded our staff from two to five. With increased capacity, we grew our project portfolio from 34 in 2006 to approximately 54 in 2007. We are now able to plan

and execute more, stronger and deeper collaborations with important partners, reach out to more potential volunteers in the United States, Canada, Europe and beyond, and communicate our vision and services to a wider audience.

I hope the information we have provided here conveys in a small way the importance of the work our volunteers are doing, as well as the gratification they receive from it.

We send our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, law firms, foundations and partners that have made this work possible through their financial support, their collaboration with us and their enormously generous volunteer work.



- Jean C. Berman

# 2007 SUPPORT

ISLP acknowledges and thanks all of the following individuals and organizations that supported our work in 2007.

Visionaries who helped to launch and support us in our early years include:

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The General Motors Foundation  
The Nathan Cummings Foundation  
The Open Society Institute  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Public Welfare Foundation  
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Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights  
Tanganika Law Society  
Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

**“A thousand thanks** to you and your colleagues at ISLP for the exceptional contribution to Liberia’s Concession Negotiation Process.” - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf • **“We will miss tremendously your energy, optimism and good judgment.** Your contribution has been invaluable for the successes of the project, and for the speed with which they have been achieved.” - Anna Ogorodova, Director of the Public Defender Project in Ukraine • **“It reminded me of why I became a lawyer** in the first place.” - David Schulz, Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz LLP • **“The courage** demonstrated by the people I was training is hard for us to imagine in the US, because they are under such legal adversity. There **can’t be anything more rewarding** to a lawyer or judge than **working towards change** in a country with a developing legal system.” - Judge Leslie Smith, NM • **“You’re practicing law the way you dreamed** when you were 25.” - Richard Winfield, retired partner, Clifford Chance US LLP, and ISLP board member • **“I am overcome by the generosity of every person who has devoted personal time, awesome talent, commitment, intellectual energy and expertise** to this project and by their colleagues and firms who have supported them in doing so. **All this to assist a group of lawyers thousands of miles away whom they have never met, a condemned man they will never see and a case whose outcome will have no impact on them.**” - Linda McGill, ISLP volunteer in India