

International Senior Lawyers Project Meet with Liberia's President Johnson-Sirleaf

On April 29, 2008 International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) Executive Director Jean Berman and Board Members Bob Kapp, Joseph Bell and Tony Essaye were honored to meet with Liberian President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson to discuss ISLP's ongoing pro bono legal work in that country.

Mr. Bell, a senior partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP, has led several ISLP volunteer legal teams assisting the government of Liberia with the renegotiation of significant concession agreements, including the recent renegotiation of Liberia's contracts with Firestone and ArcelorMittal. President Sirleaf thanked Mr. Bell personally, noting his "exceptional contribution and support over the last 18 months. For this, Liberia owes you and the ISLP a big debt of thanks."

The morning's discussion focused on several of the many legal matters ISLP has undertaken on behalf of Liberia, with President Sirleaf emphasizing the importance of issues such as assisting the Ministry of Justice to more effectively carry out its mandate to prosecute fraud and corruption and an upcoming ISLP project to help develop concrete policies and procedures for the work of the country's new Gender Based Violence unit.

According to Executive Director Jean Berman, the meeting advanced the partnership between ISLP and Liberia and "reinforced our belief that ISLP's efforts have contributed in some small measure to Liberia's recovery from more than two decades of political strife and civil war."



ISLP Board members Tony Essaye, Joe Bell and Bob Kapp (left to right) and Executive Director Jean Berman (r) meet with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and an aide in Washington, DC