

ISLP Volunteer Leaders Honored by Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)

NEW YORK, NY, May 1, 2008 – The International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) announced today that volunteers Joseph Bell of law firm Hogan & Hartson LLP and Keith Watson of Wiley Rein LLP have been honored with Service awards from VEGA, the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance.

Mr. Bell has led several ISLP pro bono teams assisting with the renegotiation of significant concession agreements in the African nation of Liberia, including the recent renegotiation of Liberia's contract with Firestone. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked Mr. Bell personally, noting that his "exceptional contribution and support over the last 18 months has been key to our success in re-negotiating the ArcelorMittal and the Firestone agreements. For this, Liberia owes you and the ISLP a big debt of thanks."

Mr. Watson has coordinated the Commercial Law Training Program, a collaborative effort between ISLP, the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa, and the Senior Lawyers Division of the ABA, now in its fifth year. Under his management, over 250 lawyers have received training in South Africa, Tanzania and Botswana through trainings that pair commercial law attorneys from the United States with South African business lawyers to teach the practicalities of commercial law to attorneys who have historically been denied opportunities to practice in this area. All instructors provide their time on a pro bono basis.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Watson were honored at VEGA's fifth anniversary event, "Development Impact Through Citizen Democracy", held April 30, 2008 in Washington, D.C. VEGA is the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer-based organizations serving developing countries.

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