

International Senior Lawyers Project

Serving the World Community

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ISLP VOLUNTEERS HONORED DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2008

Established in 1974 by President Nixon's executive order, National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration of volunteering. ISLP's mission fits perfectly with this year's focus: "Volunteer to Change the World."

We are proud to announce that during this special week, ISLP board member Joe Bell (Hogan & Hartson) and volunteer Keith Watson (Wiley Rein) will be honored with Service awards from VEGA, the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance. Mr. Bell has led several ISLP teams assisting with the renegotiation of significant concession agreements in Liberia, including the recent renegotiation of Liberia's contract with Firestone. President Sirleaf thanked Joe 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."

Keith Watson has been invaluable in his support and coordination of 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 fourth year. Under his incredible management, over 250 lawyers have received training in South Africa, Tanzania and Botswana through the CLTP.

Details on attending the April 30th VEGA awards ceremony, to be held at the Rotunda of the Ronald Regan Building, are available [here](#).

ISLP would like to take the occasion of Volunteer Week to thank every one of our volunteers for their extraordinary work and commitment to pro bono service!

ANOTHER HONOR: ISLP TO BE RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION OF DC BAR ASSN

The International Law Section of the DC Bar Association has selected ISLP as the recipient of its Public Service Award for 2007. The award is given annually to an organization that has made an important contribution to pro bono work in the international arena, and ISLP is proud and honored to be so recognized. Past recipients include the Center for Constitutional Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, and the International Rescue Committee. The award presentation will be May 15 in Washington, DC.

ZAMBIAN TRADE NEGOTIATION TRAINING A SUCCESS

ISLP's third trade negotiation training took place last week in Lusaka, Zambia for lawyers and trade officials of the Zambian government on the skills and substantive law required for effective participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. Working in collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the program was led by Jean Anderson, a partner in Weil Gotshal & Manges' Washington DC-based International Trade group, and retired trade lawyer Patrick Macrory. *Funded through the generosity of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.*

MEDIA LAW LITIGATOR HEADS TO MOSCOW

ISLP has partnered with the Open Society Institute Media Network Program to support the Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations (CJES), a Moscow-based NGO that runs a legal defense fund for journalists in Russia faced with legal charges under defamation and related laws. ISLP volunteer Edward DeLaney, a US media lawyer fluent in Russian, will conduct a seven day evaluation mission from May 13-20, helping CJES prioritize cases and develop its litigation and defense strategy.

WARM WELCOME FOR ISLP VOLUNTEERS IN AFGHANISTAN AND CZECH REPUBLIC

ISLP volunteers Allen Keezee and Mike Haroz have just returned from four weeks each on-site with human rights organizations in Afghanistan and the Czech Republic, respectively. Mr. Haroz, a Boston lawyer who spent three weeks

with the *League of Human Rights (LIGA)* in 2006, returned to work with the organization in March. The Executive Director of LIGA noted, "it has been the best thing for the whole cooperation that the same person could come for the second time and see the dynamics, challenges and changes [at LIGA]". Mr. Keezee also remarked on the great hospitality he received while working with a human rights NGO in Kabul this spring. Read full details on both projects in the next ISLP newsletter!

MALAWI ETHICAL DRUG TRIAL PROJECT ADVANCES

Stuart Land, retired partner of Arnold & Porter, Adam Sonnenschein of the Feinberg Law Group, LLC, and ISLP Human Rights Program Officer Nathan Miller will meet next week with Government officials in Malawi regarding a project to support the country's development of a comprehensive bioethics policy. Malawi has asked ISLP to conduct a workshop for 30-40 participants from their health sector that will focus on business and ethical issues related to participating in clinical trials of new pharmaceutical therapies.

CANADIAN FIRMS DONATE LAW DIGESTS TO LIBERIA

With his firm's support, Jim Dube, a partner in the Toronto firm Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, spent 6 weeks in Liberia in 2007 on an ISLP assignment. According to Jim, "It was nothing short of a transforming experience." Additionally, "What I quickly discovered was that after 23 years of civil war, the tools needed by those lawyers who remained, i.e. legal texts, were for the most part non-existent." With the tremendous assistance of Firestone through its Cargo Donation Program, Jim arranged a donation by Blakes to Liberia of the complete set of *AmJuris* and the *Restatement of Law of Contracts*. More Canadian firms stepped in to help: McCarthy Tétrault LLP donated another complete set of *AmJuris* that should be on the shelves of the Law Library at the Temple of Justice this summer and Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP has contributed a complete set of *Corpus Juris Secundum* that will arrive in Monrovia any day. Meanwhile, Jim Dube is back in Monrovia, volunteering once again with the Solicitor General's office - look for a full article in the June newsletter.

Criminal Defenders! ISLP seeks volunteers with public defender, legal aid, or judicial trial experience for criminal defense projects in China. There are three separate projects in need of volunteers - two based in Beijing and one in Xi'An that support improvements in the areas of access to counsel, protecting the legal rights of children, and enhancing the advocacy skills of criminal defenders. Each requires a minimum ten week commitment; start dates are flexible. No Chinese language skills are necessary, as ISLP volunteers will work closely with international, English-speaking staff. Airfare, regional travel and accommodations will be provided. Interested? Email ISLP's [Volunteer Coordinator](#).

LAW FIRM PRO BONO

Many thanks to the following firms who have recently undertaken these ISLP pro bono projects:

- **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP** - Liberian palm oil concession agreement renegotiation
- **Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP** - organizational assistance to the Rottkamp Charitable Foundation
- **White & Case LLP** - assistance with a cooperation agreement for the ISLP Small and Medium Business Legal Training and Support Center in Tomsk, Russia

Read the latest news updates and see photos of volunteers in action on our website: www.islp.org

For information on these or any ISLP projects and volunteer opportunities, please contact the ISLP Volunteer Coordinator at 212-895-1038. To be removed from this list, please reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.