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ATTORNEY GENERAL WELCOMES NEW INITIATIVE TO ENGAGE SENIOR LAWYERS IN INTERNATIONAL PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

The International Senior Lawyers Project was officially launched in the UK today at an event hosted by the Attorney General, Dominic Grieve QC, and held at the offices of Hogan Lovells.

The launch follows the merger of the International Lawyers Project (ILP), the UK-based charity, with the International Senior Lawyers Project, the US-based non-profit organisation that inspired ILP's foundation in 2004. The ISLP family also includes the Paris-based affiliate ISLP-Europe, established in 2008.

Speaking at the launch, the Attorney General Dominic Grieve QC, who heads the Attorney General's International Pro Bono Coordinating Committee, said:

"I am delighted to support this project which will further pro bono work to promote human rights and the rule of law around the world. Sustainable economic development will not take place without progress in these areas and there is increasing international recognition of this. I wish the project all the success."

Drawing on the experience of its US colleagues, ISLP-UK will work to:

- Encourage a greater number of senior lawyers to engage in international pro-bono legal work which furthers the rule of law, human rights, legal education and which promotes equitable and sustainable economic development worldwide;
- Provide meaningful international pro-bono lawyering opportunities for highly experienced lawyers.

ISLP-UK Chair, Michael Smyth CBE (a Senior Adviser at Quiller Consultants and a retired Clifford Chance Partner) heralded the opportunity created by the formation of ISLP-UK, saying:

"Pro bono legal work is now an institutionalised part of this country's legal profession. ISLP is different in that its specific focus is on senior lawyers, who themselves want to lead pro bono assignments. Our job is to ensure that top legal talent is connected to the right kind of work in the field."

As an example of close cooperation between ISLP and ISLP-UK, both organisations are assisting the Liberian Government with respect to issues that are critical to their national economy and equitable economic development and are also assisting the Sierra Leone Government on issues relating to its economic development. Additionally, ISLP-UK's legal education project with the Law School of Tanzania is ongoing.

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