

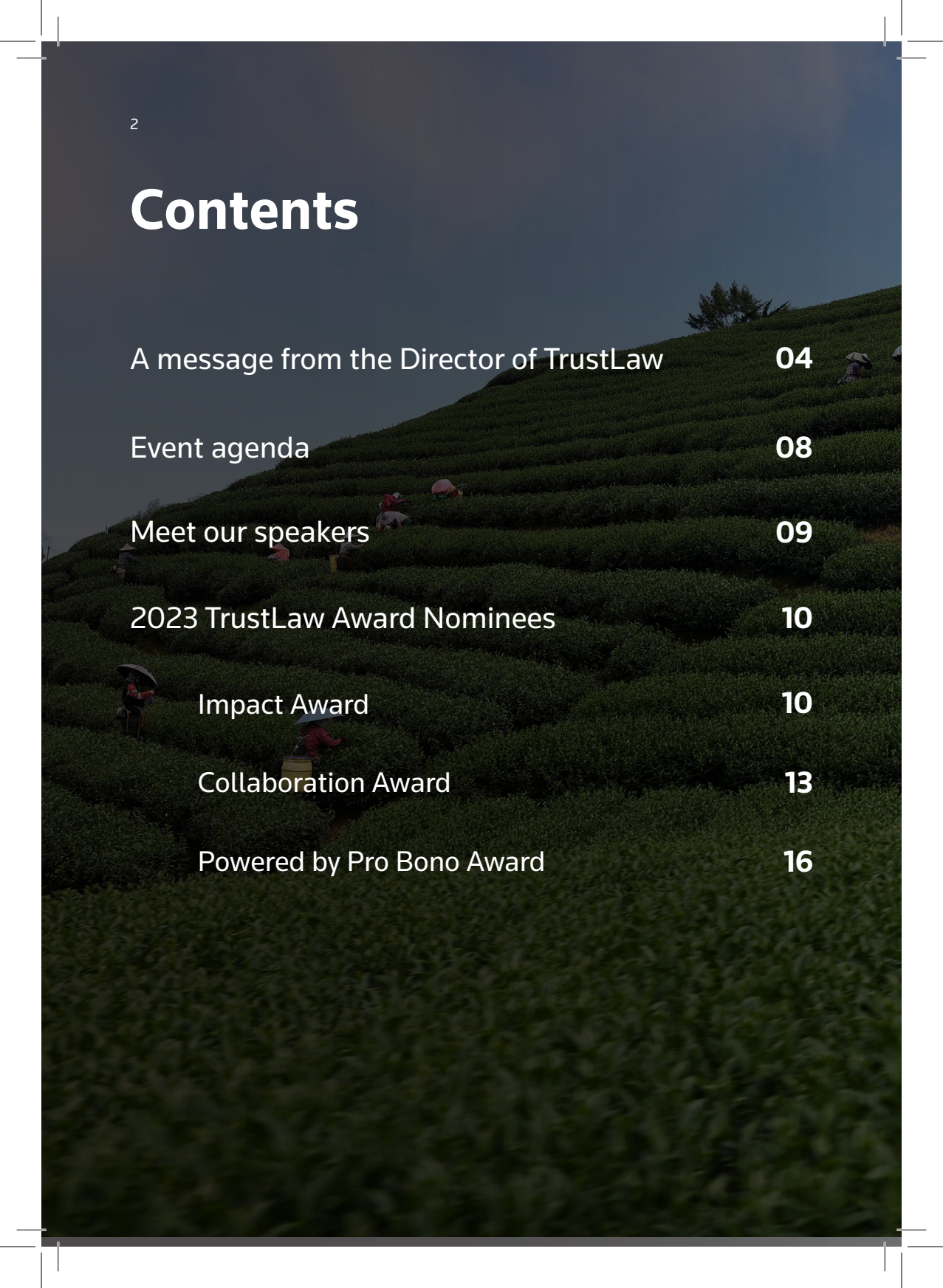


THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

TRUSTLAW AWARDS 2023:
CELEBRATING IMPACT
THROUGH PRO BONO

TrustLaw

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Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz

Director, TrustLaw,
Thomson Reuters Foundation



Dear community,

Welcome to the 2023 TrustLaw Awards, the 12th edition since TrustLaw's inception in 2010 as the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal service. Thanks to those of you able to join us for this year's Awards and the wider TrustLaw community, the practice of pro bono has accelerated all over the world, providing a lifeline to people impacted most by the converging crises which define our time.

As we navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, the ramifications of the invasion of Ukraine, the deteriorating state of media freedom, the escalating climate emergency, and the ongoing litany of human rights crises, I am so proud of TrustLaw's ability to innovate and deliver assistance throughout the most challenging of circumstances.

Like never before, the legal community is stepping up to provide life-changing support to individuals and organisations in need. Our **2022 TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono** found that globally, lawyers dedicated an average of **33 hours** of their time pro bono throughout the year, collectively totalling **3.5 million hours** of free legal support to charities, non-profits, social enterprises, and individuals in need. Their work has advanced a wide range of issues from access to justice, sustainability and climate action to human rights, women's and LGBTQ+ rights, and freedom of speech and expression.



As Europe endures a war in Ukraine and one of the worst refugee crises in decades, TrustLaw and our legal members came together to support civil society on the frontlines. Through pro bono legal support, NGOs have set up offices and operations in neighbouring countries to Ukraine so that humanitarian assistance can continue to flow uninterrupted, while legal research has supported the protection of migrants as they travel through the European Union.

Meanwhile, our work on climate and LGBTQ+ rights continue to grow. From surveying the state of climate legislation across Latin America for Sustentabilidad sin Fronteras, to supporting research on the legal definition of 'climate refugee' for the Environmental Justice Foundation, we are helping non-profits to use the power of pro bono to strengthen their advocacy for climate action.

We are working with LGBTQ+ organisations and the Global Equality Fund to build resilience and strengthen services through legal health checks, advisory support and legal research. Our recent work has included projects on conversion therapy in the Caribbean, the application of conscription, and border crossing exemptions under human rights and humanitarian law for trans people exiting Ukraine during the conflict.



In less than a decade, the world has moved from questioning the value of corporate responsibility to demanding it, with consumers, media and civil society calling for a shift in business practices and the importance of holding power to account. There is ever-growing pressure on companies to demonstrate that their operations and supply chains are responsible, and for governments to implement supporting legislation to bolster accountability.

To meet this challenge, the Thomson Reuters Foundation will launch a new training programme "**S in ESG Fast Track: Human Rights Due Diligence**" in June. For the first time, we will bring together financial, legal and sustainability professionals to better understand human rights considerations under the 'S' in ESG and provide an opportunity to learn and collaborate across functions. Find out more on [trust.org](https://www.trust.org).



Across the globe, laws are increasingly being weaponised against independent journalism, leaving thousands of publishers and journalists vulnerable to intimidation and censorship. The widespread misuse of laws around libel, defamation, national security, 'fake news' and even tax, aims to silence journalists, suppress scrutiny, and is severely undermining the ability of media to report on matters of public interest. This year, we teamed up with the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University to produce a report that examines the top eight legal threats to the profession; visit **medialegalattacks.com** to find out more.

To help tackle evolving legal threats to journalists, the Foundation partnered with the Committee to Protect Journalists and Media Defence to establish the Legal Network for Journalists at Risk (LNJAR). The Network coordinates different types of assistance currently offered by organisations to provide independent journalists and media outlets at risk with a single-entry point into an ecosystem of legal support. Visit **medialegalhelp.org** to find out more.

TrustLaw continues to explore how the law and pro bono can be used to support journalists and newsrooms to continue to operate freely and report on matters of public interest. If you are interested to find out more or get involved, please contact **elise.perry@tr.com**.



At the heart of TrustLaw is our drive to catalyse social change and make a significant positive impact on vulnerable communities around the world. Beyond connecting high-impact NGOs and social enterprises with the best legal minds in the world, we bring together key players to communicate, collaborate and share resources to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time. We work with our Foundation colleagues to deliver strategic and high-impact programmes to effectively promote human rights, foster inclusive economies and advance media freedom. Find out more by visiting **trust.org**.

As we come together to celebrate innovative and inspirational pro bono projects this evening, I want to thank you, our TrustLaw network. None of this would have been possible with you; your energy, strength and determination to support civil society and rebuild the foundations that are threatened by these defining crises of our time.

I look forward to continuing the journey with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz'.

Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz



REUTERS/Kieran Doherty

Event Agenda

6:00

Arrival and networking

6:50

Welcome

Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz

Director, TrustLaw, Thomson Reuters Foundation

6:55

Keynote speech

Antonio Zappulla

CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation

7:00

Defending media freedom

A fireside chat between Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers and Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz, Director of TrustLaw, Thomson Reuters Foundation

7:25

Power of law to fight the climate crisis

A fireside chat between Steve Trent, CEO & Founder, Environmental Justice Foundation and Yasir Khan, Editor-in-Chief of Context, Thomson Reuters Foundation

7:45

Awards ceremony

9:00

Networking & refreshments

Our Speakers

Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers



Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC is an international human rights lawyer and expert in journalists' safety and media freedom. Over the past 20 years she has acted in many landmark human rights cases in the UK and internationally, securing the freedom of many arbitrarily detained journalists, cartoonists, peaceful protestors and human rights defenders around the world. Caoilfhionn has particular expertise in accountability for crimes against journalists. A notable example is her success jointly leading Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa's defence against spurious tax charges levelled at her news organisation, Rappler. Caoilfhionn is also Ireland's Special Rapporteur on Child Protection, sits part-time as a Coroner in England and Wales, and is on the UK Advisory Board of RSF (Reporters Without Borders).

Steve Trent, CEO & Founder, Environmental Justice Foundation



For the past three decades, Steve has been a passionate defender of our natural world. His professional career began as an investigator and campaigner against the illegal wildlife trade, illegal logging, and the illicit trade in ozone-depleting chemicals. As the Campaigns Director for the Environmental Investigation Agency and now as CEO of Environmental Justice Foundation, Steve has led investigations documenting the corrupt, brutal and devastating practices that have damaged wildlife populations and natural ecosystems across Asia, Africa and South America. Steve is also a founding Director of WildAid, served as President and led the China and India programmes to reduce the illegal wildlife trade.

2023 TrustLaw Award Nominees

Every year at the TrustLaw Awards ceremony, we gather to recognise the remarkable pro bono projects undertaken by our legal members with NGOs and social enterprises around the world. Here are this year's nominees.

Impact Award

This Award recognises an outstanding legal research project that has led to demonstrable change and significant outcomes.



Safeguarding the rights of pretrial detainees in India

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; K&L Gates LLP; Allen & Overy LLP; Nyoh Law Chambers; Shearman & Sterling LLP and 47 local counsels engaged by K&L Gates

In preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHRI sought support from TrustLaw to produce research on the criminal laws and provisions safeguarding the rights of pre-trial detainees across the Commonwealth member states. The research was used by CHRI to support efforts to advocate for collective action to reduce the use of pretrial detention in commonwealth countries. The report aimed at collating all such safeguards currently available across the 54 member states of the Commonwealth. Over 50 distinct legal teams were involved in the project.

“

In India, we have used the findings in our own advocacy for reducing pre-trial detention and were involved in a vital campaign for the reduction of pre-trial detainees with the National Legal Services Authority India. The campaign led to the reduction of prison population with the release of more than 24,000 prisoners.

*Madhurima Dhanuka,
Programme Head, Prison Reforms Programme, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative*



Reforming data protection laws in Argentina

Democracia en Red; Bruchou & Funes de Rioja; KLA Advogados; Gomez Pinzón Abogados; Dentons Canada LLP; ObradorDigital Legal; Hogan Lovells; DLA Piper Paris; Goebel & Muthspiel; and Cervieri Monsuarez

Argentina’s data protection law was enacted in 2000 and is now thoroughly outdated. Democracia en Red is advocating for a new data protection bill and approached TrustLaw for support in developing a comparative study to identify successful data protection laws from other countries.

“

The impact of this work lies in understanding and comparing multijurisdictional perspectives on the same topic, which allowed us to develop an informative tool for advocacy, not just for Argentina, but also for other organisations that want to take action in their countries on this issue.

*Lina María Moya Ortiz,
Pro Bono Coordinator, Gomez Pinzón*





Understanding the rights of undocumented migrant women in the EU

European Network of Migrant Women; Hogan Lovells LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Uría Menéndez - Proença de Carvalho; Linklaters LLP; and Selma Korichi

Undocumented migrant women are a uniquely vulnerable group, finding themselves at the intersection of multiple forms of systemic prejudice and violence. The European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) advocates for the rights, freedoms, and dignity of migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities of women and girls in Europe. TrustLaw connected ENoMW to legal teams to map undocumented migrant women's access to fundamental rights across several European countries.

“

It was the product of several legal firms and individual lawyers coming together to support migrant women, which felt significant, considering that migrant women's rights, overall, is not an easy or popular subject to address.

*Anna Zobina,
Strategy and Executive Director, ENoMW*

Collaboration Award

This Award showcases highly effective working relationships between pro bono providers and recipients that exemplify the power and best practices of pro bono.



Advice on PPE for journalists working in Ukraine

Committee to Protect Journalists; Hogan Lovells; Allen and Overy LLP; Turcan Cazac

From the outset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many journalists have struggled to move their personal protective equipment (PPE) across borders. Legal members of the TrustLaw network supported the Committee to protect Journalists to create a resource outlining the rules around PPE movement. This practical guide ensured that journalists entering the country via the most common routes would have clarity on how best to move their life-saving gear.

“

The guide, which has been shared widely among the journalist and freelance communities, has been instrumental in ensuring that journalists know what equipment they can travel with, in what quantities, and that they can better prepare for what is already a high-risk assignment.

*Kerry Paterson,
Deputy Emergencies Director, Committee to Protect Journalists*



Improving the legal frameworks around the governance of firearm ownership and safety in South Africa

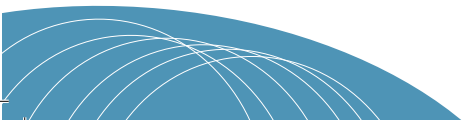
Gun Free South Africa; Norton Rose Fulbright; Africa Legal Network; Mweshi Banda & Associates; TASLAF Advocates; Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie; Philippi Prietocarriozza Ferrero DU & Uria; Machado Meyer; and F5 Networks, Inc.

Levels of gun violence in South Africa have skyrocketed over recent years. In response, the country's Firearms Control Act (2000) is under review. Gun Free South Africa, an NGO advocating for tighter gun controls, were supported by several TrustLaw legal members to develop a comparative analysis of gun control legislation and implementation systems in 15 relevant countries. This research will be used to develop guidelines on how the state can strengthen its management of firearms.

“

Without in-country legal support in these jurisdictions, GFSA would be unable to properly research their gun control regimes due to a range of obstacles, including lack of capacity and language barriers.

*Claire Taylor, Researcher,
Gun Free South Africa*





Researching best practices on climate change regulations in South America

Fundación Sustentabilidad sin Fronteras; Baker & McKenzie LLP; Eversheds Sutherland LLP; Ferrere Abogados; Muñoz Tamayo y Asociados; Hogan Lovells; Allende & Brea; and Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr. e Quiroga Advogados

While most Latin American and the Caribbean countries have taken steps to address climate change, the region's emissions are steadily growing. Sustentabilidad Sin Fronteras is an Argentine foundation that works to fight climate change through advocacy, awareness, mitigation and adaptation. TrustLaw connected them to expert legal teams, who conducted research to identify, analyse and compare the climatic laws and regulations in the region to assess how they could be improved.

“

In October 2022, we presented the report in the Argentinian National Congress, and we were able to discuss the main findings with Gladys González, National Senator for the province of Buenos Aires and President of the Argentine Environment and Sustainable Development Commission.

*Mariano Villares, Founder,
Fundación Sustentabilidad sin Fronteras*

Powered by Pro Bono Award

This Award recognises an NGO or social enterprise that has used pro bono legal advice to scale up their operations, improve the delivery of their social mission or pivot their activities to make a greater impact.

Promoting the right to freedom of expression internationally

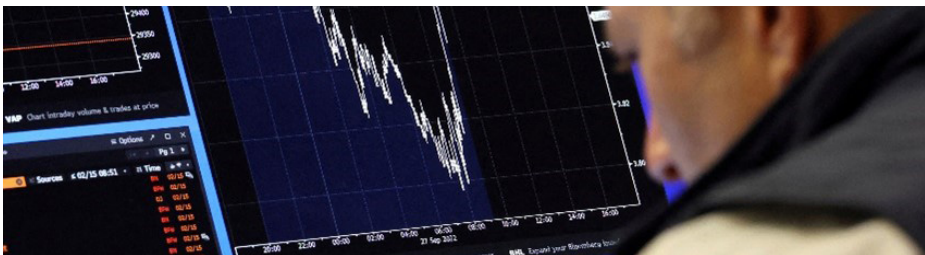
Blueprint for Free Speech; Ritch. Mueller y Nicolau, SC

Blueprint for Free Speech has been working on the design of one of the first stand-alone whistleblowing laws in Latin America. This legislative process is crucial to advancing the protection of whistleblowers in Mexico. More often than not, the country's whistleblowers suffer retaliation, persecution and even physical violence while exercising their freedom of speech rights to speak up in the public interest. Blueprint requested pro bono legal assistance through TrustLaw to help them in drafting a model law for Mexico.

“

The collaboration with Ritch. Mueller y Nicolau, SC meant we could reference required adjustments to existing legislation in the country and -most importantly- the national constitution. This meant we could make forward progress but also ensure to respect the local culture and values.

*Suelette Dreyfus,
Executive Director of Blueprint for Free Speech*



Investing to create a more equitable and sustainable world

Calvert Impact; Dentons Cardenas & Cardenas; Ritch. Mueller y Nicolau, SC; Central Law; Fiorio, Cardozo & Alvarado; Robalino; Consortium Legal; Navarro Amador & Asociados; Morgan & Morgan; Dentons LLP; Oficina OMG; and Simmons & Simmons LLP.

Latin America's biodiversity is seriously endangered by climate change and a widespread prioritisation of economic growth over other concerns.

Calvert Impact Capital, Inc. is addressing this issue by investing in high-impact mission-driven organisations that have a social and environmental focus. TrustLaw connected Calvert to law firms that helped them map the legal and regulatory frameworks that would apply in the various jurisdictions in which they were planning to invest.

“

As a non-profit, we rely heavily on our pro bono partnerships since we have an extremely limited legal budget. Because of this project we have been able to expand in our partnership with Finance in Motion and invest in sustainable enterprises such as eco. business Fund.

*Emmeline Liu, General Counsel,
Calvert Impact Capital, Inc*



Making rooftop solar more accessible

Solar AI; Hogan Lovells; Reed Smith LLP; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP; and Dechert LLP

Solar AI contacted TrustLaw for legal assistance to help them launch a zero upfront cost, solar-as-a-service model to residential and small commercial property owners in Singapore. From structuring and negotiating special purpose vehicle (SPVs), to getting financing in place, and thereafter being able to draft a Rent-to-own agreement for our solar customers, the legal facilitated by TrustLaw enabled Solar AI to launch one of the region’s first Rent-to-own model for residential customers.

“

The pro bono assistance we received has allowed residential and small commercial property owners, starting in Singapore, and thereafter markets like Philippines and Malaysia to get access to a zero upfront cost model of getting solar on their roofs. By eliminating the problem of high upfront costs and concerns around maintenance, we are able to make solar a lot more accessible to everyone in the region.

*Bolong Chew,
Co-founder & CEO - Solar AI Technologies*

2023 TrustLaw Awards Legal Nominees

These awards recognise the commitment law firms and legal teams have demonstrated in supporting pro bono clients over the last year on projects undertaken through TrustLaw.

International Law Firm of the Year

The logo for Skadden, featuring the word "Skadden" in white serif font on a red rectangular background.

“

Being able to offer our legal services to NGOs and social enterprises who lack the resources – but not the worthiness, vision or passion, is something we are truly grateful for the opportunity to do. Pro bono work gives our lawyers opportunities to utilise their existing legal skills as well as offering meaningful openings to develop new ones, to help NGOs and social enterprises achieve their social mission.

*Olivia Wilson-Bushell,
Senior Pro Bono Coordinator/Attorney, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
& Flom (UK) LLP*

“

In the times we live in, the needs have never been greater and whether we seek to make a difference at a systemic level or by providing access to justice to one individual at a time, every lawyer can play their part. We strive to find projects that make a difference in our communities and match the interests and skillsets of our lawyers.

*Marion Edge,
Pro Bono Counsel, Dechert LLP*

The logo for Dechert LLP, featuring the word "Dechert" in a large, blue, sans-serif font above "LLP" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

“

It goes without saying, but pro bono is deeply rewarding and a wonderful way to give back to the community using our skill sets as lawyers, it also develops skills (legal and communication); and boosts morale and relationships between colleagues and increases job satisfaction. These are just a few of the reasons why we do pro bono!

*Jessica Ganagasegaran,
Shareholder & Sue Wilson, Of Counsel, Pro Bono Coordinators in GT*

The logo for GreenbergTraurig, featuring the letters "GT" in white on a black square background, followed by the name "GreenbergTraurig" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Regional Law Firm of the Year



“

While pro bono work enhances the firm's reputation in a positive way, the most-important aspect of pro bono is that it provides a sense of self-fulfilment while frequently reminding us attorneys that we are practicing law to help other people, allowing us to give back to the society.

*Mr. Ferdausur Rahman,
Partner, A.S & Associates*

SORAINEN

“

Pro bono enables our lawyers to deal with matters important for the wider society. It makes us feel good to assist NGOs with their social projects - we help them to help those in need.

*Kätlin Krisak,
Partner, Sorainen*



“

Pro bono is how I get to engage with our community and add value to social enterprise and non-profits that positively impact our society. In the business of transactional work, it is an invaluable outlet for impact and giving back. I plan for and get it done like any other client work and I find that makes all the difference.

*Sammy Ndolo,
Managing Partner, Kenya*

In-House Legal Team of the Year



Lawyer of the Year Award

This Award honours an individual lawyer (or team of lawyers) who has gone above and beyond in providing exceptional pro bono support to TrustLaw members. We have an open call for nominations and the winner is decided through a public vote.



Oscar Bjartell, Liz Longster, Timothy Neo, Gail Crawford, Latham & Watkins LLP

“

The Latham & Watkins team supported us to overcome a very important legal milestone as part of a programme we run to support the most vulnerable members of our society. The support we received was absolutely key for us to be able to do what we do.

*Sema Gornall,
The Vavengers*



Kellen Maganjo, Irene Fwaya, Bowmans

“

Kellen Maganjo and Irene Fwaya were great at listening and providing feedback on their perspective on an issue. The engagement didn't feel as though it was provided pro bono.

*Jacob Bonyo,
RefugePoint International*



Julian Uribe, Posse Herrera Ruiz

“

Julian was completely diligent, professional, courteous, and timely with respect to our pro bono project.

*Diana Esperanza Rivera Rodríguez,
Fundación Ellen Riegner de Casas*



Divya Rao, Allen & Overy LLP

“

Divya was very friendly, understanding and clear. Thanks to the support we received our organisation can now receive important US donations.

*Gianni Valenti,
GAIA FIRST*



Lim Xi, Hogan Lovells

“

Lim went above and beyond in his support. While the original scope was to review the legal frameworks across different jurisdictions, an entire protocol was put together at the end of the project which we featured on our website.

*Matt Oon,
ACCESET*

How can you get involved with TrustLaw?

Interested in supporting TrustLaw?

Consider making an annual contribution to TrustLaw's Giving Programme and join a group of exceptional partners who provide ongoing support to the TrustLaw service across the globe. Your generosity is critical for TrustLaw to continue mobilising pro bono to serve the growing and critical needs of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

Current partners include:

PAUL
HASTINGS

Linklaters

LATHAM & WATKINS^{LLP}

orrick

For enquiries or for more information, please contact Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz, Director of TrustLaw, at carolina.henriquez-schmitz@thomsonreuters.com.

Learn more about the 2023 TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono



Download the 2023 TrustLaw index of pro bono with this code

Not a member of TrustLaw?

TrustLaw is a completely free service. Once a member, NGOs and social enterprises can request free legal support, and lawyers can volunteer to work on projects that interest them. For more information on our eligibility criteria or to become a member, please email trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com.

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

Who We Are

We are an independent charity, registered in the UK. We work to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights. Through news, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to drive systemic change. We have three thematic focus areas:



Media Freedom

For 40 years, the Thomson Reuters Foundation has been committed to strengthening independent media around the world. Our legacy, expertise and vast global networks enable us to bring together key actors to raise awareness of threats to media freedom, share best practice and identify opportunities to develop solutions that foster a more resilient ecosystem.



Inclusive Economies

We work with journalists, legal practitioners, civil society actors, policymakers and business leaders to develop fairer and more sustainable business practices. By offering practical actions and solutions, as well as producing tools and resources needed to advocate for legislative and policy change and raise awareness of these issues, we help to ensure that economic growth and technology advances do no harm and leave no one behind.



Human Rights

Human rights underpin all of what we do. From reporting on human rights issues and training journalists around the world to do the same, to providing free legal support and impactful research to frontline organisations, to convening diverse and global actors in this space, the Foundation's work is focused on empowering individuals and helping to strengthen free, fair and informed societies.

Trust Conference



Trust Conference offers you the exclusive opportunity to hear world-leading experts, innovators and activists share their insights into pressing global issues including media freedom, the impact of technology on human rights, socio-economic inclusion and the climate emergency. We are pleased to announce that, for the first time, this year's conference is free to attend. Apply for your ticket by downloading the QR code now.

REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

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