

The Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) is an international organization that advances human rights around the world by stimulating public interest advocacy and developing the institutions necessary to sustain it.



## **GLOBAL PRO BONO CLEARINGHOUSE**

### *Lawyers for the Public Good*

#### **Are you an NGO that needs professional legal assistance?**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), just like small businesses, are confronted with legal issues throughout the course of their work, for example, registration, insurance, and labor contract issues. In addition, NGOs may be invited to participate in professional discussions of a new law; a well-founded argument needs research about how a law can be modeled in different jurisdictions. Often, comparative research conducted by lawyers outside the NGO's jurisdiction can be used to bolster the NGO's position.

#### **How can the Global Clearinghouse help you?**

PILI is a leading advocate for institutionalizing pro bono practice (volunteer legal assistance) in Europe and beyond. The Pro Bono Clearinghouse matches the legal needs of NGOs with lawyers from international law firms who are volunteering their legal services. NGOs that need legal assistance may submit their legal questions to PILI's Clearinghouse coordinators. Coordinators will review the submitted data and the NGO's request. If the issue is legally well founded, PILI refers the NGO matter to its extensive network of lawyers participating in the Clearinghouse. If a lawyer accepts the case, the NGO and the lawyer will be connected directly.

#### **Are you eligible for pro bono assistance?**

NGOs (non-profit foundations, associations, and organizations) with and without charitable status are eligible for pro bono linkages for free through the Clearinghouse. Private individuals who have concrete plans to register a new NGO are also eligible. However, private individuals, for-profit corporations, political parties, and NGOs established by political parties are not eligible for assistance through the Clearinghouse.

(The Clearinghouse provides an opportunity for legal assistance but cannot guarantee that every question submitted upon completion of PILI's review will lead to legal assistance. Each lawyer participating in the Clearinghouse makes the final determination to accept or decline the individual matter(s) submitted.)

#### **To contact the Global Clearinghouse and to submit a legal question for assistance:**

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