

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS



CROSSING BORDERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

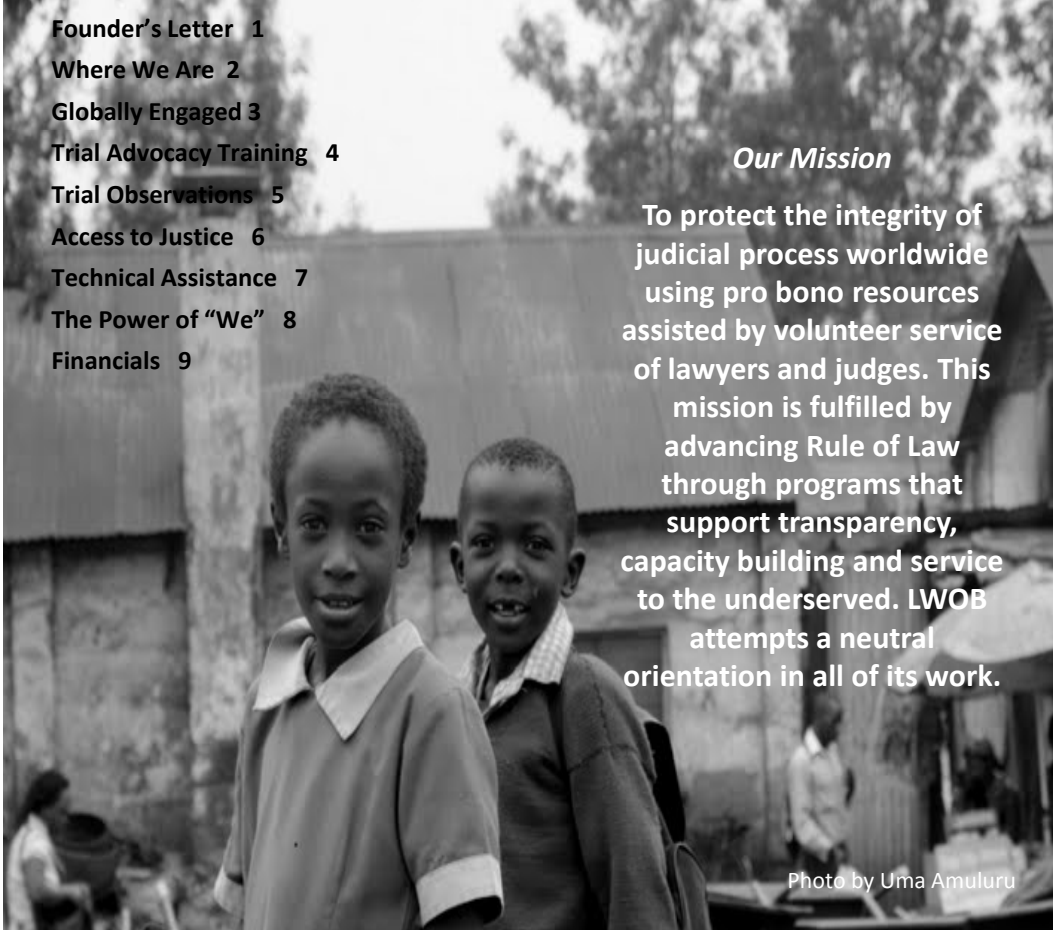
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
-Margaret Mead

Founder's Letter 1
Where We Are 2
Globally Engaged 3
Trial Advocacy Training 4
Trial Observations 5
Access to Justice 6
Technical Assistance 7
The Power of "We" 8
Financials 9

Our Mission

To protect the integrity of judicial process worldwide using pro bono resources assisted by volunteer service of lawyers and judges. This mission is fulfilled by advancing Rule of Law through programs that support transparency, capacity building and service to the underserved. LWOB attempts a neutral orientation in all of its work.

Photo by Uma Amuluru



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Ten years ago, frustrated over the lack of mechanisms for lawyers to contribute to human rights work, I decided that someone needed to start an organization to identify the array of legally oriented human rights needs and develop ways for lawyers around the world to meet and service those needs. The final task was to recruit lawyers well suited to the Herculean work ahead.

“Global pro bono” and “protection of human rights” have now entered mainstream conversations. While lawyers have at their disposal a variety of international pro bono opportunities and Rule of Law initiatives are multiplying at a fast pace -- only at LWOB is such work nearly always described as “life changing,” both by lawyers working on our projects and the individuals benefitting from our work .

*One thing can be said for certain:
Those who said the legal
profession could not be
successfully mobilized into a
meaningful pro bono resource
were, very simply, wrong.*

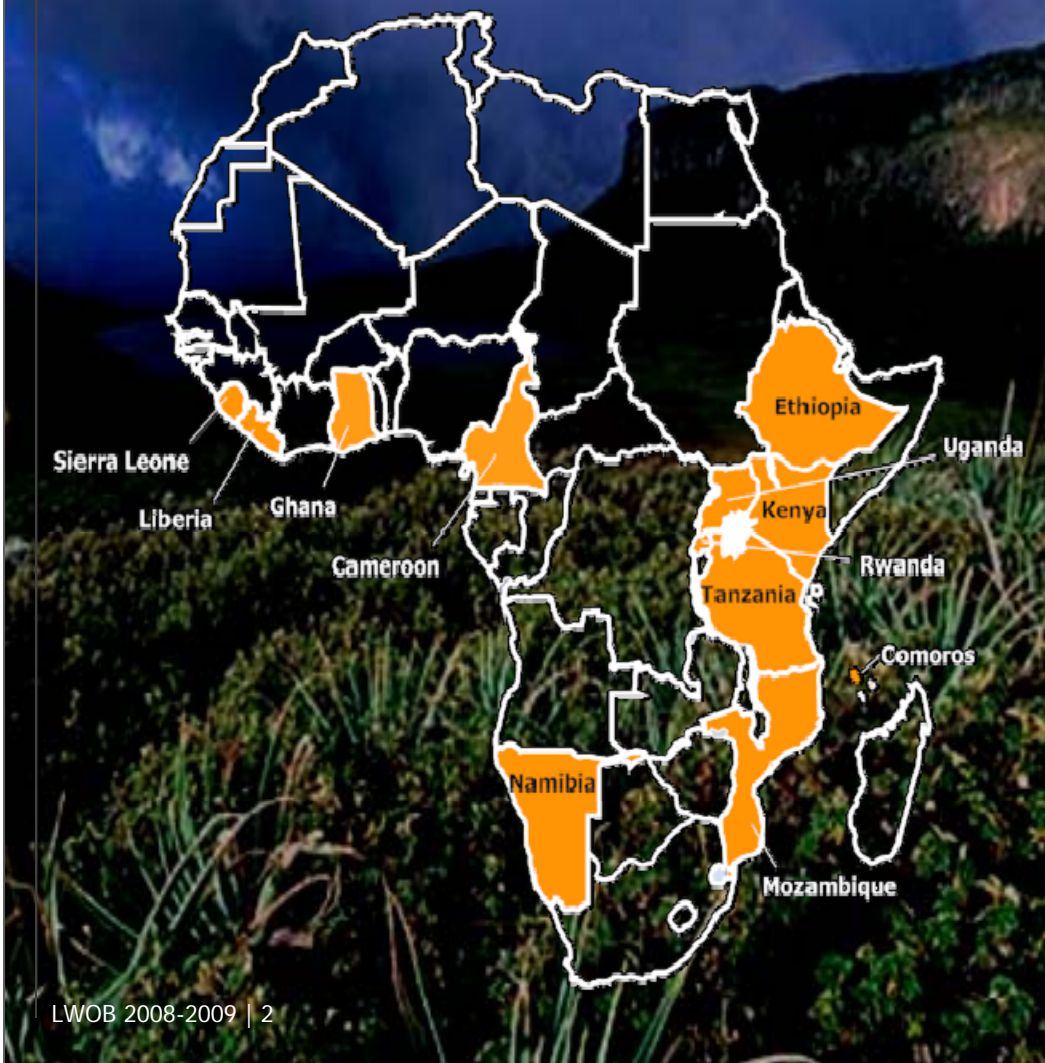
*Christina M. Storm
Hartford, Connecticut USA
Founder*

*“There can be no true
happiness if what you
believe in is different
from what you do.”*

-Freya Stark

CROSSING BORDERS

Where we are making a difference...



GLOBALLY

ENGAGED

LWOB has held United Nations special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since June 2004. It has been accredited to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) and the Question of Palestine since 2003. It is actively and regularly engaged in NGO-oriented activities at the United Nations. LWOB is an annual sponsor of workshops at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and regularly participates at UN DPI conferences.

In 2008, LWOB was accredited to the **Organization of American States.**



UN-CSW
2008



UN DPI Paris
2008



OAS 2008



OAS Trinidad 2009

TRIAL ADVOCACY

SIGNATURE PROGRAM MODEL STTAT “Support Through Trial Advocacy Training”

The STTAT model launches teams of 10-15 or more judges and lawyers teaching core trial skills. It employs the National Institute of Trial Advocacy “learn by doing” method tailored on a country-by-country basis.



Lead Trainer
Hon. Ann C. Williams

The traditional curriculum takes the lawyers through rigorously paced trial skills exercises, from opening statements to direct and cross examination and closing arguments.

Programs typically contain specially tailored panels exploring local evidentiary challenges and include sessions addressing “What judges want.”

KENYA: In summer 2009 LWOB completed its third Trial Advocacy Training Program in Nairobi, Kenya. Twenty international trainers, volunteering their time, trained over 110 lawyers and judges during a two-week program.

UGANDA: Other STTAT-related activity in 2008-09 included a two-week assessment in Uganda. The purpose was to explore court-side capacity building, and special challenges in land and succession disputes, within areas designated by the UN Millennium Villages Program.



TRIAL OBSERVATIONS NEUTRAL

LWOB is a reliable, trusted and neutral observer of trials around the world. As such, LWOB has sometimes been the only international observer permitted in certain courtrooms. It is LWOB's pledge to confidentiality that ensures the presence of at least one international observer in politically sensitive trials, detention facilities, or regions under curfew and sealed off from the public.

LWOB has been involved in trial observations in **Namibia** since 2006, drawing on a steady stream of experienced lawyer-volunteers who are self-funding and committed to serving as neutral trial observers.

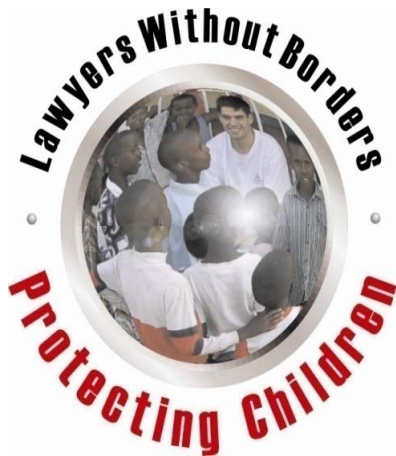
As a result of its mandate of neutrality, LWOB was permitted full and unobstructed access to all trial proceedings, exhibits and testimonies during each of its trial observations. LWOB expects to issue a confidential and impartial report when the trial ends.

LWOB completed a Phase III trial observation in **Ethiopia** during the Fall of 2008. Several lawyers were engaged in research and many had the opportunity to participate in the trial observation in Addis Ababa. The trial's report was released on October 1, 2008. LWOB is in the process of completing its registration as an International NGO, with hopes of bringing follow-up programming to Addis Ababa. This would allow LWOB to take advantage of the knowledge base it acquired after observing the Ethiopian legal system up



ACCESS TO JUSTICE OUTREACH

LWOB community outreach work is designed to complement and balance its capacity-building work in the judicial sector. It relies on the proposition that the full-scale strengthening of the judiciary only occurs when citizens have access to the courts and receive the benefits and the protections that proper application of the law affords.



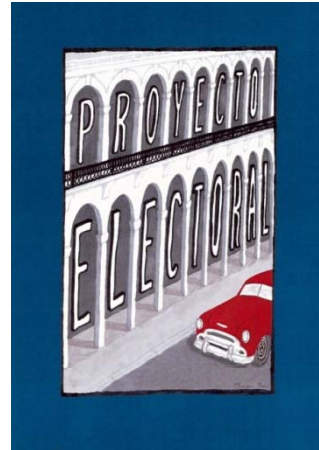
For the last several years LWOB, together with several leading law firms, has been engaged in the topic of land rights, succession and inheritance issues throughout Africa. LWOB recently completed a project analyzing the extent of the problem in two Rwandan villages.

Two LWOB lawyers stationed in Arusha and Nairobi will work on developing this project with local partners in 2009-2010. Programming will be geared towards educating women, children and families decimated by HIV/AIDS about succession, land and property regulation, and estate planning. It will simultaneously create an economic engine by developing microenterprises that support financial self-sufficiency and reinforce the legal concepts being taught.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 2009 LWOB authored and published an electoral Roadmap, **Proyecto Electoral**: a one-of-a-kind **legal analysis** serving as a step-by-step guide for legislators, legal professionals and citizens charged with implementing free and fair elections in a democratic transitional context.

To supplement the Proyecto Electoral Roadmap LWOB authored an illustrated Spanish language educational **graphic novel** which explains core provisions of The Roadmap in lay parlance.



LWOB is currently working on a series of illustrated civic books which will help citizens understand the role of voter, candidate and general electoral principles in regions where citizens have no experience with transparent, “free and fair” elections.

COLLABORATIONS

THE POWER OF “WE”

In 2009, lawyers working in private practice, prosecutors, public defenders, law professors and members of the law firms listed below participated in pro bono research, training, trial observations and other LWOB initiatives around the world.

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi LLP

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Jones Day

Linklaters LLP

White & Case LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

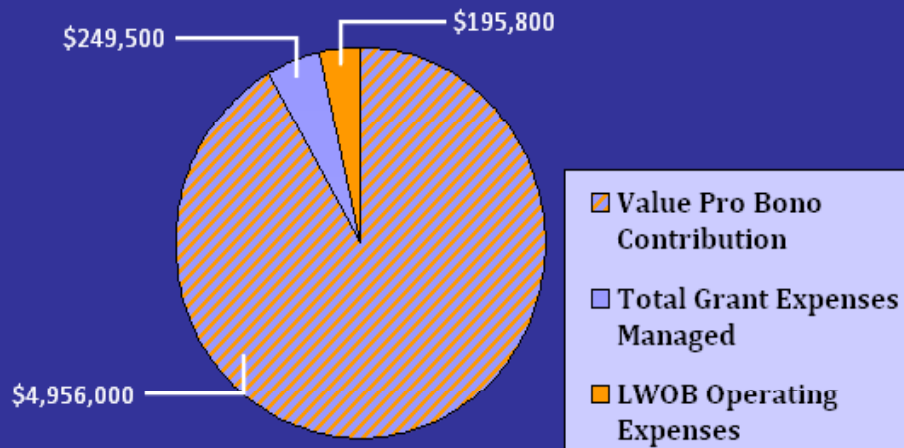


FINANCIALS

WHERE YOUR HELP GOES

The values in this chart reflect the pro bono contributions of over 100 lawyers from the United States, England, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates to countries in Latin America and Africa.

LWOB Operations 2008





Lawyers Without Borders
750 Main Street
Suite 1500
Hartford CT 06103 USA
www.lwob.org

Copyright © 2009. All rights reserved