In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals—the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These 17 Global Goals aim to end poverty, protect the environment and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. They follow and expand on the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2001. Achieving the goals will require participation from governments, the private sector, civil society and individual citizens.

White & Case became a signatory to the UN Global Compact, the world’s largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative, in July of 2016. Signatories commit to doing business responsibly by aligning their operations with ten principles related to human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption. The Compact emphasizes collaboration and innovation on issues such as the Global Goals.

In a major new initiative aligned with our commitment to the UN Global Compact, we introduced training on business and human rights for all of our lawyers to ensure they are aware of how this emerging field affects their area of legal practice.

We are proud to help advance the Global Goals through our Global Pro Bono Practice as well. Our work ranges across all the issues covered by the Global Goals, from combating human trafficking to promoting good water governance to closing the credit gap for women entrepreneurs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td>We introduce business and human rights training for our lawyers, and work against human trafficking in Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>LEGAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Spotlight on programs in Russia and Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>ACCESS TO JUSTICE</strong></td>
<td>Our efforts in the US courts for the children of Flint, domestic abuse victims and clemency petitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>SOCIAL IMPACT</strong></td>
<td>Closing the credit gap for women entrepreneurs and new financing for family services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td>Mapping the legal frameworks governing water use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>Supporting new initiatives against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This review features just a few of our activities. For more information about White & Case and our social responsibility initiative, please visit our website and follow us on social media.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- **PRO BONO**
- **LEGAL EDUCATION**
- **VOLUNTEERISM**
- **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**
- **GREEN INITIATIVE**
The global goals: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SOFT LAW GETS A HARD LOOK

White & Case launches firmwide human rights training for all our lawyers.

In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the UN’s first corporate human rights initiative, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Guiding Principles emphasize the state duty to protect human rights, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and the need for both states and companies to provide remedies for victims of abuse.

Although adherence is voluntary, the Guiding Principles are proving to be a powerful influence that both promotes proactive action by companies and empowers actions by plaintiffs, governments and civil society that increase the costs of noncompliance by corporations.

Legal institutions have embraced the Guiding Principles in an effort to promote concrete standards and guidance. The International Bar Association (IBA), the American Bar Association, the Law Society of England and Wales and the Law Council of Australia have endorsed them and begun to provide direction on how to incorporate the principles into the practice of law. According to the IBA’s report, Business and Human Rights Guidance for Bar Associations: “There are few areas of legal practice for which the Guiding Principles—and the human rights standards they reference—are not potentially relevant. And companies are increasingly requesting that their legal counsel provide advice that takes potential human rights risks into account as part of their broader management of legal risks.”

In response to this new paradigm, White & Case launched a firmwide business and human rights training program in partnership with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a nonprofit consultancy that works with 250 member companies around the world.

Peter Nestor, Associate Director of BSR, helped design regional training sessions held in the Americas, Asia and EMEA, and also served as faculty with White & Case lawyers.

“When it comes to businesses and their

There are few areas of legal practice for which the Guiding Principles—and the human rights standards they reference—are not potentially relevant.
legal advisors engaging with human rights,” Peter says, “we are at a formative—and very uncertain—juncture. When something really foundational, like the Guiding Principles, comes into play, governments tend to adopt a wait-and-see approach before formalizing the soft requirements into hard law or regulations. In this case, companies have been extremely proactive about taking the Guiding Principles on board and voluntarily implementing them. Law firms have historically been advisors rather than main players shaping the human rights agenda, but that is changing as multinationals now need clear guidance on how to approach these sensitive and critical issues for the first time.”

Launched in July of 2016, the training sessions focus on the foundations of business and human rights, provide a review of some existing business practices, introduce relevant legal frameworks and offer workshops on mock legal and ethical problems.

The Guiding Principles are based on several international agreements on human rights, which have been adopted since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The principles provide the first global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse human rights impacts linked to business activity. In response to this “soft law,” companies have created and disseminated human rights policy statements and undertaken audits of their own business practices and supply chains, among other initial efforts.

Yet hard—enforceable—law plays an increasingly significant role, and each training session included region-specific overviews of evolving legislation and case law. In New York, partner Owen Pell offered an expansive overview of recent US developments in human rights law as it relates to business.

Owen remarks: “Initiatives like the Firm’s are especially important in light of continuing developments in how human rights law relates to companies. Thus, while it may have become harder for businesses to be sued in the United States under the US Alien Tort Statute, increasingly, the US and other countries are demanding greater disclosure by companies about how their businesses impact human rights, which can expose companies to adverse publicity, and potential litigation regarding the depth and quality of those disclosures.” Owen also notes that “this demand for greater transparency is likely to continue and accelerate.”

Recent legislative efforts reflect an increased desire on the part of governments to formalize business and human rights commitments, and all three training sessions featured extensive discussion of legislation such as the UK Modern Slavery Act. This reflects a broad trend toward greater disclosure, mandating that businesses post statements describing
their efforts to eradicate modern slavery from supply chains. In the United States, noteworthy legislation includes the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, which has helped promote corporate behavior that is consistent with human rights goals by requiring similar disclosures.

“This training is a key part of White & Case’s commitment to increasing knowledge of human rights issues and is consistent with our Firm being a signatory to the UN Global Compact,” says Jacquelyn MacLennan, partner and Global Pro Bono Practice Leader. “The reaction to the training sessions has been fantastic,” she notes. “All of our lawyers, from the most junior associates to the most senior partners, in all our offices, benefit from an enhanced understanding of human rights and how they impact the areas in which they operate. All of our lawyers need to have a working knowledge of the basics covered in this course.”
Human trafficking has long been one of Asia’s biggest challenges. In recognition of this situation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—a group of ten countries—came together in November of 2015 to adopt the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

This landmark legislation is modeled on a Convention issued by the Council of Europe. The legally binding nature of ACTIP makes it a watershed act, yet the Convention leaves a great deal uncertain—because it still falls to member countries to implement the Convention’s provisions.

Liberty Asia, a leading anti-trafficking nongovernmental organization (NGO), has been working to forge solutions to the trafficking crisis—a resolve that is mirrored by Global Goal 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, whose seventh provision centers on the eradication of slavery. In the wake of ACTIP’s announcement, as an existing pro bono client, Liberty Asia turned to White & Case to provide research and analysis to help ensure a successful implementation of ACTIP by the ASEAN member states.

In addition to providing an overview of the new Convention, a team of ten associates from across our Asia offices, working under the supervision of local partner Jon Bowden and partner Barrye Wall of the Singapore office, undertook country-by-country studies of existing legal frameworks and provided recommendations for successfully implementing and monitoring ACTIP. Jon notes: “This was another great example of our ability to coordinate seamlessly across multiple offices.”

Singapore associate Cavan Reilly spearheaded the research. “The Convention is a very idealistic document, invaluable in the way it lays out core principles in the fight against human trafficking. Yet the absence of an international body, such as the European Court of Human Rights, to see to its enforcement remains a matter of concern.”

Beyond focusing on the lack of an enforcement mechanism, our lawyers recommended ways to remedy deficiencies in domestic legal frameworks. “Domestic law,” Cavan notes, “can do a much better job of protecting victims.” Only three member countries currently have clauses explicitly stating that trafficking victims should be free from prosecution.

Archana Kotecha, Head of Legal at Liberty Asia, says that the organization has been working to disseminate the research. “Rather than simply taking the findings to the ASEAN Secretariat, we are sharing White & Case’s research with lobbying organizations, country representatives and government officials, creating a broader base of awareness. The initial response has been very positive.”
Making a difference in the fight against human trafficking has been difficult, Archana says. “This Convention was more than a decade in the making. The involved jurisdictions are so varied that common action is a challenge.” Still, she notes that global interconnectedness provides various “leverage points to change behavior.” Liberty Asia has benefited from the increasingly committed collaboration of private sector organizations; financial institutions, for instance, have been eager to learn from the NGO about ways to monitor supply chains.

“White & Case’s support has provided us with new tools in this long fight, deepening our resolve,” Archana says. “The research and advice provided by the team from White & Case on this matter is a classic example of what pro bono can achieve.”

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**GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK**

01 | NO POVERTY  
03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
04 | QUALITY EDUCATION  
05 | GENDER EQUALITY  
08 | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES  
16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
BEYOND TRANSLATION

A new series of publications on legal writing debuts for Russian lawyers.

In 2006, to mark its 15th anniversary in Russia, White & Case published a book about the life and work of one of Russia’s most distinguished international lawyers. This biography set the stage for a second project, which shares the goal of connecting Russia’s future lawyers with the best traditions of their profession.

In 2010, legal scholar Olga Khazova, who had written the 2006 biography, found herself talking to White & Case Chairman Hugh Verrier about the critical shortage in Russia of books on legal writing—both a cause and consequence, Hugh and Olga believed, of a tendency across Russia to downplay this essential legal art. Olga describes this attitude as a legacy of the Soviet era, when, as she notes, “to write wordily and to actually say nothing were things rooted in a sense of security: A word said inadvertently could literally cost the author his or her life.”

Hugh, who had served as head of our Moscow office for nine years, in turn, proposed a whole series: not only the volume on legal writing but five additional works addressing contract drafting; legislative drafting; the crafting of legal judgments; strategies for legal research; and drafting litigation.

Hugh saw the series as an opportunity to respond, on the basis of the Firm’s experience in Russia, to a demonstrated need. “There is an unbelievable appetite for this practical knowledge,” he says, “and it is born of a respect for how important the written word is, as a fundamental ingredient of the rule of law.” Both Hugh and Olga thought it paramount that the series respect the distinctness of Russian legal culture. “Translation of books on legal writing in other languages,” Olga says of earlier efforts, “had failed.” Hugh adds, “The only books that could really nurture writing and thinking so as to transform the prevailing culture would be books by Russians, for Russians.”

Our work on legal education in Russia has witnessed dynamic growth in recent years. It is a powerful example of the unique impact we can achieve by putting our global expertise into practice—in a way that meets societies where they are, and helps bring them where they would like to be.

[ ANDREI DONTSOV, PARTNER, MOSCOW ]
Юридическое письмо в практике судебного адвоката
Марина Захарина

Поиск правовой информации: стратегия и тактика
Наталья Ефанова

Как написать судебное решение
Елена Кудрявцева, Любовь Прокудина

Составление договора: техника и приемы
Ольга Воробьева

Искусство юридического письма
Ольга Хазова

Как написать закон
Татьяна Васильева
Olga’s opening chapter makes clear that the present situation has at its root broader historical causes. Attention to legal writing “was lost to a large extent after October 1917,” with the Bolshevik Revolution and the dawn of the Soviet era. Rather than promote clarity and accountability in legal and other contexts, the Soviets pointedly deployed “bureaucratese” as a strategy of power.

Bureaucratese is not simply a thing of the past. Olga points to recent legal theses presented in Russia as evidence of its continuing hold on the culture. Such language goes hand in hand with the highly theoretical education so many Russian law students still receive today.

“When it came to legal writing,” she says, “at most you could find one or two pages in a book focused on legal theory.” Olga, whose own practice focused on family law, says she wishes she’d had at her disposal the very resources on legal writing the Firm has made available.

“These volumes are part of our effort to be good citizens,” Hugh says. “They are right at the essence of a lawyer’s obligation to put professional experience in the service of society.” The books, which recently went into their second printing, have been adopted for use at many of the foremost Russian law schools.

White & Case’s publications on legal research and legal writing are being used in its University Lecturing Program—a supplementary legal curriculum offering practical skills training for law students—which is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Lawyers from the Moscow office deliver lectures and master classes, create case studies and exercises, and conduct final exams for almost 1,000 students annually at four leading Russian universities. The courses—which cover major practice areas, legal skills and English law fundamentals—have been integrated into the curriculum officially, with some even mandatory for certain specializations.

“Our work on legal education in Russia has witnessed dynamic growth in recent years,” Moscow partner Andrei Dontsov observes. “It is a powerful example of the unique impact we can achieve by putting our global expertise into practice—in a way that meets societies where they are, and helps bring them where they would like to be.”
PRINCIPLES FIRST

White & Case co-hosts a pioneering legal ethics training program in Ghana.

For several days in June of 2016, in a first-of-its-kind initiative for Ghana, more than 50 of the country’s most promising law students came together with distinguished members of the country’s legal establishment—among them the Chief Justice and several other Justices of the Supreme Court and Dean Kofi E. Abotsi of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) Faculty of Law.

This legal ethics training program represents the first stage in a broader effort to support legal education in Ghana. It grows out of the Firm’s deep ties to the country and our partnership with Fordham Law School’s Leitner Center for International Law and Justice.

Professor Paolo Galizzi, Clinical Professor of Law at Fordham University Law School and a faculty member of the Leitner Center, has developed an especially strong track record in Ghana, and has partnered with the Faculty of Law of GIMPA on projects including judicial training and a pilot clerkship program. At the same time, Fordham students have worked with our lawyers on pro bono projects, including a study of how the UN Global Goals and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights relate to African countries.

As a result of White & Case’s partnership with Fordham and the Leitner Center, Professor Galizzi has, in turn, developed a deep familiarity with our work around the world, including the legal ethics training program we have helped deliver to law students in Russia for the past several years. It was with this work in Russia in mind that he proposed to the Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Georgina Theodora Wood, and Dean Abotsi of GIMPA that a legal ethics training program could be of great benefit to the country’s future lawyers. A significant corruption scandal had recently affected the

“""""""
As a profession, lawyers have been entrusted with the honor of protecting the rule of law and safeguarding democracy... Now more than ever, lawyers have a duty to promote good professional conduct and uphold the highest ethical standards.

[ HER LADYSHIP GEORGINA THEODORA WOOD, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE GHANA SUPREME COURT ]
highest levels of the Ghanaian judiciary, and there was widespread commitment to reform.

The Chief Justice and Dean Abotsi were immediately enthusiastic. White & Case, Fordham and GIMPA began drafting a new curriculum tailored to the needs of Ghanaian law students. The training introduced students to the ethical issues they are most likely to encounter in practicing law, including an introduction to professional responsibility and ethics as well as a comparative analysis of means of regulating the profession. Faculty surveyed particular practice areas, exploring issues such as confidentiality and conflicts of interest. At the heart of the program was the conviction that sound legal ethics are essential to the practice of today’s lawyers, whatever the niche or nation in which they work.

“We aren’t interested in simply providing a one-time opportunity for students, however memorable,” Professor Galizzi says. “Our goal is to help initiate an ongoing conversation...
around legal ethics. By reaching lawyers at the earliest stages of their careers, we have the profound opportunity to help Ghana shape its legal future."

White & Case partner and General Counsel Jennifer Paradise, who served as faculty for both programs in Russia and Ghana, finds reason for optimism in the palpable commitment to reform she experienced at all levels in the lead-up to the training. “The huge interest from the senior judiciary to so many law students,” she says, “shows the determination to make real changes among the Ghanaian judiciary and members of the legal profession.” Students participated in a competitive application process, with demand far outpacing available seats. In large part due to the course’s success, efforts are being made to integrate the programming into year-round law school curricula.
ACCESS TO JUSTICE
FLINT’S FUTURE

A New York team joins the ACLU and Education Law Center to file a class action suit on behalf of children affected by Flint’s water crisis.

When news broke that drinking water in Flint, Michigan was contaminated with lead—and that officials had failed to take action for more than a year—the outcry was swift. In January of 2016, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency, and US President Obama authorized assistance from federal agencies.

The water crisis continues to affect the people of Flint—especially the youngest among them. School-age children who experience exposure to lead are likely to face cognitive and behavioral challenges into adulthood.

Few would deny that these children are in need of special services to which they have a legal right. Yet Flint’s schools have not met their duty to provide such services. Budgetary pressures are partly to blame; even before the water crisis, Flint’s schools had cut teachers and staff in the face of a US$10 million deficit.

In 2016, in large part thanks to the proactive efforts of New York partner Greg Little, White & Case joined forces with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the Education Law Center, a public interest law firm, to file a class action complaint on behalf of Flint children who suffered lead exposure. As noted in The Washington Post, one of several outlets that covered the suit, the complaint alleges these children have been denied the special education services that are their right under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Michigan state law.

The 133-page complaint sounds an urgent note. “In the wake of the Flint lead crisis, Flint children face an unprecedented educational and civil rights disaster,” the complaint states. “It is impossible to overstate the resounding effects of the failure to provide meaningful educational opportunities, and to provide them now.”

“We feel a tremendous sense of urgency about this case,” says associate Lindsay Heck, who has spearheaded our work on the case under the supervision of partner Greg Starner. Joining Lindsay are more than ten associates including Walter Ciacci, Dominique Forrest, Laura Grai and Michael Lu. “The adverse effects of lead exposure on health and functioning are beyond dispute, and 30,000 school-age children in Flint have been put at risk. Education and special services are the only potent antidotes. This litigation is one of the most pressing educational civil rights cases in the country, and we are doing all we can to vigorously represent the interests of these children.”

GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK

03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
04 | QUALITY EDUCATION
06 | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
A Supreme Brief

Our amicus brief helps keep firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers.

A recent US Supreme Court verdict will help keep firearms out of the hands of those convicted of domestic abuse—thanks in part to an amicus brief spearheaded by New York associate Jay Mitra and submitted by our lawyers on behalf of two of the country’s largest law enforcement organizations, the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

The litigants in Voisine v. United States asked the court to decide whether the Lautenberg Amendment, a federal statute barring firearm possession by a person convicted of “a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence,” should apply to individuals whose misdemeanor assault convictions were for reckless (as opposed to knowing or intentional) domestic violence under federal or state laws. In a 6-2 ruling, the Court upheld the First Circuit’s ruling barring possession by such individuals.

On behalf of the two major police organizations, a team of our lawyers in the New York and Washington, DC offices, supervised by partner Greg Little and including Jay, Kelly Bonner, John Forbush and So Yeon Choe, drafted an amicus brief laying out the legal grounds for such a ban. The brief argued that access to firearms on the part of known offenders exacerbated the widespread problem of domestic abuse. It also noted that domestic violence typically follows an escalating pattern in which initial, less violent actions serve as strong predictors for greater aggression in the future. The brief highlighted the significant risks faced by law enforcement officers who routinely encounter gun violence in responding to domestic violence calls.

“It was tremendously rewarding for our team to contribute to this important case,” Jay says. “We hope that this ban will continue to protect the lives of both victims and law enforcement officers responding to domestic violence situations.”

The summary of the brief succinctly laid out the enormity of the problem, as well as the speciousness of offering convicted abusers an “out” through the idea that reckless
conduct is categorically different, in regard to the Lautenberg Amendment, than intentional conduct: “The petitioners seek to minimize the impact of reckless conduct and ignore the well-documented pattern by which a relatively minor engagement can rapidly escalate into a lethal one. The statistics speak for themselves. More than one million domestic violence crimes occur every year in the United States. Domestic violence constituted 17 percent of total violent crimes in 2010…. A reversal would severely aggravate an already critical public safety crisis and increase the risk to the many victims of domestic abuse. For these reasons, the decision of the First Circuit should be affirmed.”
LIFE AFTER A LIFE SENTENCE

Our lawyers undertake successful representations for the Clemency Project.

Alex Miller, a project finance associate in the New York office, recently had the chance to call a pro bono client with some life-changing news: His sentence of life without parole had been commuted. “A sense of shock sets in with something of this magnitude—and not only for the client.” The client’s response captured, eloquently and plainly, the enormity of the occasion: “Thank you,” he wrote to the White & Case team that day, “for my life.”

Launched in 2014, the Clemency Project came about when the then US Attorney General asked lawyers to redouble their pro bono commitment to federal prisoners convicted of nonviolent, low-level offenses who would likely have received a significantly shorter sentence today. White & Case was among the first firms to enlist in the project.

“It’s not just litigators who can achieve the unbelievable satisfaction of righting miscarriages of justice,” says partner John Reiss, the global head of M&A, who has spearheaded the involvement of our corporate lawyers on these cases. “Many of the skills corporate lawyers bring to the table, such as doggedness, attention to detail and negotiating skills, are decisive in overturning convictions, reducing sentences and freeing prisoners. With courtroom help from litigators, we bring tremendous value to this kind of work.”

Our lawyers submitted 30 cases to the Clemency Project in recent months; five of these were selected to be sent on to the US President’s Office of the Pardon Attorney for official review. Of these, three resulted in victories. In addition to John and Alex, M&A associates Jordan Kobb and Zach Henick, capital markets associate Emily Donohoe and former associate Ashley Blakely contributed to the victories.

The three clients for whom the Firm achieved recent successes had turned to drugs in difficult circumstances. One had begun to use methamphetamine after a traumatic military career, and was convicted of intent to distribute. Another fell into drug addiction after being left to live on the streets of Los Angeles as a young child. Both had faced life sentences. The third, sentenced to more than 21 years in prison, began selling drugs at the age of 15 as a means of survival after escaping an abusive upbringing and drug-addicted mother.

All three clients had maintained exemplary prison records and demonstrated a desire to rejoin society in a productive capacity. One has contributed to a blog that aims to dissuade youth from gang activity. Another has enrolled in a voluntary drug resistance program. All were emotional to hear of their commutations. “When we called one client to tell him that he had been granted clemency,” John says, “he was sitting in the warden’s office. He could not stop crying.”
“I think it is important to remember that receiving clemency is just the beginning of our role as advocates,” Emily says. “There is still a lot of work to be done that ensures that these individuals can transition into successful members of society. My goal is to keep in touch with our client and his counselor every other week to support his progress. I remain dedicated to making sure that he and his family are given the tools for a hopeful future.”

“For the clients whose lives we are able to transform through clemency petitions, having a lawyer can mean the difference between a life squandered in prison and a life remade,” says John. “It would be hard to overstate just how extraordinary the chance to participate in this initiative was—for litigators and corporate lawyers alike.”

“\textquotesingle\textquotesingle
\textquotesingle\textquotesingle For the clients whose lives we are able to transform through clemency petitions, having a lawyer can mean the difference between a life squandered in prison and a life remade.\textquotesingle\textquotesingle

[ \text{JOHN REISS, PARTNER, NEW YORK} ]

\textbf{GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK}

\begin{itemize}
  \item 01 | NO POVERTY
  \item 10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
  \item 16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
\end{itemize}
Due Credit

We join Goldman Sachs and Women’s World Banking to research obstacles facing women entrepreneurs.

Imagine an agriculturally based society in which women, while legally permitted to own land, do so at a rate of only one percent. This is modern-day Kenya. Far from being an exception to the rule, it illustrates a dynamic that can be observed from the developing world to the G20: Legal reform can only go so far in reversing entrenched social norms.

This recognition was the impetus for a collaboration of White & Case, Goldman Sachs and Women’s World Banking, a global NGO that works to provide low-income women around the world with the financial tools they need. The project looks at legal frameworks, social norms and business practices affecting women’s access to capital and collateral to provide a more complete picture of conditions facing women entrepreneurs and to spur new ideas for the most constructive forms of intervention. “Our research is ultimately geared toward making a practical difference in the lives of women entrepreneurs around the world,” says Ben Rader, General Counsel at Goldman Sachs Foundation.

In ways large and small, existing legal frameworks often serve to disempower women. For example, in Ecuador, if there is disagreement between a husband and wife about the use of marital property, the power of decision goes to the husband. Yet even when women enjoy recognized legal rights, social norms and business practices may hold them back. Credit registries that don’t take microloans into account, for instance, can miss valuable data on women’s creditworthiness.

New approaches to women’s economic empowerment are sorely needed. Goldman Sachs estimates there is a US$285 billion credit gap for formal women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises worldwide. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has identified enfranchising women entrepreneurs as crucial to achieving the Global Goals: “If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” Ki-moon has said, “we need a quantum leap in women’s economic empowerment.”

Lawyers from White & Case and Goldman Sachs researched key legal principles in 14 countries, examining areas such as property and inheritance law. The methodology took a World Bank Group report—Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal—as a starting point and went into greater detail. In the second stage of the project, Women’s World Banking carried out a related set of studies, focused on social and cultural norms and business practices. The NGO examined conditions faced by women entrepreneurs seeking access to capital and collateral in Brazil, Kenya, India and the Philippines.

In New York, Partner Of Counsel Sylvia Chin, who has provided pro bono support to Women’s World Banking almost from the time of its founding in 1979, comments on
the complexity of the project: “As much as we might be tempted to look for overarching patterns across jurisdictions, the success of a project like this depends on our ability to recognize and address the distinct situation in each country. Political and cultural dynamics differ markedly from place to place—and so too, as a result, the constellation of challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. The obstacles encountered by Muslim women in the Philippines are not the same as those faced by women in rural Brazil. Having a scrupulous sense of these differences will allow Women’s World Banking to develop culturally sensitive approaches in each locale, optimizing the impact of its initiatives.”

Partner Elena Millerman in New York joined Sylvia in supervising the research.

“…”

Many studies show that when women have access to capital, the benefits flow to the whole family unit—and beyond it. This can have a powerful effect in changing social attitudes. When this happens, changes in the law begin to change lives.”

[ ELENA MILLERMAN, PARTNER, NEW YORK ]
"Empowering women entrepreneurs has been shown to have a disproportionate impact on the health of society as a whole," Elena says. "Many studies show that when women have access to capital, the benefits flow to the whole family unit—and beyond it. This can have a powerful effect in changing social attitudes. When this happens, changes in the law begin to change lives."

Partner in Brussels and Global Pro Bono Practice Leader Jacquelyn MacLennan sums up the goals that have motivated this collaboration: "We want our research to serve as a resource for women entrepreneurs to know their rights; for financial institutions to increase investment and create innovative new products; and for governments, NGOs and the media to use to improve the laws and empower women fully in society."

GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>01</th>
<th>NO POVERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>QUALITY EDUCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>GENDER EQUALITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>REDUCED INEQUALITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOLDMAN SACHS ESTIMATES THERE IS A US$285 BILLION CREDIT GAP FOR FORMAL WOMEN-OWNED SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES WORLDWIDE.
BNP Paribas enlists our aid on a landmark social impact financing for the State of Connecticut.

Social impact financing is a relatively new phenomenon, but its ability to drive investment in solutions to complex social ills has drawn increasing attention. When the State of Connecticut partnered with Social Finance, Inc., to launch a landmark initiative taking aim at substance abuse and promoting family stability, it tapped global bank BNP Paribas to serve as lead arranger, administrative agent, and anchor senior lender. The bank, a longtime client of the Firm, took on the project as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative and sought White & Case’s legal expertise on a pro bono basis to advance the project.

Social impact financing deploys private sector funding to address challenges facing society. Typically in such financing, private funders cover upfront costs. Independent evaluators then determine whether a program has met specified targets. If it does, governments repay the original investment. Otherwise, they may pay nothing. In this way, social impact financing encourages experimentation on the part of governments by reducing the risk—and the costs—of failure.

Social impact financing has mostly taken the form of bonds. Since 2010, about 60 such bonds have been launched, raising more than US$200 million to confront issues including homelessness and mental illness. But for this project White & Case was asked to elevate the legal documentation of a social impact syndicated loan to the highest standards expected for a lending facility.

The paucity of existing precedents meant that our lawyers had to innovate. “Part of our challenge here was creating suitable documents—largely from scratch,” says New York partner David Bilkis. “The typical loan provides lenders with greater protections. Devising documents that inspired the confidence of the lenders involved required a tremendous amount of care.”

The Connecticut program will provide US$11.2 million of private capital to fund intervention teams visiting the homes of families with children aged six or younger. The teams will work to promote positive parent-child interactions and help parents overcome substance abuse.

Connecticut will repay funders if the program meets four targets: preventing out-of-home placements; preventing re-referrals to the Department of Children and Families; reducing substance use; and achieving target program enrollment rates.

The significant impact of Family-Based Recovery programming has been amply demonstrated. The new project will scale up an existing program for families with children aged three or younger. Social Finance, Inc., the premiere NGO organization in the US dedicated to pay-for-success projects, is initiating the scaled-up program in partnership
with the State of Connecticut and Family-Based Recovery Services at the Yale Child Study Center.

Researchers from Yale University and the University of Connecticut have found that this earlier initiative has led to fewer children being removed from their homes. The new program is expected to help 500 families over the next four and a half years.

David Bilks says it was especially rewarding to contribute to a project that will have statewide impact. His team had just closed a deal for BNP Paribas when a call came in requesting the Firm’s help. "This pro bono collaboration grew organically out of our practice, taking our work in an exciting new direction. We have had a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with a long-term client for the greater good, applying the unique skillset we possess as lawyers to a pressing social need.”

As Jean-Yves Fillion, CEO of BNP Paribas USA and Head of the Americas, Corporate & Institutional Banking, explains, “Our aim is to drive social change by creating well-structured and targeted investments as solutions to pressing social, economic and environmental issues. This innovative pay-for-success model demonstrates our ability to impact local communities and underscores our mission as a sustainable and responsible financial institution.”

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GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK

01 | NO POVERTY
03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
04 | QUALITY EDUCATION
08 | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
It remains to be seen just how the international community will make the UN Sustainable Development Goals a reality, but one thing seems clear: Success will have a great deal to do with water. A 2016 UN report plainly stresses that water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development. This centrality is reflected by the sixth UN Sustainable Development Goal: to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. According to the UN, the goal “not only addresses issues related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, but also the quality and sustainability of water resources worldwide.”

Reforming water governance will be critical to achieving such sustainability. According to the Water Governance Facility, a partnership between the UN Development Program and Stockholm International Water Institute, “Water governance refers to the political, social, economic and administrative systems in place that influence water’s use and management. Essentially, who gets what water, when and how, and who has the right to water and related services, and their benefits.”

Water governance is an especially pressing issue given increasing water scarcity; by 2050, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, water demand is expected to increase by 55 percent, owing mostly to manufacturing, thermal generators and domestic use.

White & Case recently provided pro bono assistance to an NGO that is front and center in the UN’s efforts to optimize global water governance. WaterLex was founded in 2010, just before the UN recognized water as a human right; it now serves as an official UN water partner. The organization works to promote sustainable governance worldwide, pushing for greater international cooperation, with a particular eye to the many human rights issues that come into play.

Research is a key component of the organization’s various initiatives; before intervening in any country to propose and implement improved governance mechanisms, WaterLex undertakes in-depth assessments that it calls “Country Water Governance Mappings.” These mappings, which are often conducted in tandem with expert partner organizations, comprise exhaustive reviews of current national legal frameworks, and allow WaterLex to pinpoint weaknesses in existing systems. Once these mappings are completed,
WaterLex can carry out field studies to assess the feasibility of proposed solutions.

Our lawyers have undertaken a series of governance mappings for WaterLex. In the first phase, nearly 50 lawyers across ten White & Case offices researched existing water legislation in five countries. Partner Someera Khokhar and associate Daniel Moon in New York have spearheaded the research. “Water,” Someera says, “is one of the planet’s most finite and exploited resources. Understanding the current legal frameworks, and working closely with organizations like WaterLex to develop those frameworks to both sustain and provide fair access to this resource, is critical. We are privileged to be involved in the global leadership of protecting this resource.”

“There isn’t a precedent for carrying out exhaustive research on water frameworks,” Daniel says. “Putting our knowledge and skills into practice to arm this important NGO with actionable insights has been a tremendous opportunity.”

GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK

01 | NO POVERTY
02 | ZERO HUNGER
03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
06 | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
07 | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
09 | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
11 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 | CLIMATE ACTION
14 | LIFE BELOW WATER
15 | LIFE ON LAND
16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
HEALTH
**MOBILE HEALTH**

Our lawyers support initiatives in Africa that improve adolescent HIV treatment and combat tuberculosis through mobile technology.

UNICEF reports that, since 2000, AIDS-related deaths in Africa have tripled among adolescents—even as they have declined among all other age groups. This grim distinction stems from the fact that a generation of children, infected with HIV perinatally, is growing into adolescence without access to life-saving interventions.

A leading killer of those infected with HIV is tuberculosis (TB); the World Health Organization reports that in 2015, 35 percent of all AIDS-related deaths were due to TB.

Partner Rikard Wikström and associate Henrik Wireklint from Stockholm, along with London associate Sam Harding, supported two organizations that are bringing the full force of community-building and modern technology to bear on the twin scourges of HIV and TB: Southern African AIDS Trust (SAT) and Keheala.

In tandem with UNICEF and the World Health Organization, SAT is launching a global initiative to address policies and regulations concerning adolescents’ access to HIV prevention.

Since 1990, SAT has partnered with approximately 100 community organizations in the region—from Botswana to Zimbabwe—to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to counter the spread of AIDS. To help provide a clear picture of existing frameworks, SAT recently enlisted the help of ten law firms to undertake an exhaustive global study of relevant regulations and policies. Lawyers from several of our offices took charge of country-specific studies on France and Sweden.

In addition to researching the age of consent laws, our lawyers surveyed regulations and policies affecting access to key forms of treatment. Findings across jurisdictions suggest that access to crucial services—contraceptives, for instance—is complicated by the fact that practical realities and common practice often fly in the face of formal guidelines. In Brazil, for instance, though prophylactics are recommended, they are not commercially available. By providing a full and nuanced picture of the current legal and regulatory situation, our research will help empower SAT and other organizations in the fight against AIDS.

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**35%**

The World Health Organization reports that in 2015, 35 percent of all AIDS-related deaths were due to TB.
The availability of lifesaving drugs means little in the absence of patient compliance. In Kenya, Keheala is currently testing a mobile software system that monitors and motivates treatment adherence among patients with TB by delivering powerful, behavior-modifying social science interventions.

Keheala provides an escalating series of interventions for noncompliant patients. After the first day of nonadherence, patients receive a text message; after the second, a call; on the third day of continued noncompliance, the patient receives an in-person visit. Keheala’s system, based on emerging research from the social sciences, also allows clinicians to access real-time patient information—as well as answer patient questions—remotely.

Partner James Trainor in New York and associate Jason Xu in Washington, DC provided legal support for the first study evaluating Keheala’s intervention. The study, a collaborative effort between a behavioral psychologist and an economist from two leading research universities, has found that patients who use Keheala’s platform have demonstrated a treatment success rate of 96 percent—17 percent higher than the control group.

“The success of this study confirms the impact of Keheala’s work,” Jason says. “It’s gratifying to help an organization that has both a demonstrated track record and a significant capacity for expansion.”
ALLIANCE FOR HUMANITY

Our Paris office has developed a close relationship with Médecins Sans Frontières.

Through a unique and increasingly expansive partnership, White & Case has become the first point of contact for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the international humanitarian organization, for pro bono legal assistance. The relationship is due in large part to the extraordinary commitment of our Paris office, which has in turn involved lawyers from around the world; over the past year, our lawyers in Ankara, Geneva, Istanbul, Moscow and Tokyo contributed pro bono support to MSF. “White & Case lawyers have always shown themselves to be available, approachable and professional,” says Christelle Eyraud, Legal Advisor at MSF.

“Our work with MSF is unique in that it cuts across all practice groups and specialties,” says partner Alexandre Ippolito in Paris. “MSF is a dynamic organization, and its legal needs are correspondingly varied. It has come to trust our legal expertise across the board. MSF knows it can turn to White & Case for help with its most pressing needs, from negotiating with administrations to managing refugee crises. No less importantly, we have advised the organization on corporate matters on a continual basis.” Alex notes that MSF recently recognized the Firm’s support at a pro bono award ceremony organized by the Paris Bar.

Paris partner Michael Polkinghorne sees our work with MSF as part of a broader expansion in the pro bono landscape. “Pro bono work is now much more varied and complex than it used to be, and our lawyers have an exciting opportunity to take on pro bono projects that engage major global issues, such as human rights. Our close ties with organizations like Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme (The Lawyers’ Alliance for Human Rights) mean that more and more high-impact opportunities come our way.”

SPOTLIGHT

ALLIANCE DES AVOCATS POUR LES DROITS DE L’HOMME CELEBRATES OUR PARIS OFFICE

Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme (The Lawyers’ Alliance for Human Rights) recently recognized our Paris office with its first annual achievement award, the Prix de l’Alliance. The award was given in recognition of the office’s sustained commitment to pro bono over the past year, working with organizations that address such issues as child sex trafficking and social impact funding for youth programs.
Alex says the office strives to remain responsive to pro bono possibilities. He is especially energized to see the pro bono commitment of the younger generation of lawyers. “The devotion of our associates makes me very optimistic about the future of pro bono here in Paris. Over the last five years alone, our involvement has grown considerably. Our commitment to pro bono will only deepen from here.”

**ABOUT MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES**

The international humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières, awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1999, is recognized for its pioneering work providing medical care to people affected by crisis, armed conflict and natural disasters. Recently, the organization has spearheaded medical care for casualties of the Syrian war in Aleppo, confronted the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and dealt with ongoing challenges in Haiti.

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**GLOBAL GOALS ADVANCED BY THIS WORK**

01 | NO POVERTY  
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03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
05 | GENDER EQUALITY  
06 | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION  
10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES  
16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS  
17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Our Pro Bono Partners

We are privileged to work with an exceptional roster of pro bono clients and referral agencies. Here are just a few of the approximately 400 organizations and governments we work with each year.

ACUMEN
ADVOCATES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AKTIONSBUNDNIS GEGEN HOMOPHOBIE EV
ALLIANCE DES AVOCATS POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
ALLIANCE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
ASHOKA
ASISTENCIA LEGAL PARA LA DIVERSIDAD SEXUAL DE EL SALVADOR
AUSCHWITZ INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
KINGDOM OF BHUTAN
THE BINGHAM CENTRE FOR THE RULE OF LAW
THE BRADY CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE
BRIDGES ACROSS BORDERS SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE
CHILD RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
COMMISSION FOR ART RECOVERY
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
CYRUS R. VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE OF THE NEW YORK CITY BAR
EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
EDUCATION LAW CENTER
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON REFUGEES AND EXILES
EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM
EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE
EUROPEAN SHOAH LEGACY INSTITUTE
END CHILD PROSTITUTION, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES
FUNDACIÓN APPLESEED MÉXICO AC
FUNDACIÓN HAZLOPOSIBLE
GRAMEEN FOUNDATION
INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING
INTERNATIONAL AIDS VACCINE INITIATIVE
INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION
INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE RIGHTS INITIATIVE
THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL SENIOR LAWYERS PROJECT
JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEES
THE JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS
KEHEAL
LAUNCHPAD CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES PREPARATION
LAWYERS’ COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY
LEITNER CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JUSTICE
LIBERTY ASIA
MADRE
MAKE-A-WISH GERMANY EV
MÉDECINS SANS RONTIÈRES
MEDIA LEGAL DEFENCE INITIATIVE
MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN’S LEGAL UNIT
NAMATI
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE
OPERATION FISTULA
PILNÍT: THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
PONTIS FOUNDATION
PROUT@WORK FOUNDATION
PROBONEO
PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY GROUP
RAINFOREST ALLIANCE
REFUGEE SOLIDARITY NETWORK
REPREIVE
RIGHT TO PLAY
SAFE HORIZON
SAVE THE CHILDREN
SEOURS POPULAIRE
SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES
SOUTHERN AFRICAN AIDS TRUST
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION
TRANSGENDER EUROPE
TRANSGENDER LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNITED NATIONS JOINT OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT
UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION
WATERLEX
WOMEN ENABLED INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN’S WORLD BANKING
WORLDWIDE ORPHANS FOUNDATION
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND
ZOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
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