



Lovells Pro Bono and Community Affairs

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Introduction to Pro Bono

Lovells Pro Bono has been at the forefront of innovative ideas to promote the fundamental right to access justice.

As the first firm to recognise the need for strategic delivery of pro bono help to the not-for-profit sector over 10 years ago, our approach has been to challenge areas of concern in the field of human rights and international development. Since 1997 we have won over 15 awards for our work.

Our commitment

We have led the way in developing an active employee engagement programme which contributes to the professional development of staff as well as delivering on a commitment to provide effective legal advice to those in need.

Our services

The strength of our programme lies in the high standards of professionalism, clarity and practical legal advice we are known for in our commercial work, being applied equally rigorously to our pro bono practice. Each year we provide over 18,000 hours of free legal advice valued at over £5 million to 200 plus charities and community organisations.

Global and local social entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurs are a source of innovation and change. Whilst in the business world they act as engines of growth, social entrepreneurs act similarly, using their creativity and drive to challenge fundamental inequalities in the global community.

Today's social entrepreneurs are leading the way to revolutionise the manner in which we approach intractable global problems. They look at the world and refuse to accept what they see.

Our international work

We have provided strategic legal advice on issues relating to corporate structure, intellectual property, finance, environmental law and employment to dynamic social entrepreneurs who wish to use business ideas to alleviate poverty for example:

Charlotte di Vita OBE, founder of 21st Century Leaders, a gift retail business producing a £3 million surplus for investment into development projects, whilst ensuring her manufacturing partners change their business practices to take account of environmental and social factors.

Al Harris and Richard Nimmo, founders of Blue Ventures, which establishes marine conservation areas in the Indian Ocean to protect the coral reefs from climate change through local community engagement.

Ian Thorpe, founder of Pump Aid, which developed an innovative design for pumping clean water in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. The 'Elephant Pump' is fully maintained by rural communities without outside assistance and the pumps provide clean drinking water as well as water to sustain crops during the dry season or when rains fail.

Matthew Hayden founder of Trade plus Aid South Africa who has pioneered a ground breaking carbon reduction scheme which involves allowing rural communities in South Africa to replace their current fuel use with biogas obtained from animal waste.

Local heroes

In the UK and Germany we provide our expertise to equally pioneering social entrepreneurs working in their local communities such as German social entrepreneur of the year, Ramazan Salman, who is changing German society's approach towards the integration of immigrants. He has created the "ethnomedical centre", to allow new immigrants to seek medical treatment and understand how to gain access to health institutions with the help of well settled immigrant communities who provide help and understanding.

Lovells international Pro Bono Fellowships

We launched our Fellowships Programme for qualified lawyers with an address by Sir Adrian Fulford QC, first UK judge at the International Criminal Court, in 2008.

Lovells' Pro Bono Fellows from London, Hong Kong, New York, Chicago and Rome have advised non-governmental organisations and not-for-profits in low income countries on voter registration law in Ghana, aid contracts in Ethiopia, anti-trafficking cases in Belize and a micro-finance project in Tanzania.

International Human Rights

At a time of human rights uncertainty around the world Lovells, as an international law firm, has brought to bear the full weight of its resources to tackle some of the more disturbing violations of human rights that have been highlighted by our NGO partners.

Over 10 years we have set out to further the advancement of human rights through public interest litigation and research.

Our work

In the field of human rights, we have set new precedents:

2007

Securing the first awards of compensation in the UK for victims of international trafficking

2006

Working with British victims of terrorism abroad to establish a hardship fund

2000

Securing a change in UK Government policy to allow British prisoners incarcerated overseas to gain the support of government for their clemency applications where human rights violations have taken place.

We have represented clients before the US Supreme Court, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and other regional human rights tribunals.

We are founder members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Pro Bono Panel assisting British nationals detained overseas and victims of terrorism abroad.

Our US and London offices are joint advisors to the UK Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition and similarly, through our network of international offices lead by New York, we assist the Open Society Justice Initiative to litigate cases of torture, detention and failure to investigate deaths in custody in Central Asia.

Representation in the Community

Being involved in litigation can be an intimidating experience for anyone, particularly so if you are disabled, vulnerable or where English is your second language. The Lovells' representation programme has been developed to provide solicitor advocates in tribunal cases where legal aid is not available. It restores independence and dignity to those who are unable to represent themselves.

Our work

Our partnership with the award winning charity, Community Links, allows us to assist disabled people with welfare benefits appeals at Tribunal. Working with the National Centre for Domestic Violence, we have trained advocates who are able to seek emergency injunctions for people experiencing domestic violence. Our representation service also extends to providing help to ex-service people in partnership with the Royal British Legion who have appeals regarding war pensions and armed forces compensation. Our partnership with the charity, Kalayaan, allows migrant workers that endure harsh working conditions and face unlawful employment practices the chance to seek redress through the employment tribunals.

Lovells Community Affairs

Global Giving – Touch

Touch, our global fundraising campaign, supports the UN Millennium Development Goals. In three years we have raised over £300,000 for:

- Opportunity International: a micro-finance programme
- Save the Children: an integrated protection model for children affected by migration
- Pump Aid: a sanitation system for Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Our worldwide fundraising campaigns are planned and delivered by a team drawn from departments across the firm worldwide. Events organised include the global photographic competition, the London Atlantic House Abseil and the sensational “Legally Ballroom”! – our biennial ballroom dancing competition with couples drawn from across the firm learning four dances over 10 weeks.

ParalympicsGB

With 2012 fast approaching as London’s Olympic and Paralympic Year, Touch 2008-2010 has focused on raising funds which help people who are disabled achieve their extraordinary potential. Lovells’ international offices have elected to direct their local charitable support to their national Paralympic athletes, who set a remarkable example.

The legal work for ParalympicsGB was handled by a cross-border team of lawyers from London, Hong Kong and Beijing who were in Beijing in 2008 to give advice during the games to athletes and ParalympicsGB.

Community investment

Lovells’ Community Investment programme is recognition that we have a responsibility to the communities in which we live and work, to help those that are disadvantaged. While financial support is both necessary and beneficial, our community schemes recognise that Lovells’ staff possess wide ranging skills that can be utilised to great effect outside the firm. As a firm we are committed to allowing our staff the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge to help those in need within the local community, and thus contribute to creating a more cohesive society.

EC1 – London

Lovells’ have initiated a close partnership with EC1 New Deal for Communities and St Luke’s Parochial Trust to allow members of the firm to provide their professional skills as PAs, IT, training and media specialists to community groups in the local area.

By choosing to focus on the EC1 area we hope our volunteering schemes will have a greater impact on the community in which we work.

Mentoring

Staff participate in various mentoring schemes, including mentoring pupils studying for their GCSE’s at St Aloysius and providing support and coaching for homeless people seeking to obtain and sustain employment.

Why?

Providing support to our local and global community strengthens the societies in which we live and work.

Doing this work enables us to help organisations that are passionate about what they are seeking to achieve for those who are marginalised. Ultimately this is a passion which is shared by everyone at Lovells.





Promoting Social Entrepreneurship around the world

"We were called the Ninja mums"
 Helen said, "we raided the kitchen of my children's primary school and found out of date turkey twizzlers and puréed baked beans. I decided enough is enough. I am a landscape gardener but I felt someone had to do something about the quality of meals that were being provided by the primary schools in Camden."
 Nice Green Van
 Founder Helen Tinsdale

And so was born the idea of Kids' Food Matters and the "Nice Green Van". Helen Tinsdale is a remarkable woman, a single mum, who took action well before Jamie Oliver came on the scene to improve the meals provided for nursery and primary school children. Funded by just £10,000 from UnLtd, who champion social entrepreneurship, she embarked on a project which allows primary school children to learn to cook.

In addition, she invested in the Nice Green Van, a converted ice cream van (powered by bio-diesel) with an organic vegetable patch on a trailer behind, which delivers organic ice cream and healthy lunch boxes to schools. The response has been incredible and now she wants to expand her business.

Lawyers from Lovells' London office have helped Helen with intellectual property issues around the name of her project and the reorganisation of the structure of her business to allow for investment.

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Promoting Social Entrepreneurship around the world

MiMi

Founder Ramazan Salman

Ramazan Salman is changing society's approach towards immigration and the integration of immigrants. By creatively involving the German public, he creates encounters that cause people to overcome deeply rooted prejudice.

Ramazan chose health as a way to help newly settled Turkish immigrants feel part of German society. His aim is to help immigrants to overcome isolation, depression, cultural barriers and mistrust. More importantly, he assists them in understanding their rights in the German health system.

Ramazan has developed the "ethnomedical" centre known as MiMi (migrants for migrants) which is led by successful immigrants who have mastered living in Germany and, in turn, reach out to assist other immigrants. For example, there are over one million immigrants in Germany with diabetes but many do not get treatment simply because they feel they cannot approach the health system without being able to communicate well in German. The MiMi model encourages dialogue around health, immigrant rights, access to institutions and the appropriate wording to initiate talks about health and other integration issues.

Lawyers from Lovells' Munich office provide advice in the fields of corporate and tax law as well as trademark advice. In particular, we helped Ramazan Salman German social entrepreneur of the year in protecting the designation "MiMi" and other designations he uses for his service, as trademarks.

Promoting Social Enterprise around the world

Dialogue in the Dark

Founder Stefan Wilhelm

Dialogue in the Dark (DiD) is an awareness-raising social enterprise working with people with sight difficulties. It offers exhibitions and business training in total darkness, creating jobs for people with sight difficulties. Its exhibition uses guides with visual impairment to lead visitors in small groups through different settings in total darkness where they learn how to interact without sight by using their other senses. It offers the public an experience that can change mindsets on disability and diversity and increase tolerance. The exhibition represents an attractive opportunity for disabled people to find regular employment and educate themselves. It is one of DiD's main goals to prepare its employees for further employment in the job market. DiD strives to highlight the fact that people with disabilities have a right to lead an independent, joyful and positive life.

Our lawyers in London and Singapore worked on a franchise agreement to allow the concept and projects of Dialogue in the Dark to be taken forward in Singapore to highlight the potential of people with visual impairment.



Prosper, StreetShine Shiner

Streetshine

Founder Nick Grant

Streetshine is a social business that gives vulnerable people the opportunity to earn a living and learn valuable new skills through shoe shining. All employees of Streetshine, or 'shiners', have experienced homelessness or suffered disadvantage in the job market, and are in the process of rebuilding their lives. As shiners gain self-esteem, self-confidence and work skills, they progress to full-time employment within the Company.

Lovells has built up significant experience in assisting social entrepreneurs who are starting up not-for-profit social businesses, Community Interest Companies or charities. Through our work with Streetshine, we developed a unique constitutional and financing structure to enable Streetshine to take advantage of investment by the homeless charities Thames Reach Bondway and Glimmer of Hope Foundation. In addition, we advised on other legal issues such as staff contracts and service level agreements between Streetshine and their customer organisations.

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Representation in the Community

Royal British Legion

Lawyers from our litigation groups regularly act as advocates in Tribunal and court cases for the RBL.

We have helped a Major in the Coldstream Guards who suffered a permanent leg injury after a hand grenade was thrown into his compound in Iraq. He was initially refused a pension and with our help he successfully appealed to the War Pensions Tribunal. This case was one of over 50 we have completed this year through a scheme organised with the RBL which offers representation and advice to members of the armed forces.

Community Links and Disability Living Allowance appeals

Founded in 1977, Community Links is an innovative charity which has helped tens of thousands of children, teenagers, adults and older people in deprived neighbourhoods of East London. Community Links runs a network of over 60 community projects that aim to empower individuals and help them to build their own ladder out of poverty and towards a brighter future. Their advisory services for the elderly and disabled help to restore independence and dignity.

Community Links' successes influence both community-based organisations nationwide and government policy. Lovells receives referrals from Community Links in relation to Disability Living Allowance appeals and we have provided volunteer advocates to represent hundreds of individuals living with a disability at appeal hearings.

A Lovells Associate solicitor represented Edward at his Disability Appeal Tribunal hearing. Our Associate attended the hearing and made representations on Edward's behalf. As a result, Edward was awarded the higher rate mobility and lower rate care components of Disability Living Allowance, increasing his weekly income from £84.40 to £146.50. Without Lovells' involvement, Edward who suffers from osteoarthritis, a cardiac blockage and diabetes with sight loss, would not have had a representative and undoubtedly would not have attended his hearing. Edward is moving towards retirement but instead of a retirement in debt he now has a chance of buying some simple things to make living with a disability a bit easier.

Bow County Court Advisory Network

Bow County Court Advisory Network (BCCAN) provides housing debt advice and representation to residents facing eviction at Bow County Court. This service is the only one spread across four London boroughs. BCCAN faced closure after 15 years of operation due to lack of funding but was saved by a collaboration between Barclays Bank Financial Inclusion Team, Community Links and Lovells' Pro Bono Unit.

The scheme provides vital help to people who face the very real prospect of losing their homes in court hearings where legal aid is not available. As a result of this extra support, BCCAN has represented over 1,000 defendants facing eviction with a 90% success rate and has improved the service with additional volunteer lawyers.



Peter Derrick, Royal British Legion advocate

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Women's Rights project

"The enormity of the past four days of the trial hasn't really sunk in. I know that may sound strange but having lived the past 13 years with all of this uppermost in my mind, it is very difficult to suddenly realise I don't have to channel all my thoughts into trying to protect myself. To say, I am grateful to each and everyone of you at Lovells is truly an understatement."

Client AB

Lovells set a legal precedent which helps protect victims of rape accused of malicious prosecution by their alleged attackers. If the case had not been successful, women faced the threat of a claim for malicious prosecution from their attackers which would significantly deplete the number of reported rapes. At present only six percent of cases of rape reported lead to a conviction. It is not only the fear of another court case that would deter a complainant from reporting rape but also the risk that in defending a civil action they would be exposing themselves and their families to bankruptcy.

"My Lovells lawyer took on my case at very short notice and managed to get the injunction within 48 hours which was extremely beneficial. My adviser worked through the weekend to ensure that everything was in order for attendance in court on Monday. I really appreciate her patience and the fact she was genuinely concerned for my welfare."

Client Y

Lovells works in partnership with the National Centre for Domestic Violence to provide vital legal assistance to men and women who are victims of domestic abuse but ineligible for legal aid. We advise and represent clients by obtaining an urgent injunction to prevent further harm by the offender in addition to providing much needed support to the client during a traumatic and intimidating process.

Emma Higgs, an Associate in the litigation team, co-ordinates and supervises the panel of around 40 lawyers and trainee volunteers who participate in this programme.

Apart from the practical experience, Emma says that she is inspired by having a direct and positive influence on somebody's life.

"I was acting for a woman about my age. She was referred to us by the National Centre for Domestic Violence after being abducted and beaten by her ex-partner. After I had taken her witness statement, we went down to court together to request a court order.

During the hour wait to see the judge, her ex-partner called her 21 times, leaving voicemail messages and threatening to kill her. It was a glimpse into the level of harassment and fear my client had to deal with. When we were granted the order, her ex-partner was so terrified of the court order and its implications that he left her alone. The order had the desired effect and, several months on, the woman is happy and can start to lead a normal life after months and months of assaults and constant phone calls".



Steve Johnson, Founder, NCDV

Human Rights Litigation



7 July 2005 memorial

Lovells has an award winning human rights practice. We regularly represent victims of crime in their appeals before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunals Service. There is no legal aid available for these kinds of cases and many victims of crime do not have the resources to pay privately for legal assistance.

Building on this experience, we assisted over 30 victims of 7 July Bombings in London. Our work has focused on advice in relation to applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), but has also included advice on employment, welfare benefits and insurance issues.

The first substantial award from CICA for our London Bombings victims came through in October 2007, when a client was awarded £245,710 in compensation for physical injuries sustained and loss of earnings as a result of post-traumatic stress.

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“Unlike what we experienced on July 7 the world is full of fantastic people. Lovells lawyers are the best examples of how committed professionals who were very sensitive to our feelings and pain, I am grateful for your support [sic].”
Nader Mozakka, who lost his wife in the July Attacks

We also work closely with the Poppy Project who assist trafficked women. We secured the first compensation award to be paid out to a victim of trafficking in the UK. We represented two sisters from Romania who had been trafficked to the UK, falsely imprisoned and forced into prostitution. Working with Kalayaan we are also involved in assisting those who face abusive employment situations to seek redress through human rights and employment law.

“The support from the Lovells employment team has been fantastic, all have been extremely committed and have helped our

clients hold their abusive employers to account” Jenny Moss, Kalayaan

In Rome our lawyers work with Senza Confine ONG, providing advice to migrants on requesting the status of “political refugee” in Italy, which includes helping them to complete the necessary documents and appearing before the Tribunals. We recently represented a couple from Niger who face deportation despite the fact they are expecting their first baby and have been threatened in Niger. We secured a temporary residence permit and are now involved in challenging the expulsion notice.

The London office is currently engaged in cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights on the right to an effective investigation by the State for the family of someone who has been unlawfully deprived of their life.

“I just want to say heartfelt thanks to you all, for all the help you've given me this year and in past years. I couldn't have done any of it without your backing, your faith in me, and your belief that we're doing the right thing. I can't possibly explain how deeply changed my life is without Roderick, but each of you has played a part in restoring my faith in human nature.”
Client EH whose husband was the victim of a violent attack following which the State failed to investigate the murder effectively

ParalympicsGB

As a firm, Lovells recognises that we can all have an impact on creating a society where everyone has the chance to achieve their potential, whatever their circumstances. For many years we have supported ParalympicsGB who are passionate about achieving excellence, a passion which is ultimately shared by everyone in the firm.

ParalympicsGB are a registered charity, responsible for selecting, preparing, entering, funding and managing Britain's teams at the Paralympic Games and the Winter Paralympic Games. The Games are an elite multi-sport event for athletes with a disability and are a direct 'parallel' to the Olympic Games. It is their goal to send the best trained and prepared Great Britain Team to each Paralympic Games.

The recent Games in Beijing were incredibly successful for Team GB, beaten only by China in the medals table. Team GB won a phenomenal total of 42 gold, 29 silver and 31 bronze medals; a feat that they hope to achieve again in the London 2012 Games.

Lovells are proud to be the pro bono legal advisers to ParalympicsGB. Our partnership is an example of the creative way in which we apply our commercial legal expertise for the benefit of charities worldwide. The Lovells' Sports Law Group has

been advising ParalympicsGB on its commercial relationships. We also fielded a team of lawyers from our offices in London, Hong Kong and Beijing to advise ParalympicsGB during the Games.

In the Olympic and Paralympic year of 2008, our global fundraising initiative, Touch was devoted to supporting the British Paralympic Association's development of grass roots sport, and will continue this support until 2010. In the first year of our fundraising for ParalympicsGB Lovells' staff aim to raise over £30,000, repeating this effort in the second year.

Lovells also hopes to raise the profile of ParalympicsGB through events, for example, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, 11 times gold medal winner and Naomi Riches and Dervis Konuralp, both bronze medallists, have visited our London office to talk about their experiences and the challenges that face them as athletes and living with a disability. Their stories were truly inspiring.

We look forward to seeing their triumphs at the home games, London 2012.



Matt Skelhorn, Paralympic Gold medalist

“Disability is a state of mind – my state, your mind”
Mike Brace OBE
Former Chairman of ParalympicsGB and visually impaired Paralympic Cross Country Skier

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St Luke's Trust

In formalising our volunteering commitment, Lovells decided to focus the voluntary work undertaken by staff in the area immediate to the office: EC1. With this in mind we sought out the organisations working within our local community and have partnered with St Luke's Parochial Trust.

St Luke's Parochial Trust is a well-established charity dating back centuries. St Luke's may only spend its money helping to improve the conditions of those residents living in the area: the ancient parish of St Luke's, Old Street. Nowadays, this comprises the London Borough of Islington's ward of Bunhill, small pockets of Hackney and Clerkenwell and the Golden Lane Estate in the City of London.

St Luke's owns a large community centre in a deprived part of London. They see this building as a 'community anchor', providing a space for local people to gather and socialise, and other organisations to deliver their own services to the local community.

For many years this work has focused on helping the older people living in the community. St Luke's has created a space that their older members can visit on a daily basis, providing many services to their users, which are both imaginative and extensive. These services range from hair dressing and massages, to computer lessons and Tai Chi.



Christmas dinner at St Luke's Centre

More recently St Luke's has extended the use of the day centre, with the aim to break down the barriers within the community. With this in mind St Luke's, along with EC1, New Deal for Communities (EC1 NDC) has opened their doors to the younger generation growing up in the local area. They now offer gardening classes for primary school children and after school clubs, as well as a space for EC1's Youth Forum to hold their weekly meetings. They hope that more schemes will continue to be added, bridging the gap between the generations.

Lovells' involvement with St Luke's will be long-term, ensuring that we have a significant and long lasting impact. Lovells' staff began this relationship by taking part in the

Christmas Giving Scheme to ensure that the older service users at St Luke's Centre received a Christmas present, such as jams, chocolates, gloves and scarves. Sadly, for many this may have been the only one. Staff from Lovells helped in the buying, wrapping and distribution of the gifts, resulting in a fantastic Christmas lunch for all of those who visited St Luke's.

St Luke's, along with EC1 NDC, have been instrumental in the regeneration of Whitecross Street, one of the oldest markets in London. Lovells' staff will also be taking part in this regeneration, with cross-departmental teams mentoring and advising stall holders as well as groups of pupils from local schools with their Enterprise Week scheme.

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Touch Events



Legally Ballroom

Legally Ballroom

Legally Ballroom is our biennial extravaganza, where Lovells' staff battle it out on the dance floor for the title of 'Legally Ballroom Champion'; all in the name of charity!

Forty members of the firm are put into couples and take 10 weeks of dancing lessons, instructed by former professional ballroom and Latin dancing champions. During this process the couples encourage friends, family and colleagues to sponsor their progress and come to watch them compete in the Grand Final.

The final competition is hosted at a local hotel, accompanied by a champagne reception and dinner. The audience play an integral part in the outcome of the competition: they can buy votes to help their favourites, and can vote on each round along with the judges.

The event is the highlight of our charity calendar bringing all aspects of the firm together in a competitive spirit. The event also raises a huge amount for our charities, the first time round raising a fantastic £20,000.

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Touching the Void – Abseil

For the past three years the bravest members of the firm have taken part in Touching the Void, an abseil from our 11th floor, 120 feet down to the road below.

Each year over 60 members of the firm face their fears and go over the balcony under the calming guidance of the experienced team from Over the Edge Adventures. Each member is asked to raise a minimum of £100 to take part, ensuring that the event always raises the maximum for our charities, reaching at least £15,000 each year.

After the first year, Touch decided to spice up the descent for the more experienced participants... our Senior Partner, John Young, took on this challenge and literally looked fear in the face by going down the building front first (while dressed as Snow White!) and then in the third year, descending blindfolded!

These are just two of the many events we run to raise money for our charities.



John Young, abseiling

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