

## Pro Bono

Highlights from our U.S. offices

Lawyers in Hogan Lovells' U.S. offices have handled a multitude of pro bono matters involving Africa. Drawing on the experience of professionals around the country, we have handled matters in many African countries and helped clients make a significant impact in the areas of food poverty, public health, energy and natural resources, economic development, and social entrepreneurship, among others. Highlights of our work in the continent include:

### 1. Accion International

Accion International fights poverty by providing microcredit, supporting economic and sustainable development, and connecting people to the financial tools they need to improve their lives. The organization helps build microfinance institutions in, among other countries, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania. We assisted Accion with a comprehensive term sheet that reflected the major terms and conditions of an investment as well as those of other potential investors, reviewed and negotiated investments in microfinance initiatives in Africa, and assisted with its lead investment in an emerging markets social purpose micro-insurance fund.

### 2. The Africa Society of National Summit of Africa

The Africa Society of National Summit of Africa engages and educates Americans about the countries and continent of Africa. Since 1998 we have assisted the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa in connection with real estate issues, corporate organization and governance matters, and various personnel issues. We also advised on the Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006, which extended certain critical provisions relating to textiles and apparel and expanded duty-free treatment in ways designed to promote development in the lesser-developed sub-Saharan African countries.

### 3. The Darfur Peace and Development Fund (DPDF)

The Darfur Peace and Development Fund (DPDF) works to end conflict in Darfur by advising international organizations on policy towards Sudan, documenting crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Sudanese Government, and promoting transition to peace and economic development. We assisted DPDF with projects relating to crimes committed during the Darfur humanitarian crisis, including helping DPDF obtain a license from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control to import into the United States handicrafts made by displaced refugee women in Darfur. We also assisted DPDF in receiving guidance from the Office of Foreign Assets Control regarding transactions related to the establishment of schools and women's centers in Darfur and provided legal guidance on issues that arose in the course of its operations.

### 4. E+Co/Persistent Energy Partners

E+Co/Persistent Energy Partners invests in innovative businesses that provide African households with affordable, renewable energy. We have assisted E+Co in connection with multiple acquisitions, joint ventures, investments, and loan work-outs in Tanzania, Ghana, and South Africa. Most recently, with our assistance, E+Co is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Ghana, pursuant to which E+Co would receive governmental concessions to install solar powered micro-grid solar to electrify rural villages across Ghana that are not connected, and have no near-term prospect of being connected, to the national electricity grid. Installing solar powered systems that cost rural Ghanaians no more than they are currently paying for kerosene lantern lighting replaces toxic, dangerous indoor pollutants with clean, inexpensive energy. We are also assisting E+Co in connection with the acquisition of a service company whose expertise in this field will provide E+Co with a distribution platform to scale the solar project across sub-Saharan West Africa.



## Key Contacts



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## 5. FARM Africa

FARM Africa provides training and support to help African rural communities work themselves out of poverty. We assisted FARM Africa in connection with the establishment of a for-profit entity in Ethiopia and subsequently developed a strategy for continued activities in Ethiopia and compliance with applicable laws. We also reviewed FARM Africa's operations on the ground and developed a comprehensive employment handbook. In addition, we have assisted with alternative corporate structures; provided tax advice; reviewed the organization's donor contracts, policies, procedures, and staff training programs; advised on various agreements and contracts; advised on the technical and content aspects of the organization's Programme Management Tool, a database for employees that categorizes and describes key terms of grants to facilitate compliance; and investigated available legal remedies arising from unauthorized use of an online charitable fundraising site to raise funds purportedly on behalf of Farm Africa.

## 6. Advising the Government of Rwanda

We advised the **Government of Rwanda** in multiple rounds of negotiations and drafted and revised one of the two major project agreements for a 35-megawatt power project fuelled by methane to be extracted from Lake Kivu in Rwanda. The transaction involved a new extraction technology and the production and sale of electricity from methane. By tapping the indigenous methane, this project will play a significant role in advancing the country's development and improving its socio-economic prospects.

## 7. ImagineNations Group

ImagineNations Group helps young entrepreneurs expand their businesses with help from supporters around the world. We advised ImagineNations Group on use of the name "IMAGINEAFRICA ALLIANCE" and are prosecuting an application for registration of the mark. We also reviewed an agreement to license website technologies for its online portal and provided general advice on U.S. tax implications of its proposed activities.

## 8. Liberia's Ministries of Justice, Finance and Health and Social Welfare

Since 2006 we have provided extensive assistance to **Liberia's Ministries of Justice, Finance, and Health and Social Welfare**. Our work has included advising on the negotiation of international investment agreements and policy and law reform in areas from the extractive sector to healthcare. We played an integral role in establishing the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's General Counsel's office; drafted legislation and regulations to create and implement the Liberia Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority; drafted comprehensive mental health and reproductive health legislation; made critical revisions to the country's public health laws; provided advice on the proper calculation of royalty payments, taxation of offshore gains, and applicable Liberian corporate income taxes on iron ore shipments related to major concessions; and reviewed and revised the Special Economic Zone Law Amending the Liberian Industrial Free Zone Authority Act.

## 9. Open Capital Advisors

Open Capital Advisors focuses on increasing investment in small and medium enterprises in East Africa. We assisted Open Capital Advisors with research and the preparation of a handbook on Kenyan law regarding corporate governance, minority shareholder rights, and legal procedural requirements — specifically witnesses for contracts, board resolution procedures/forms, and default notice requirements for board meetings.

## 10. Réseau Africain de l'Education pour la Santé

Réseau Africain de l'Education pour la Santé is based in Senegal and works in Mali, Guinea, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Niger, and Cameroon. The organization uses media content and mobile and web applications to help communities solve local issues and strengthen education, health, and good citizenship in Africa. We helped the organization set up a U.S. company, including attaining tax-exempt status, qualifying for grants from U.S. donors, and raising money in the United States.

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