

4th Asia Pro Bono Conference 2015

National Programs in a Global Pro Bono Practice



Speakers

- Facilitator
 - Lynn McMahon, Herbert Smith Freehills

- Co-Presenters
 - Sarah Morton-Ramwell, Ashurst
 - Katie Sweatman, K&L Gates

Lynn McMahon

Herbert Smith Freehills



Lynn McMahon is a full-time Pro Bono Senior Associate in the Sydney office of HSF where she is involved in the management of the firm's pro bono program in 12 offices across Australia and Asia.

Lynn has over 15 years' experience as a dispute resolution lawyer and worked on a broad range of commercial matters in Australia at HSF and in London at Linklaters.

During her time at both firms she provided pro bono legal advice to a diverse range of pro bono clients. She also worked as an advocate for disadvantaged young people at the Shopfront Youth Legal Centre in Sydney.

Lynn is also a member of the HSF Community Committee responsible for management of the firm's community and charitable engagement.

Lynn was involved in the development of the BABSEA CLE Ethics and Professional Responsibility Curriculum (which she has co-presented in Cambodia) and the Mock Trial Curriculum. She is a member of the International Organising Committee and Program Committee for this Conference.

Sarah Morton-Ramwell

Ashurst LLP



Sarah is a partner and global head of pro bono at Ashurst. With a background in human right law, gender rights and reproductive rights, she works full time in pro bono. During her time in the nonprofit sector, Sarah worked at the Center of Reproductive Rights in New York and International Planned Parenthood Federation in London. Outside of her role at Ashurst, Morton-Ramwell sits on the councils of PILnet and TrustLaw. She is a founding member of the Institute of Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability and helped create the U.K. Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono, which set an aspirational pro bono hours target in the U.K. Sarah was named as Qantas Australian Woman of the Year in the U.K. 2014.

Katie Sweatman

K&L Gates



Katie is a Senior Associate at K&L Gates, an international business law firm with a strong commitment to supporting the community through its pro bono work. In 2014 the firm's lawyers recorded over 60,000 hours on pro bono matters.

In addition to co-ordinating pro bono projects at the Melbourne office of K&L Gates at which she is based, Katie has also co-ordinated large projects involving lawyers from different offices of K&L Gates all around the world.

Katie is herself an active pro bono lawyer and has been involved in delivering legal skills training projects in Myanmar and the Solomon Islands in addition to supporting the needs of locally based community legal centres around Melbourne.



Who are you?

Ashurst

- Ashurst is a leading international law firm advising corporates, financial institutions and governments
- Core businesses are in corporate, finance, dispute resolution, and the development and financing of assets in the energy, resources and infrastructure sectors
- In November 2013, Ashurst LLP and Ashurst Australia (formerly Blake Dawson) merged to form one global team
- Ashurst has 28 offices in 16 countries
- Global pro bono group
- Creation of the global pro bono practice

Board's Vision

For Ashurst to have a world leading pro bono practice on a global scale.

1. Develop leading local pro bono programmes in each office in Ashurst's network
2. Develop cross-border pro bono projects which enable Ashurst's offices to work together to tackle global and regional social justice issues
3. Ensure that pro bono supports Ashurst's strategy - By partnering with priority clients on pro bono, engaging staff and demonstrating the firm's values – Collaboration, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity & Accountability – through pro bono work

To do this...

- Pro bono champions
- Brokerage, clinic and client relationships
- Global target
- Global Policy & Procedure Manual

Global Criteria

Pro bono is the provision of *legal services free of charge*, which at Ashurst is provided under the following **Pro Bono Criteria**:

- to disadvantaged and marginalised people of limited means; or
- to not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises assisting people who are disadvantaged and marginalised where payment of legal fees would unreasonably deplete the organisation's economic resources; or
- in matters for the public good of broad public or community concern.

Cross-border example: Developing cross-border projects in Asia which focus on migrant workers and human trafficking

- Ashurst is currently working on migrant workers projects in Singapore (with Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics) and in Jakarta (with HIVOS)
- Asia Legacy Project (Singapore secondment to Justice Without Borders)

National example: Since 1999 Australia has focussed on Indigenous Australians, people with a cognitive disability or mental illness and their carers and people in in rural, regional and remote areas.

Herbert Smith Freehills

- HSF is an international law firm which operates from more than 20 offices across Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East and North America.
- HSF employs around 4300 staff with 1800 lawyers including 451 partners.
- As a combined firm we have brought together the long-standing and proud tradition of the two legacy firms in providing pro bono legal services and advocacy.
- Our focus is on using our expertise and leadership to increase access to justice and opportunity for the benefit of local and global communities.
- We see pro bono as a core part of who we are as lawyers and as a firm.



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Cross Border Programs

BABSEA CLE

- Supporting clinics and fellows (Laos, Vietnam)
- Developing CLE materials and ethics program (Cambodia, Thailand)
- Mock Trials (Myanmar)



Justice Without Borders

- HK migrant Workers Manual
- Singapore Workshop



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National Programs - Homelessness

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre

- Clients aged 15 to 25
- Criminal Law casework
- Secondment
- Advocacy Assistance Scheme
- Victims of Crime Assistance Scheme

The Shopfront

YOUTH LEGAL CENTRE

Homeless Person's Legal Clinic

- Homeless Law
- Focused on women
- At a library
- Specialist service focused on saving tenancies
- Appearances at housing Tribunals



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What are the opportunities and challenges?



Opportunities

National

- Local impact
- Familiarity with local needs
- Collaborations across groups
- Skills development
- Attracts talent
- Staff engagement

Cross Border

- Collaboration across offices and cultures
- Seamless service to global NGOs
- Common language of pro bono
- Regional themes umbrella can draw diverse local initiatives together
- Diverse ideas and perspectives

Challenges

National

- Not one size fits all
- Diverse histories
- Diverse cultures
- Diverse regulatory requirements

Cross Border

- Co-ordination - across time zones
- Co-ordination – needs a strong central hub
- Instructions/languages barriers
- Cost – need to travel
- Aligning language, style and cultural differences for written communication.

Consultancy session

Break into small groups to brainstorm:

- how you or your organisation could leverage knowledge and/or expertise from other firms



Learnings



4th Asia Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics Forum Session

Presentation Plan Template

Name of Session: B4 National programmes in a global pro bono practice

Session Description/Aim:

This session aims to look at the challenges and benefits of national and/ or cross-border projects and running international pro bono practices at larger law firms.

Total Session Minutes: (75 min)

Co-Presenters:

Katie Sweatman, (K&L Gates, Melbourne)
 Lynn McMahon, (Herbert Smith Freehills)
 Sarah Morton-Ramwell, (Ashurst)**Facilitator**
 Facilitator
 Lynn McMahon, (Herbert Smith Freehills)

Session Plan:

Activity Step	Activity Description	Time (Min)	Presenters	Materials Needed
1	Introduce session and speakers	5	Brooke Massender	Speaker bios
2	Audience engagement – call out/show of hands to identify all the different stakeholder groups in the audience – students, community lawyers, commercial lawyers, educators etc. Show of hands questions to get a sense of what, if anything, they already know of global pro bono practice.	5	Brooke Massender	Nil
3	Brief presentations on national and cross-border programs in a global pro bono practice and case studies from all speakers.	30	All speakers	Slides – dot point only.
4	Audience engagement – large group discussion. Brainstorm style discussion on the challenges and benefits of cross- border pro bono in a global context.	15	Everyone	Nil

5	Audience engagement – “consultancy session” small group sessions. Break into 3 groups and each presenter works with a group to brainstorm how they/their organisations could leverage knowledge/expertise from global firms in their own roles.	15	Everyone	Nil
6	Debrief on consultancy session learnings and vote of thanks.	5	Brooke Massender	Nil
Total Time:		75		