

## 2010 Pro Bono Report

Five years ago, PILI started building a global pro bono infrastructure that would match the resources available through a globalized legal market to the needs of an ever-growing number of non-profit sector organizations and groups.

Currently, PILI operates four pro bono clearinghouses, and partners with a growing number of organizations that run similar initiatives in other European countries. Through these mechanisms, pro bono work in Continental Europe, Russia and China has been directed towards leveraging still developing NGO networks, providing much needed immediate support, and offering still more profound possibilities for positive social impact in the longer term.

This report seeks to provide a summary of PILI's activities in the field of pro bono during 2009 and into the current year.

### The European Pro Bono Network

*We help those who help people in need*

PILI, via the work of its four clearinghouses, is providing critical pro bono assistance to non-profit organizations with a wide variety of missions. Among the matters placed by the clearinghouses are those related to: formation of new NGOs, tax, intellectual property and employment law issues, as well as cross border research and other legal support for NGOs working in the sphere of human rights, women's rights, LGBT, children's issues, protection of minorities, people with disabilities and environmental issues.

During the past year PILI has furthered its engagement with pro bono initiatives around the continent and beyond. There are now active or developing pro bono clearinghouses in more than 10 countries in Europe. During the past year:

- France and Ireland made great strides in developing pro bono institutions, including an initiative to establish a pro bono foundation announced by the Paris bar.
- PILI began working with local partners to develop new pro bono clearinghouses in Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia and continued its active support of partner clearinghouses in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Latvia.
- Further afield, PILI is continuing to build relationships with existing clearinghouses in other countries, such as Turkey, Brazil, Chile, South Africa, Australia, the UK and the US.

One of the most notable developments is the increase in pro bono projects developed with Western European non-profit organizations. PILI also focused on developing high-impact pro bono projects to support the efforts of its pioneering international public interest Fellows from

Now known as



**PILnet**

The Global Network  
for Public Interest Law

across the globe; we placed seven cross-border human rights projects for PILI Fellows coming from six different countries including Nepal, Russia, China, Nigeria and Cameroon.

Of particular significance was a project on behalf of Nepali Fellow Sarmila Shrestha with a pro bono partnership that included Baker & McKenzie, Accenture, Caterpillar and Merck; the team of 70 lawyers from 11 countries produced extensive comparative legal analysis on a half dozen regulatory issues designed to further Shrestha's efforts to protect Nepalese women working in "cabin and dance restaurants" from sexual exploitation. The successful collaboration was awarded the 2010 Corporate Pro Bono Partner Award from the Pro Bono Institute.

This is but one example of an increasingly diverse array of organizations, regions and topics with which PILI is engaged.

To further coordinate these efforts, for the third year running, PILI has brought together clearinghouses and nascent initiatives from across the world for a day-long workshop prior to the European Pro Bono Forum so that partners can share best practices and provide peer support and training. Moreover, in a newly established formal collaboration with London-based A4ID, PILI is about to finalize a comprehensive Clearinghouse Toolkit tentatively titled "How to Establish and Develop a Pro Bono Clearinghouse."

## **The European Pro Bono Forum**

### *Breaking Our Own Records*

The European Pro Bono Forum is taking place in Paris on November 18-19, 2010. The Forum promises to be the most successful to date. There are about 275 confirmed participants, an increase of more than 80% from the prior year. Twenty-nine law firms and corporations are sponsoring the event, an increase of about 40% from the prior year. Additional funding for NGO participation has been secured from the European Commission, Open Society Foundation and the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

The content of the program for the event has also expanded significantly, with more than double the number of panels and speakers than in the past, representing a diverse array of European experiences. A Planning Committee and a local Paris Host Committee helped PILI's pro bono team to develop the Forum Agenda as well as other aspects of the event. The 2010 Forum Host Committee is comprised of 39 members, primarily from Paris based law firms.<sup>1</sup> The Host Committee has helped immeasurably in raising the visibility of the Forum in Paris and the French legal community at large and is advising PILI and the Planning Committee on key issues.

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee includes 28 law firms, 3 corporations, 4 NGOs and 3 representatives of the Bar and one individual. Seven members form the executive body, of which two are co-chairs. Key Committee responsibilities include consultations on the choice of conference topics, possible speakers and participants, and a more global strategy to promote the Forum among the French legal community.

## The Pro Bono Year: Key Trends, Facts And Figures

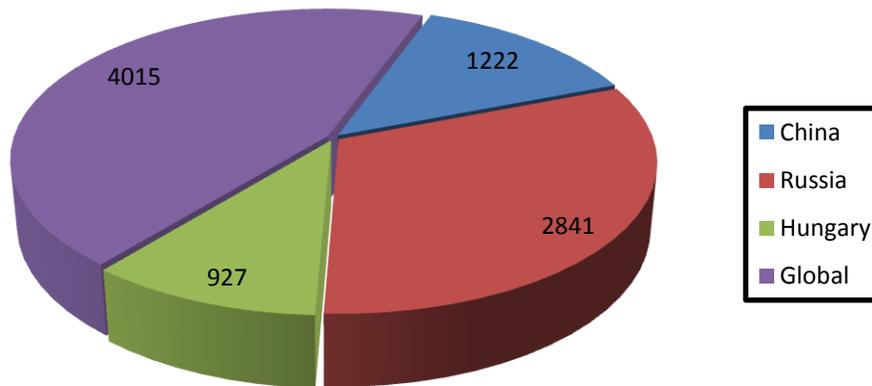
### *Counting Pro Bono Work*

In 2009, PILI facilitated through its clearinghouses access to over \$3.59 million in legal services for 111 NGO clients in 19 countries. In total, 49 firms and corporate legal departments provided over 7,000 hours of service on 234 active matters during the year.

The estimates for 2009 are conservative since PILI counted only the hours that it could document. The actual figures may be higher.

These results can be further broken down by clearinghouse.

### 2009 Total Hours Per Clearinghouse

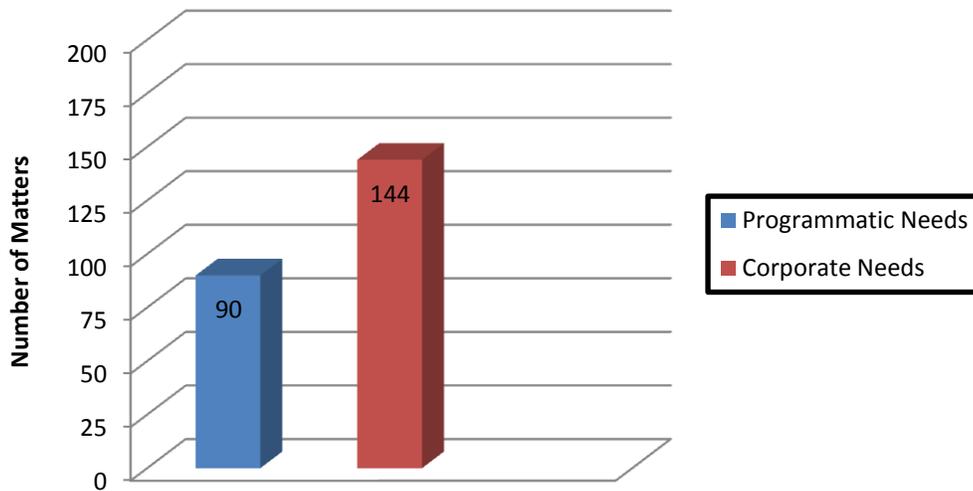


The Global clearinghouse produced the largest number of hours of pro bono service, totaling just over 4,000. Russia produced the second highest number of hours with 2,841, while China and Hungary produced 1,222 and 927 respectively.

### *Breakdown of Pro Bono Services*

Approximately 61% of active matters in the clearinghouses were assisting NGOs with their organizational needs, such as: employment law, tax issues, governance, etc.

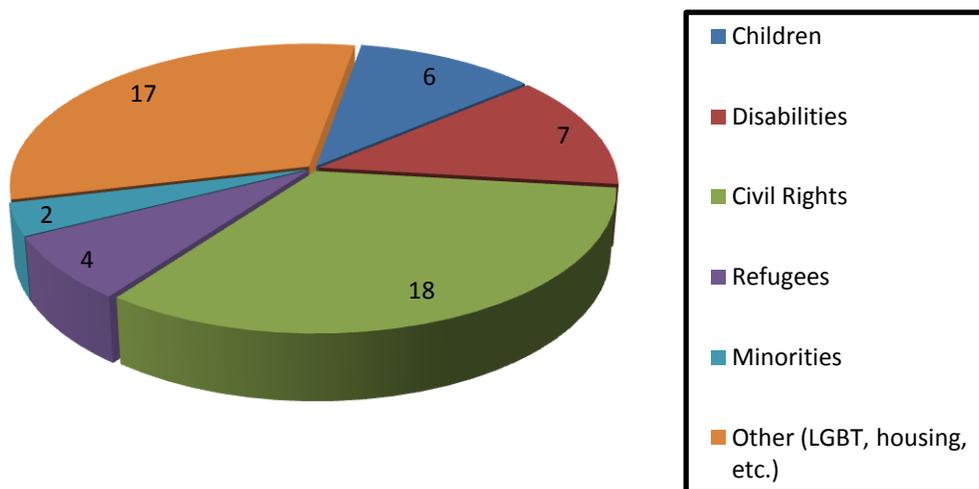
## Matters by NGO Need



The remaining 39% of active matters related to programmatic needs of NGOs, including multi-jurisdictional research and support of litigation and other advocacy strategies.

Of the 90 programmatic matters active in 2009, 54 were in the field of human rights. These matters can be separated further into the following categories: children, disabilities, civil rights (freedom of expression, anti-discrimination, equal opportunities), refugees, minorities, and other (LGBT, housing, etc.).

## 2009 Human Rights Needs by Category



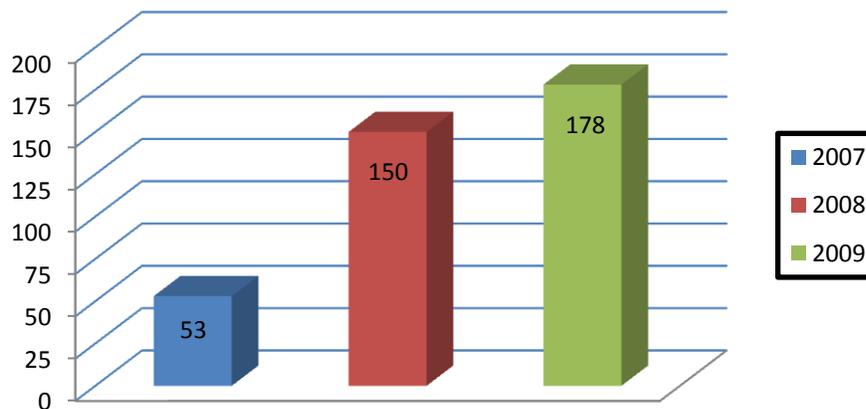
### *Trends in Pro Bono Services*

The number of client matters placed by PILI clearinghouses with pro bono lawyers continues to rise, though at a reduced growth rate compared to the extraordinary jump from 2007 to 2008. As the second chart indicates, the large increase across those two years resulted primarily from an extremely sharp rise in pro bono matters placed in Russia in 2008, the first full year of Moscow clearinghouse activities. That growth trend has since leveled off, and PILI understands that the small downward slide stemmed primarily from increased billing pressures felt by Russia law offices following the global economic crisis that had a slight chilling effect on some of the early enthusiasm for pro bono. Nevertheless, take up of pro bono matters remains rather strong in Russia, and interest in pro bono is increasing especially among Russian-owned firms.

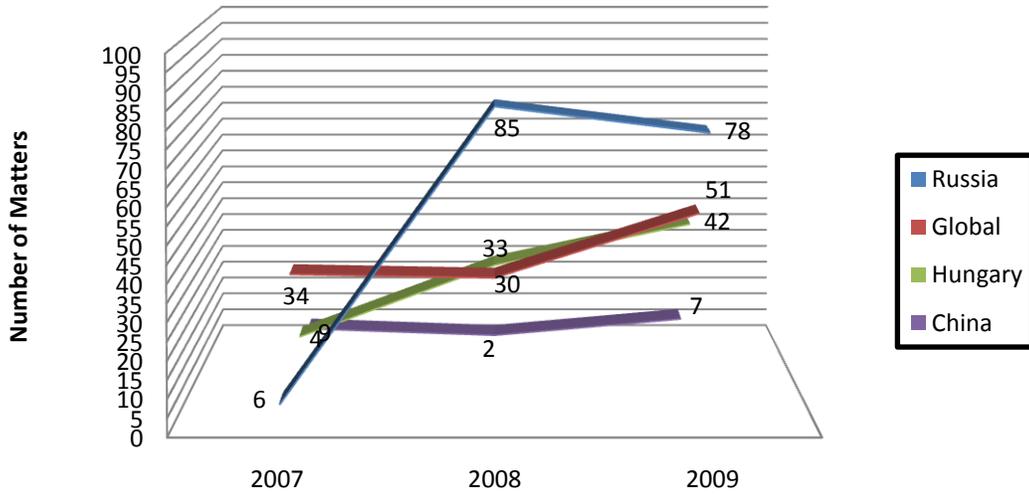
The absolute number of pro bono matters placed in China continues to be small because of the challenging environment for charitable activities generally, particularly as they relate to law, but the growth that PILI's Beijing clearinghouse is experiencing nonetheless is a good indication of the potential for the future.

Overall, PILI's efforts across its clearinghouses continue to bear fruit, with a significant upward trend in matters placed and increasingly widespread engagement of law firms and corporate legal departments.

### Number of New Pro Bono Matters Placed Per Year



## Clearinghouse Activity 2007-2009



## Law Firms and Corporations Providing Pro Bono Services Per Year

