2014 ASIA PRO BONO FORUM

23 May Hong Kong

Asia Society Hong Kong Center

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2014 Asia Pro Bono Forum

亞洲志願法律服務論壇

23 May
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Hong Kong
Welcome from PILnet’s President

I want to personally welcome you to PILnet’s inaugural Asia Pro Bono Forum—a significant step in the expansion and success of pro bono in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pro bono, from pro bono publico ("for the public good" in Latin), refers to voluntary legal services in its simplest definition, and is practiced in many forms by lawyers from around the world. The support of pro bono has long been a pillar of PILnet’s efforts to protect human rights and ensure access to justice.

One of the primary ways in which PILnet sustains pro bono practice is through our clearinghouses, which match free legal assistance from professionals to nonprofits in need of legal assistance. Our pro bono clearinghouses have paved the way for law firms and corporations to make enduring, positive change in their communities and across borders. In 2013 alone, PILNet matched lawyers from over 55 law firms and corporations with 120 nonprofits from 25 countries, ranging from France to Nigeria, Vietnam to Jordan. These clearinghouses also act as a multiplier for the work of PILnet’s International Fellows—a diverse group of over 100 distinguished public interest lawyers—by facilitating links to private legal resources for their NGOs. The Forum is where it all comes together.
The event is a marvelous opportunity for lawyers and NGOs to learn from each other, build alliances and celebrate their collaboration. Participants from our European Pro Bono Forums tell us that they come away with energy, commitment and connections that have lasting impact on their programs.

Our work in Asia has convinced us that now is the time to leverage the growing enthusiasm for pro bono in the region. In creating the event, we had to ensure that it would be relevant to the broad challenges facing pro bono in Asia and also respect the diversity of each context. The agenda takes this into account.

At today’s Forum you will be participating in discussions about what pro bono looks like in Hong Kong and mainland China, Singapore, Australia, Vietnam and India—places where the trajectory of pro bono development is unique, but where practitioners can nevertheless benefit from sharing their experiences. It is more than just talk: you will be able to pick a topic of interest to your own pro bono practice, and work together with others on solutions. This is why we have gathered here.

On behalf of PILnet’s board of directors and staff, I wish each of you a productive conference, and hope that you walk away with fresh inspiration to utilize pro bono resources in service of the justice issues that are dear to you.

Sincerely,
Edwin Rekosh
Founder and President, PILnet
志愿法律服务论坛
PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law envisions a world where the rule of law delivers justice and protects human rights. PILnet collaborates with local partners around the globe to develop the legal landscape essential to rights-respecting societies. We provide lawyers with the tools they need to challenge injustice, help empower citizens to shape law and policy, and connect a global community of public interest-minded lawyers who are using law to serve social needs.

Since our founding 17 years ago, PILnet has figured prominently in efforts to advance rights in Europe, Russia, China, the Middle East, and the other places where we work. Today, PILnet conducts our work globally from hubs in New York, London, Budapest, Moscow, Beijing and most recently, Hong Kong. To ensure that the law delivers justice and protects rights, PILnet focuses on two primary strategies:

**Strengthening the Community of Public Interest Lawyers**

PILnet builds the capacity of public interest lawyers working in NGOs around the world through fellowships and trainings, as well as by providing access to a global network of like-minded advocates, and fostering links to critical pro bono legal support. Through our International Public Interest Law Fellows program, PILnet has transformed the lives and careers of more than 100 leading public interest lawyers from 36 countries who are advancing human rights, environmental protection, and other public interest causes.

PILnet believes that law schools can also play a critical role in producing socially responsible lawyers. Around the world, PILnet promotes clinics and other innovative teaching methods by advancing comprehensive curriculum development, so that law schools are able to more effectively teach ethics, analytical problem-solving skills, and the social impact of the law. PILnet also connects reform-oriented legal educators with civil society and private sector leaders that support improvements in legal education.

**Building Global Pro Bono**

PILnet helps build pro bono culture internationally by providing opportunities for all types of lawyers—including those working at major corporations and large multinational law firms—to engage in public interest work aimed at strengthening civil society. PILnet’s efforts to develop pro bono culture extend from our annual Pro Bono Forums, in Europe and now in Asia, to the pro bono clearinghouses that we operate, which match law firms and corporations with NGOs in need of legal assistance. As global pro bono takes root, PILnet is successfully building partnerships between NGOs on the front lines and lawyers who are willing to provide the legal assistance that NGOs need to strengthen their impact.

For more information on PILnet’s work and to get involved, visit our website at [www.pilnet.org](http://www.pilnet.org).
PILnet 2014 Annual Fund Supporters
(as of 1 May)

PILnet extends its deepest appreciation to the law firms and corporations that make its work possible through their generous support.

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MSD

Be well

PAUL HASTINGS
Thursday, 22 May 2014

14:00–18:00  PRO BONO CLEARINGHOUSE WORKSHOP (by invitation)
Small-group session on how to run a pro bono clearinghouse and discussion of best practices.

Location: 11/F Academic Conference Room
Cheng Yu Tung Tower
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Featured Speakers:
• Atanas Politov | PILnet | Budapest
• Dmitry Shabelnikov | PILnet | Moscow

Friday, 23 May 2014

08:30–9:00  Registration
Location: Asia Society Hong Kong Center,
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

09:00–9:45  OPENING CEREMONY
• Tze-wei Ng | PILnet | Hong Kong

Welcome Remarks:
• Edwin Rekosh | PILnet | New York

Keynote Speeches:
• The Honorable Anna Wu Hung-yuk | Executive Council of Hong Kong | Hong Kong
• Chan Yau Chong | Hong Kong Blind Union | Hong Kong
• Lihua Tong | Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center and Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center | Beijing
PANEL ONE

Does Hong Kong Need Pro Bono?

The legal system in Hong Kong is multifaceted; many different schemes exist to provide free or subsidized legal assistance. This panel will take an in-depth look at what law firms, law schools, bar associations, the government and NGOs are already doing, the challenges faced in practice, and highlight the potential gaps in the system that pro bono can fill to ensure access to justice and quality legal services.

**Moderator:**
- Alan Schiffman | Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom | Hong Kong

**Panelists:**
- Dr. Moses Cheng | P.C. Woo & Co. | Hong Kong
- Mark Daly | Daly & Associates | Hong Kong
- Dennis Kwok | Legislative Council of Hong Kong | Hong Kong
- Deborah Papworth | Linklaters | Hong Kong

Coffee Break

11:00–11:15

PANEL TWO

Does Pro Bono Exist in Mainland China? If So, How?

Lawyers in mainland China recognize the need for more access to justice initiatives, yet face a particular set of institutional and organizational barriers to formalizing pro bono practice. This panel will discuss non-traditional forms of pro bono in mainland China, and ways in which lawyers can fulfill their social responsibility within and outside of the firm structure.

**Moderator:**
- Lynn Li | Wider Pro Bono Center | Shenzhen

**Panelists:**
- William Lu | Shanghai Legal Center for NGO | Shanghai
- Clare Pearson | DLA Piper | Beijing
- Lihua Tong | Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center and Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center | Beijing
- William Zhang | MWE China Law Offices | Shanghai
12:15–13:45  **LUNCH & NGO MARKETPLACE**
An opportunity for NGOs to showcase their work and make connections with other public interest organizations and pro bono lawyers. Information booths will be staffed by NGO representatives to discuss pro bono needs.

13:45–14:00  **AFTERNOON OPENING SPEECH**
- Xin Xu | Beijing Institute of Technology | Beijing

14:00–15:15  **PANEL THREE**

**Pro Bono in the Asian Context**
Pro bono initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region are at different stages of development, but have proven to be an effective means of providing access to justice to marginalized groups. This panel will provide a detailed review of how pro bono practice has been adapted in Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam and India.

**Moderator:**
- Edwin Rekosh | PILnet | New York

**Panelists:**
- Andrew Chuk | MSD | Hong Kong
- David Hillard | Clayton Utz | Sydney
- Tanguy Lim | The Law Society of Singapore | Singapore
- Oanh Ngo | Institute of Research and Support Development | Hanoi
- Swathi Sukumar | i-Probono India | Delhi

15:15–15:30  **INTRODUCTION AND PREPARATION FOR BREAKOUT SESSION**
- Tze-wei Ng | PILnet | Hong Kong

15:30–15:45  **Coffee Break**

15:45–16:25  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Identifying and Overcoming Challenges in Pro Bono Development**
Small-group discussions and in-depth exchanges on different topics relevant to the development of pro bono projects, with a focus on Hong Kong and mainland China.
Group Leaders:

- **Eleanor Lam** | Latham & Watkins | Hong Kong
- **Bruce A. Lasky** | Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative | Chiang Mai
- **Fiona McLeay** | Justice Connect | Melbourne
- **Aleta Miller** | Justice Centre Hong Kong | Hong Kong
- **Virginia Tam** | K&L Gates | Hong Kong
- **Joan Tan** | Latham & Watkins | Hong Kong
- **Brian Tang** | Asia Capital Markets Institute | Hong Kong
- **Helena Whalen-Bridge** | National University of Singapore | Singapore

16:25–17:00  
**FORUM CLOSING**

Sharing from Breakout Sessions: “spark talk” format. Group leaders will have two minutes each to present a summary of highlights from the group discussion to the audience.

- **Seth Gurgel** | PILnet | Beijing

Closing Keynote Speech:

- **Sou Chiam** | Financial Dispute Resolution Centre | Hong Kong

17:30–19:30  
**EVENING RECEPTION**

In Partnership with Dechert

Location: L16 Café and Bar, Hong Kong Park  
19 Cotton Tree Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Special thanks to conference interpreters Sheung-yuen Daisy Ng and Jiang Hong
Forum Speakers’ Biographies

Dr. Moses Cheng Mo-chi, GBS JP, Senior Partner, P. C. Woo & Co
Moses Cheng Mo-chi is the senior partner of P. C. Woo & Co. Cheng served as a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council from 1991 to 1995. He was also the founding chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors, of which he is now the honorary president and chairman emeritus. The firm’s pro bono work includes the establishment of tax-exempt corporations or trusts for charitable organizations and asserting or defending claims on behalf of deserving individuals and bodies. Cheng was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen in 1997 and the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR government in 2003.

Sou Chiam, Chief Executive Officer, Financial Dispute Resolution Centre
Sou Chiam is the chief executive officer of the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre. Starting her career as a corporate lawyer in Malaysia, she was involved in the women’s refugee movement and acted in pro bono human rights cases. Chiam is the founding director of SUARAM, a human rights NGO. She has held positions ranging from senior crown counsel in the Commercial Crimes Unit at the Hong Kong Attorney General’s Chambers and head of the Human Rights Policy Unit in the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. Most recently, as secretary of the Mediation Task Force, she worked on the enactment of the Mediation Ordinance for Hong Kong.

Chan Yau Chong, MBE, President, Hong Kong Blind Union
Chan Yau Chong is the president of the Hong Kong Blind Union and director of EL 2100, an educational organization. He was the executive director of Oxfam Hong Kong from 2001–2006. Chong received one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Awards in 1991, an MBE in 1995, and Honorary Fellowship from the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Chong graduated from the Faculty of Arts of HKU and obtained a master’s degree in information systems from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Andrew Chuk, Managing Counsel, Asia Pacific/China/India, MSD
Andrew Chuk is the managing counsel of Merck (MSD) for the Asia Pacific, China and India region. The responsibilities of the legal team he manages in the region are diverse and cover all corporate legal matters of MSD on a daily basis and, most notably, regulatory compliance and business development. Chuk is a member of the Ontario Bar of Canada and the Law Society of England. He has been practicing law for more than 20 years and prior to that, he worked in the banking industry for over five years. He is stationed in Hong Kong.

Mark Daly, Principal, Daly & Associates
Mark Daly is the principal of Daly & Associates. He is a human rights lawyer who spearheaded the latest test cases involving permanent residence for domestic workers and the refugee principle of non-refoulement in customary international law. As Amnesty International’s
representative, he attended the trial of former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the appeal of opposition politician, Lim Guan Eng. Daly’s firm was named Asian Legal Business’ Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year and was also honored with the Law Society 2011 Pro Bono Law Firm Award. He holds an LL.M. in human rights from the University of Hong Kong.

Seth Gurgel, Director for China, PILnet
Seth Gurgel is PILnet’s Director for China. Gurgel attended NYU School of Law where he was both a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and an Institute for International Law and Justice Fellow. Following law school, he worked for NYU School of Law researching rule of law development and jurisprudence, with a specific emphasis on labor law and criminal justice. Gurgel also has a M.Ed. from The University of Notre Dame, served as an Americorps volunteer in Jacksonville, Florida for two years and as an instructor for various legal education initiatives in China, both at Chinese law schools and in the Anhui countryside.

David Hillard, Pro Bono Partner, Clayton Utz
David Hillard is the pro bono partner at Clayton Utz, and has led Australia’s largest pro bono practice since 1997. Hillard is a long-term advocate for the normalization of pro bono practice at commercial law firms for low-income and disadvantaged people. At Clayton Utz, lawyers must perform at least 40 hours of pro bono each year in order to receive a bonus or promotion. Hillard has served on both the International Bar Association’s and Lex Mundi’s pro bono committees, and is a regular international speaker on how the Australian profession has worked collaboratively to institutionalize a significant pro bono culture.

Dennis Kwok, Member of the Legislative Council, Hong Kong SAR
Dennis Kwok represents the legal functional constituency at Legislative Council, Hong Kong (2012–2016), and is a founding member of both the Civic Party and The Professional Commons, a think-tank on public policy. He is also a core member of the Citizens’ Commission on Constitutional Development, headed by the former Chief Secretary Anson Chan. Kwok holds a law degree from King’s College London and was admitted as a solicitor in the High Court of Hong Kong in 2002. He subsequently joined the Hong Kong Bar in 2006 with a focus on civil and public administrative law.

Eleanor Lam, Counsel, Latham & Watkins
Eleanor Lam is a lawyer and pro bono committee member in the Hong Kong office of Latham & Watkins, and a member of the litigation department. In 2013, the Law Society of Hong Kong awarded Latham the Distinguished Pro Bono Law Firm Award, and in 2014, IFLR Asia named Latham Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year. Lam has extensive experience in complex cross-border commercial litigation and arbitration, and is experienced in regulatory investigations and insolvency related matters. Her pro bono experience includes working on claims made by those seeking refugee status before the UNHCR and assisting Helpers for Domestic Helpers.
Bruce A. Lasky, Co-Director, Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative

Bruce Lasky is the co-founder and director of Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE), as well as BABSEA CLE Australia, BABSEA CLE Singapore and CLE Foundation, where he provides technical and education advisory support for justice education programs throughout the Southeast Asia region. He has over 23 years’ experience in legal aid, clinical legal education and training, including more than 13 years’ experience working in developing countries. He has worked with universities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Australia and the United States, to assist in the development or expansion of clinical legal education programs.

Lynn Li, Executive Director, Wider Pro Bono Center

Lynn Li is the founder and executive director of Wider Pro Bono Center, the first pro bono clearinghouse established in Shenzhen, China. In order to address the critical shortage of legal services for the disadvantaged in Shenzhen, the Center aims to encourage and prepare legal professionals to participate in pro bono activities. Li is a partner at Long An Law Firm and a member of the All China Lawyers’ Association and the public interest legal service committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers’ Association. She received LL.M. degrees from the China University of Political Science and Law and the University of Sheffield, U.K.

Tanguy Lim, Director of Pro Bono Services, Pro Bono Services Office, The Law Society of Singapore

Lim Tanguy is the director of pro bono services at the Law Society of Singapore. His office administers all of the society’s free legal assistance schemes for individuals and nonprofit organizations. Its mandate also includes the promotion of a vibrant and dynamic culture of volunteering among lawyers in Singapore. Prior to joining the Law Society, Tanguy was a practicing lawyer. He currently serves on the partnership committee of The Light, Singapore’s first cross-sector nonprofit leadership network.

William Lu, Chairman, Shanghai Legal Center for NGO

William Lu is a senior associate in corporate and real estate law at Mayer Brown JSM, Shanghai. He is also the supervisor at Grassroots Community, a youth volunteer association and chairman and co-founder of Shanghai Legal Center for NGO (ForNGO). ForNGO provides professional legal services for NGOs; it acts as a clearinghouse for requests for free legal advice, runs capacity building seminars for NGOs, and conducts research on laws governing NGOs in China.

Fiona McLeay, CEO, Justice Connect

Fiona McLeay is the chief executive of Justice Connect, Australia’s largest and oldest pro bono clearing house. It provides access to justice to disadvantaged groups and community organizations, through programs including referral to pro bono lawyers and outreach services. Prior to this, McLeay worked at World Vision Australia as general counsel, amongst various other positions. Before joining World Vision, she was the pro bono co-ordinator at Clayton Utz, managing the firm’s national corporate citizenship program. McLeay has a B.A. (Hons) and LL.M. from the University of Melbourne, an LL.B. from the University of New South Wales and an LL.M. from New York University School of Law.
Aleta Miller, Executive Director, Justice Centre Hong Kong
Aleta Miller is the executive director of Justice Centre Hong Kong. A former advisor to UNFPA in New York on gender and human rights for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Miller worked in human rights and HIV in Myanmar for six years, for UNAIDS and an NGO, and with Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong in the 1990s. She has worked for the Chinese Ministry of Health, and in community development in PNG and in Nepal. Miller holds a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science and holds a master’s in international health. She is a Registered Psychologist (Australian Board, non-practicing).

Tze-Wei Ng, Hong Kong Director, PILnet
Tze-Wei Ng is responsible for managing PILnet’s programs in Hong Kong. She graduated from Columbia University with a LL.M., specializing in law and development, and international human rights. She has researched topics ranging from public interest litigation in China, to corporate governance and corporate responsibility, to transitional justice. Prior to joining PILnet, she was a Beijing correspondent for South China Morning Post for nearly six years, where her reporting focused on legal developments and rule of law issues in China. Ng was awarded the Mark Haas Public Interest Law Fellowship and the Greater China Public Interest Fellowship by Columbia Law School.

Oanh Ngo, Director, Institute of Research and Support Development
Oanh Ngo teaches at the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice’s Judicial Academy, where she is also head of the legal counseling division of the lawyers training department and chairs a legal clinic providing assistance for indigent and child offenders. In 2005, she received her Ph.D. in jurisprudence from the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia. Most recently, she spent a year at Harvard Law School as a Fulbright Scholar. As a PILnet International Fellow, Ngo is developing a project to establish a juvenile justice advocacy center at the Judicial Academy, dedicated to the study and protection of children’s rights in Vietnam.

Deborah Papworth, Managing Associate, Linklaters/Legal Manager, Justice Centre Hong Kong
Deborah Papworth is an employment law specialist within Linklaters’ employment and incentives practice in Asia, with extensive experience in Hong Kong and Australia. Papworth’s practice includes the full range of contentious and non-contentious work, including labor-related transactions with a cross-regional dimension. She is also the pro bono coordinator for Linklaters in Hong Kong, spearheading a variety of pro bono programs in that office. She has also been extensively involved in human rights related work, previously working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and various international NGOs, and she is currently consulting with the Justice Centre Hong Kong as its legal manager.

Clare Pearson, Corporate Responsibility Manager, Pro-bono Counsel, DLA Piper
Clare Pearson is DLA Piper’s corporate responsibility manager and pro bono counsel. She established the firm’s pro bono legal practice in China and has been working with NGOs in the country since 1997. A U.K.-qualified lawyer, her role involves advising clients on corporate governance, supply chain management, environmental degradation and community/government relations. Further responsibilities include establishing partnerships with government charities in China and sitting on clients’ ethics committees in Beijing. Pearson
Atanas Politov, Director for Europe, PILnet
Atanas Politov is the director of PILnet’s Budapest office and head of its pro bono program. He received legal training in his native Bulgaria and worked as a staff attorney for Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights. He received an LL.M. from Columbia Law School and is a former Fulbright Scholar. He has developed large-scale legal aid reform projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, coordinated the contributions of PILnet to legal aid reform in other countries, and has overseen the development of PILnet’s pro bono clearinghouses in China, Hungary, and Russia, and its global clearinghouse. He leads the organization of the annual European Pro Bono Forum.

Edwin Rekosh, President, PILnet
Edwin Rekosh is the president of PILnet, which he founded in 1997. Prior to that, he consulted for the Ford Foundation and Open Society Foundations, worked for the International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights), practiced law at Coudert Brothers, and co-founded the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. Rekosh received the American Bar Association’s International Human Rights Award in 2009. He is a graduate of Cornell University and Columbia Law School, teaches human rights, law and development at Columbia Law School, and has been a visiting professor at Central European University.

Dmitry Shabelnikov, Director for Russia, PILnet
Dmitry Shabelnikov oversees PILnet’s Moscow office and is responsible for PILnet’s work in Russia. He has been leading efforts to promote legal aid and legal education reforms. Following the establishment of the PILnet Moscow office in 2007, he has continued to steer major PILnet strategies, including the expansion of pro bono practice. Before joining PILnet in 2003, he worked in various capacities for the Moscow offices of the American Bar Association’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative and the Ford Foundation. Shabelnikov has authored, edited, and translated several books on public interest law, legal aid and related subjects.

Swathi Sukumar, India Country Director, i-Probono
Swathi Sukumar is the India country director for i-Probono, an organization that connects civil society organizations in need of pro bono legal assistance to lawyers and students who can deliver this assistance. She has her own law practice and appears before the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court. After graduating from NALSAR University of Law, India, she completed her LL.M. with honors at Columbia Law School in the U.S.

Alan Schiffman, Head of Asia Energy & Infrastructure Projects Group, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Alan Schiffman is head of Skadden’s Asia Energy & Infrastructure Projects Group. Schiffman’s practice focuses on the development, financing, acquisition and sale of power plants, energy, infrastructure and gaming/entertainment projects throughout Asia. He has been listed as a leading lawyer in many publications, including Chambers Global, The International Who’s Who of Oil & Gas Lawyers, Asia Pacific Legal 500 and IFLR. He has received the International Law Office’s...
Client Choice Award (2010–2013) and the Law Society of Hong Kong’s Gold Award for his pro bono work (2012–13). He is also a member of the Hong Kong Law Society’s pro bono committee.

Wally Suphap, Corporate Attorney, Latham & Watkins
Wally Suphap is an international corporate attorney at Latham & Watkins, Hong Kong since 2011. Originally from Thailand, Suphap has been actively involved in pro bono work from the time he moved to Hong Kong in 2006, including advising nonprofit organizations and charities, such as LGBT organizations. In 2013, he co-founded the Hong Kong Gay and Lesbian Attorneys Network (HKGALA), the region’s first-ever network for LGBT attorneys, legal professionals and law students. Suphap is currently on secondment at Morgan Stanley’s legal and compliance division. He holds a B.A. in economics and political science and a J.D. from Columbia University in New York.

Virginia Tam, Partner, K&L Gates
Virginia Tam is the pro bono coordinator, women-in-profession coordinator and a partner at the Hong Kong office of K&L Gates. Her work focuses on cross-border corporate transactions for companies in China, and she has been recognized by Asia Pacific Legal 500 for her work in China corporate and M&A. Tam has participated in the Hong Kong Duty Lawyer Service for many years and is a member of the practice management committee and the working group on alternative business structure of the Hong Kong Law Society. Tam has a B.A. from the University of Cambridge, an M.Phil. from Yale University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Joan Tan, Associate, Latham & Watkins
Joan Tan is an associate in the Hong Kong office of Latham & Watkins. Her practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, private equity and capital markets transactions. Tan also advises companies and charitable organizations on corporate governance and general compliance matters. Her pro bono experience includes advising a French nonprofit organization on the establishment of a charity in Hong Kong, a nonprofit organization on commercial exploitation of children in Asia and a human rights charity in a case before the European Court of Human Rights regarding alleged rights abuses in Russia. Tan is also involved in developing Latham’s pro bono corporate advisory practice in Hong Kong.

Brian Tang, Managing Director, Asia Capital Markets Institute
Brian Tang is an experienced corporate finance and capital markets lawyer who has worked in Hong Kong, New York, Silicon Valley and Australia. Before founding Asia Capital Markets Institute (ACMI) last year, Tang was Credit Suisse’s Asia-Pacific investment banking counsel, chairman of its Hong Kong Charity Committee and president of its APAC Microfinance Advocates. He has been a keen long-term proponent of professionals contributing their skills to benefit the communities in which they work, supporting social needs and innovation. Tang graduated with a B.A./LL.B. (Hons) from The University of Western Australia and an LL.M. from NYU School of Law.

Lihua Tong, Director, Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center/Director, Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center
Lihua Tong is director and founder of Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center and Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center. He also serves as director of the Legal Aid Committee of the All-China Lawyers’ Association. More than 400,000
vulnerable people benefited directly from free legal services, and approximately ¥400 million in compensation has been distributed to the beneficiaries. Tong has conducted evidence-based research and undertaken national research programs on important legislation and public policies entrusted by government departments. Tong is referred to as a leader in the field of Chinese public interest law by the media.

**Helena Whalen-Bridge, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore**

Helena Whalen-Bridge is an associate professor at National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law. She teaches legal ethics and advanced legal skills, and has been faculty advisor for the student pro bono group since its inception in 2005. She received the NUS Teaching Excellence Award and serves on the faculty’s teaching excellence committee. She has written “Conceptualization of Pro Bono in Singapore” (*Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, forthcoming 2014) and “Nonprofit Pro Bono” (*Legal Ethics*, 2010). Whalen-Bridge is a member of the Law Society of Singapore’s Project Law Help and pro bono committee, and she worked with UNDP to translate Lao laws into English.

**The Honourable Anna Wu Hung-yuk, GBS, JP, Executive Councillor, Hong Kong SAR**

Anna Wu Hung-yuk is a non-official member of the Executive Council of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR. She is the chairperson of the Competition Commission and of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, and a member of the International Advisory Board of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. She previously served as a member of the Legislative Council and as the chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission and Consumer Council. Wu is a justice of the peace and was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star (2000), the Gold Bauhinia Star (2011) and the Honorary University Fellowship of the University of Hong Kong (2011).

**Xin Xu, Professor of Law, Beijing Institute of Technology**

Xin Xu is a professor of law, tutor of doctoral students and director of the Judicial Research Center at Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT). He is also a part-time lawyer at Beijing Shengyun Law Firm and a former professor of Hainan University and Southwest University of Political Science and Law. Xu has authored several books including *Poetic Justice, Dispute Resolution and Social Harmony, On Private Relief, and British Civil Procedure and Civil Justice Reform*. He has most recently founded the “Da An” legal aid platform, which provides free legal consultation for cases through Weibo.

**William Zhang, Partner, MWE China Law Offices**

William Zhang is a partner at MWE China Law Offices based in Shanghai. Zhang is also the chairman of the pro bono committee of his Shanghai office. He is a China Certified Tax Advisor and China C.P.A. He is a committee member of the international practice law committee of the All China Lawyers Association and a committee member of the tax law committee of the Shanghai Bar Association. He specializes in providing tax dispute resolutions, M&A tax advice and regulatory advice and has extensive experience in these fields. Zhang has a LL.B. and B.A. from South China University of Technology and an M.B.A. from Sun Yat-Sen University.
Additional PILnet Staff and Volunteers

Julie Cheng, Volunteer, PILnet
Julie Cheng is a volunteer at PILnet Hong Kong and is strengthening the capacity of a number of other nonprofits, including UNESCO Hong Kong. Cheng worked in the environment and planning division of Minter Ellison in Australia; she managed the risk, compliance and internal audit division of a listed infrastructure company; and was the in-house legal counsel for a local government on a major environmental and climate change case. She also recently completed a combination of internships and voluntary work in international development, covering South-East Asia, Canada and South America. Cheng has a bachelor of laws degree and a graduate diploma in journalism.

Li Li, Program and Operations Manager, PILnet
Li Li is the program and operations manager in PILnet’s Beijing office. She is responsible for helping to organize and implement projects, providing support for PILnet events, and conducting trainings for project partners. Li majored in finance and earned her bachelor’s degree in economics from Hebei University. She also studied sociology at Peking University and received a master’s in law.

My Khanh Ngo, Research Fellow, PILnet
My Khanh Ngo is a research fellow in the Beijing office of PILnet, where she coordinates PILnet’s China pro bono activities and has been assisting with the launch of the Hong Kong Pro Bono Clearinghouse and the Asia Pro Bono Forum. Ngo is also a non-resident scholar of the U.S.–Asia Law Institute of NYU and has researched labor law, migrant workers, and general public interest law in China. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Yale University, with distinctions in political science and international studies. Ngo will be pursuing a J.D. at Yale Law School starting this fall.

Yongmei Wang, Program Manager and Senior Legal Officer, PILnet
Yongmei Wang is the program manager and senior legal officer at PILnet’s Beijing office. She is responsible for working with PILnet’s partners to design and implement programs in China. Wang is a qualified Chinese lawyer with over six years’ experience in domestic and international law firms. Before joining PILnet, Wang worked at China Law Development Consultants as a program officer for more than three years. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in law from Xiamen University and her master’s degree in maritime law from Nottingham University (U.K.).

Qian Wu, Finance Manager, PILnet
Qian Wu is the finance manager of PILnet’s Beijing office and is responsible for financial functions, including budgeting and accounting. She is also responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of project implementation. Wu has more than a decade of experience with nonprofit groups, including with an organization that promotes the rule of law in China and a U.K. charity. She received her B.A. in economics from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law and her masters in financial and accounting management from the University of Reading (U.K.).
What Is a Pro Bono Clearinghouse?

Pro bono clearinghouses broker free advice from legal professionals for nonprofit organizations in need of legal assistance.

What are the specific goals and principles of a clearinghouse?

- to improve access to justice
- to provide legal advice to all, regardless of race, religion, politics, background or creed
- to promote the rule of law and the use of law as a tool to achieve social justice
- to act independently of governments, funders, law firms, NGOs and other groups
- to raise awareness of pro bono work
- to educate people about the law and development

PILnet’s pro bono clearinghouses

PILnet’s pro bono clearinghouses work with independent nonprofit organizations to connect them to services through its global legal network. They do this by helping NGOs pinpoint their legal needs, and then match these requirements with pro bono lawyers. This expertise is not limited by jurisdiction or region, as PILnet’s clearinghouses can draw on a host of legal skills from all over the world.

What kind of pro bono support is available?

Pro bono support comes in many forms and usually takes place outside of the courtroom. Pro bono projects fall into four broad categories: legal advice and advocacy; legal research; legal analysis and drafting; and legal training. NGOs might require help with a project which combines some, or all of these elements.

How do PILnet’s pro bono clearinghouses work in practice?

In order to ensure the legitimacy of our listings, we begin by having one of our in-house legal officers screen each nonprofit’s credentials. Once approved, PILnet individually works with the nonprofit to help define its legal needs. This cooperation culminates in the creation of a matter, which is a short summary describing the NGO, the request and any other pertinent information, such as the jurisdiction and the timeframe. The matters are pooled into a monthly listing that goes out to all of the cooperating law firms.

Joining is easy. If firms or individual lawyers want to receive the list of pro bono opportunities, PILnet will simply add your email address to the distribution list. There is no membership or other fee required. The list is open to all lawyers and law firms who want to review opportunities.

For more information on clearinghouses, you are welcome to consult the online Pro Bono Clearinghouse Manual, developed by PILnet in collaboration with Advocates for International Development (A4ID): www.probonomanual.org
Introducing PILnet’s newest pro bono clearinghouse in

HONG KONG

JOIN THE PRO BONO COMMUNITY

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PILnet would like to extend a special thank you to its staff and volunteers whose work made the 2014 Asia Pro Bono Forum possible.

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