

Impact Updates

ISLP Newsletter, February 2023 Edition



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Forward

What's Happening at ISLP?

The ISLP team has started 2023 with great momentum: developing new concepts in climate protection, information technology, and anticorruption that expand both our geographic reach and subject matter expertise and that cultivate new partnerships. We invite you to read below about projects supporting infrastructure development using Public-Private Partnerships and protecting online freedom of expression, as well as an outstanding ISLP volunteer who, together with other volunteers, led an ISLP workshop in Quito, Ecuador. Please also visit our updated [website](#) to read recent publications on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues and adapting to the changing global tax environment. We look forward to working with you in 2023!

ISLP Supports Public-Private Partnerships in Nigeria

ISLP provides support for legal structures that support Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in different jurisdictions. While PPPs will not be appropriate for every project, they can allow large-scale government projects, such as roads, bridges, and hospitals, to be undertaken through private sector financing, and can provide governments with access to private capital, accelerated project delivery, transfer of risk, increased innovation, and more efficient management.

In 2022, ISLP completed a capacity-building program on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to government officials from the PPP Office and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) of Ogun State, Nigeria. The program was designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of the PPP Office and the MoJ on the use of PPPs for infrastructure development in order to support sustainable private investment and bolster the ability of the government to effectively manage investor engagements. The two-part program consisted of the following activities:

- a series of virtual trainings and workshops led by *Hunton Andrews Kurth* law firm partners Ryan Ketchum and Jason Parker (also an ISLP board member), and
- a five-day, in-person training and workshop held in Abeokuta, Ogun State delivered by ISLP volunteers Brian Fix, consultant with *Dentons*, and *Alston & Bird* partner Tamer Bahgat.



Day 1 of training, left to right: Mrs Adebimpe Obienu, Director of Commercial Services, Ogun State Ministry of Justice (MoJ); Eniye Ogbebor, Senior Legal Programme Officer, ISLP; Mr Dapo Oduwole, Director-General, PPP Office, Ogun State; Mr Oluwashina Ogungbade (SAN), Attorney General, MoJ, Ogun State; ISLP volunteers Brian Fix and Tamer Bahgat.



Day 5 of training: ISLP volunteers and team member Eniye Ogbebor with the staff of the Ogun State Ministry of Justice, including Mr. Dapo Oduwole, Director General, PPP Office, and Mr Bamidele Adebayo, Ogun State Solicitor General, and other participants.

This training received financial and technical support from the Advocates for International Development's Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) Programme and UKAid.

ISLP Volunteer Spotlight: Suzanne Perry, Partner, White & Case

We are pleased to introduce ISLP volunteer Suzanne Perry, a partner in White Case's Energy, Infrastructure, Project, and Asset Finance Practice. Together with other ISLP volunteers and experts from the region, Suzanne developed and led a training on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Ecuadorian government and private sector participants. The two-day convening, hosted by ISLP and Counterpart International - Ecuador, was part of a two-year, USAID-funded joint project to support multi-stakeholder engagement in Ecuador's [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) National Action Plan](#). More than 40 participants attended the training led by Suzanne, her White & Case partner Jeannine Acevedo, as well as other experts from Ecuador, Chile, El Salvador, Colombia,

and the United States. We thank Suzanne for taking the time to share with us reflections about her experience as an ISLP volunteer. Please [read her comments here](#).



L-R: María Fernanda Garcés of Universidad de los Hemisferios, Felipe Altamirano of the Secretariat of PPPs, Suzanne Perry, ISLP volunteer from White and Case, and Darío Herrera, Minister of Transportation.

Defending Freedom of Expression Worldwide

The human right to freedom of expression is being curbed in countries across the globe through both legislative means and heavy-handed application of repressive laws, often in violation of treaty obligations. The results range from self-censorship on the part of journalists and bloggers to the trial and imprisonment of those whose words offend political leaders. Our Media Law Working Group supports the right to freedom of expression around the world through trainings for journalists, lawyers, and activists; legislative review; and strategic litigation in support of the wrongly accused.

As part of this work and with support from UNESCO's Global Media Defense Fund, ISLP conducted a series of five virtual convenings for local lawyers working on digital rights and media freedom matters in Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Attended by over 300 lawyers from the five countries, the webinars' featured presenters included these lawyers and media personnel specializing in human rights and freedom of expression:

- Richard Winfield, chair of ISLP's Media Law Working Group (MLWG)
- Kay Murray, partner at *Baron Harris Healy*
- Chilombo Mukena, Chapter One Foundation
- Sally Kestin, Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist
- Greg Gonzalez, partner at *Wilkinson Barker Knauer*
- Edrine Wanyama, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
- Catherine Anite, Small Media Foundation
- Jane Chirwa, Media Institute of Southern Africa's Zambia chapter (MISA Zambia)
- Teresa Ndanga, Media Institute of Southern Africa's Malawi chapter (MISA Malawi)
- Custodio Duma, American Bar Association in Mozambique
- Hlengiwe Dube, University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights
- Toby Mendel, Centre for Law and Democracy
- Raphael Vagliano, Centre for Law and Democracy



ISLP has been pleased to collaborate with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) on many initiatives. This vibrant mural celebrating freedom of expression is located outside the offices of MISA-Zimbabwe in Harare. The MISA regional office commissioned the artwork through the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. The image was captured during a recent visit to Harare by ISLP Executive Director Sara Lulo.



About ISLP

The International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit and non-governmental organization founded in 2000. Our mission is to provide pro bono legal support to governments, civil society organizations, and social enterprises in the Global South on matters that advance the rule of law and just, accountable, and inclusive economic development.



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