

LWOB at Spring 2011 CSW Conference

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UNODC Table of Experts 2

PBL: Pro Bono Law Update 2

Namibia Trial Observers 2-3

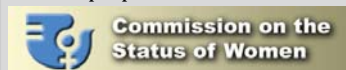
A Veteran's Reflection 3

Three Women's Volunteerism 3

Spring Interns 4

Special Thanks 4

This year marks the seventh anniversary since Lawyer Without Borders (LWOB) was accredited to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2004. LWOB involvement with ECOSOC is far-reaching, and deals with issues ranging from the empowerment of women to economic and social issues. It also includes involvement with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is a functioning body of ECOSOC, established in 1946 to prepare recommendations



and reports on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. In previous years, LWOB has organized and led workshops that made up part of the annual session of the CSW. The annual sessions are held for no less than 10 days (end February to early March) at the UN headquarters in New York.

Continuing with its active involvement, LWOB hosted a workshop

entitled "Thinking Outside the Box, Cutting Edge Techniques to Empower Women and Girls" at this year's conference. This year's workshop, like its predecessors, was tailored to the theme of the



CSW conference which this year was "access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work."

"Thinking Outside the Box" was a 90-minute workshop which involved engaging, dynamic and innovative techniques to showcase creative teaching techniques and educational tools that have been used successfully in a variety of contexts to educate women and

children regardless of geographic location. These techniques have been used to help women and girls make important life choices that eventually lead to education opportunities, economic empowerment and employment.

Keeping in mind the pervasiveness of poverty and its impact, particularly on female education, the workshop utilizes cost-effective resources which are both dynamic and mobile as educational and community outreach tools in conveying important information. These include: comics and coloring books, mixed media, games and video avatars. The event was a great success and the room reached full capacity. It took place in The Drew Room on Wednesday March 2nd, 2011 at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

Chris Kitchel: To Spend Three Months in Kenya for LWOB



Chris Kitchel is a partner at the Oregon based firm Stoel Rives, and has been a trial lawyer for almost 30 years. Her practice focuses exclusively on employment issues, primarily counseling, employment litigation, peer review, and related proceedings. Chris learned about LWOB last summer while attending the North West regional meeting for the American Trial of College Lawyers. One of the speakers at the meeting was Ed Turner, Chair of LWOB's Executive Board, who described LWOB, its mission and its current projects. Interested in the work of LWOB, Chris expressed that she had a 2-3 month sabbatical in

the year to come and would love to get involved in pro-bono work. After contacting Christina Storm, the Kenya project was planned.

While in Kenya, Chris expects to work on logistics for a training program for advocates and judges working with the victims of gender related crimes, such as gender aggression, domestic violence and human trafficking. Her primary goal is to learn more about the NGO's (non-governmental organizations) working in Kenya and what partnering opportunities might exist. Themes of particular interest are inheritance and succession rights of women, land ownership issues and trafficking in persons.

In just a short few weeks Chris has taken on numerous tasks and is working tirelessly for LWOB. Her work has included workshops with



Kenyan Lawyers about the New Constitution, assisting in Conflict Management Workshops, researching gender based violence issues, working with a center and school, "Ray of Hope", that assist women with AIDs and their families. Chris aspires to be one of those women "who are working to help women find their value, find their voice, find their power."



David Gates (USA):

David Gates has recently returned from three weeks at LWOB's Neutral Independent Court Trial Observation Program in Namibia. Mr. Gates, approached LWOB with notable experience in discrimination and civil rights law. He dedicated his time from February 11th, of this year, until March 16th, spending more than a month overseeing the trial process for the Caprivi high treason court case. He finished his observation early as the judge postponed trial, without explanation.

Mr. Gates is a Singapore based Foreign Law Practitioner. He provides litigation support and also gives advice on matters involving international and foreign law. Approaching LWOB with interest in going to Africa and a desire to be involved with non-profit organizations that endeavor to undertake worthy causes meant that volunteering for LWOB in Namibia was ideal for Mr. Gates.

It was David Gate's first trip to Namibia (and Africa as a matter of fact) and he feels that the experience has broadened his horizons. The culture is very different and Namibia is a relatively young country. From David's point of view, the way of living is not (yet) sophisticated, and likewise not very complicated. However, Windhoek is growing and has a lot of potential.

LWOB Joins UNODC Table of Experts

On February 21-22, 2011, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) hosted an expert group meeting (EGM) to gather input for the development of a database of prosecutions and convictions of trafficking in persons. Senior Counsel Dan Foster attended on behalf of Lawyers Without Borders as part of LWOB's ongoing



work on trafficking in persons. The purpose of the database is to assist countries in meeting their obligations under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The database is intended to enable judges, prosecutors, policy-makers, media, researchers and other inter-

ested parties to take court decisions relating to trafficking in persons into account in dealing with human trafficking issues, to promote the uniform interpretation and application of international instruments, to enable judicial actors to consult on practices in different jurisdictions, and to broaden the knowledge of human trafficking crimes, as well as the realities faced by ordinary people victimized by those who would buy, sell and exploit them. UNODC expects to launch the database in mid-2011. UNODC currently plans to select four countries for in-depth research on prosecution of human trafficking.

Although the manner of data gathering, including whether on-the-ground information gathering will be necessary, remains unresolved, UNODC has expressed an interest in

keeping LWOB involved in this process. UNODC is also creating an advisory expert group to advise on the further development of the database, and to provide an initial network of contacts in different regions.

The advisory group will be comprised largely of participants in the February EGM, including Dan. The expert group meeting was made possible by funding from the United States Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking.



PBLL: Pro Bono Law Link Update

Across the globe from New York City to Dubai, LWOB programming is supported by lawyers from firms and companies whose Pro Bono contributions make up the core of LWOB's rule of law projects. The four projects below, managed by LWOB, represent examples of the work being done by pro bono lawyers work working together on LWOB projects.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP Shearman lawyers, in partnership with in-house counsel at **VIACOM** and MTV-UK, are working on gender based violence programming issues in Nairobi, Kenya. Their work will support LWOB's trainings in Kenya on sexual offences.



Linklaters Building on the work conducted in 2009-2010 supporting rule of law in Liberia with the Liberia Bench Briefs and Case Law Digest, Linklaters has a follow up global team indexing and digesting Supreme Court decisions from Liberia from 2008 through the present. In-kind print support from **Thomson Reuters** will enable this supplement to be added to the hard bound versions of the Digest already in circulation throughout the country (Liberia).



Lawyers at McDermott Will & Emery, working with in-house lawyers at Caterpillar, are putting the finishing touches on the Kenya Inheritance & Succession white paper which will become the foundation for LWOB's 2012 training series on the topic.



LWOB launched the first of several research tasks that will support the planned August Trial Advocacy Training in Kenya with a team from Jones Day. The first research topic will provide the nuts and bolts for a training module dealing with the integration of the newly legislated plea agreement procedures into criminal prosecutions.

A Veteran's Reflection: Akua Gyeke



The first experience Akua Gyeke had with LWOB was when she was still a law student at University of Cambridge. She had joined the Lawyers Without Borders-Student Division there. In describing her experience with LWOB she stated, "as I look back, my work with Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) only strengthened the passion I had in development-oriented legal work."

In the summer of 2006, Akua interned for LWOB at facilities hosted by Sherman and Sterling in New York City. Through that firm she was able

to work directly with LWOB as part of an exchange that Christina Storm organized allowing interns to give hands-on support to pro bono activities focusing on rule of law and human rights violations.

Akua's strong interests in doing development-oriented and justice sector reform work and LWOB's activities complemented each other. She feels she "was honing my skills through a real field experience while at the same time supporting LWOB's objectives."

One of the initiatives Akua took part in while working with LWOB included preparing lawyers to become neutral

trial observers and to report back on the conditions of prisons in an East African country in which the political opposition was put on trial by the ruling party. Akua sees the tasks she performed as valuable experiences and she credits them with influencing the work she does today: - "It made our work very meaningful and I remember the work we did fondly and with great pride," she stated. Akua is currently Legal Sector Reform Specialist for the Investment Climate Advisory Services at World Bank Group in Monrovia, Liberia.



Michael Shen (USA):

Michael arrived in Windhoek the 20th of March and plans to oversee the Caprivi Trial until the 1st of April acting as both an observer and an in-country volunteer for LWOB's Neutral Independent Court Trial Observation Program. Mr. Shen, a New York based attorney, approached LWOB and impressed the nonprofit with his notable experience in discrimination and civil rights law.

Out of college, Michael went to graduate school for psychology and worked a few years as a psychologist in San Francisco before attending law school. He has spent the past 30 years as a civil rights and employment rights lawyer, mostly in his own, small firm.

Michael has always had an interest in international human rights, as well as different people, places, and cultures. In the process of retiring, he has begun to explore these different interests. LWOB offered him a way to quickly get involved with human rights issues.

When asked about his experience thus far with LWOB, he stated that he has "been quickly afforded opportunities to get involved with the Namibian trial observer project and to explore UN issues. Everyone at LWOB has been very available, helpful and gracious, with a minimum of formality and an emphasis on getting things done."

The Volunteerism of Three Women



Sarah Welch is from Guilford, CT. She attended Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, the class of 2002, where she majored in International Studies with a focus in Humanitarian Intervention in Post-Cold War World. After, she went to Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI, was part of the class of 2008 with a focus on litigation. She has experience studying law internationally at both Monash University Law Chambers in Melbourne, Australia as well as The University of Canterbury School of Law, Christchurch, New Zealand. Sarah's work experience includes clerk work for the US Attorney's Office, Boston Economic Crime Unit, Clerk for United States Securities & Exchange Commission, Division of Enforcement Boston, and a Civil Litigation Associate at a boutique firm in Connecticut. Additionally, Sarah was a participant at the Student Conference of U.S. Affairs, US Military Academy at West Point. Sarah has expressed great excitement about contributing to the LWOB team. "I think this is an amazing opportunity to commence a career in international law, coupled with the satisfaction of contributing to the development of the rule of law throughout the world."



Meg Appicelli was born in Hamden, CT and now lives in West Hartford, CT. She is a Trinity College graduate in the class of 1986, where she majored in French Language. She spent her junior year of college in France on the Middlebury College program in Paris in 1984-85. There she took classes at the Université de Paris à Nanterre and the Institut d'Études Politiques.

Later, Meg attended Boston College Law School, graduating in 1991. After law school she worked as an associate at Robinson & Cole and then Austin Carey, Jr., P.C., practicing mainly environmental law. More recently, she worked as an assistant to a lobbyist in Hartford. With her children now older, Meg has been looking for a meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunity. She feels that the work that Lawyers Without Borders does seemed to offer her just that. She states, "I saw it as a chance to volunteer in a professional environment, on challenging matters. I hope to be able to put my background to use while learning new skills and contributing to a variety of significant international causes."

Cont. Page 4

THE VOLUNTEERISM OF THREE WOMEN (CONT'D)



Nicole Fitzgerald is originally from CT and recently relocated back to the area after living in New York for the past several years. She earned a BA in English from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY in 2004 and from there, went on to graduate from New York Law School in New York City in 2007.

After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk to a matrimonial judge in Morristown, NJ (the Honorable Stephen Hansbury). Following

this, Nicole moved to a matrimonial law firm in New York City handling all aspects of divorce cases from custody to support and distribution of property. During her time in NY, Nicole had the opportunity to provide pro bono services as part of a program through the New York Women's Bar Association.

Nicole came to LWOB because she has always had an interest in the non-profit world and took this opportunity to explore this interest further. She stated, "I was excited to discover that an NGO like LWOB was based out of

CT and looking for volunteer attorneys. I was also excited to discover that LWOB has a trial advocacy program that was launched in several countries, which really intrigued me, given my litigation background." Nicole looks forward to the opportunity to explore and educate herself about the court systems and trial practices of other countries. She would like to pursue a career path that would allow her to devote more of her time to pro-bono projects, like the work at LWOB.

WINTER/SPRING 2011 INTERNS



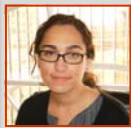
Cecil Tengtanga is a senior at Trinity College double majoring in English and Human Rights. He was born in Malawi and received his early education prior to college in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Last summer he was in Cape Town researching history of the migratory labor systems in relation to xenophobic attacks on immigrant workers in that country. Cecil is a passionate runner and participates in the Relay for Life, a cancer fund raising event at Trinity College, running at least 17 miles to honor survivors and raise awareness. He plans to pursue a JD/MBA program after graduation.



Cyrus Morgan is from West Virginia. He goes to Trinity College, where he majors in Human Rights. Cyrus spent this past summer teaching English, History, and Math in Techiman, Ghana at the Ayisatu Owen International School. He is the co-president of For One World, a club dedicated to providing funds for and raising awareness about the non-profit For One World's efforts in Ghana. He is involved in the intramural sports program at Trinity; and, is also a member of the Save Darfur club at Trinity. He plans to attend law school after graduation.



Allison O'Brien is from New York. She is a senior at Trinity College majoring in Public Policy and Law, with a minor in Spanish. During her junior year she studied abroad in Santiago, Chile and spent the summer of that same year in Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ali became interested in international law and nonprofit work while interning for Amnesty International in Santiago. She plans to work in South America after graduation prior to applying to Law School. Additionally, Allison holds dual citizenship with Ireland and the USA.



Amira Abed is a third year law student at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and is the Administrative Editor of the Connecticut Journal of International Law. A California native, she graduated from the University of California Irvine in Criminology, Law and Society with a certification in Middle Eastern Studies. Amira possesses a strong interest in international law and politics and hopes to continue working with nonprofits when she returns to California.

Border Brief is published by:

Lawyers Without Borders
750 Main Street, Suite 1500
Hartford, Ct 06103

www.lawyerswithoutborders.org



Sean Sheehan is from New Jersey and is currently a third year law student at Western New England College of Law. Before his undergraduate studies, he lived in Canada for a year to play hockey. He went to SUNY Buffalo State College where he majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Spanish. Sean studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he focused on International Business Transactions with Latin America.

A Special Thanks to the:

**Connecticut
LawTribune**

For its contribution of free ad space in issues of the Connecticut Law Tribune seeking
Full time Pro Bono Lawyer Volunteers at LWOB headquarters.

LWOB is a 501c3 Not-for-profit Corporation
Copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

Lawyers Without Borders is in no way affiliated with Doctors Without Borders. Doctors Without Borders is a registered trademark of Bureau International De Medecins Sans Frontieres.