

THE FIVE W's OF PRO BONO

Why, what, who, when and where are the principal questions every lawyer should ask him/herself when the issue of pro bono work arises.

This is my "petit guide" to pro bono lawyering.

- Why= because as professionals we have something to give and there are people out there that need what we have and who cannot pay for it
- What= whatever interests you: international contracts/investment projects, PPPs, extractive industries, anti-corruption, women's rights, children's rights, land rights, training judges and students and lawyers, assisting the drafting of legislation for developing countries;
- Who= every lawyer who wants to give something back to the community
- When= whenever you can; as little or as much time as you can offer;
- Where= wherever you can.

I started my career as a legal services attorney in rural Pennsylvania and then found myself practicing international arbitration and corporate and commercial transactions /mergers and acquisitions in Paris, France.

I found what was missing in my corporate practice in international pro bono principally in Africa, first training Governments in anti-corruption legislation and enforcement and later in counseling Governments on negotiating extractive industry agreements.

The time I have devoted to training, lectures, capacity building seminars and the like has been one of the most intellectually challenging and personally enriching experiences I have had the good luck to experience as a lawyer and human being (assuming you can or should differentiate between the two which shouldn't be the case).

I encourage all of us to do more and better pro bono work to make our world a better place.

Attached a picture of me in South Sudan with the Government officials who attended a capacity building seminar on negotiating extractive industry agreements. It doesn't get much better than that!

My professional profile is on my firm's website: www.artuswise.com