



ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

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We at ProBono.Org fully understand that the Access to Justice ecosystem must become more responsive to the plight of the poor and vulnerable by engaging with like-minded public interest legal entities, law clinics, legal institutions, government and non-government institutions to complement our efforts to reach out to the poor and vulnerable segments of society.

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- Mohamed Shafie Ameermia



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Message from the National Director



I have been at the helm of ProBono as National Director since September 2023, where I was challenged to ensure that the journey of ProBono.Org, that began 19 years ago as a registered law clinic, continues to operate and provide legal assistance to the poor, indigent and vulnerable, through its unique Clearing House model.

ProBono.Org grew from modest beginnings, with limited donor funding from the organised legal profession and the donor community, to become a world-class law clinic that has, to date, attended to over 30,000 cases across its three regional offices and its networks of Community Advice Offices (CAOs) across South Africa.

In 2024 alone, with a total staff complement of 30, it has attended to 6,273 cases and successfully resolved 70% of these cases.

As with any organisation that is dependent on donor funding, the success of ProBono.Org is dependent on its performance outputs and on its accountability to its Board of Directors as well as to its donor funders to whom it reports at regular intervals.

In this regard, I am happy to announce that ProBono.Org has once again published its annual financial reports approved by its Board of Directors, where it has successfully reported on all its projects and programmes in a manner that has met its corporate governance and financial obligations to all its funders, in line with general accounting practices applicable to the industry, and it has once more demonstrated that it continues to provide legal services of a very high standard, with integrity and dignity.

We at ProBono.Org fully understand that the Access to Justice ecosystem must become more responsive to the plight of the poor and vulnerable by engaging with like-minded public interest legal entities, law clinics, legal institutions, government and non-government institutions to complement our efforts to reach out to the poor and vulnerable segments of society. As a collective, we are better able to enable the poor and vulnerable in society to access justice in line with the national goals and targets set out in the National Development Plan goals on Access to Justice (NDP vision 2030), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on access to Justice (UNSDG-Vision 2030) and the

African Union Access to Justice (AU Vision 2030).

For ProBono.Org, this situational analysis requires that we embrace strategic collaboration partnerships for impact with the organized legal profession in South Africa and Southern Africa, as well as to tap into CSI funding initiatives beyond our donor driven fund raising initiatives (mindful of the fact that the benevolence and generosity of the donor community continues to carry us as they have always done over the years, and for which we continue to always express our gratitude).

In this regard we continue to host our Annual Pro Bono Awards events across our three regions where we acknowledge all the stakeholders in gratitude for the successful journey of ProBono.Org in serving the poor and vulnerable communities with dignity.

I wish to report further that in 2024 we have not only strengthened but also complemented our Clearing House model by engaging in strategic public impact litigation. We were successfully assisted through the legal expertise of Norton Rose Fulbright, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the South African Human

Rights Commission (SAHRC) and with the support of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, to support our national athletic icon, Ms Caster Semenya to defend her right to dignity at the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France on 15 May 2024.

Later in the year, we also successfully assisted the initiatives of Norton Rose Fulbright, who appeared before the Khampepe Commission of Inquiry that held the City of Johannesburg responsible for the deaths of 77 victims who succumbed to a fire in a building in the inner City of Johannesburg. The families of these victims, mostly foreign nationals, were unable to afford legal assistance, as many are living in abject poverty.

Another major achievement for ProBono.Org in 2024 was entering into a strategic collaboration partnership with the Empire Partner Foundation (EPF), a proudly owned South African IT Digitech company, who developed and customised a digital case management platform free of charge to the specific needs of ProBono.Org in digitalising and recording the cases done in 2024, with the assistance of our panel of legal practitioners yielding legal assistance to the value of over R30 million. This initiative must be benchmarked

against our operating budget of R12 million.

These are indeed remarkable achievements since we designed our new strategic plan (Access to Justice Vision 2030) in February 2024 and factored in the challenges in the external environment and how it impacts on the work of our organization, as well as our human and financial constraints. We then embarked on a strategy to gain greater visibility to enable ProBono.Org to have a competitive edge and become an organization that has attracted greater visibility and attention to our work on access to Justice.

Our success story at ProBono.Org is reflected in the commitment and dedication of all our staff and the support of an engaging hands-on Board of Directors in steering the organisation to meet the needs of the vulnerable, and where we are all mindful that the journey in serving the poor and vulnerable in society is arduous and fraught with challenges, as funding is becoming increasingly challenging for institutions working in the non-profit sector.

I am reminded that difficult and changing times often bring out the best in those working in challenging environments, where we are all required to work harder and smarter in

addressing societal challenges in the Access to Justice ecosystem. ProBono.Org has become an important stakeholder in this environment to address poverty, inequality and unemployment with the support of the legal profession who have committed their pro bono hours and resources to reach out to the poor and needy so that they are able to live in dignity.

So, as we travel this journey together on the road to constitutional transformation, we must understand that

Change along this road, is inevitable and necessary

Those who ignore change, will perish

Those that adapt to change, will survive

Those who anticipate change, will prosper and

Those who influence change, will transform.

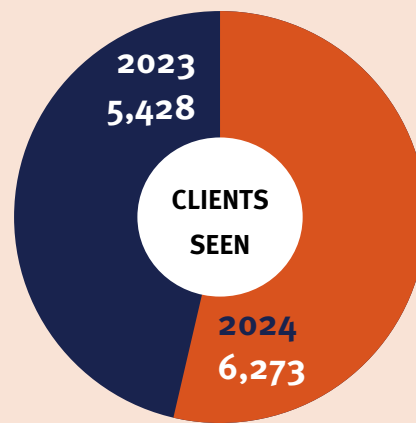
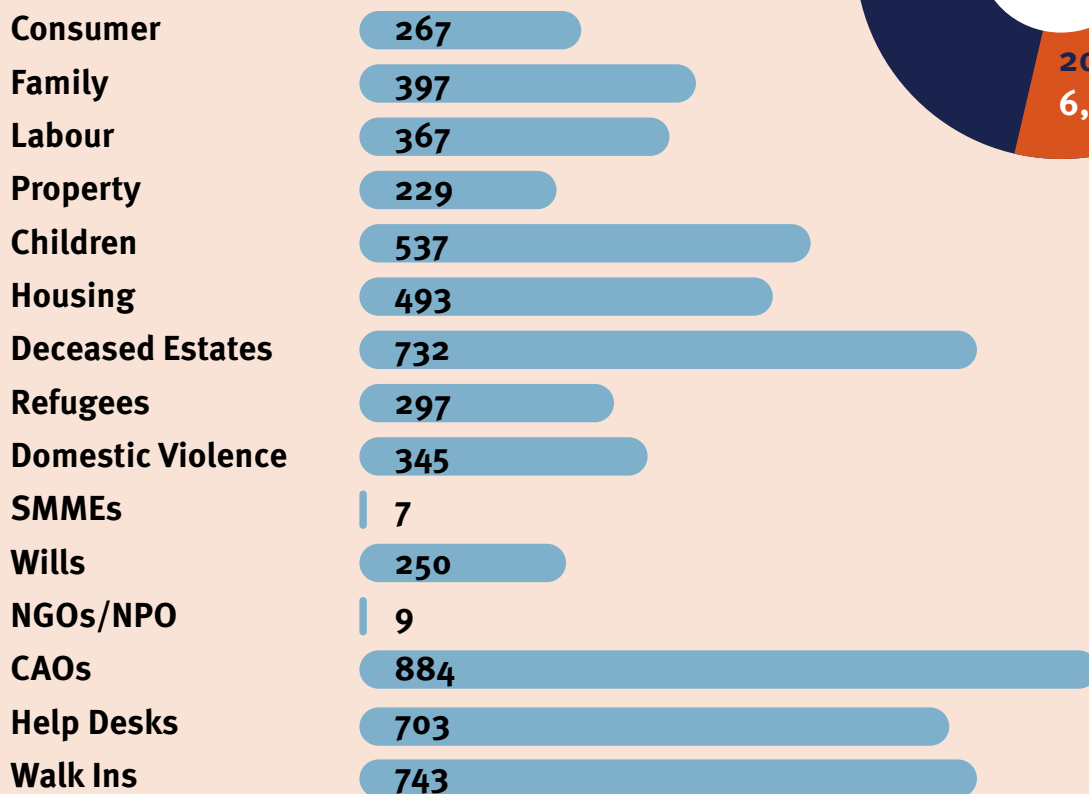
Mohamed Shafie Ameer

**LEGAL
PRACTITIONERS
PERFORMED A TOTAL
OF 10,060 HOURS
OF PRO BONO WORK
VALUED AT
R30,180,270**

Legal Clinics and clients

Client numbers have grown by almost 1,000 since we opened up our offices to walk-in clients once again, having seen clients only by appointment since the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients are also seen through our various free legal clinics, at help desks at courts and in a number of townships.

CASES 2024

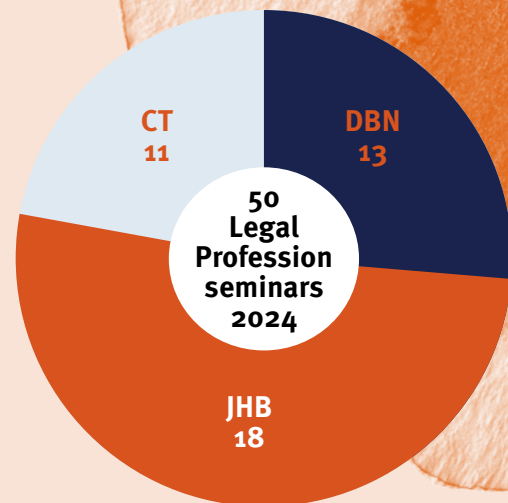
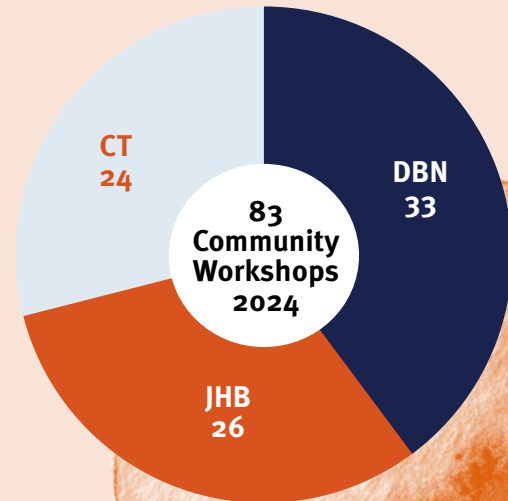


Legal empowerment

Community workshops empower people on their legal rights and provide them with information on the law and various procedures that affect them. They are tailored to address the types of issues that we see from the cases that clients bring to us.

In conducting seminars and workshops for legal practitioners we have continued to make use of webinars, which we introduced during COVID-19. These have proved to be more convenient for them.

Grateful thanks to members of the legal practitioners on our pro bono panel for conducting a large number of these workshops.



COMMUNITY

5,556 community members attended

TOPICS

- Rights of Elderly Citizens
- Domestic Violence
- Enforcing an Arbitration Award
- Legal Protection for Women & Children
- Credit Agreements & Debt Management
- Marital Regimes and Gender Dynamics
- The Importance of a Will
- Status of Muslim Marriages
- Gender Based Violence and

LEGAL PROFESSION

2,651 legal practitioners attended, 1,830 more than in 2023

TOPICS

- Community Service Regulations
- Children's Court Practice
- Sexting
- How to Assist Refugee Clients
- How to Assist Victims of Gender Based Violence and Trauma
- Empowering Women on Land, Housing & Property Rights
- Cyber Harassment and Revenge Porn
- New Rules for the Labour Court and Labour Appeals Court
- Muslim Marriages and the Divorce Amendment Act
- Referring a Case to a Higher Court



Johannesburg Office Report

Introduction

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that ProBono.Org navigated a period of significant transition while remaining steadfast in its mission to facilitate access to justice and serve pro bono clients. This year brought a series of staff changes that challenged us to adapt quickly and maintain our high standards of service. Despite these shifts, our dedicated team demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment.

Through our legal clinics, help desks, community workshops and legal practitioner webinars, we have been able to impact the lives of several community members and facilitate access to justice.

During the reporting period, the Johannesburg office has been able to assist 3,155 clients through our legal clinics and help desks. Of this number, women made up 60% of our clients, 90% of whom were Africans. The elderly, between the ages of 50 and 80, make up 45% of our clients.

We also managed to host 26 webinars for legal practitioners with 686 attendees, and 31 community workshops with 1,016 attendees.

Key successes

In this year, we are proud to celebrate several key achievements that reflect our commitment to expanding our reach and enhancing our services:

16 days of activism event

On 8 December 2023, the Johannesburg office hosted its 16 Days of Activism event for No Violence against Women and Children at Constitution Hill.. The theme of the event was *“Enhancing the effectiveness of GBV legislation through collaboration”*.

The purpose of the theme was to encourage collaboration between various organisations to ensure that women and children affected by GBV have access to holistic support from a variety of stakeholders. The event was for community members and stakeholders. Some of the stakeholders that joined the event were the Commission for Gender Equality, Izwi Domestic Alliance, Centre for Community Impact, Thusang Morwalo Community Advice Office, Women and the Law Community Advice Office and the Dobsonville Human Rights Advice Centre.

The speakers were Ncumisa Sopazi from Lawyers against Abuse, Evah Motha from the Outreach Foundation, Mirriam Mangera from the National Shelter Movement and Theresa Luyt and Karen Malan from the Mediation Network. The speakers offered their insights and expertise on the topic of GBV and its impact on society.

Increased clientele

The number of clients we saw in the past year increased significantly. The running and efficiency of the legal clinics has improved, which allows us to assist more members of the public and offer a more comprehensive service. After the COVID-19 pandemic we preferred to see clients via appointments, but in August 2024 we re-introduced the walk in system, which resulted in an increase in the number of clients that we see on a daily and weekly basis.

Women's access to land, housing and property rights

ProBono.Org partnered with Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) to conduct workshops and training on women's land and property rights, focusing on critical issues such as women's property rights in monogamous and polygamous marriages, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act (ULTRA), and the Conversion of Certain Rights to Leasehold Act. The primary goal of the project was to train 120 legal practitioners across Gauteng, North West and Limpopo and to engage with the Gauteng government on advocating for the legal recognition of the family home. This would in turn equip practitioners with the knowledge to deal with legal issues which affect women's land, housing and property rights.

The training sessions covered several key areas, including the practical application of ULTRA and its role in converting occupation rights to ownership. Participants were provided with templates on how to bring an application under ULTRA, based on the Rahube judgment, and were given guidance on the legal procedures involved. A significant portion of the training also addressed family home disputes, emphasising that women and children are often the primary occupants and most affected by such disputes. The legal implications of the family house within the current property ownership and title deed system were discussed, alongside

the broader issue of women's access to land, particularly in rural communal areas like Limpopo.

During the workshops, it was noted that there was a particularly high interest in the concept of the family house. In Limpopo, practitioners raised concerns about women's access to rural communal land. The findings of a study conducted by the Commission for Gender Equality on land access for women in rural areas was also discussed, highlighting the challenges women face in provinces where traditional councils control land allocation. This led to insightful discussions on the need for legislative intervention to address these issues.

The project also provided education and training to legal practitioners.

ProBono.Org Women's Day Event: Yours in Law

On 16 August 2024, the Johannesburg office hosted its annual Women's Day event. The purpose of the event was to celebrate women who contribute to the work done in the social justice arena and to empower and encourage the other women in attendance.

The four commendable speakers were Adv. Anthea Platt (SC) RSA Bar, Asiphe Funda from Section 27, Martha Chauke-Langa from the Dobsonville Human Rights Advice Centre and Nwabisa Dlova from Lawyers Against Abuse. The event was successful and well received by both the speakers and the attendees.



Information sessions with Legal Practitioners

On 24 July and 31 August 2024, we conducted feedback sessions with the legal practitioners who staff our Master's Clinic and our Family Law Clinic. The purpose of these sessions was to meet the legal practitioners in person, to get feedback from them and to encourage them to take matters on.

The sessions were very useful as we got some important feedback from the legal practitioners. This meeting was also useful as it gave us an opportunity to explain to legal practitioners that there are various ways in which they can assist clients, either by giving legal advice through staffing, drafting correspondence and legal documents for clients or even providing training for candidate attorneys or junior legal practitioners.

Conclusion

We are grateful for the progress we have made and the lives we have impacted over the past year. Despite the challenges posed by staff changes and the overall socio-economic situation in South Africa, our commitment to serving our clients remained unwavering, allowing us to achieve significant milestones and strengthen our community and stakeholder relationships.

The increased clientele and successful training initiatives and community workshops are testament to our collective efforts and the enduring support from our donors and partners.

Nonkululako Sibambato

Women's Day 2024



SPECIAL PROJECTS

We have undertaken several projects that address the needs of vulnerable groups

One Child a Year (OCAY)

The OCAY (One-Child-a-Year) project, initiated in 2014, had a successful 10th anniversary year in that the project exceeded the majority of its targets in relation to cases and training events from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, as follows (the set targets are in brackets):



Mediators' Feedback Session



Cases

1. Once-off advice to (50) children - 75 children assisted
2. Cases accepted for (20) undocumented minors – 112 children assisted
3. Assisting clients who are unable to register the birth of their (20) children – 49 children assisted
4. Refer cases of (40) children to legal practitioners (LPs) – 58 children assisted
5. (40) court referred mediation cases – 213 cases (at least 213 children assisted as many cases have more than one child)

TOTAL: 507 children

Training events

1. International Children's Day 4 November 2023 – 99 children, and World Refugee Day 20 June 2024 – 140 refugees.
2. Human Rights Festival at Constitution Hill 23 March 2024 - dialogue on sexting - 31 parents / teachers attended and participated.
3. Training (30) legal practitioners per year in Children's Court practice – trained 89 legal practitioners.
4. Training (10) mediators to assist and participate in court referred cases for mediation – trained 26 mediators.
5. Training teachers in soft mediation skills to deal with conflict 19 July 2024 – trained 36 teachers.
6. Training legal practitioners to take on cases for refugees and asylum seekers – 145 legal practitioners (webinar on the Refugee Manual - 67 attendees; webinar on late birth registration of children born to one South African parent and one non-national - 49 attendees; webinar on judicial review applications of asylum permits - 29 attendees).

TOTAL attendees: 566

Other engagements and contributions

1. Tracking law and policy developments that impact on children's rights and make submissions 30/11/2023 - Project 100E: The Review of Aspects of Matrimonial Property Law. 3- page submission on 5 particular questions.

2. The Zimbabwean Consulate, Johannesburg. We met with the consul on 24 April 2024 and strengthened our relationship regarding the legal status of Zimbabwean citizens in South Africa.

3. The Department of Home Affairs, Pretoria We met the Director General on 29 April 2024. We discussed various issues regarding asylum seekers, non-nationals and undocumented children in South Africa, and ways to work together in making services available to people.

4. Scalabrini Centre Partnership
27 June 2024 - Meeting with Scalabrini reviewing the delinking of children as dependants on asylum permits. 26 and 27 September 2024 - attended a conference at Scalabrini Cape Town re children on the move. 30 September 2024 - JHB conference by Scalabrini re people on the move.

5. Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR)

19 September 2024 - Meeting with LHR and other stakeholders re blocked IDs of clients.

6 Social justice cases

The project took on 10 cases for clients (children and adults).

7 The project contributed 10 articles to ProBono. Org newsletters and one podcast.

The cases the project deals with do not relate to a specific, designated group of children. The children are random, as and when referred to the project either by the courts, legal practitioners, parents or interested third parties.

The mediation project in the Protea Children's Court in Soweto, Johannesburg has been running regularly on Wednesdays and has been very successful, as can be seen from the statistics. The mediators expanded the project to the Central Johannesburg Children's Court in January 2024. They attend to court referred mediation cases every second Tuesday. The mediators are ready to launch the same service at five more courts should funding be available.

Esabe Steenhuisen

Refugee project

The project found that there remain underlying tensions that might erupt into xenophobia; the migrant community experienced emotional stress and trauma, exacerbated by the bad treatment and service from government departments. Our clients also informed us that hospitals were not only withholding notices of birth, but also refusing migrant children access to any public medical services. Further, schools were not admitting migrant children and not allowing them an opportunity to write the National Senior Certificate, despite the judgment given in *Centre for Child Law and Others v Minister of Basic Education and Others* 2020 (3) SA 141. In this case the court placed emphasis on the right to education which is embedded in section 29 of the Constitution. The right to basic education is an unqualified right and applies equally to both South African and non-South African citizens.

The way the project approached this was to inform the schools on the current law. We invited the principals of one of the schools to our offices where we advised them of the right to education. Our intervention was very helpful, and we managed to assist two children to write their matric examinations, and many more to attend school.

We further engaged with hospitals to provide access to birth records by addressing a letter to the hospital matron, explaining the legal position.

South Africa is tightening its immigration policy. It is discontinuing most special permits for foreigners that allow them to live, work and move freely in the country, including the ZEP for Zimbabweans. Those families with their children were affected in a serious manner. The High Court handed down a landmark judgment where the Minister of Home Affairs was challenged for not extending the long-standing Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) at the end of 31 December 2021. This decision was found to be invalid, unlawful and unconstitutional. The Consortium for Refugees & Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) - of which we are a member - was one of the applicants in the matter. The argument was that the Minister's decision (that no further extensions would be granted to approximately 178,000 Zimbabwean nationals who are holders of a ZEP) amounted to an administrative action which was reviewable under the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, and the inherent principle of legality as enshrined in the South African Constitution. The decision was accompanied by two grace periods of 12 months, the latest once ending on 31 December 2023. The ZEP permits were further extended until the end of November 2025.

The latest attempt to discontinue the ZEP permits unilaterally by the Department of Home Affairs was sent back to the Minister for reconsideration, pursuant to following a fair process which complies with the Promotion of Access to Justice

Act. The ZEP will remain valid for 12 months within this period. Holders may not be arrested, detained or deported and may enter and leave South Africa without having to produce exemption certificates / authorisation letters to continue to reside in the country. The Minister appealed the decision but was dismissed. Thus, the ruling as discussed above is still standing.

Daphne Makombe



World Refugee Day Celebrations In Musina- 20 June 2024

ProBono.Org in collaboration with the Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO) and the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), celebrated World Refugee Day in Musina. Musina is in the north of Limpopo close to the Zimbabwean border, and has a refugee reception centre which receives thousands of refugees a day. Musina was therefore the perfect location to host a World Refugee Day event. World Refugee Day is celebrated on 20 June each year to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threats of persecution, conflict and violence.

Our event was aimed at celebrating and honouring refugees, and the response we received from the community shows that we achieved our purpose.

Community members came out in their numbers. There were performances by the Youth Group from Purpose Driven Ministry and a very touching performance from the Refugee Group which reminded us that we need to treat each other with humility and kindness.

A social worker from the Department of Social Development spoke on the services that they offer and that these services also extend to refugees. We also had a representative from the Department of Health, who emphasised the importance of building inclusive healthcare systems. We were also joined by organisations such as Future Families, the Red Cross, the International Organisation for Immigration and the Outreach Foundation. The event further strengthened ProBono.Org's presence in Musina and the work done for refugees/migrants in the area.

World Refugee Day



Addressing Gender Based Violence

In our on-going commitment to combat Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), we have successfully implemented a multifaceted approach through this project. Central to our efforts are the help desks we operate with the assistance of law firms such as Norton Rose Fulbright, Bowmans, Webber Wentzel and Clarks Attorneys. These help desks provided vital assistance to people impacted by GBV. These help desks serve as safe havens, offering support and legal assistance to survivors, ensuring that they are not alone in their journey towards justice and recovery.

In addition to our direct support services, we conduct community workshops aimed at empowering women and children and raising awareness about their rights and available resources. These workshops foster a supportive environment where participants can share their experiences, learn from one another and build resilience within the community. In this reporting period, we were able to conduct 10 community workshops with a total of 497 participants.

As part of this project, we also conduct legal practitioner webinars designed to educate legal practitioners, paralegals and law students on the critical importance of a trauma informed approach when working with GBV survivors. By equipping legal practitioners with the necessary

tools and understanding, we aim to enhance the legal support available to survivors, facilitating their access to justice. In this reporting period we conducted 3 webinars with a total of 112 attendees.

Our overarching goal is to create a significant impact within the community, ensuring that survivors of GV are not only heard but also empowered to seek justice and healing. Through our collective efforts, we are paving the way for a safer and more equitable society for all.



Orange Farm GBV workshop

Community Advice Office Support Project

This year, our partnership with the Community Advice Offices has significantly enhanced our outreach as an organisation, allowing us to connect with diverse communities more effectively. Through this collaboration, we have fostered greater trust in the legal and justice system, empowering individuals to advocate for their rights with confidence.

Our initiative included a series of community workshops and training sessions designed to equip local community advice office paralegals with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide effective support. Additionally, we extend financial assistance to help sustain these efforts and ensure that resources are available for those in need.

Nonkululeko Sibambato



16 Days at Orange Farm



Freedom Day Event, Durban

Pro Bono / Community Service Regulations

On 11 August 2023 the Minister of Justice published regulations on mandatory community service by practising legal practitioners and candidate legal practitioners. Candidate legal practitioners must render at least 8 hours of community service per annum and practising legal practitioners, at least 40 hours.

The aim is to broaden access to justice through community service and/or pro bono legal services. Currently the regulations are under scrutiny by the Legal Practice Council and implementation has been deferred. ProBono.Org has provided input on both the regulations and the draft guidelines circulated for comment by the Legal Practice Council.

The much-anticipated regulations will benefit poor, underprivileged and marginalised persons / communities in society – especially children.

Durban Office Report

Over the past year, our organisation has continued to serve our community with dedication and commitment. Through our legal services, educational initiatives and community engagement, we have impacted the lives of many individuals, ensuring access to justice and legal support for those in need.

During this reporting period, we assisted a total of **1 813 clients**, addressing a wide range of legal issues and ensuring that individuals received the necessary support and guidance. Our key accomplishments include:

- Drafting **188 Wills**, providing individuals with peace of mind regarding their estate planning.
- Hosting **13 Attorney Workshops**, attended by **362 legal professionals**, aimed at enhancing knowledge and expertise in various legal matters.
- Conducting **29 Community Workshops**, which engaged **768 attendees**, empowering communities with essential legal knowledge.
- Organising **5 Facebook Live sessions**, reaching an audience of **2,651 participants**, and extending our legal education efforts to a broader audience.

- Our work on **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** matters has increased significantly, particularly through our **community engagement seminars**, where we provide crucial legal education and support to survivors.

This year, we successfully hosted several important events that underscored our commitment to legal education, advocacy, and community engagement:

- **Freedom Day Event:** A significant highlight of the year, this event featured our esteemed keynote speaker, Justice Yacoob, and a distinguished panel, including Judge Yacoob, Judge Jappie, Advocate Andrea Gabriel SC, and Attorney Sanelisiwe Nyasulu of Garlicke and Bousfield Inc. The panel discussion focused on the role of the legal profession in recognising and promoting the rights of vulnerable individuals. We extend our sincere gratitude to Norton Rose Fulbright SA Inc. for hosting this impactful event and supporting our mission.
- **Women's Day Event:** In collaboration with **Shepstone and Wylie**, we celebrated the contributions of women in the legal profession who dedicate their efforts to giving back to the community.

- **Cine Centre Partnership:** We partnered with **Cine Centre** to provide a free screening of *One Humanity*, a powerful documentary that highlights the global movement towards the end of the apartheid regime. This initiative helped foster discussions on justice, equality and human rights.

We extend our deepest gratitude to **HIAS** for funding our **Refugee Project**, which has enabled us to assist clients with refugee law matters and train attorneys to take on these critical cases. Their support has been instrumental in ensuring that

vulnerable individuals receive the legal assistance they need to secure their rights and future.

We are proud of the progress we have made over the past year and remain committed to serving our community with integrity and dedication. We thank our partners, funders and supporters for their invaluable contributions, and we look forward to another year of making a meaningful impact in the legal landscape.

Nicole Laljit, Regional Manager

Nicole Laljit



Cape Town Office Report

2024 has seen the Cape Town office moving its offices to Shortmarket Street – a stone's throw away from the bustling central Greenmarket Square. One would think that the office move would have slowed down the office's operations, but to the contrary the Cape Town office has gained a renewed vigour to effect access to justice for those who most require pro bono legal services. With a dynamic team of 6, the Cape Town office has managed to assist **719** people in office by consulting with clients directly. In order to reach clients where the need lies - in their communities - the Cape Town office set up legal clinics in areas such as Bonteheuwel, Mbekweni, Mitchell's Plain and Khayelitsha where private legal practitioners provided pro bono legal advice. As a result, **564** clients received much-needed legal assistance in their areas of residence. Similarly, **24** legal education workshops were presented to **1,124** community members by passionate private legal practitioners willing to empower people with legal knowledge. By establishing legal clinics and help desks in low-income areas, the Cape Town office looks forward to creating greater impact.

Key Achievements

- In November 2023, ProBono.Org held workshops in collaboration with the Department of Social Development and **Lipco Law for All** on Gender-Based Violence and Maintenance. The workshops, which took place in Paarl and Strand during 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children, focused on spousal and non-spousal abuse, protection orders and child maintenance. By arranging workshops in semi-rural areas, ProBono.Org aims to ensure that legal education is accessible for all.
- On 27 November 2023, **Mosaic** collaborated with ProBono.Org to present a workshop on Gender-Based Violence in relation to Marriage and Divorce. Mosaic Training Service & Healing Centre provides direct, urgent and practical long-term care and support services to survivors of domestic and intimate-partner violence. The powerful workshop was aimed at GBV survivors.
- We had a successful Family Law Series collaboration with **ENS Africa** and the **Women's Legal Centre** in Mitchell's Plain. The Women's Legal Centre employs a comprehensive approach encompassing litigation, advocacy, education,

legal advice, research and training. The series, which took place in October and November 2023, dealt with marriage and divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, child maintenance as well as abuse.

- In 2024, the Cape Town office entered into an agreement with **Partners in Sexual Health Radio** (“PSH Radio”) to be interviewed for a weekly radio segment discussing legal issues. PSH Radio is an internet-based radio station that features interviews and discussions on topical issues related to Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (A&YSRHR) across Africa.
- ProBono.Org recognises the importance of promoting careers in the public interest law sector as well as of stressing the impact that rendering pro bono legal services has in transforming our unequal society. With the above in mind, in July 2024 the Cape Town team participated in the **Varsity College** Career Fair to encourage their students to pursue a career in the social justice sector. In the same month, the Cape Town office participated in the **University of Western Cape** Career Xpo for the same purpose.
- On 10 and 30 August 2024 the Cape Town Regional Manager presented guest lectures to **University of the Western Cape** first-year students to discuss ProBono.Org, community service and pro bono legal services.
- In July 2024, the Cape Town office moved its premises to 26 Shortmarket Street. The offices are secure, centrally located in Cape Town’s CBD, situated close to public transport amenities and are wheelchair-friendly.
- The Cape Town Regional Manager and the Cape Town Staff Attorney were interviewed as part of the ProBono.Org/Empire Partner Foundation podcast series during the month of June 2024 to discuss deceased estates and labour law.
- On 18 July 2024 (on Mandela Day), the Cape Town team launched a monthly Legal Clinic in the Retreat area staffed by **Varsity College** students. The aim of the legal clinic is to fulfil the legal needs of community members residing in Retreat and surrounds as well as upskilling Varsity College law students seeking to gain experience in consulting with clients.

- In order to address the scourge of gender-based violence in far-flung, under-resourced areas, on 6 August and 13 August 2024 ProBono.Org facilitated “Protection Orders and Maintenance” Workshops in collaboration with **LIPCO** in Mbekweni, Paarl and in Nomzamo, Strand.
- A collaborative legal series was launched in August 2024 (Women’s Month) in partnership with Mosaic and the Women’s Legal Centre. The purpose of the collaboration was to equip women who have been victims of domestic abuse about the legal processes and implications in civil and criminal proceedings related to abuse. The workshops highlighted the sensitivity of the topic as the participants opened up about their traumatic circumstances, and the workshop addressed the legal aspects of their issues, eliciting favourable feedback.
- The Cape Town office took part in various activities during Wills Month in September 2024. It hosted a Wills workshop in Harare and collaborated with the Master of the High Court (Cape Town) in order to present a Wills workshop in Mbekweni. Furthermore, the Cape Town office facilitated and staffed Wills Legal Clinics in Khayelitsha, Paarl and the Cape Town CBD ahead of Wills Week.
- To educate survivors of gender-based violence, the Cape Town office has hosted a number of legal education workshops at the **Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children**.
- ProBono.Org hosted various legal clinics in Bonteheuwel throughout the year in collaboration with Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies to assist people with their deceased estates, family law, property law and labour law matters.
- The ProBono.Org team collaborated with **Norton Rose Fulbright** to host a number of attorney training webinars on topical legal issues.

Masi Ncube, Regional Manager

Masi Ncube



Workshop in Elsies River



CAPETOWN



Pro Bono Awards 2024

Johannesburg Awards Ceremony

The Johannesburg annual awards ceremony, kindly hosted once again at Bowmans on 7 March 2024, had an excellent turnout from the legal profession.

Penuell Maduna gave the official welcome on behalf of Bowmans, followed by an engaging and amusing keynote address by former Constitutional Court Justice Zak Yakoob.

We are grateful to all the legal practitioners who give up their time to take on pro bono cases, present workshops and staff our legal clinics in 2023. Special awards on the night went to:

Child Law

Heather Pretorius from Fiona Marcandonatos Inc.

Labour Law

Inbam Pillay – LEM Consulting

Family Law

Tracy Marais – Tracy Marais Attorneys

Wills

Norton Rose Fulbright SA Inc. (Candice Pillay and her team)

Domestic Violence

Fatima Laher, Bowmans

Housing

Sarah Goldman, Lawtons Africa



AWARDS

Pro Bono Awards 2024

Deceased Estates

Patricia Afagwu – Umennaka Attorneys Inc.

Deeds & Conveyancing

Norton Rose Fulbright SA Inc. (Carina van Vuuren and her team)

Community Advice Office

Orange Farm Human Rights Centre - Richard “Bricks” Mokolo

Refugee Law

Ndou Attorneys

Varsity College Student Group

Group 1, Pretoria Campus

Individual Student

Michaella Grove – Pretoria Campus

Advocate Award

Loyiso Mokapela SC and Thato Mokhethi

University Law Clinic Award

Natasha Ellen Bekker, University of Pretoria

In addition, there were a number of Special Mentions. These went to Charl Albasini, Virginia Sekgothe, Elgene Roos, Jennifer Finnigan, Alan Jose and Fasken.

Thanks to our generous sponsors – Spier and AJS, to Yonela Mnana for the music and to our donors, partners and colleagues who attended and celebrated the occasion with us.

Margaret Fish, Communications Manager

STAFF 2024

Johannesburg Staff

Mohamed Shafie Ameerma

Pretica Singh

Margaret Fish

Nonkululeko Sibambato

Elsabe Steenhuisen

Aphiwe Nonyukela

Daphne Makombe

Given Mazibuko

Lesego Vakalisa

Fina Diba

Nonkulumo Zuke

Nonkululeko Nomatshaka

National Director

Finance Manager

Operations, Grants & Communications Manager

Senior Staff Attorney

Children's Project Manager

Housing & Refugee Attorney

Legal Consultant

Office Manager

Varsity College Coordinator

Administrator

Receptionist

General Worker

Interns

Masontaga Malatja

Nomvula Sibeko

Precious Maredi

Mence Chauke

Yonela Yame

Hellen Motau

Bridgett Nzimande

STAFF



Durban Staff

Nicole Laljit
Pearl Khumalo
Lethiwe Ngubane
Gugulethu Makhanya
Purity Mbeje

Regional Manager
Staff Attorney
Staff Attorney
Administrator
General office worker

Interns

Nomkhosi Mqadi
Nqobile Mswane



Cape Town Staff

Masi Ncube
Staff Attorney
Aasiyah Phillips

Regional Manager
Siphokazi Mlindazwe
Administrator

Interns

Ayesha Bray
Siviwe Dube





Directors 2024



Mohamed Randera, Chairperson



Candice Pillay



Ilan Lax



Meluleki Nzimande



Odette Geldenhuys

Sayi Nindi



Wendel Bloem (resigned July 2024)



Mohamed Shafie Ameerma



DIRECTORS

Financials

2024

PRO BONO ORGANISATION
(ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
UNDER SECTION 21)
REGISTRATION NO.
2007/002099/08

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	R	R	R
ASSETS	7 219 216	7 314 297	7 779 459
Non current assets	129 877	67 809	100 565
Equipment	129 877	67 809	100 565
Current assets	7 089 339	7 246 488	7 678 894
Accounts receivable	748 408	683 050	354 177
Accrued income - Misereor	-0	-0	648 314
Investments	4 698 716	5 089 777	6 389 680
Cash and cash equivalents	1 642 215	1 473 661	286 723
Total assets	7 219 216	7 314 297	7 779 459
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	7 219 216	7 314 297	7 779 459
Reserves	712 711	712 711	846 968
Accumulated surplus	582 834	644 902	746 403
Equipment fund	129 877	67 809	100 565
Current liabilities	6 506 505	6 601 586	6 932 491
Accounts payable	99 111	271 652	376 510
Deferred income	6 068 299	6 126 348	6 299 373
Refund to donors	77 965	-	-
Provision for leave pay	261 130	203 586	256 608
Total reserves and liabilities	7 219 216	7 314 297	7 779 459

Financials

2024

PRO BONO ORGANISATION
(ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
UNDER SECTION 21)
REGISTRATION NO.
2007/002099/08

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	R	R	R
INCOME	12 432 562	10 284 567	8 299 020
Grants and donations	11 792 213	9 823 833	7 967 705
Rental income	-	16 180	-
VAT refunds	193 000	-	-
Interest and dividends received	447 349	444 554	331 315
EXPENDITURE	12 432 562	10 418 824	10 187 360
Annual report	-	-	22 079
Assets expensed directly	20 374	15 822	17 893
Audit and secretarial fees	72 555	115 594	137 410
Award ceremony	26 993	19 379	15 675
Bank charges	30 328	23 847	16 415
Computer expenses	134 380	114 155	96 010
Consulting fees	204 704	140 875	89 946
Depreciation of fixed assets	50 968	96 231	98 154
Equipment hire, repairs and maintenance	451 885	295 021	260 007
Donor refunds	250 820		
Insurance	52 695	51 599	46 056
Irrecoverable VAT	59 682	14 493	89 796
Loss on investment	-	-	51 633
Office supplies	114 275	102 260	169 586
Printing and stationery	97 204	23 026	39 071
Programme expenses	1 460 902	1 306 759	534 069
Provision for leave pay	57 544	(53 023)	(30 201)
Rent, parking, water and electricity	1 543 838	1 200 805	960 489
Salaries, wages and contributions	7 297 392	6 566 883	7 154 005
Staff recruitment and training	9 269	23 064	5 781
Subscriptions	32 020	24 513	4 025
Telephone	152 719	220 829	177 914
Travel and accommodation	161 451	86 895	52 486
Strategic meetings	118 375	11 250	158 591
Website costs	32 189	18 547	20 470
(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	- 0	(134 257)	(1 888 340)
TRANSFER (TO) GRANTS	- 0	- 0	- 0
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	644 902	746 403	2 570 326
TRANSFER TO EQUIPMENT FUND	(113 036)	(63 475)	(33 737)
DEPRECIATION	50 968	96 231	98 154
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	582 834	644 902	746 403

FINANCIALS

Financials

2024

PRO BONO ORGANISATION
(ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
UNDER SECTION 21)
REGISTRATION NO.
2007/002099/08

GRANTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

GRANTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED	2024	2023	2022
	R	R	R
GRANTS			
The Atlantic Philanthropies	1 374 439	1 500 000	-
Anglo American Chairman’s Fund	-	-	45 089
Australian Volunteers International	-	-	392 277
Claude Leon Foundation	603 625		
Constitutionalism Fund	3 005 770	2 000 000	2 000 00
CS. Mott Foundation	1 186 152	1 442 801	1 490 229
Embassy of Ireland	-	200 000	-
First Rand Foundation	1 500 000		
German Embassy	181 549		
H C I Foundation	252 000	387 525	102 020
HIAS	66 090		
Misereor	779 352	1 193 626	1 427 809
Open Society Foundation for South Africa NPC	-	400 000	800 000
Raith Foundation	1 298 111	87 500	112 500
SASSETA	-	-	-
Varsity college	750 000	1 275 000	762 000
DONATIONS			
Bowman Gilfillan Attorneys	150 000	179 000	100 000
Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr	75 000	75 000	90 000
Fasken Martineau	150 000	200 000	100 000
Legalwise	-	50 000	-
R B Hagart Trust	-	-	250 000
Johannesburg Bar Council	25 000	-	25 000
Norton Rose	100 000	50 000	-
Webber Wentzel	250 000	250 000	250 000
Weksmans	20 000	-	-
Sundry donors	25 125	33 379	20 781
	11 792 213	9 823 831	7 967 705

Donors

2024

DONORS

Constitutionalism Fund



Claude Leon Foundation



C S Mott Foundation



First Rand Foundation



German Embassy



HCI Foundation



HIAS



Johannesburg Society of Advocates



Misereor



Raith Foundation



Bowmans



Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr



Fasken

FASKEN

Norton Rose Fulbright SA Inc.



Varsity College



Webber Wentzel



Werksmans



www.probono.org.za

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Telephone: 087 470 0721 fax: 086 665 6740

