LexMundi
Pro Bono Foundation

Lawyers helping social entrepreneurs change the world

20 YEARS OF IMPACT

2006 — 2026

PHOTO CREDIT: Mountain Hazelnuts

Contents

Key Findings at a Glance
Letter from the Managing Director
Acknowledgments
About the Foundation
Twenty Years in Context
The Value of Two Decades
Case Study: Mountain Hazelnuts
Sector and Geographic Diversity
Case Study: EarthEnable
What We Heard
- Clients
- Law Firms
- Collaborators

Case Study: Tatum Robotics
The People Behind the Numbers
Case Study: Thaki
Awards and Recognitions
Case Study: Health Care Without Harm
Looking Ahead
Join Us
Appendix

Back to Contents

Key Findings at a Glance

92%

of clients say equivalent legal support would have been inaccessible, difficult, or only available at significant cost.

82%

report value creation to a large or very large extent (55% choosing “very large”)

93%

rate the match between law firm expertise and organizational needs as good or very good

9.4 / 10

client Net Promoter Score for the Foundation (85% promoters)

150,000+

estimated hours of pro bono legal work contributed over two decades

$90M

estimated social value at current market rates

9.7 / 10

collaborator Net Promoter Score, with 94% promoters and zero detractors

100%

Every collaborator that used the Foundation for its own legal needs said it reinforced their confidence in referring others

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Letter from the Managing Director

Twenty years ago, our founders had an idea. Partners at Lex Mundi's Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts member firms, one a Lex Mundi Board member, spent time traveling the world, meeting pioneers in the social impact space and asking a question that nobody had asked before: *What would it look like if the extraordinary legal talent inside this global network were turned toward the world's most urgent problems?* What they found was a largely unmet need for transactional legal support among the mission-driven organizations working on the front lines of poverty, climate, health, education, and human rights. And what they built, from that conviction, was the **Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation.**

This report is what **twenty years** of answering this question looks like.

Since 2006, **138 Lex Mundi member firms** have worked alongside **1,400 social enterprises and nonprofits** on well over **3,000 legal matters across 120 countries.** For the first time, through an independent impact assessment, we can put a credible number on what that commitment represents: **an estimated $90 million in pro bono legal services**, freely given to organizations working on some of the most consequential problems of our time.

When I first saw that figure, it stopped me cold. Not because I doubted this network, but because $90 million brings into focus the scale of what has been built over two decades. It is the cumulative force of thousands of individual acts of generosity, expertise, and care, delivered by the best law firms in their respective jurisdictions, to organizations that would otherwise have had no path to that quality of counsel.

The organizations on the receiving end of that generosity feel it acutely. **Ninety-two percent of clients** told us that equivalent legal support would have been inaccessible or unaffordable without the Foundation. **A trademark secured at a critical moment. A new market entered. An investment unlocked. A governance structure that allowed a founder to finally focus on their mission instead of their legal exposure.** Our client satisfaction score of 9.4 out of 10 tells us these engagements are not just useful. *They are transformative.*

We are proud of what this community has built. Deeply, genuinely, proud. And that is the reason we cannot stop here.

The world that social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders are operating in today is in some ways more challenging than the one our founders surveyed twenty years ago. The landscape of philanthropic and government funding has shifted dramatically. Access to justice is under pressure in ways that would have been difficult to imagine a decade ago and the communities that mission-driven organizations serve are bearing the weight of this instability most acutely.

We enter our third decade with the proof of concept firmly in hand, a growing body of thought leadership shaping the environment in which social enterprises operate, and a network of firms whose commitment to this work continues to deepen. What we built was never just a matchmaking service. It was an argument, made through action over twenty years, that pro bono legal expertise belongs in the hands of the organizations changing the world.

That argument has been heard. The work of ensuring it reaches further, sustains itself, and continues to grow is the work ahead.

To the attorneys across this network who have given their time, their expertise, and their genuine care: this report belongs to you. To the foundations, donors, and member firms whose financial commitment makes our work possible: we are profoundly grateful. And to the social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders we serve: we are proud to be in your corner, and we are not going anywhere.

The next twenty years begin now.
We are glad you are in this with us.

Isis Bous
Managing Director

Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Acknowledgments

The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation exists because of the generosity of a remarkable community of supporters who believed in this work before there was data to prove them right.

Twenty years ago, eight foundations, more than 100 Lex Mundi member firms, and 60 individuals provided the startup funding that set this organization on a successful path. We remain deeply grateful to those whose early investment made everything that followed possible: **The Clement Family Trust, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Kellogg Action Lab, The Lemelson Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Shell Foundation, and The W.K. Kellogg Foundation.**

Since 2014, every Lex Mundi member firm has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to this mission through a portion of annual dues, a collective investment that provides the stable foundation from which we operate and grow. Year after year, a growing number of firms and individuals go meaningfully beyond that commitment with supplemental financial contributions. Their extraordinary generosity is what allows us to meet the rising demand for pro bono legal support and continue expanding our reach.

We are also grateful to the foundations and donors whose support helps us close our funding gap and serve an ever-increasing number of social entrepreneurs: **AARP, Halloran Philanthropies, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.** And to the dozens of individuals who have joined our Impact Alliance, your personal commitment to this mission means more than we can say. We welcome others who share this vision to join you.

Special thanks to Allison Laubach, our Legal Program Manager. Her dedication and care for this work, and for the organizations we serve, make everything in this report possible.

This report would not exist without the expertise, rigor, and dedication of the team at **Common Good Marketplace**, who conducted the independent impact assessment at its heart. Their work gave us, for the first time, the evidence to tell this story fully and credibly.

Finally, a complete list of the Foundation's collaborating partner organizations, whose referrals and relationships are essential to everything we do, can be found at **lexmundiprobono.org**

"Our partnership with organizations such as the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has enabled us to contribute to impactful projects that strengthen institutions, support access to justice, and drive social progress within our communities. Through the matters referred to us by the Foundation, we have gained access to a global network of legal experts whose guidance has proven invaluable in navigating cross-border pro bono work."

Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia
Deputy Managing Partner

Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie
Nigeria

99 Avocats Associés
ABNR Counsellors At Law
* Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS
Advokatfirman Vinge KB
AF Mpanga
* Afridi & Angell
* Akerman LLP
ALC Advogados
Alvarado Y Asociados
Arendt & Medernach
Arias, Fábrega & Fábrega
* Arthur Cox
ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners
Asters
Baird Holm LLP
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Barrow & Williams LLP
* Basham, Ringe Y Correa, S.C.
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC
Bennani & Associés
Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah
Bernstein Shur
Blair Sterling Johnson & Martinez P.C.
* Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Bowmans
* Brigard Urrutia
Bun & Associates
Burness Paull LLP
Butler Snow LLP
* Butzel
C.R. & F. Rojas - Abogados
* Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP
Case Lombardi, A Law Corporation
Čechová & Partners s. r. o.
CERHA HEMPEL Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Chiomenti
Chrysostomides Advocates & Legal Consultants
* Clarke Gittens Farmer
Claro & Cia., Abogados
Clayton Utz
COBALT Law Firm
Confluent Law Group
* Crowe Dunlevy
Crowley Fleck PLLP
D. L. & F. De Saram
* Davis Graham
* Day Pitney LLP
Deacons
* Demarest Advogados
Divjak Topic Bahtijarevic & Krka Law Firm
Dudley Newman Feuerzeig LLP
* Ellex Klavins
Ellex Valiunas
* Estudio Olaechea
Facio & Cañas
* Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
* Farris LLP
Floissac, Du Boulay & Thomas
* Foley Hoag LLP
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Frost & Fire Consulting
* Ganado Advocates
Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I.
Grant, Joseph & Co.
* GUFA Law
Guyer & Regules
Hamel-Smith
* Harris Beach Murtha
* Hassan Radhi & Associates
Hawley Troxell
* Houthoff
Hughes, Fields & Stoby
* Jenner & Block LLP
* Jones Walker LLP
JPM & Partners
JunHe LLP
Kelsick, Wilkin & Ferdinand
Kromann Reumert
Lakatos Köves & Partners
Law Firm of Mohamed Al-Sharif
* Lee & Ko
LEGA
* Liedekerke
LOGOS
Marval O'Farrell Mairal
* Marxer Attorneys
Maynard Nexsen
* Mayora & Mayora, S.C.
* McConnell Valdés LLC
McInnes Cooper
McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes
MdME
MGB Law Offices
* Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
Misick & Stanbrook
Moghaizel Law Office
* Morais Leitão, Galvão Teles, Soares Da Silva & Associados
Morrison & Foerster LLP
* Mourant
Myers, Fletcher & Gordon
Nestor Nestor Diculescu Kingston Petersen
Nishimura & Asahi
* Noerr
* O'Neal Webster
Pekin & Pekin
Pellerano & Herrera
* Penkov, Markov & Partners
Pérez Bustamante & Ponce
Peroni Sosa Tellechea Burt & Narvaja
* Pestalozzi
Pradhan & Associates
PRK Partners
* Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C.
RIAA Barker Gillette
* Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.
Romero Pineda & Asociados
* Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles
* Roschier, Attorneys Ltd.
* Rose Law Firm, a Professional Association
* S. Horowitz & Co.
Said Al Shahry & Partners (SASLO)
Šelih & Partnerji Law Firm
* Shalakany Law Office
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co
* Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, PA
Simpson Grierson
Skrine
* Snell & Wilmer
* Steptoe LLP
Stites & Harbison, PLLC
* Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners
* The Legal Circle
* Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
* Tilleke & Gibbins
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
* Tsar & Tsai Law Firm
* Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie
* Uría Menéndez
VANEPS
* Walkers
* Wardyński & Partners
Webster LP
* Womble Bond Dickinson
* Wyche
* Zepos & Yannopoulos

*Special thanks to those who have provided additional funds above and beyond over the past three years.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

About the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation

Inspired changemakers are working around the world to improve access to education, fight disease, combat global warming, protect civil rights, lift people out of poverty, and more. For every grand challenge, there are dedicated social entrepreneurs and nonprofits working on creative, innovative solutions. They are, without question, more successful when they have access to high-quality legal advice. They scale faster, serve more people, and achieve greater impact.

That is the simple premise at the heart of everything we do.

For twenty years, the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has connected top-tier commercial law firms with mission-driven organizations at the moments when legal expertise becomes a determining factor: incorporation, cross-border expansion, fundraising, regulatory compliance, intellectual property protection, governance reform, and more. By mobilizing that expertise across jurisdictions, we bring within reach the kind of counsel that would otherwise remain inaccessible to most organizations in the social impact sector.

Our flagship offering is our legal matchmaking program. We source and vet legal needs from high-impact social enterprises, scope those needs into clear and well-defined projects, and match them with skilled Lex Mundi member attorneys who bring both subject matter expertise and genuine local knowledge. Once matched, the legal relationship belongs entirely to the firm and the client. We step back for privilege and confidentiality purposes, but remain available to support the relationship as needed. Matches are made on a project-by-project basis, but there is no limit on how many times an organization can come back to us, and many do, year after year, with increasingly complex needs.

Beyond matchmaking, the Foundation plays an active role in strengthening the broader environment in which social entrepreneurs operate. We produce and contribute to legal research, policy reports, and thought leadership in collaboration with organizations like the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the United Nations.

We provide legal mentoring to help social entrepreneurs become more effective consumers of pro bono services. We create and distribute guidance documents on common legal issues affecting social enterprises. And we convene and connect the pro bono community across the Lex Mundi network, fostering a culture of service that extends well beyond any single matter.

This report is the first comprehensive, independently conducted assessment of that work. Drawing on new survey data from clients, partner law firms, and collaborating organizations, alongside twenty years of portfolio records, it traces what this network has built, quantifies the value of the legal support delivered, and tells the stories of the organizations behind the numbers. It is both a record of what has been accomplished and a foundation for what comes next.

"The Foundation has been a key partner to Morrison Foerster's pro bono program. We have received dozens of referrals of interesting, impactful pro bono projects that have been a great fit for our attorneys' skills and interests. Beyond that, we have loved collaborating with the Foundation on thought leadership projects, such as the Social Enterprise Policy Report, which identifies legal structures and policies nations can adopt to catalyze the advancement of social enterprises around the world. The Foundation plays a vital role in ensuring that nonprofits and social enterprises have access to legal information and counsel."

Rachel Williams
Senior Pro Bono Counsel

Morrison Foerster
USA | California

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

TOTAL JURISDICTIONS 13/13 TOTAL FIRMS

"For an international nonprofit like TechnoServe, establishing a local entity and navigating contracts, tax requirements, and labor regulations can be both essential and complex. When we launched our office in Chile in 2008 to support entrepreneurs and local communities, Lex Mundi connected us with Claro & Cia., a leading local law firm. The firm's pro bono legal counsel has been instrumental in helping us establish and grow our work in Chile, and one of its partners has even served on the board of our local entity. Their support has enabled us to focus on what matters most: creating economic opportunity for people in need."

Juan Carlos Thomas Soto
Vice President Entrepreneurship & New Ventures

TechnoServe

TechnoServe works with men and women in low income communities to ensure they gain the skills, confidence, and connection to build competitive farms, businesses and industries. By linking people to information, capital, and markets, they have helped millions to create lasting prosperity for their families and communities.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

SOIL

Transforms human waste into rich organic compost to provide safe sanitation and restore depleted ecosystems in Haiti.

Employment | Contracts | Nonprofit Governance

"We are so appreciative of the unique combination of professionalism and empathy that the Lex Mundi team brings to relationships."

Sasha Kramer
Co-Founder and Executive Director

SOIL

"Access to high-quality pro bono legal advice enables Women's World Banking to confidently pursue creative solutions to complex problems in an evolving international legal landscape. The partnership and support of the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and its member firms have been invaluable to our work."

Kristina Schwartz
General Counsel

Women's World Banking expands financial inclusion for low-income women in emerging markets by designing accessible banking products, policies, and investments.

"The support that we have received from the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and from member firms has been incredible. The legal assistance has helped us with a number of critical legal matters and has been key to our organization's ability to grow our impact within our budgetary constraints. We are incredibly grateful for Lex Mundi's dedication in connecting us with top-notch lawyers who have worked hard on our behalf. "

Nick Lum
Founder

Beeline Reader applies eye-guiding color gradients to digital text to make reading on screen easier and more accessible.

Back to Contents

Twenty Years in Context

When the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation was established in 2006, pro bono legal work looked very different than it does today.

In the West, many law firms were likely to have formal pro bono programs. But the work itself was concentrated almost entirely on traditional legal aid: criminal defense, immigration, housing, and family law. The client was understood to be an individual in crisis, not an organization with a mission. Across much of the rest of the world, structured pro bono practices were rare.

Social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders, those building innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems, were simply not part of the conversation. A few isolated efforts were beginning to offer transactional legal support to small charities, but these were the exception rather than the rule, limited in scope, concentrated in a few western markets, and focused on the most traditional nonprofit structures. Mission-driven organizations, including for-profit entities requiring sophisticated transactional counsel, were not considered qualified pro bono clients. This meant that thousands of organizations working on global health, climate resilience, gender equality, economic inclusion, and more did not have a realistic path to the legal expertise required to sustain their operations and scale their work.

The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation sought to change this.

From day one, the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation focused exclusively on transactional legal services for mission-driven organizations, work that no one else was systematically providing on a pro bono basis. We built the infrastructure to match complex legal needs with qualified firms across jurisdictions at a time when cross-border pro bono simply did not exist as a practice. We made the case to Lex Mundi member firms, the leading independent law firms in their respective countries and regions, that social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders deserved the same quality of legal counsel as their corporate clients. That pro bono was one of the most powerful tools a law firm had for making a difference in the world. And we took that argument everywhere, including places where the concept of structured pro bono was entirely new.

Over the twenty years that followed, the landscape changed dramatically. Transactional pro bono for mission-driven organizations moved from the margins to the mainstream. Intermediary models emerged and spread. Eligibility frameworks expanded. Firms that had never engaged in formal pro bono programs began to build them. The global pro bono movement grew into something substantial and lasting. We do not claim sole credit for that transformation.

What we built, and what this network demonstrated was possible, helped show the world a new way to think about what pro bono could be and who it could serve.

"I am so pleased that Lex Mundi Pro Bono is thriving after all these years. My colleague, Barry White, from our Massachusetts firm, came up with the idea of utilizing the power of our global membership to provide pro bono legal assistance to social entrepreneurs. He and I pitched the idea to Carl Anduri (Lex Mundi's President at the time) and Lex Mundi's executive committee in late 2005. With some skepticism they approved the concept, I set up a 501c3, and the rest is history. Thanks to the leadership of Chloe Holderness and then Isis Bous, the firms took hold and delivered."

Dave Roll
Founder, Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation

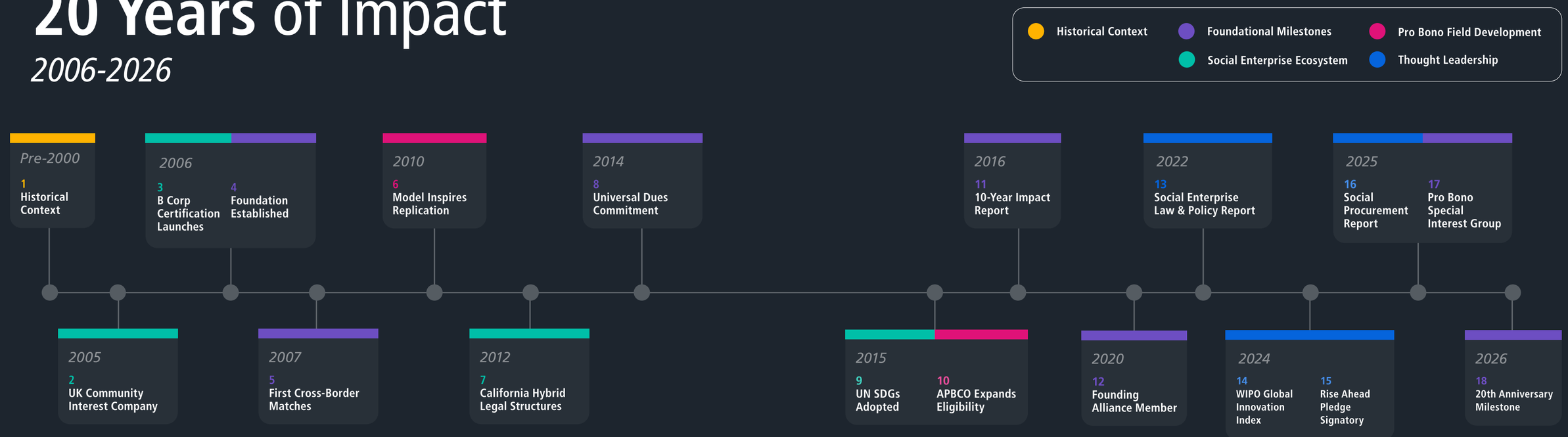
Former Partner and Chair, Steptoe
USA | Washington, DC

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

20 Years of Impact

2006-2026



1. Historical Context
A small number of organizations begin offering isolated transactional pro bono legal support to charities, but this is largely limited to conventional nonprofits in Western markets. While organizations such as Ashoka, Echoing Green, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, and the Skoll Foundation have been established to identify and support the world's leading social entrepreneurs, they still typically lack access to legal assistance. The Foundation soon fills this gap and these capacity-building organizations, among others, become the Foundation's earliest collaborators.

2. UK Community Interest Company:
The UK introduces the Community Interest Company (CIC), the first major government-recognized hybrid legal structure featuring a strict asset lock to protect community interests.

3. B Corp Certification Launches
B Lab is incorporated and launches the B Corp Certification framework, formally recognizing for-profit companies with social and environmental missions.

4. Foundation Established
The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation is established as the first global pro bono network dedicated to providing transactional legal services to social entrepreneurs.

5. First Cross-Border Matches
The Foundation begins matching social entrepreneurs with member firms across jurisdictions, providing cross-border transactional pro bono support at a scale that had not previously existed.

6. Model Inspires Replication
Other organizations begin developing similar intermediary models for transactional pro bono support, validating the approach the Foundation pioneered four years earlier.

7. California Hybrid Legal Structures
California officially launches the Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) and the Flexible/ Social Purpose Corporation (SPC), creating a mainstream corporate blueprint for the venture-backed startup ecosystem. While Maryland was the first U.S. state to pass benefit legislation in 2010, California's 2012 activation, followed closely by Delaware in 2013, served as the primary catalyst for mass adoption over the next decade across more than 40 U.S. States and triggered a wave of global evolution, heavily inspiring international statutes like Italy's Società Benefit (2015), Colombia and Latin America's BIC framework (2018), and France's Entreprise à Mission (2019).

8. Universal Dues Commitment
Every Lex Mundi member firm commits to supporting the Foundation through annual dues, providing stable, recurring funding and full institutional backing.

9. UN SDGs Adopted
The United Nations adopts 17 Sustainable Development Goals, providing a universal framework for measuring and aligning social enterprise impact.

10. APBCO Expands Eligibility
The Association of Pro Bono Counsel expands its eligibility framework to recognize social enterprises as appropriate pro bono clients, bringing the Foundation's mission further into the mainstream nine years later.

11. 10-Year Impact Report
The Foundation publishes its first comprehensive impact report, documenting 95 member firms supporting more than 450 social entrepreneurs across 57 countries.

12. Founding Alliance Member
The Foundation is a founding member of the COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurs (now The Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship), an initiative by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in partnership with the World Economic Forum. In the first months of the pandemic, Lex Mundi coordinates guidance on government support across 104 jurisdictions.

13. Social Enterprise Law & Policy Report
The Foundation coordinates 66 Lex Mundi member firms across 83 jurisdictions to conduct research for the landmark Social Enterprise Law & Policy Report, which launches at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos. It is subsequently cited by the OECD, WEF, and Geneva Centre for Philanthropy.

14. WIPO Global Innovation Index
The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) incorporates the Foundation's Social Enterprise Law & Policy Report into the 2024 Global Innovation Index, and the Foundation is recognized as a strategic partner at the launch event.

15. Rise Ahead Pledge Signatory
The Foundation becomes one of 13 original signatories of the Rise Ahead Pledge at Davos, alongside organizations including Microsoft, SAP, EY, and the Bayer Foundation.

16. Social Procurement Report
Lex Mundi member firms contribute expertise across 39 jurisdictions to the State of Social Procurement 2025 report, which launches at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.

17. Pro Bono Special Interest Group
The Foundation launches a Pro Bono Special Interest Group to connect professionals across the Lex Mundi network, drawing participants from 45 member firms across every region at its first meeting.

18. 20th Anniversary Milestone
The Foundation marks its 20th anniversary as an independent impact assessment confirms $90M in donated legal services, 3,000+ projects matched, ~1,400 social enterprises supported and 120 countries reached since inception.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

GRAVITY WATER

Combines rainwater harvesting with gravity-fed filtration to provide schools in developing nations with clean drinking water.

Regulatory | Intellectual Property

"As a small nonprofit, legal matters like compliance and protecting our intellectual property felt overwhelming. I knew they were essential to reducing risk in our work, but high-quality legal support was simply out of reach. Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation stepped in to connect us with expert legal assistance at no cost, helping us address critical needs and build lasting partnerships with several firms we continue to work with today. We're deeply grateful for their ongoing support, which gives us the confidence to focus on our mission of delivering safe water to communities in need around the world."

Danny Wright
Founder and Executive Director

Gravity Water

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION LEXMUNDIPROBONO.ORG

Back to Contents

"For two decades the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has connected member firms like Foley Hoag with exceptional social impact organizations tackling urgent challenges in their communities and around the world. The high quality of the matters enables our lawyers to provide meaningful, practical counsel that in turn helps clients strengthen their operations, scale their missions, and expand their reach. We are grateful for the Foundation's thoughtful partnership and proud to be part of a global network that makes high-quality pro bono legal support available where it can make a lasting difference."

Rebecca Cazabon
Pro Bono Counsel

Foley Hoag
USA, Massachusetts

"We at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas have been working with the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation for over a decade now – this is a testimony to how wonderful our partnership has been. But true partnership is not measured just in time, instead it is measured in the impact created and the value we can create for those who need it. Thanks to the incredible work that the Foundation has done in its last 20 years, firms like ours have a platform to help create that impact and value and for this we are grateful to the Foundation! We look forward to continuing our work with the Foundation as its members navigate new challenges of legal changes, regulatory compliances and a changing world order. Congratulations to the Foundation on the legacy it has created in the last 20 years!"

Shahana Chatterji
Partner

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co
India

"We greatly appreciate the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation's efforts in carefully vetting organizations and working with them to develop clear, well-scoped requests before connecting them with network firms. For Tilleke & Gibbins, this approach has led to interesting, challenging, and meaningful pro bono engagements with a variety of NGOs and other organizations. This work has provided our attorneys with opportunities to broaden their professional experience with a diverse range of legal matters that they may not have otherwise encountered."

Eric Meyer
Counsel

Tilleke & Gibbins
Thailand

Back to Contents

ORANGE CORNERS

Supports young entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to build sustainable, profitable businesses that contribute to more inclusive and prosperous societies.

- **Masterclass Support**

FREEFROM

Helps survivors of gender-based and domestic violence build the financial security needed to achieve long-term safety.

- **Intellectual Property**
- **Regulatory/Research**
- **Contracts**

SOLARBUDDY

Replaces harmful energy sources to help children learn, keep families healthy, and allow communities to thrive.

- **Consultation**
- **Nonprofit Formation**
- **Regulatory**
- **Intellectual Property**
- **Tax**

"Meeting the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has been a game changer for SolarBuddy. The Foundation and the member firms' skill and dedication has enabled us to move at the scale and pace so essential to our mission. We consider these critical partnerships in the fight to end extreme energy poverty."

Joanna Cantwell
Chief Development Officer

MERCY CORPS

Delivers crisis relief and sustainable development assistance globally.

- **Consultation**
- **Registration**
- **Finance/Fundraising**
- **Research**
- **Regulatory**
- **Contracts**
- **Due Diligence**
- **Advocacy**
- **Data Privacy**

COVA

Builds sustainable, low-cost water chlorination systems for rural communities across Central America.

- **Nonprofit Governance**

CONVERGENCE

The first and only platform that helps public and private investors find and connect with each other to co-invest in blended finance deals in emerging and frontier markets.

- **Research**
- **Regulatory**
- **Finance**

"We owe so much to the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation for the deep support from a number of your talented member firms over quite a long period. We could not have gotten to our launch date without your backing. We remain so impressed with Lex Mundi!"

Joan Larrea
CEO

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

The Value of Two Decades

Twenty years of pro bono legal work through the Foundation's network has produced a portfolio the social impact sector rarely sees quantified: thousands of matters delivered across dozens of practice areas, in more than a hundred countries. And, in recent years, our momentum has continued to build. Annual matter volume grew from 202 matters in 2020 to 316 in 2024, an increase of more than 50%. For the first time, we set out to put a credible number on what that work is worth. The answer is approximately

$90 million

That figure represents what the portfolio of legal work delivered through the Foundation's network would cost at current market rates. It is the point at which multiple scenarios in our analysis converge, and it reflects something we know to be true about how Lex Mundi firms engage with this work: these are sophisticated, full-service commercial law firms bringing partner-level expertise and multi-lawyer teams to nearly every engagement. When we model the hours and staffing patterns that firms themselves reported and apply market rate benchmarks appropriate to that caliber of work, $90 million is where the numbers land.

The approach is bottom-up: survey data on how matters are staffed and how much time they take, crossed with external benchmarks on what that time would cost at market rates. Those inputs were modeled across a range of scenarios to produce not just a single figure but a full sensitivity table that shows how the estimate moves under different assumptions. The range runs from a conservative floor to a higher ceiling, with $90 million sitting at the intersection of our middle and upper scenarios.

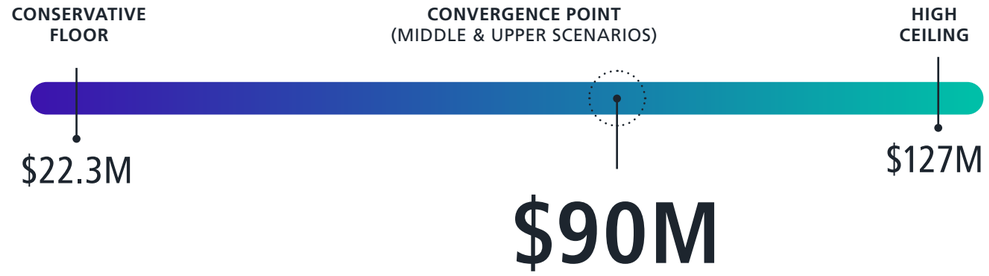
What the number captures, in any scenario, is the same thing: legal expertise that would have been priced entirely out of reach for the organizations that received it, delivered at a standard of quality that the social impact sector rarely sees.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

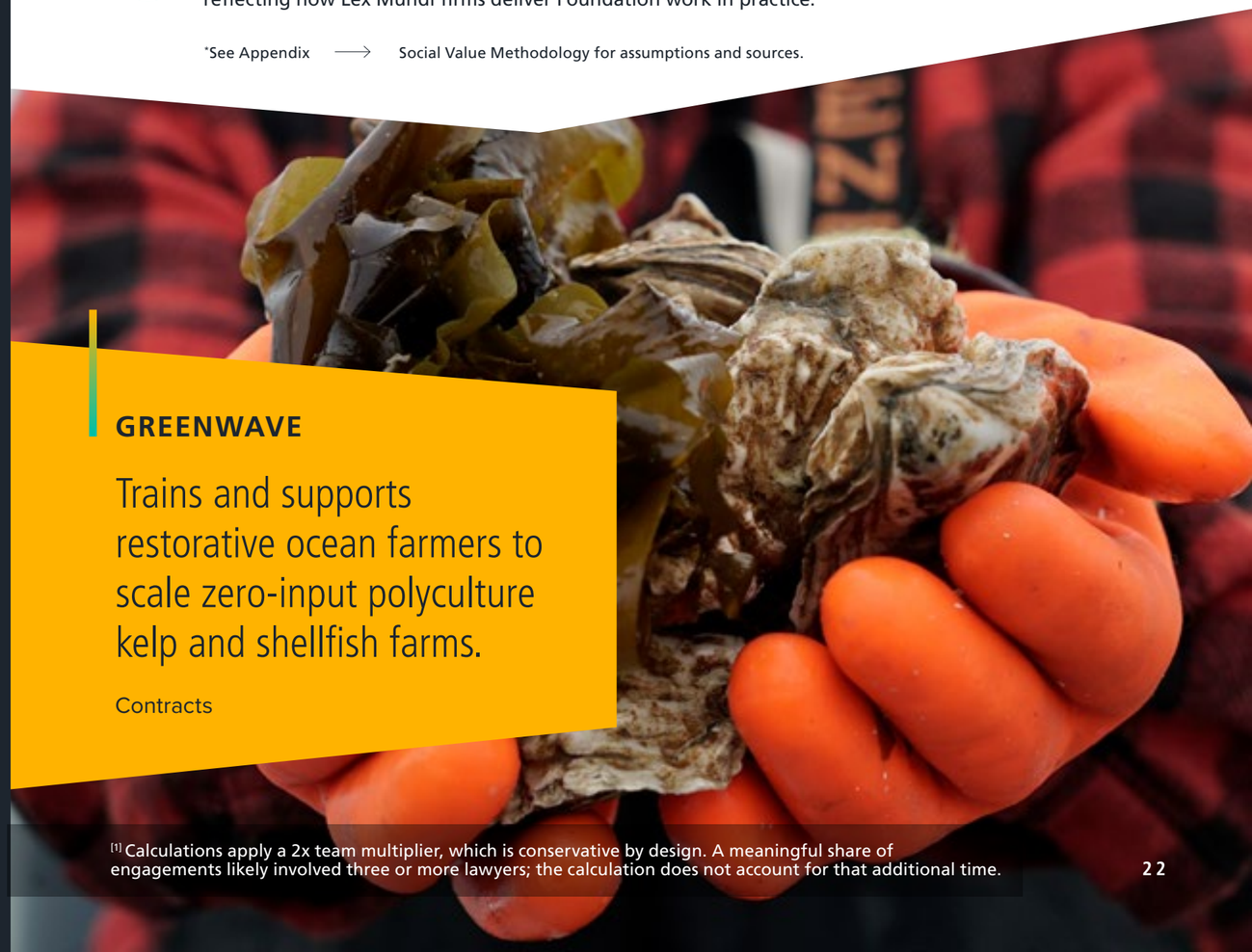
PUTTING A NUMBER ON IT

*Present-value equivalent based on current market rates



$90M is the convergence point across our modeling scenarios, on a deliberately conservative count of the hours involved. It sits within a full sensitivity range from $22.3M to $127.0M [1], reflecting how Lex Mundi firms deliver Foundation work in practice.

*See Appendix → Social Value Methodology for assumptions and sources.



GREENWAVE

Trains and supports restorative ocean farmers to scale zero-input polyculture kelp and shellfish farms.

Contracts

[1] Calculations apply a 2x team multiplier, which is conservative by design. A meaningful share of engagements likely involved three or more lawyers; the calculation does not account for that additional time.

CASE STUDY

Mountain Hazelnuts

SUPPORTING FIRMS

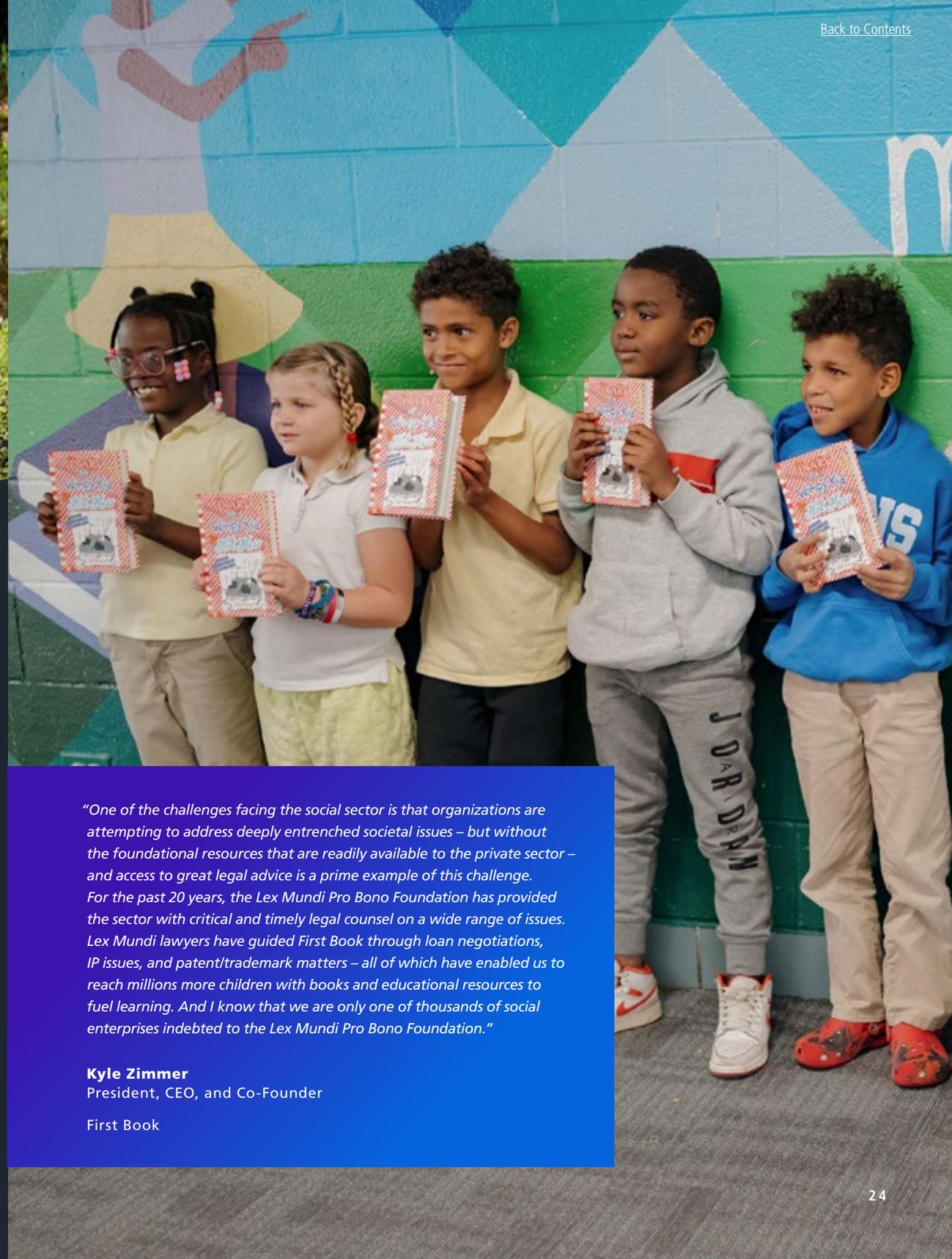
- Deacons (Hong Kong)
- Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP (Singapore)

Mountain Hazelnuts was founded with an ambitious vision: to create sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Bhutan while advancing an environmentally responsible model of agriculture. To this end, the company partners with smallholder farmers and community groups across the country to transform degraded and fallow land into productive hazelnut orchards. Mountain Hazelnuts works closely with the Royal Government of Bhutan and operates under a guaranteed purchase and pricing structure that reduces market risk for farmers while creating a reliable source of long-term income. At the same time, its approach to land restoration delivers important environmental benefits, including improved soil health, reduced erosion, and greater climate resilience.

Several years ago, the Mountain Hazelnuts team contacted the Foundation during a pivotal moment in their growth. At the time, the organization had a very complex corporate structure that limited operational efficiency and access to funding. Leading attorneys from the Lex Mundi member firms in Hong Kong and Singapore quickly stepped in to help. They worked closely with the company to navigate a comprehensive restructuring process, helping to streamline its corporate framework and create a structure better suited for long-term growth. Dr. Sean Watson, CEO of Mountain Hazelnuts, noted, *"Their guidance through a highly complex corporate and shareholder restructuring gave investors the confidence they needed and enabled us to secure critical investment. Having advisers who understood both the legal complexity and our long-term vision made a decisive difference for the organization."*

In 2025, Mountain Hazelnuts secured a landmark $7.9 million equity investment backed by the European Union's Carbon Sinks Guarantee (EFSD+) to scale its climate-resilient farming initiatives. Today, the organization has worked with more than 8,000 Bhutanese farmers and is nurturing more than one million hazelnut trees across Bhutan. The legal structure created by Lex Mundi attorneys has and will continue to play an important role in enabling Mountain Hazelnuts to continue attracting investment, growing its operations, and expanding its impact.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION



"One of the challenges facing the social sector is that organizations are attempting to address deeply entrenched societal issues – but without the foundational resources that are readily available to the private sector – and access to great legal advice is a prime example of this challenge. For the past 20 years, the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has provided the sector with critical and timely legal counsel on a wide range of issues. Lex Mundi lawyers have guided First Book through loan negotiations, IP issues, and patent/trademark matters – all of which have enabled us to reach millions more children with books and educational resources to fuel learning. And I know that we are only one of thousands of social enterprises indebted to the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation."

Kyle Zimmer
President, CEO, and Co-Founder

First Book

Back to Contents

"Every time we have had a legal need, whether it is expanding to a new country, an employment issue, or lobbying the U.S. State Department, Lex Mundi has been able to match us with a pro bono attorney willing to support our work."

Christophe Cox
CEO

APOPO

APOPO trains scent detection animals to safely locate landmines and detect human diseases.

"The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and their member firms have made a tremendous impact on Seeding Labs' growth. Nearly 20 years ago, the Foundation connected us to Foley Hoag, when we were in the founding stage of our nonprofit. Their support has enabled us to make big moves with confidence: expanding our staffing internationally, establishing long-term, strategic partnerships with hundreds of industry leaders and universities worldwide, and evolving our governance structure to meet new needs. As a small team of less than 10, having legal support that we can count on has made it possible for us to achieve well beyond our means: we have strengthened scientific infrastructure in 43 developing countries, catalyzing local efforts to realize the potential of science to benefit millions of people in their communities."

Melissa Wu
CEO and Co-Founder

Seeding Labs

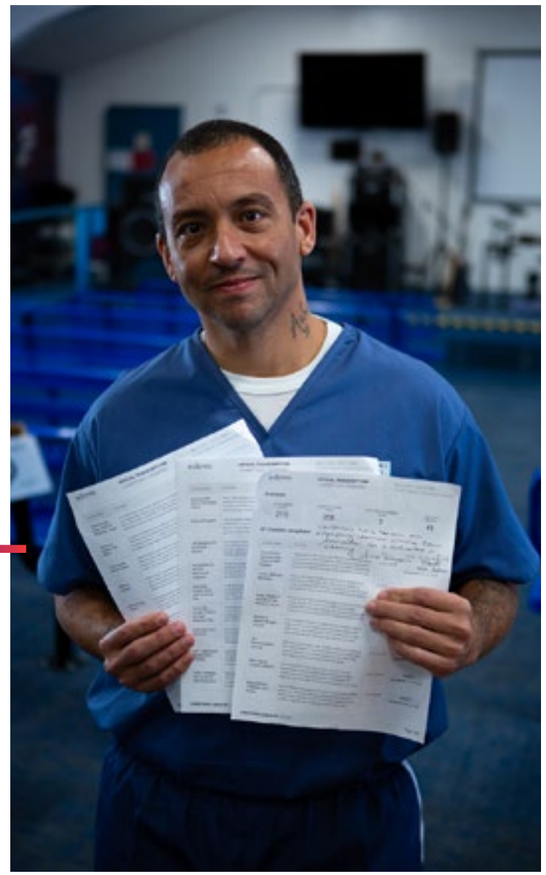
Seeding Labs donates laboratory equipment and provides training to scientists and universities in developing countries.

"Lex Mundi has been an invaluable partner for an organization like Climate Fresk. Their team has been responsive, attentive, and instrumental in connecting our international chapters with pro bono lawyers across the globe. Their support - from drafting and reviewing contracts to providing strategic legal advice - has been truly invaluable for our communities. We are incredibly grateful to the entire Lex Mundi network for their outstanding support."

Laetitia Rached
Head of Global Outreach and Deployment

Climate Fresk (La fresque du climat)

Climate Fresk educates people on the science of climate change and empowers them to act.



"The legal guidance we received through Lex Mundi was a game-changer for Edovo. Through a comprehensive review and restructure of our licensing agreements, we have the foundation required to distribute tens of thousands of hours of high-quality educational and rehabilitative programming to over one million incarcerated learners across the country, while supporting over 500 diverse content partners. This work is truly at the heart of how we serve our community."

Brian Hill
Founder and CEO

Edovo

Edovo provides a digital learning platform that gives incarcerated individuals free access to educational and rehabilitative programming.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Sector and Geographic Diversity

The organizations the Foundation serves work across every United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and every inhabited region of the world. This is not a narrow portfolio. It is a reflection of the full breadth of what mission-driven enterprise looks like when it has access to the legal support it needs.

Of recent matters where SDG data was recorded, four goals anchor the portfolio: **Reduced Inequalities (58%), Good Health and Well-being (49%), Decent Work and Economic Growth (43%), and Quality Education (39%).** These are the goals through which mission-driven organizations most directly reach the people they serve, and together they form a coherent cluster — the legal work that helps organizations scale is the same work that helps them serve more people, improve more livelihoods, and teach more children.

But the Foundation's clients are working toward all 17 SDGs. Every goal on the UN's framework has been addressed by an organization the Foundation has supported. The geographic picture is equally wide. **Each of the four anchor SDGs has been supported across all six world regions, touching between 44 and 62 countries: Reduced Inequalities in 62, Good Health and Well-being in 49, and Decent Work and Quality Education in 44 each.**

The Foundation's work is not concentrated in any single region or market. It is present wherever skilled legal expertise meets mission-driven work that needs it. Regional texture adds depth to that global picture. Africa's portfolio over-indexes on ending poverty and gender equality. Latin America on ending poverty and climate action. Europe reflects the region's circular economy and clean technology profile, with stronger representation in responsible consumption and industry and innovation. Asia and the Pacific track close to the global mix, with quality education as the standout. Every region the Foundation works in carries the four anchor goals among its top concerns — and brings its own priorities alongside them.

NOTE: Tracked SDG coverage applies to the post-2015 portfolio where SDGs were tagged, representing approximately 39% of total matters. See Methodology for full details.

"Working with Lex Mundi member firms has been a meaningful part of our journey expanding Humanitix globally. They've helped us navigate complex regulatory environments across new countries, while sharing our belief that business can and should create positive social impact at scale."

Joshua Ross
Co-Founder and CEO

Humanitix

Humanitix is a non-profit event ticketing platform that donates 100% of its booking fee profits to children's charities and education projects.

GLOBAL REACH ACROSS EVERY SDG

687 matters with specific goals recorded, 2016-2026.

Share of matters addressing this goal		Countries with at least one matter
58%	Reduced Inequalities	62 countries
49%	Good Health & Well-being	49 countries
43%	Decent Work & Economic Growth	44 countries
39%	Quality Education	44 countries
34%	Gender Equality	39 countries
32%	Partnership for the Goals	34 countries
32%	No Poverty	40 countries
28%	Climate Action	38 countries
24%	Sustainable Cities and Communities	32 countries
23%	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	22 countries
20%	Zero Hunger	28 countries
16%	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	23 countries
15%	Life on Land	23 countries
12%	Responsible Consumption and Production	22 countries
12%	Clean Water and Sanitation	21 countries
9%	Affordable and Clean Energy	20 countries
6%	Life Below Water	9 countries

Covers the 687 matters with specific goals recorded. Of 2,204 matters, 856 carry goal tags; ten client organizations account for 169 of those, with all seventeen goals selected at once. Because goals are recorded against the client organization and not the individual matter, those 169 cannot be attributed to individual goals and are excluded here. UK jurisdictions and duplicate spellings consolidated.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

CASE STUDY

EarthEnable

Across East Africa, millions of families live in unsafe homes where dirt floors and other conditions expose them to dust, parasites, and disease. EarthEnable set out to address this challenge by developing sustainable, affordable, and healthy home solutions designed for the people who need them most. After creating a proprietary earthen flooring technology, EarthEnable expanded its offerings to include plasters and even full homes, transforming communities and helping to revolutionize the housing industry.

EarthEnable's innovative approach combines affordability, sustainability, and local economic opportunity. Its earthen floors are 70% more affordable than concrete and produce 96% fewer carbon emissions, making healthier housing more accessible while reducing environmental impact. The organization also trains local masons to build their products, providing skilled employment opportunities that allow workers to earn two to three times the median income.

Ten years ago, EarthEnable was an early-stage social enterprise working to bring its first solutions to the market. As the organization grew and expanded its vision, they faced many of the same challenges experienced by scaling social enterprises: establishing the right legal structures, protecting intellectual property, entering new markets, building partnerships, and ensuring compliance across jurisdictions.

Through the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation, EarthEnable gained access to a global network of legal experts who have supported the organization since its earliest days. Lex Mundi member firms have registered trademarks, reviewed and negotiated contracts, advised on negotiations with local governments, established entities, provided guidance on registering to solicit donations, drafted NDAs, counseled on employment law matters, amended local registrations, and, most recently, advised on structuring a joint venture. This decade-long partnership has provided EarthEnable with the legal support needed to grow sustainably and remain focused on its mission.

Over the past ten years, EarthEnable has grown from an emerging social enterprise into a leader in affordable, sustainable housing solutions. The organization has completed more than 35,000 housing projects, improving the lives of more than 200,000 people across Africa, while creating more than 1,000 jobs in the communities it serves. Beyond transforming individual homes, EarthEnable has helped drive broader changes in the housing sector. The organization co-founded the Local Building Materials Think Tank with the Rwanda Housing Authority, which developed standards for building with adobe blocks and helped legalize the use of this technology in Rwanda.

EarthEnable's journey is a testament to what can happen when innovative organizations have the legal support and trusted partnerships needed to scale their impact.

"We're deeply grateful to the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation for years of steady, trusted legal partnership, support that has given us the confidence to grow and stay focused on our mission of bringing safe, healthy homes to families across East Africa."

Gayatri Datar
Co-Founder and CEO

SUPPORTING FIRMS

- Rose Law Firm, a Professional Association (USA, Arkansas)
- Butler Snow LLP (USA, Mississippi)
- Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP (USA, Indiana & Minnesota)
- Troutman Pepper Locke LLP (USA, Pennsylvania)
- Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (USA, Tennessee)
- Bowmans (South Africa)
- Pestalozzi (Switzerland)

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

WHAT WE HEARD

Clients

The most consistent thing clients tell us is that the Foundation gave them access they simply would not have had otherwise. The value created is rarely incremental. Across open-ended responses, clients describe outcomes that were consistently catalytic: expansion into new jurisdictions, IP protection that unlocked funding, regulatory barriers cleared at critical moments, and governance structures that let founders finally focus on their missions.

- **92%** say equivalent legal support would have been inaccessible, difficult, or only available at significant cost
- **82%** report value created to a large or very large extent, 55% to a very large extent
- **93%** rate the match between law firm expertise and their needs as good or very good
- **95%** rate the Foundation's coordination and responsiveness as effective or very effective
- **9.4 / 10** client Net Promoter Score, with 85% promoters

"As a newly forming 501(c)(3), we were in urgent need of experienced legal guidance. One email to the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation set in motion a remarkable chain of events. Within weeks, we were introduced to a top-tier law firm that expertly helped us navigate the steps necessary to establish Multifaith Alliance as a strong and compliant nonprofit.

Our relationship with the law firm evolved, and through a pro bono program, for which we qualified, they offered to serve as our full-time legal counsel on a pro bono basis. Their expertise, generosity, and steadfast partnership have been invaluable to our growth and success. This extraordinary gift began with Lex Mundi. We will always be deeply grateful to them for opening that door and helping lay the legal foundation upon which our organization continues to build."

Marlene Adler
Head of Operations

Multifaith Alliance

Multifaith Alliance delivers critical humanitarian aid to global communities displaced by conflict.

Law Firms

For partner law firms, the Foundation operates less as a charitable channel and more as institutional infrastructure. The better scoping firms point to is a direct reflection of the screening and mentoring work we do before a firm is ever approached. Many told us that participation contributes meaningfully to lawyer training and professional development, providing associates with sophisticated client interaction and complex transactional experience that is genuinely hard to find elsewhere. And many pointed to the access to cross-border and multi-jurisdictional work as a distinctive benefit in its own right. These matters simply do not come through other pro bono pipelines.

Perhaps most telling: several firms told us that participation in the Foundation has helped formalize and strengthen their own pro bono practices, providing a reliable pipeline of well-scoped work and deepening collaboration across the Lex Mundi network in ways that extend well beyond any single matter.

- **93%** of firms cite at least one institutional benefit beyond the matters themselves; 59% cite two or more
- **Half** say matters arriving through the Foundation are better or more thoroughly scoped than those from other pro bono channels
- **Lawyer training, cross-border experience, and stronger in-house pro bono practices** cited as recurring benefits

"The Foundation has been an invaluable partner to Arthur Cox in expanding the reach and impact of our pro bono practice. The Foundation's ability to connect firms with meaningful, high-quality pro bono opportunities is second to none, most recently, they went above and beyond by coordinating a complex cross-border research project on our behalf, demonstrating both their reach and their deep commitment to facilitating genuinely impactful work. We are proud to be a member firm and look forward to continuing this partnership."

Carolann Minnock
Pro Bono Practice Leader,
Of Counsel

Arthur Cox
Northern Ireland | Ireland

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

"I wish we had an equivalent to the Foundation for every professional service — vetted network, smooth onboarding, wide set of available services. The Foundation is an amazing gem of a network that enables our global portfolios of impact innovators to prepare for scale."

Alexander Dale
Director, Global Programs

MIT Solve

Collaborators

Our collaborating organizations, the incubators, accelerators, foundations, and referral partners who vet and refer clients to us, describe the Foundation in terms that go beyond partnership. For most, we are a permanent fixture in how they support the organizations in their portfolios.

- **81%** say the Foundation is integrated into their standard support model
- **87%** rate the Foundation as a high-value, trusted connection to high-caliber firms
- **38%** say the partnership replaces the need to build legal support capacity internally
- **9.7 / 10** collaborator Net Promoter Score, with 94% promoters and zero detractors
- Every collaborator that used the Foundation for its own legal needs said it **reinforced their confidence in referring others**

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

"The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation has been a close and invaluable collaborator of Ashoka over the years, whether through pro bono support for Ashoka Fellows on a range of issues or fielding internal Ashoka requests that require additional or outside expertise. The resources from various Lex Mundi member firms are heaven-sent, including information that can be passed on to other Ashoka offices around the world or shared with Ashoka Fellows as relevant, ensuring a broad reach by the Global office."

Annette McGee Johnson
Global General Counsel

Ashoka

"Lex Mundi is such an invaluable partner to both Echoing Green and our global network of Fellows. This year alone, they've supported Fellows with more than 25 legal matters. Their support is responsive and sophisticated, which is rarely accessible to growing organizations. Lex Mundi's partnership has assisted Fellows in making confident structural and governance decisions and growing responsibly."

Cheryl Dorsey
CEO

Echoing Green

CASE STUDY

Tatum Robotics

For millions of DeafBlind individuals around the world, everyday communication can present significant barriers. DeafBlindness—the condition of having little or no useful hearing and little or no useful sight—creates unique challenges that can limit access to information, education, community, and social connection. For many, communication access has historically depended on the availability of interpreters or assistance from others, creating barriers to independence and contributing to isolation and loneliness.

Recognizing this challenge, the Tatum Robotics team set out to develop a solution that would empower the DeafBlind community with greater autonomy and control over how they access information and communicate.

The result was Tatum1, the world's first tactile fingerspelling robotic system designed to provide the DeafBlind community with independent access to tactile sign language. The device translates content from digital communication sources, including emails, websites, messaging applications, and eBooks, and can also translate live language input during direct communication. Designed for use in homes, schools, and healthcare settings, Tatum1 has the potential to transform how DeafBlind individuals engage with the world around them.

The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation first connected with Tatum Robotics in 2024. As a small social enterprise developing a novel accessibility technology, Tatum Robotics needed specialized legal guidance to navigate the complex issues that arise when bringing a new solution from concept to broader adoption. Since then, multiple Lex Mundi member firms have provided pro bono legal support across a range of critical needs.

Lex Mundi attorneys supported Tatum Robotics by registering intellectual property, reviewing their Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, establishing a non-profit entity, and addressing employment-related immigration matters. They have also advised on trade and customs considerations related to shipping its devices internationally, helping the organization navigate the practical challenges of bringing its technology to users outside of the United States. Additionally, attorneys with healthcare and data privacy expertise are advising on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements, ensuring the Tatum1 can be used by healthcare professionals.

Pro bono counsel has also played an important role as Tatum Robotics explores new applications for its technology. Leading Lex Mundi telecommunications attorneys are assisting Tatum Robotics with its application to become a Video Relay Service (VRS) provider under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which would allow for funding through the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund. Traditionally, VRS providers use human interpreters to facilitate real time conversations between individuals using sign language and individuals using standard voice telephones. Tatum Robotics, instead, leverages its robotic tactile fingerspelling technology to expand communication access. Given the complexity of integrating this emerging technology into an existing regulatory framework, skilled legal counsel is critical to successfully navigating the process.

Today, Tatum Robotics is continuing to advance its technology and explore opportunities to bring greater independence to the DeafBlind community. With a stronger legal and operational foundation, the organization is better positioned to pursue partnerships, navigate regulatory pathways, expand into new applications, and prepare for broader distribution of its technology.

Back to Contents

"As a small social impact organization, accessing legal services was financially out of reach. As soon as we heard about the Lex Mundi Foundation, we were suddenly able to get answers to some of our pressing legal concerns, while also planning for the long-term strategy of our organization. Being able to work with some of the top legal firms gave us the confidence that we were crossing our t's the right way and allowed us to structure the organization in the way that would have the most direct benefit for the DeafBlind community, not just in the way that was easiest. We are so thankful for the support of the Foundation and all the incredible attorneys and firms that have helped support our mission."

Samantha Johnson
Founder & CEO

Tatum Robotics

SUPPORTING FIRMS

- Butzel (USA, Michigan)
- Foley Hoag LLP (USA, Massachusetts)
- Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA (USA, New Hampshire)
- Steptoe LLP (USA, District of Columbia)

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

The People Behind the Numbers

The numbers above capture what can be measured. They do not capture everything that matters. They do not capture the Lex Mundi attorneys who, after completing a pro bono engagement, joined a client's board of directors and continued contributing their expertise for years. They do not capture the relationships between firms and clients that outlasted any single matter, or the culture of pro bono service that has taken root and grown across the network over two decades.

They do not capture the influence of the Foundation's thought leadership on the broader sector: the policy reports cited by the OECD and the World Economic Forum, the legal research that shaped the 2024 Global Innovation Index, the working groups and convenings that have helped define what a more enabling environment for social enterprise looks like around the world. They do not capture the growing number of organizations around the world that have adopted and built upon this model; every pro bono intermediary connecting skilled legal expertise with mission-driven organizations is part of a movement this Foundation helped to create. And they do not capture the ripple effects of the work itself: the organizations that scaled, the communities they reached, and the problems they were able to tackle because a legal barrier was removed at exactly the right moment. The case studies and client snapshots in this report are an attempt to tell some of that story.

WE CARE SOLAR

Provides solar-powered electricity kits to off-grid maternal health facilities to ensure safe childbirth.

Nonprofit Formation | Nonprofit Governance | Employment

"The pro bono support we have received through the Lex Mundi network has been invaluable to We Care Solar. As a mission-driven nonprofit committed to maximizing the impact of every donor dollar, access to world-class legal expertise has enabled us to strengthen our organization while directing more resources to the women and newborns we serve. From our incorporation and governance, to employment matters, updating our bylaws, and establishing our organization in Nigeria, Lex Mundi member firms have provided exceptional guidance at critical moments in our growth. Their generosity has helped build a stronger, more resilient organization, and we are profoundly grateful for their partnership."

Laura Stachel
Co-Founder and Executive Director

We Care Solar

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

CASE STUDY

Thaki

A laptop can be a gateway to opportunity. But for many children affected by displacement, access to even basic educational technology remains a challenge. Refugee and vulnerable communities often lack the resources needed to participate fully in today's increasingly digital learning environment, leaving many children without access to the tools, content, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Thaki was founded to help close this digital divide. The organization collects donated laptops that would otherwise go unused or end up in landfills, refurbishes and repurposes these devices, and transforms them into learning tools for children in refugee and underserved communities across Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. Through its circular education model, Thaki equips devices with thousands of hours of curated educational content and distributes them through trusted partner organizations operating schools, learning centers, and community programs. By combining technology access with meaningful educational content and local partnerships, Thaki helps learners build foundational skills, improve digital literacy, and access new pathways for learning.

As Thaki grew, legal support became increasingly important to help the organization build the infrastructure needed to scale. In 2020, the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation connected Thaki with a Lex Mundi member firm. The volunteer attorneys were moved by Thaki's important work and, through the Foundation, have supported Thaki on numerous projects over the past six years. Throughout this longstanding relationship they have drafted several template contracts and policies that are essential to Thaki's operations, provided guidance on GDPR compliance, counseled on protecting and monetizing Thaki's programming in furtherance of its mission, and helped Thaki navigate the legal complexities of shipping laptops into conflict zones. By helping Thaki address critical legal and operational challenges, pro bono counsel has enabled the organization to remain focused on its mission of expanding access to education for children who need it most.

Today, Thaki has reached 62,000 students, distributed 7,000 devices that have been repurposed, enriched, and diverted from landfills, and delivered $24.4 million in in-kind value through distributed hardware and educational content. Its devices are now used by 256 organizations supporting refugee schools and learning centers, providing access to 6,764 units of educational resources, including learning videos, lessons, presentations, audiobooks, and interactive activities. With the support of Lex Mundi attorneys, Thaki has been able to strengthen its foundation and continue scaling its mission to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn.

"Thanks to Lex Mundi we were able to access pro bono support that provided us with high-quality legal counsel that would have otherwise been financially out of reach, enabling Thaki to operate safely and scale responsibly. We are deeply grateful for their partnership, which allowed us to redirect every available resource towards our students' education."

Rudayna Abdo
Founder & CEO

SUPPORTING FIRM

- Houthoff (Netherlands)

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Awards and Recognitions

The Foundation's work has earned growing recognition from the broader purpose-driven community. In the last two years alone, the Foundation has been named a winner in two Humanitarian Action and Services categories at the Anthem Awards for consecutive years, receiving Gold recognition alongside powerhouse organizations like the World Central Kitchen. Additional honors have included Corporate Livewire's Legal Nonprofit of the Year, the Legal Insider Award for Best Pro Bono Legal Services for Sustainable Change, the Lawyer International Pro Bono Legal Innovation Award, and recognition from both the Global 100 and USA 100.

The Foundation was also a finalist for the 2023 Catalyst Now Awards alongside major multinational companies including Deloitte and Ernst & Young and received the Catalyst Business Commitment Platinum Badge. Shortly thereafter, the Foundation was one of the original thirteen signatories of the Rise Ahead Pledge, which was launched by the Schwab Foundation and Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the World Economic Forum at its annual meeting in Davos. These recognitions reflect not the work of a staff of two, but the collective commitment of an entire global network of attorneys who show up, year after year, for organizations that need them.

HELEN'S DAUGHTERS

Empowers rural Caribbean women farmers through agricultural training, financial access, and direct market placement.

Intellectual Property | Contracts | Employment

TRUE MORINGA

Maximizes the income, agricultural productivity, and financial security of smallholder African farmers through a fair-trade, regenerative moringa supply chain.

- ▸ **Regulatory**
- ▸ **Consultation**
- ▸ **Nonprofit Governance**

MOTHERS2MOTHERS

Employs and trains African women living with HIV as community health workers to deliver integrated primary healthcare to families.

- ▸ **Employment**
- ▸ **Nonprofit Formation**

BENETECH

Creates software to make education, reading, and learning materials accessible to people with disabilities.

- ▸ **Intellectual property**
- ▸ **Contracts**
- ▸ **Data Privacy**
- ▸ **Employment**
- ▸ **Registration**

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

CASE STUDY

Health Care Without Harm

For more than three decades, Health Care Without Harm has worked to transform health care into a force for environmental health and justice. The international nonprofit provides resources, knowledge, and inspiration to help the health care sector reduce its environmental footprint, become a community anchor for sustainability, and lead the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Health Care Without Harm has regional teams across the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, as well as strategic partnerships and projects in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Nepal, and South Africa. It also undertakes joint projects with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

Given its global footprint, Health Care Without Harm regularly encounters complex cross-border legal and compliance questions that are critical to its operations. In response, 13 Lex Mundi member firms across 13 jurisdictions have supported Health Care Without Harm on 17 projects, providing legal guidance to help the organization navigate these challenges. Through the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation, Health Care Without Harm has been able to access local legal expertise across multiple countries, giving its team the clarity and confidence to move forward while staying focused on its mission.

Today, Health Care Without Harm's impact can be seen in the transformation of health care practices around the world. The organization spearheaded efforts to eliminate mercury-containing medical devices from the global health care market and catalyzed the closure of more than 4,400 polluting medical waste incinerators. It has mobilized hospitals to advance sustainable food systems and reduce food waste, and developed strategies to make operating rooms greener, including reducing harmful anesthetic gases. It also launched the Health Care Climate Challenge, helping hospitals pursue decarbonization, build climate resilience, and reduce operational costs. By transforming how health care operates, Health Care Without Harm is helping create a future where protecting human health and protecting the planet go hand in hand.

"The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation's support has been invaluable to Health Care Without Harm. By connecting us with expert legal counsel across multiple jurisdictions, the Foundation made it possible for us to address complex cross-border legal questions we could not have navigated on our own. Their partnership gave us the clarity and confidence to move forward — allowing us to stay focused on what we do best: helping the health sector to heal, without harming the planet. We are deeply grateful."

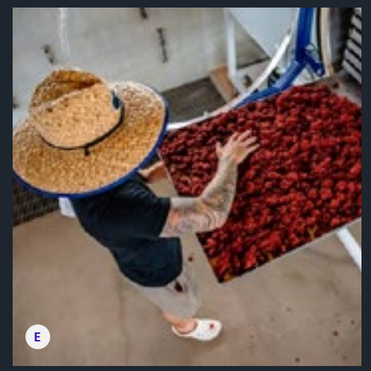
Agostina Lorusso
Global People & Culture Manager

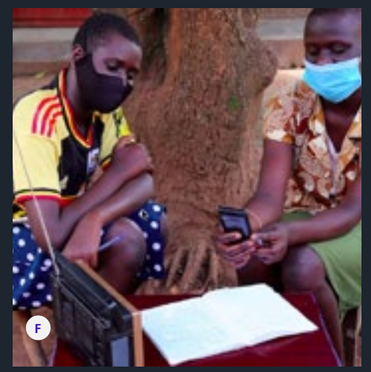
Health Care Without Harm

SUPPORTING FIRMS

- Basham, Ringe y Correa (Mexico)
- Brigard Urrutia (Colombia)
- Chiomenti (Italy)
- Demarest Advogados (Brazil)
- Divjak Topic Bahtijarevic & Krka Law Firm (Croatia)
- Gide Loyrette Nouel (France)
- JPM & Partners (Serbia)
- Marval O'Farrell Mairal (Argentina)
- Noerr (Germany)
- Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles (Philippines)
- Shalakany Law Office (Egypt)
- Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (India)
- Womble Bond Dickinson (USA, North Carolina)

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION





A

Aeropowder

Transforms surplus poultry feathers into sustainable thermal insulation materials.

B

Coral Vita

Operates land-based commercial farms to grow climate-resilient corals and restore dying reefs at scale.

C

Graviky

Captures industrial carbon emissions and air pollution and turns them into sustainable ink.

D

Stork Labs

Builds flexible, soft robotic obstetrics devices to minimize physical trauma during child delivery.

E

Symbrosia

Created natural seaweed feed additive to reduce livestock methane emissions by 90%.

F

Yiya Solutions

Provides offline, interactive STEM and engineering education to under-resourced youth in Africa using basic keypad phones and radio broadcasts.

G

WeRobotics

Democratizes technology by empowering local communities in the Global South to use drones, robotics, and AI for social good.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

KIVA

The world's first online lending platform that expands financial access to underserved communities.

Regulatory | Employment | Finance
Nonprofit Governance | Data Privacy

TOTAL JURISDICTIONS 40 / 34 TOTAL FIRMS

"Since 2007, Lex Mundi has supported Kiva's mission to connect people through lending, breaking down barriers to opportunity and building lasting change. Its global network of law firms has been invaluable in helping us expand and deepen our work worldwide. Lex Mundi member firms have contributed local legal expertise in 40 countries, helping the Kiva community provide more than $2.5 billion in crowdfunded loans to over 5 million entrepreneurs around the world."

Austin Choi
General Counsel

Kiva

Back to Contents

Looking Ahead

As the Foundation enters its third decade, the context in which it operates continues to shift. The demand for specialized legal support among mission-driven organizations is growing, the geographic footprint of social entrepreneurship is expanding, and the expectations around impact measurement and accountability are rising.

Looking ahead, we are focused on all of the things this report demonstrates we do well, and on doing them with greater depth, greater impact, and a more sustainable foundation beneath us. For a two-person team operating through a global network of independent law firms, dramatic operational expansion has never been our model. What we have always believed, and what twenty years of evidence now supports, is that the most powerful thing we can do is demonstrate excellence so consistently that others follow. The number of organizations around the world that have adopted and adapted our matchmaking model is itself a measure of our impact. Every pro bono intermediary that connects skilled legal expertise with mission-driven organizations, in whatever jurisdiction, at whatever scale, is part of a movement that this Foundation helped to create. That is a form of scale that no headcount can capture.

What we can control, and what we are committed to, is the quality of what we do, the depth of the relationships we build, the strength of the pro bono community we cultivate across the Lex Mundi network, and the sustainability of the funding model that makes all of it possible. We are also committed to expanding our influence beyond individual matches. We have always believed that shaping the legal and policy environment in which social enterprises operate multiplies the impact of everything we do.

That belief drives our thought leadership, our advocacy, and our collaborations with organizations like the World Economic Forum, the OECD, the World Bank, and the United Nations. In the coming years, we will continue that work with renewed urgency, developing resources and frameworks that we hope will meaningfully expand the ways in which mission-driven organizations are built, funded, and recognized around the world. The need for that work has never been clearer. The opportunity to do it has never been greater.

We have spent twenty years proving that this model works. The next twenty years are about proving how far its influence can reach. We hope you will be part of that.

A

Appalachian Assistive Technology Loan Fund

Provides zero-interest, fee-free loans to help people with disabilities purchase life-enhancing assistive technology.

B

Housing Now

Creates low-cost, prefabricated bamboo housing for families displaced by conflict and natural disasters in Myanmar.

Credit: Aung Htay Hlaing

C

Hope for Justice

Working to eradicate human trafficking and modern slavery.

D

Adaptive Reader

Uses AI to adapt books into customized, multilingual, and leveled reading editions.

E

Project CETI

Uses advanced machine learning and robotics to decode and translate the communication of sperm whales.

F

Sungai Watch

Designs and deploys floating trash barriers to block plastic waste from flowing through rivers into the ocean.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Join Us

Twenty years of evidence makes one thing clear: **when skilled legal expertise meets a mission-driven organization at the right moment, the results are transformative.** The organizations in this report are not outliers. They are examples of what becomes possible when a global community of exceptional lawyers commits to using their skills for good. There are thousands more organizations like them, right now, navigating legal challenges they cannot afford to solve alone.

We are a small organization with an outsized reach, and we cannot grow that reach without support.

FOR LEX MUNDI MEMBER FIRMS

Your participation is already making a difference. If you have not yet made a financial contribution above and beyond your dues commitment, we invite you to consider doing so. **Every contribution directly expands our capacity to source, scope, and place more matters on behalf of more organizations.** We also invite you to engage with the newly launched Lex Mundi Pro Bono Special Interest Group, a community of pro bono professionals across the network sharing learnings, building practice, and strengthening the culture of service that makes this work possible.

FOR FUNDERS AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation operates with a modest funding gap that, when closed, directly translates into more social entrepreneurs served. But a grant to the Foundation does something that few philanthropic investments can claim: it multiplies. **Every dollar we receive funds the operational capacity to source, scope, and place pro bono engagements that deliver legal services worth many times that amount.** Over twenty years, less than $5 million in operating costs has mobilized $90 million in donated legal services — nearly 20 dollars returned for every dollar invested.

When you invest in us, you are not just funding our work. You are unlocking the expertise of a global network of top-tier law firms on behalf of the organizations that need it most, at a moment when the funding landscape for mission-driven organizations has never been more challenging. We would welcome the opportunity to tell you more about what your support would make possible.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

Back to Contents

Appendix

METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

SOCIAL VALUE METHODOLOGY

Hours per matter: estimated from survey responses collected in time bands, modeled across three scenarios for lead-lawyer time (low 16h, medium 25h, high 35h), then multiplied by 2x to reflect team staffing observed in 91% of engagements (partner/supervisory + associate/junior). Total team hours range from 96,000 (low) to 210,000 (high), with 150,000+ as the central estimate. "Not sure" responses included at conservative values.

Blended hourly rate: constructed bottom-up from seniority mix (senior partner, associate, paralegal), geographic distribution (76% US/Canada/Europe vs. 24% rest of world with 50% discount), and technical complexity. External benchmarks: Brightflag 2025 Am Law 100 Hourly Rates (high: $605/hr), Wolters Kluwer 2024 (medium: $428/hr), Clio 2024 (low: $232/hr).

Total value = team hours × blended rate × 3,000+ matters. Present-value equivalents at current market rates.

ESTIMATED SOCIAL VALUE: SENSITIVITY TABLE

	Low rate $232/Hr	Med. Rate $428/Hr	High rate $605/Hr
32 Hrs (Low)	$22.3M	$41.1M	$58.0M
50 Hrs (Medium)	$34.8M	$64.2M	**$90.7M**
70 Hrs (High)	$48.7M	**$89.9M**	$127.0M

$90M is the convergence point of the two shaded cells ($90.7M = 50 hrs × $605; $89.9M = 70 hrs × $428). Full range runs from $22.3M (floor) to $127.0M (ceiling). Each cell = total team hours per matter × blended rate × ≈3,000 matters; present-value equivalents at current market rates. A 2× team multiplier is applied throughout, conservative by design.

HOURS CONTRIBUTED

Hours per matter were estimated in two stages. First, lead-lawyer time was modeled across three scenarios using survey responses collected in time bands (low 16 h, medium 25 h, high 35 h). Second, a 2x team multiplier was applied to reflect supervisory and supporting hours that accompany the lead lawyer on nearly every engagement; surveys from both sides confirm that 91% of engagements involve two or more seniority levels (senior partner, associate, paralegal). The table below shows total team hours per matter across three scenarios:

Scenario	Lead-Lawyer Hours / Matter	Team Multiplier	Total Team Hours / Matter	Portfolio Total (~3,000 Matters)
Low	16	x2	32	96,000
Med (Central)	**25**	**x2**	**50**	**150,000+**
High	35	x2	70	210,000

Lead-lawyer time is modeled in survey time bands; a 2× team multiplier reflects supervisory and supporting hours confirmed in 91% of engagements. "Not sure" responses included at conservative values.

BLENDED HOURLY RATE

The hourly rate was constructed bottom-up from three variables: seniority of lawyers involved (senior partner, associate, paralegal), geographic distribution of the work (76% US/Canada/Europe vs. 24% rest of world, with a 50% discount for the latter), and technical complexity of the matter. External benchmarks from three published indices:

HIGH TIER:
Brightflag 2025 Am Law 100 Hourly Rates (reflecting Lex Mundi's member firm profile, weighted by partner, associate, and paralegal mix)

MEDIUM TIER:
Wolters Kluwer Real Rate Report 2024 (market means)

LOW TIER:
Clio Legal Trends Report 2024 (broad market)

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Hours estimates rely on survey recall. Rate framework uses external benchmarks reflecting market averages. Calculation covers matched matters only; mentoring, guidance, and cohort-level support not captured. Geographic and complexity distributions drawn from survey sample, not full portfolio.

SDG COVERAGE CAVEAT

A note on what those percentages describe: the Foundation has tracked SDG tagging consistently only in its current case management system, which postdates our early years. The SDG shares in this report reflect the recent portfolio (matters where SDGs are recorded, roughly 38.8% of the post-2015 slice), not the full twenty-year retrospective. We surface them in that frame because it is the honest one, and because the picture is, in any reading, a credible portrait of where this network's recent expertise is directed.

SURVEY APPROACH

Three independent surveys administered via Fillout (January–March 2026) targeting clients, partner law firms, and collaborators. Each structured around a common analytical framework adapted from the five dimensions of impact: relevance, baseline, effort, utility, and contribution. Predominantly multiple-choice with optional open-ended fields.

CLIENT SURVEY: 152 responses from 933 unique contacts (16.3% response rate; ~11% portfolio coverage). Law firm survey: 65 responses (~46% of engaged firms), spanning all five geographic regions. Collaborator survey: 16 responses including the most critical institutional partners.

ONE ANONYMOUS CLIENT RESPONSE was excluded (no identifying information, no open-ended responses, majority "not sure" selections). Exclusion applied symmetrically. All other responses retained including negative feedback.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA: Foundation's Salesforce database (~1,352 unique clients, 3,000+ engagements, primarily 2016 onward). A 2010 survey (184 matters, 104 entrepreneurs, 70 lawyers) referenced for longitudinal comparison where relevant.

ABOUT THIS ASSESSMENT

Common Good Marketplace is an outcomes marketplace and evidence-design organization. It works with mission-driven organizations to define, measure, and independently value the social outcomes their work produces, applying a structured methodology to translate those outcomes into credible, defensible estimates of social value.

The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation commissioned Common Good Marketplace to conduct an independent assessment of the value of the legal services delivered through its network over two decades. The methodology, scope, and conclusions presented in this report are Common Good Marketplace's own. The analysis draws on survey data gathered from the Foundation's clients, partner law firms, and collaborating organizations, alongside the Foundation's portfolio records, and applies external market-rate benchmarks to estimate the value of the work delivered. The estimates rely on the assumptions and data sources described above and are intended to give a credible, deliberately conservative reading of social value, not a precise accounting.

This assessment was led by Matheus Chacur, with Greg Spencer and Johanna Barber of the Common Good Marketplace team.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 LEX MUNDI PRO BONO FOUNDATION

LexMundi
Pro Bono Foundation

Lawyers helping social entrepreneurs
change the world