



**UDO UDOMA &
BELO-OSAGIE**

2024
**PRO BONO AND
SOCIAL IMPACT
REPORT**



www.uubo.org



»» Table of Contents

01

Introduction

02

UUBO & SDGs

03

Progress Highlights



04

Achievements



05

Social Impact

06

Conclusion

A background image showing two hands reaching towards each other, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, set against a soft, warm, light-colored background. The hands are slightly out of focus, emphasizing the gesture of reaching out.

In **2024**, we spent

1,430

Hours rendering
pro bono services



INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to another vibrant edition of our annual *Pro Bono* Newsletter!

At Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie (UUBO), giving back isn't just a tradition – it's part of our identity. Our commitment to *pro bono* work reflects our belief that legal expertise should be a tool for empowerment and positive change. This newsletter celebrates that belief and the strides we have made through meaningful community engagement.

We value the excellence that defines our client work and recognise the importance of using our legal skills to strengthen the communities in which we operate. With offices in Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt, our *pro bono* practice extends beyond Nigeria to the international stage, where we actively partner with global organisations to offer strategic legal support to those who need it most.

Our approach is dynamic and impact-driven. We provide sustained legal assistance to local and

international non-profits and collaborate with esteemed international organisations, such as TrustLaw, the pro bono arm of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, and the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation. These partnerships have enabled us to support mission-driven organisations and social enterprises in achieving real, lasting change.

We remain committed to growing our *pro bono* network and welcome new opportunities where our skills can be put to meaningful use. Whether by empowering grassroots initiatives or contributing to global causes, we are proud to be part of the solution.

As you explore the stories and highlights in this edition, we invite you to reflect, be inspired, and perhaps find a cause you would like to support too.

And if you missed our last edition, do not worry, you can still catch-up [here](#).

UUBO SDGs

At **UUBO**, we recognise the transformative power of the law and the responsibility that comes with it. We believe that our legal expertise should be actively applied to support, strengthen, and uplift our communities. *Pro bono* service is deeply woven into the fabric of our firm's culture; more than a duty, it is a deliberate expression of our values.

Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our *Pro Bono* work is purposefully aligned with both the global development agenda and pressing local needs. These SDGs reflect our firm's ethos and provide a framework through which we drive meaningful change.

Our *Pro Bono* efforts, featured throughout this newsletter, have primarily aligned with the following SDGs:



As a full-service commercial law firm, we leverage our broad expertise to advance these goals by offering accessible legal support, engaging in research initiatives, enhancing access to justice, and providing a wide range of legal services to underserved communities. Our vision is to foster a legal landscape grounded in fairness and equity, where the law is a catalyst for societal progress. We aim to empower advocacy groups, individuals, non-profits, and social enterprises through legal tools that support inclusive growth and long-term development. Our mission is clear: to apply our legal knowledge for the collective good, offering high-impact legal support that contributes to a more just, equitable, and empowered society.

To achieve this, we continue to build meaningful collaborations with trusted local and international *Pro Bono* partners who share our commitment to these SDG-aligned goals.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Our Pro Bono Activities in 2024

In 2024, we contributed to the following research projects:



Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East Africa and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

Research: On a referral from TrustLaw, we assisted CIPESA with a research project on the legal frameworks on the accessibility of information and communications technology for persons with disabilities in Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, UK (England & Wales), Zambia and Zimbabwe (the "Project"). We acted as coordinating counsel of the Project and carried out research from a Nigerian law perspective.



Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism (CCIJ)

Research: We advised the CCIJ in connection with an investigative piece on allegations of misconduct and governance challenges associated with Nigeria's 2023 general elections.



Debevoise & Plimpton

Research: We updated Nigeria's section of the 2021 UN "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at 10" report prepared by Debevoise & Plimpton in conjunction with the 'UNGPs 10+' project organised by the United Nations Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises to mark ten years since the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011.



EUDR and CS3DR Questionnaire

Research: Through a Lex Mundi referral, we advised the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship on the impact of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) and the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR) on social procurement in Nigeria, and partnered with other Lex Mundi member firms to create an aggregated report to be presented at [WEF's 2025 Annual Meeting in Davos](#).



International Society for Peace and Safety (ISOPS)

Corporate Advisory: We advised ISOPS on applicable child safeguarding requirements for academic institutions under Nigerian law and drafted a child safeguarding policy to support ISOPS in its efforts to train teachers on safeguarding guidelines for children in approximately 20 (twenty) schools across Nigeria.



We Care Solar

Corporate Advisory: We assisted We Care Solar in incorporating a company limited by guarantee, Light Every Birth Foundation, and drafted the supporting documents required for registering the foundation with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP). We also offered preliminary advice on the FMBEP registration process.



Linking Hands Foundation (LHF)

Corporate Advisory: We are advising LHF on the relocation of Topgoodness School, which was demolished by the Lagos State government in 2024. Our legal services will help secure the necessary legal interests and approvals for the school's new location, mitigating the risk of future demolitions.



Small Foundation

Corporate Advisory: On a referral from TrustLaw, we assisted Small Foundation with localising a loan term sheet and its local counsel questionnaire to ensure that the final loan documents, and Small Foundation more broadly, comply with legal requirements in Nigeria.



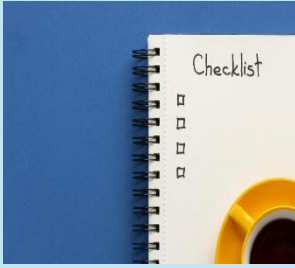
Nigeria Network of NGOs

Corporate Advisory: On a referral from TrustLaw, we assisted the Nigeria Network of NGOs with reviewing their governance policy documents.



Hospitals for Humanity Foundation

Corporate Advisory: We provide general legal corporate advisory services to Hospitals for Humanity Foundation on a retainer basis. Hospital for Humanity collaborates with partners and expert medical practitioners to fund and execute free open-heart surgeries for children in Nigeria.



The Sunshine Series

Corporate Advisory: Lex Mundi referred us to the Sunshine Series, and we assisted with developing a checklist to determine what agreements and IP protections they need to have in place to protect their software application, which is a digital mental health app aimed at providing therapy and psychiatry services for persons living in Africa and Africans in diaspora. We also assisted with drafting all required contracts.



SmartSHE Limited

Corporate Advisory: Following a referral from Lex Mundi, we assisted SmartSHE, a social enterprise fintech startup focused on empowering women and small businesses (particularly women-owned businesses) in marginalized African communities, with (i) drafting agreements with the co-founders that clearly and accurately set forth their roles and responsibilities within their organisation and (ii) reviewing and updating their cap table to ensure everything is in order before they begin scaling and reaching out to potential investors/funders.



The Justice Project ("TJP")

Litigation: We are partnering with the TJP organisation to provide free legal services to inmates in Nigerian prisons. In 2024, we handled three (3) criminal matters under this partnership.



Private Equity & Venture Capital Association Ltd/Gte Growing Business Foundation Women At Risk International Foundation

Company Secretarial: Alsec Nominees Limited, the company secretarial arm of UUBO, provided company secretarial services to the above-mentioned organisations on a *pro bono* basis.



Achievements



Launch of our *Pro Bono* Connect Initiative

On 7th August 2024, UUBO launched its inaugural *Pro Bono* Connect event under the theme “**Empowering Communities through Pro Bono Partnerships**”. The event brought together clients, partners, and civil society stakeholders to foster dialogue on maximising social impact through collaboration aligned with the SDGs.

Highlights include presentations from partners such as Trust Law, HACEY Health Initiative, The Justice Project, Caritas Spain, and the Linking Hands Foundation. As part of the *Pro Bono* Connect, we unveiled UUBO’s first-ever *Pro Bono* Impact Report, reflecting our progress in 2023 and our ongoing commitment to using legal expertise to drive meaningful community change.



Feature in the Trust Law Index 2024

We have been featured once again in the 2024 Trust Law Index of *Pro Bono*, which spotlighted our efforts to institutionalise pro bono work and expand access to justice. The index highlighted that 32% of our fee earners contributed an average of 4.5 *pro bono* hours each. In addition, it profiled our work defending freedom of expression in the aftermath of the #EndSARS protests. It also recognised our formalised *pro bono* policy, and our annual *Pro Bono* Connect Initiative as key drivers of

sustained impact.



Nomination for the 2024 Trust Law Regional Law Firm of the Year Award

UUBO was nominated for the 2024 Trust Law Regional Law Firm of the Year Award, which recognises outstanding commitment and impact in delivering *pro bono* support through Trust Law. The nomination highlights our consistent engagement with *pro bono* clients across the continent and shows our dedication to advancing access to justice and legal capacity building in Africa.



Participation in the Nigerian Economic Summit's 30th Anniversary

As part of our continued commitment to legislative and policy reform, our partner, Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia, co-chaired the Technical Subcommittee of the 30th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#30), themed "**Collaborative Action for Growth, Competitiveness, and Stability.**" She also delivered a presentation on Nigeria's regulatory landscape during a special Community Session. Associates Dumebi Anike-Nweze, Adaobi Omosefe Uzo, and Tobi Oladepo supported the summit as part of the Delivery Unit, with Dumebi also serving as the Delivery Unit Lead for the NES#30 Art Competition and Art Show.



13

Charitable Organisations

received free corporate advisory services



3+

litigation cases

handled on a pro bono basis



3

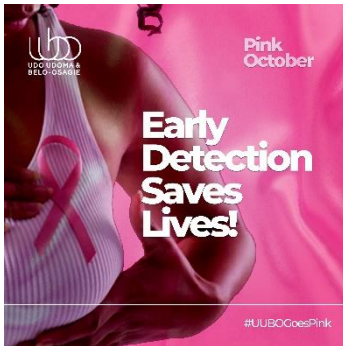
Charitable Organisations

received company secretarial services on a pro bono basis



Our Social Impact

UUBO continues to drive meaningful community impact through employee-led outreach, social advocacy, and education-focused initiatives that reflect our values beyond the workplace.



2024 Pink October Breast Cancer Campaign

In October 2024, UUBO continued its tradition of raising breast cancer awareness through its annual *Pink October* campaign, uniting staff across all offices in support of early detection, education, and community outreach. Some of the activities during the campaign include:

Firm-wide Step Challenge

Colleagues in Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt participated in a friendly fitness challenge, collectively recording over 2.3 million steps, with the Lagos staff on the 13th floor team emerging as winners

Awareness Wednesdays

Employees wore custom pink t-shirts every Wednesday to show solidarity and amplify awareness both within the firm and on social media.

Inspiring Storytelling

A breast cancer survivor was invited to share her personal journey during an interactive session themed "The Pink Talk", offering insight into early detection and the power of community support for cancer patients.

Pink Funday & Fundraiser

Throughout October, employees across our offices, alongside alumni of the firm, made voluntary contributions in support of our breast cancer awareness campaign. By the end of the initiative, we had raised ₦2,352,000, demonstrating the power of collective action. In addition, we organised an employee-led auction, which further generated the sum of ₦360,181.

The funds raised were donated to a cancer-focused foundation and applied directly to the treatment of four cancer patients.

Community Outreach

As part of our commitment to broader social impact, we partnered with Sebecly Cancer Care to visit two government secondary schools at Lagos Island - Lafaji Grammar School and Okesuna High School.

The outreach sensitised female students and teachers on breast cancer awareness, with a focus on early detection. Free breast cancer screenings were also provided to teachers during the programme.

Pink October 2024 reflected the power of collective action, reinforcing the message that awareness saves lives, one woman at a time. Our Pink October initiative supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and underscores our commitment to health equity and community-driven health education.



Empowering Future Legal Leaders: UUBO's Internship Programme

From July to August 2024, UUBO welcomed 35 outstanding law students to its Lagos office for a three-week internship programme, an initiative aimed at nurturing the next generation of legal talent. Selected from leading universities in Nigeria and abroad, these aspiring lawyers engaged in hands-on learning alongside our professionals, building critical skills and gaining exposure to commercial law practice.

This programme underscores our enduring commitment to capacity-building, youth empowerment, and the advancement of the legal profession. By investing in promising students, we contribute to shaping a more informed, skilled, and inclusive legal community for the future.



Project Make a Widow Smile

In June 2024, UUBO fulfilled its commitment to the "Make a Widow Smile" initiative in commemoration of World Widows' Day, raising ₦1 million through its employee volunteer scheme. In collaboration with the Lagos Food Bank, the firm provided customised food boxes to widows in indigent communities across Lagos. This effort is a testament of our ongoing mission to uplift vulnerable groups and exemplifies the collective generosity and compassion of the UUBO community in driving meaningful, lasting impact. It also embodies the shared compassion, generosity, and commitment of the UUBO community to creating positive change beyond the legal profession.



Update on the Legacy Endowment

As part of our 40th anniversary initiatives, we announced the establishment of an endowment fund at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, and the University of Ghana, Legon in honour of our founders. The endowment is a comprehensive support programme designed to nurture exceptional legal talent from undergraduate study through qualification as a lawyer. It provides sustained academic, financial, and professional support to selected awardees throughout their legal education.

The fund comprises the "UUU Scholarship" - short for the Senator Udoma Udo Udoma Scholarship at the University of Uyo - and the "MBO Scholarship", representing the Myma Belo-Osagie Scholarship at the University of Ghana. Each scholarship is awarded to the best-performing first-year law student at the respective institution, in furtherance of our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education). The scholarship covers full undergraduate tuition, a monthly living stipend, full tuition and living expenses at the Nigerian or Ghanaian Law School, and sponsored internship opportunities at our Lagos offices. Continuation of the scholarship is subject to the awardee maintaining strong academic performance and demonstrating exemplary personal conduct.

We are pleased to confirm that disbursements under the fund have commenced, and we remain actively engaged with the beneficiaries to support their well-being and monitor their academic progress. This initiative reflects our enduring commitment to developing the next generation of legal professionals and advancing inclusive access to quality legal education across the region.



Conclusion

As we reflect on our activities for 2024, we are reminded that meaningful impact is rarely achieved in isolation. It is the result of deliberate choices, sustained commitment, and strong partnerships anchored in shared values. At UUBO, our pro bono work continues to be a powerful expression of who we are as a firm and what we stand for.

The initiatives, collaborations, and milestones highlighted in this report reflect our belief that the law can be a force for inclusion, justice, and social progress. Whether through strategic legal support to mission-driven organisations, policy-oriented research, community outreach, or scholarship and capacity-building initiatives, we remain committed to deploying our expertise in ways that deliver lasting value beyond commercial outcomes.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen our pro bono practice, deepen our partnerships, and expand the reach of our impact, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and informed by the evolving needs of the communities we serve. We are grateful to our partners, clients, colleagues, and volunteers whose dedication makes this work possible, and we look forward to building on these foundations in the years to come.

Our Team



Yinka Edu



Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia



Chisom Ndubuisi



Titilola Olatunde-Fasogbun



Noble Chiwendu



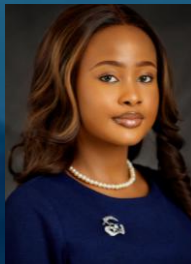
Dumebi Anike-Nweze



Toluwalope Adedokun



Josephine Ukpung



Iheoma Njoku



Adaobi Omosefe Uzo

FURTHER INFORMATION

We are eager to expand our network and reach and are therefore always on the lookout to collaborate with impact-driven local and international *pro bono* organisations. If you know any of such organisations that may be of interest to us, please send an email to probono@uubo.org.



www.uubo.org