



UDO UDOMA &
BELO-OSAGIE



2025

PRO BONO AND SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



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In 2025, We spent

1,200

Hours rendering
pro bono services



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025 edition of our annual *Pro Bono* Newsletter!

At Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie (“**UUBO**”), we consider *pro bono* work an intentional extension of our role as legal advisers, responsible citizens, and institutional actors within the legal system. For us, *pro bono* work is more than a professional obligation; it reflects our commitment to delivering legal solutions that strengthen institutions, support access to justice, and contribute to meaningful social progress within our communities. In this newsletter, we are pleased to share how that commitment translated into focused, sustained action throughout 2025.

Our *pro bono* practice is anchored on the same principles that define our core work: integrity, innovation, and a culture of excellence. We leverage our legal expertise across sectors and relationships across the globe to support initiatives that address systemic challenges and create lasting social impact. Collaboration is central to this effort, and we work closely with non-profit organisations and institutional partners

to deliver targeted legal support where it is most needed. Our partnerships with organisations such as the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and the Thomson Reuters Foundation (TrustLaw) enable us to continue contributing to impactful projects and supporting missions on a global scale.

As societal challenges continue to grow in scale and complexity, our *pro bono* practice has become more focused and intentional. In 2025, we deepened our engagement across priority areas, expanded strategic partnerships, and identified new opportunities where our expertise can enhance access to justice, strengthen institutional capacity, and foster sustainable growth.

This edition of our *Pro Bono* Newsletter highlights the range of projects undertaken by our *pro bono* practice in 2025 and reflects the evolving nature of our social impact efforts. As you explore, we invite you to be inspired and to join us in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future. If you would like to read the last edition of our *Pro Bono* Newsletter, you may access it [here](#).

UUBO SDGs

At UUBO, we recognise that legal expertise, when properly leveraged, can be a powerful catalyst for community development. Our *pro bono* practice reflects this conviction by delivering structured, value-driven legal support that contributes to broader social and economic progress. This commitment is deeply embedded in our culture and shapes how we engage with communities, partners, and causes.

Our *pro bono* work is intentionally aligned with selected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”), which provide a framework for assessing where our legal interventions can deliver the greatest value across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These SDGs enables us to bridge global priorities with local realities, ensuring that our interventions deliver lasting impact.

The *pro bono* activities highlighted in this newsletter align closely with the following SDGs:

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



We deploy our legal expertise in support of these goals through the provision of strategic legal advice, research, and policy engagement, and by offering accessible legal services to underserved communities, mission-driven organisations and non-profit organisations.

Our objective is not only to address immediate legal needs but to help strengthen the institutional foundations that support fairness, equity, and long-term sustainable development. We achieve this by equipping mission-driven organisations with effective legal tools which will drive long-term sustainable development.

To deliver on these objectives, we continue to cultivate strong partnerships with trusted local and international *pro bono* organisations that share our commitment to SDG-aligned impact. Through these collaborations, we amplify the reach and effectiveness of our efforts. In 2025, we spent over 1,200 hours rendering *pro bono* services, reflecting our commitment to building a more just and equitable society.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Our Pro Bono Activities in 2025

In 2025, our lawyers supported a range of research, corporate advisory, litigation and governance initiatives under our pro bono practice, including the following:



United For Global Mental Health (UGMH)

Research: We provided responses to a questionnaire on mental health legislation in Nigeria as part of UGMH's three-part series of reports on the deinstitutionalisation of mental health care across the world.



World Bank Group on Women, Business And The Law (Wbl)

Research: We supported the World Bank Group WBL by reviewing questionnaires on labour law, domestic violence against women, and family law from a Nigerian law perspective, contributing to its broader mission to improve women's labour force participation and promote economic growth and job creation globally.



Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice Of The New York City Bar

Research: We joined and actively participate in the ongoing working group organised by the Cyrus Vance Center to advance pro-bono services in sub-Saharan Africa.



Durian Foundation

Corporate Advisory: We supported the Durian Foundation by reviewing contracts relating to the implementation of a project aimed at providing business development support to rural women.



Women World Banking (WWB)

Corporate Advisory: WWB is a not-for-profit organisation that advances women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment. We advised WWB on the various registrable corporate structures in Nigeria that are suitable for a not-for-profit corporation seeking to expand into Nigeria.



Merchants of Peace Foundation (MoP)

Corporate Advisory: MoP is an endowment fund that supports several philanthropic causes aimed at tackling economic challenges by driving business-led initiatives to improve people's livelihoods globally.

We advised MoP on the laws applicable to fundraising by non-profit organisations in Nigeria, including fundraising models and donor-related tax benefits in Nigeria. We also advised MoP on its proposed alternative dispute resolution online platform for small and medium-sized businesses.



Shiktra Maternal Newborn and Child Health (SMANCH) Foundation

Corporate Advisory: SMANCH Foundation works to improve maternal, newborn, and child health through nutrition education and healthcare services.

We revised the constitutional documents of the SMANCH Foundation to incorporate the UN SDGs into the organisation's objectives. We also assisted the SMANCH Foundation with drafting internal governance documents, including a health and safety policy and an anti-corruption and anti-bribery policy aimed at strengthening the internal corporate governance of SMANCH Foundation.



Center For Collaborative Investigative Journalism (CCIJ)

Corporate Advisory: We advised CCIJ in connection with its editorial collaboration with TechCabal, a Lagos-based tech newsroom under the Big Cabal Media group, on an investigative report.



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 provided corporate legal advisory services to Hospitals for Humanity Foundation on a retainer basis, thereby supporting its initiatives to fund and execute free open-heart surgeries for children in Nigeria.



Evidence Action

Corporate Advisory: Evidence Action is a not-for-profit organisation that scales low-cost health interventions in order to improve the well-being of people in Africa and Asia.

We advised Evidence Action on the key steps, legal considerations, and best practices governing leases and tenancies, including essential clauses, statutory requirements, and fundamental guidelines that ensure the enforceability of lease agreements in Nigeria.



Thomson Reuters Foundation

Corporate Advisory: To support Thomson Reuters Foundation's goal of maintaining a thriving independent media ecosystem, we prepared a legal memorandum and checklist outlining the legal considerations journalists should be aware of when reporting in Nigeria to mitigate defamatory claims.



The Justice Project ("TJP")

Litigation: We are partnering with The Justice Project to provide free legal services to indigent inmates across Nigeria Correctional Facilities.



Museum of West African Art Ltd/Gte, Growing Businesses Foundation, Sebecly Cancer Care and Support Center, Women at Risk International Foundation Ltd/Gte, Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (PEVCA)

Company Secretarial: Alsec, the company secretarial arm of UUBO, provided company secretarial services to these organisations on a *pro bono* basis.



Achievements



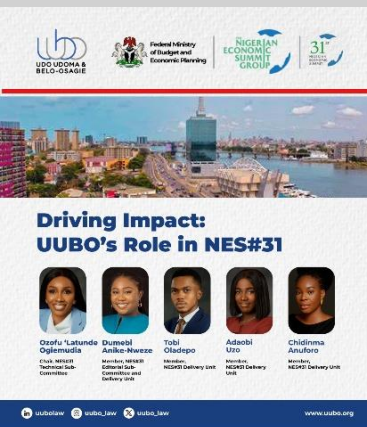
Honoured with Excellence Award for Corporate Social Responsibility

UUBO was honoured by the Lagos State Government, through the Education District III, with an Excellence Award for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility at the 2025 Annual Education Merit Awards. The award recognises UUBO’s Pink Campaign, through which we hosted health seminars in 2 (two) government schools on Lagos Island to raise breast cancer awareness among young women.



Nomination for a TrustLaw Collaboration Award 2025

We were nominated for the TrustLaw Collaboration Award 2025 for our contribution to the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa’s (“CIPESA”) pan-African *pro bono* research project conducted in 2024 on the rights of persons with disabilities to access information and communication technologies. The project was a multi-jurisdictional research spanning 9 (nine) jurisdictions, including Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The project supported CIPESA’s advocacy for digital inclusion and helped identify legal and structural barriers to ICT access for persons with disabilities.



Participation in the 31st Nigerian Economic Summit

As part of our continued commitment to legislative and policy reform, our partner, Ozoifu 'Latunde Ogiemudia, Chaired the Technical Subcommittee of the 31st Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#31), themed “**The Reform Imperative: Building a Prosperous and Inclusive Nigeria by 2030.**” She was also a panellist, sharing her experience on the panels “Unlocking Value from Nigeria’s Public Assets: Legal Certainty, Institutional Coherence, and Investment Opportunities”, and “NESG Membership Conference – Partnerships for Sustainable Private Sector-Led Economic Development in Nigeria”. Our associates, Adaobi Uzo, Tobi Oladepo, and Chidinma Anuforo supported the summit as members of the Delivery Unit.



11 charitable organisations received free corporate advisory services

10 litigation cases handled on a pro bono basis

5 charitable organisations received company secretarial services on a pro bono basis



Our Social Impact

UUBO continues to make meaningful contributions to our communities through impactful initiatives. As a firm, we engaged in employee-led outreaches, social and pro-bono advocacy, and education-focused initiatives that reflect our values beyond the workplace.



2025 Pink October Breast Cancer Campaign

In October 2025, UUBO reaffirmed its commitment to health advocacy by implementing its annual Pink October Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative. The firm mobilised employees across all offices- Abuja, Lagos, and Port Harcourt- to support breast cancer education, early detection, and community-focused engagement throughout the month.

Awareness Wednesdays

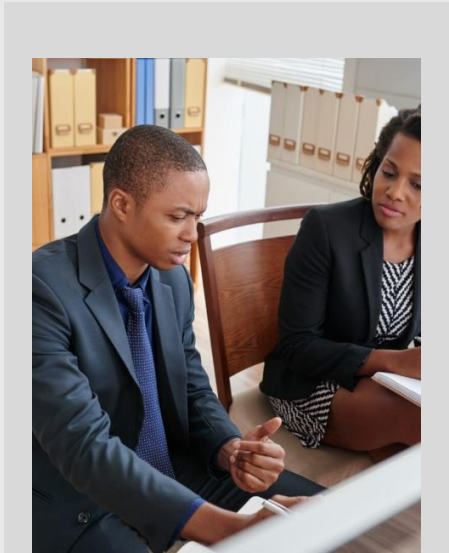
Throughout the campaign, employees participated in Awareness Wednesdays by wearing customised pink T-shirts, reinforcing solidarity and visibly promoting breast cancer awareness within the firm, our communities, and across digital platforms.

Inspiring Storytelling

As part of the programme, UUBO hosted an interactive session featuring a breast cancer survivor who shared her lived experience, emphasising the importance of early detection, resilience, and the role of community support.

Pink Funday & Fundraiser

The campaign culminated in a Pink Funday fundraising event, featuring team activities and an internal auction of staff-contributed items. These efforts collectively raised more than four million Naira in support of breast cancer outreach initiatives, with contributions from both staff and alumni.



Empowering Future Legal Leaders: UUBO's Internship Programme

In July and August 2025, UUBO opened its Lagos office to 30 exceptional law students for an intensive three-week internship. The participants, selected from reputable universities in Nigeria and internationally, were introduced to our practice teams, where they gained practical insight into commercial legal work and strengthened core professional competencies through direct engagement with our lawyers.

This initiative reflects UUBO's strategic focus on talent development, capacity building, and the long-term advancement of the legal profession. Through structured mentorship and practical exposure, the firm continues to invest in future-ready legal talent and to support the growth of a skilled, diverse and sustainable legal ecosystem.



TrustLaw Pro Bono Index Launch and Global Benchmarking

In February 2025, our *pro bono* team participated in the launch of the TrustLaw Pro Bono Index, marking the 10th anniversary of the TrustLaw network. The firm contributed to discussions on the role of institutional *pro bono* frameworks, including policies, governance structures, and tracking mechanisms, in strengthening access to justice in emerging markets.

UUBO's *pro bono* practice was also featured in the 2024 TrustLaw Pro Bono Index, a global benchmark report produced by the Thomson Reuters Foundation to measure the scale and impact of *pro bono* work worldwide. The firm's inclusion reflects its commitment to structured, accountable, and sustainable *pro bono* service delivery in Nigeria.



TrustLaw Global Fund Training in Lagos

The *pro bono* team also participated in the TrustLaw Global Fund Training held in Lagos. The programme focused on the role of *pro bono* legal services in supporting advocacy, sustainability, and institutional capacity for civil society organisations.


During the training, the team shared practical insights on how the firm engages in *pro bono* work, supports non-profit organisations, and balances *pro bono* commitments alongside commercial practice. This engagement underscores UUBO's ongoing commitment to empowering civil society through access to quality legal support.



Regional Pro Bono Advocacy via PILnet

During Pro Bono Week 2025, members of UUBO's Pro Bono team, at TrustLaw's invitation, spoke at the regional convening organised by PILnet in Lagos. The session formed part of the first Regional Convening on *Pro Bono* and Public Interest Lawyering in Africa and examined the role of *pro bono* legal services in strengthening civic space across the continent.

The discussions highlighted how strategic legal support can help civil society organisations navigate complex regulatory environments and sustain their work. Through this engagement, UUBO reaffirmed its commitment to advancing access to justice and supporting initiatives aligned with broader social development goals.



Our 2026 Plans

Activities

a. **Continued Legal Representation**

We will continue to provide free legal advice and representation to indigent inmates in Nigeria through our in-house programme, Project NAS and our partnership with the Justice Project.

b. **Pro Bono Connect 2026**

Host the second edition of our virtual *pro bono* event.

c. **Hospital for Humanity**

Deepen our collaboration with Hospital for Humanity by providing legal support for free open-heart surgeries for children, as well as related ancillary matters, further strengthening its impact on critical healthcare access and community well-being.

Communication and Collaboration

a. **Local Collaboration**

UUBO aims to strengthen partnerships with local pro bono organisations that connect legal professionals with individuals and organisations seeking free legal assistance. Through these collaborations, the firm will expand its expertise across a broader range of pro bono matters, thereby enhancing its contribution to access to justice and community support.

b. **Knowledge Sharing**

We are committed to sharing and advancing knowledge by publishing insightful articles and conducting training tailored to address the unique legal issues faced by international and local pro bono clients as they navigate the complexities of the Nigerian legal landscape.

Through the implementation of targeted strategies and structured initiatives, the firm is positioned to deliver measurable and sustainable impact in 2026 and beyond. UUBO remains committed to deploying its legal expertise and institutional resources to support individuals, communities, and organisations, while advancing fairness, access to justice, and long-term social equity.

Our Team



Yinka Edu



**Ozofu 'Latunde
Ogiemudia**



**Chisom
Ndubuisi**



**Titilola Olatunde-
Fasogbun**



Noble Chiwendu



**Toluwalope
Adedokun**



**Josephine
Ukpog**



**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.



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