

A Survey of *Pro Bono* Practices and Opportunities in 71 Jurisdictions

**Prepared by Latham & Watkins LLP
for the Pro Bono Institute**

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FOREWORD

This Survey of *Pro Bono* Practices and Opportunities in 71 Jurisdictions goes back to an initiative of the Pro Bono Institute and Latham & Watkins to make information about global *pro bono* legal services accessible. The first edition of the survey published in 2005 covered 11 jurisdictions, mostly in Europe. The 2012 edition covers over 70 jurisdictions in Europe, Asia and the Pacific region, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East. As the interest in global *pro bono* has grown, and this survey with it, the conversation about global and international *pro bono* has shifted. Whereas the focus just a few years ago was on issues of permissibility and compatibility with the local legal system, the focus today is decidedly practical: *pro bono* has gained in acceptance and the question is how, not whether, *pro bono* representations can be undertaken. The developments have been profound and exciting.

The survey is part of an ongoing effort, shared by many law firms, organizations and corporate legal departments, to promote and stimulate the growth of *pro bono* representation globally and in international settings. Its purpose is to serve as an introductory resource for law firms, private practitioners, in-house lawyers and NGOs seeking to engage or learn more about the culture and provision of *pro bono* in their own or other countries. The chapters describe, for each jurisdiction, what access-to-justice or publicly funded legal aid programs exist, what unmet needs for legal representation remain, what perceptions or culture shape the discussion of *pro bono*, and what professional-conduct laws and rules provide the framework for *pro bono* representation.

In 2012, lawyers from Latham & Watkins' 30 offices around the globe have updated all prior chapters and added chapters covering nearly 30 new jurisdictions. We consider the survey to be a work in progress and welcome your feedback and comments to help us improve future versions (please direct your requests to: Gianni.DeStefano@lw.com). While we have worked, to the extent possible, with local counsel and NGOs to provide information that is both current and accurate, we note that the situation in many of the jurisdictions is fluid, and that errors and omissions are unavoidable. The survey is therefore a work in progress in this sense as well and we invite your comments.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Esther Lardent and Tammy Taylor of the Pro Bono Institute, with whom we have collaborated on this project. The survey is the effort of a large team, involving not only many lawyers at Latham & Watkins, but also local law firms and practitioners, in-house lawyers and NGOs around the globe. We are grateful for their contributions and their time.

August 2012

Gianni De Stefano and Wendy Atrokhov



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THANKS

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NGOs: Canadian Bar Association (Canada) – Free Legal Advice Centres (UK) – MANS (Montenegro) – Mizan Law Group for Human Rights (Jordan) – the Peace Institute (Slovenia) – PILnet (China) – ProVene foundation (Uruguay) – Public Interest Alliance Centre (Ireland) – Public Interest Law Clearing House of Victoria (Australia) – Red Pro Bono (Mexico)

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Last, but not least, each individual, both in law firms and legal departments, active in *pro bono* representations to address the unmet legal needs of those with limited means.

PRO BONO PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN JORDAN¹

The provision of *pro bono* legal services by lawyers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (“Jordan”) is less common than it is in the United States. There are, however, several governmental and nongovernmental organizations in Jordan that provide free legal services to disadvantaged individuals and other groups. This chapter discusses these organizations and provides a general overview of *pro bono* practices and opportunities in Jordan.

I. LEGAL SERVICES AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN JORDAN

A. The Legal Profession

The Jordanian judicial system consists of three categories of courts: civil courts, religious courts and special courts.² The civil courts are courts of general jurisdiction and hear civil and criminal cases that are not reserved by law for other courts.³ The religious courts, which consist of *Shari’a* (Islamic law) courts and tribunals of other religious communities, have jurisdiction over personal status matters, such as marriage and inheritance.⁴ There are several special courts, the jurisdiction of which is specified in the laws creating them, including the State Security Court, which has jurisdiction over cases relating to state security and drug offences.⁵

As of May 2012, Jordan has 9,563 practicing lawyers.⁶ The legal profession in Jordan is governed by the 1972 Bar Association Law (the “**Bar Association Law**”).⁷ Under the Bar Association Law, all practicing lawyers in Jordan are required to join the Jordanian Bar Association (the “**Bar Association**”).⁸ In addition, lawyers must undergo a period of training before being allowed to plead cases before the courts.

Foreign-qualified lawyers generally may not practice Jordanian law or represent parties in Jordanian courts, although lawyers from Arab countries are permitted to practice law in Jordan on the basis of reciprocity. Foreign-qualified lawyers are permitted to advise Jordanian clients on matters of foreign or international law. A small number international law firms operate in Jordan in association with Jordanian law firms.⁹

B. Legal Aid

The provision of *pro bono* legal services by lawyers is not common in Jordan. According to the Bar Association Law, one of the goals of the Bar Association is to assist in providing legal services to those who cannot afford them.¹⁰ However, the Bar Association, has no established mechanisms to organize and encourage *pro bono* efforts by its members and there is no specific governmental body regulating *pro bono* work in Jordan. Under the Bar Association Law, the President of the Bar Association may assign any Jordanian lawyer, once per year, to represent an individual lacking the means to hire a lawyer on a *pro bono* basis.¹¹ In practice, accepting a *pro bono* assignment is not mandatory, and the lawyer may refuse to provide the representation.¹² Moreover, there are no guidelines regarding who is

¹ This chapter was drafted with the support of Mizan Law Group for Human Rights.

² Nathan J. Brown, *Arab Judicial Structures*, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, available at <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/judiciary/nbrown/jordan.html> (last visited May 31, 2012); Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (May 28, 2012) (on file with author).

³ Nathan J. Brown, *Arab Judicial Structures*, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, available at <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/judiciary/nbrown/jordan.html> (last visited May 31, 2012).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*; U.S. DEP’T OF STATE BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, 2009 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: JORDAN, (2010), available at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/nea/136071.htm>.

⁶ Telephone interview with Abdelrahman Nafesh at the Jordan Bar Association.

⁷ Bar Association Law No. 11 (1972), at http://www.lob.gov.jo/ui/laws/search_no.jsp?no=11&year=1972.

⁸ *Id.* at art. 7.

⁹ The Sanad Law Group recently merged with Eversheds LLP’s Middle East network in 2011 to become Sanad Law Group in association with Eversheds KSLG. This became only the fourth international law firm to have an official platform in Jordan, joining Safwan Moubaydeen Law Firm in association with SNR Denton, Al Tamimi & Company and Abdul Karim Al Fauri & Associates, which retains a close relationship with UK-headquartered Trowers & Hamblins LLP.

¹⁰ Bar Association Law No. 11 of 1972, art. (5).5, available at Jordanian Bar Association.

¹¹ *Id.* at art. 100, at http://www.lob.gov.jo/ui/laws/search_no.jsp?no=11&year=1972.

¹² Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 20, 2008) (on file with author); *contra* Bar Association Law No. 11 of 1972 art. (100).

eligible for such legal aid, and the decision to request a lawyer to provide free representation rests in the sole discretion of the President of the Bar Association.¹³

The Jordanian government provides free legal representation to defendants in need, in certain criminal cases. Under the Jordanian Criminal Procedure Law, a defendant in any case involving a possible penalty of life imprisonment or death is entitled to a government-provided lawyer if he or she cannot afford one.¹⁴ In these cases, the court is required to ask the defendant whether he or she has appointed a lawyer. If the defendant replies that he or she lacks the financial means to do so, the court is required to appoint a lawyer to represent the defendant.¹⁵ The defendant is not required to make any showing regarding his or her inability to afford a lawyer, and the trial cannot proceed until a lawyer is appointed to represent the defendant.¹⁶ In such a case, the president of the court appoints a private lawyer to represent the defendant.¹⁷ The appointment is not mandatory, and the lawyer may refuse the representation, or ask to be excused at any time, in which case the court is required to appoint another lawyer. The fees paid to the court-appointed lawyer are specified in the Criminal Procedure Law. The fees are paid following the issuance of the judgment, and are based on the number of court sessions, subject to specified minimum and maximum fees.¹⁸ These fees are modest relative to the fees that would ordinarily be charged by a lawyer for such a case.¹⁹

Defendants generally must pay court fees in order to appeal verdicts in criminal cases.²⁰ It is not possible to have such fees waived or postponed.²¹ The National Centre for Human Rights (the “NCHR”), a government-supported human rights body, has criticized the imposition of court fees on criminal appeals, calling it “an impediment facing many in practicing the right to self-defense before courts of different levels.”²² However, verdicts resulting in a penalty of life imprisonment or death are automatically appealed and no court fees are charged for such appeals.²³ In addition, defendants in need are entitled to a government-provided lawyer for such appeals.²⁴

Litigants in civil cases before the civil courts of first instance, courts of conciliation in cases exceeding 1000 Jordanian Dinars (approximately US\$1,412) and in appeal proceedings must be represented by lawyers.²⁵ Neither the plaintiffs nor the defendants in civil matters have a right to free legal representation. In addition to lawyers’ fees, plaintiffs bringing civil cases, and parties appealing rulings, must pay court fees based on a percentage of the value of the claim.²⁶ Litigants must also pay verdict and implementation fees, which may be equal to the initial trial fees.²⁷ These court fees are intended to reduce the burden on the court system by ensuring that only serious cases are brought before it.²⁸ Yet, the NCHR has observed that this has often resulted in people being prevented from resorting to the judiciary due to an inability to afford the costs of litigation.²⁹

Under the court fee regulations, the president of the court or the presiding judge can postpone the payment of court fees by a litigant, if a financial inability to pay is demonstrated.³⁰ In order to obtain a

¹³ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

¹⁴ JORDAN CONST., art. 6.1, at http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html.

¹⁵ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, art. 208 (1961); email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

¹⁶ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

¹⁷ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, *supra* n.15.

¹⁸ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, *supra* n.15 available at http://www.lob.gov.jo/ui/laws/search_no.jsp?year=1961&no=9; email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

¹⁹ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

²⁰ See THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan* (2008), ¶ 24 (2009). <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/members/full-members/jordan/downloads/annual-reports/2008/view>

²¹ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 22, 2008) (on file with author).

²² *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n.20.

²³ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 24, 2008) (on file with author).

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan During the Period (June 1, 2003 –December 31, 2004)*, 28 (May 31, 2005).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.* at 29.

²⁹ *Id.* at 28; *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n.20 at ¶ 24.

³⁰ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

postponement of fees, the litigant must submit a petition to the president of the court stating that the litigant is unable to pay the court fees.³¹ The petition must include a statement from the land and survey department, stating that the litigant does not own any property and must be accompanied by the testimony of two witnesses regarding the litigant's financial status.³² Petitions for postponement of fees are generally granted.³³

Court fees (including lawsuit fees, execution fees and expert fees) are also charged for cases before the *Shari'a* courts. The NCHR has observed that these fees are high, and prevent many individuals, particularly women, from resorting to the *Shari'a* courts.³⁴

It is permissible for a Jordanian lawyer to represent a client on a contingency fee basis, such that the lawyer's fees are paid out of the proceeds of the litigation received by the client, and the lawyer is not paid unless the client prevails in the litigation.³⁵ Lawyers working on a contingency fee basis are not providing *pro bono* services, but the possibility of retaining a lawyer on a contingency fee basis may allow some individuals who could not otherwise afford to hire lawyers to obtain legal representation.

II. *PRO BONO* IN JORDAN: OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. *Pro Bono* Opportunities

Although the provision of *pro bono* legal services by Jordanian lawyers is not common, several governmental and nongovernmental organizations ("NGOs") provide free legal services to individuals in Jordan. Several of these organizations are discussed below.

The governmental Ombudsman Bureau was established in 2009, operating under the Ministry of Public Sector Development, to receive and investigate complaints by citizens regarding actions by public agencies or their employees. In 2010 the Ombudsman Bureau received a total of 1,572 complaints. Of these, 32 were resolved through conciliation, 82 were resolved through proceedings, 41 resulted in a recommendation being referred to the relevant government entity, 652 applications were dismissed as outside of the mandate of the Ombudsman Bureau, 504 were dismissed on grounds that no irregularity had occurred, 221 remained under investigation, and 40 applications were abandoned by the complainant.³⁶ The Ombudsman Bureau has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Justice Centre for Legal Aid ("JCLA") to enhance the legal services both entities extend to the public. The memorandum stipulates that the bureau will refer all grievances lodged by citizens that lie outside its jurisdiction to the JCLA which will provide legal advice to the complainants and direct them to the proper legal channels.³⁷

The National Center for Human Rights ("NCHR") is a government-supported human rights body that, among other activities, provides free legal services to victims of human rights violations.³⁸ The NCHR was established by law in 2002 to promote an awareness of human rights, improve the human rights situation in Jordan and assist victims of human rights violations.³⁹ The Complaints & Legal Services unit of the NCHR, which employs several lawyers, receives and addresses complaints of human rights violations, often pursuing judicial remedies where appropriate.⁴⁰ The NCHR operates a hotline for

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n.20, at ¶ 25.

³⁵ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 22, 2008) (on file with author).

³⁶ OMBUDSMAN BUREAU, *report for 2010*, available at <http://www.ombudsman.org.jo/Arabic/ReportsStudy/Reports/Documents/mathlm2010cover.pdf>.

³⁷ The *Jordan Times* article by Hani Hazaimeh published on Feb. 28, 2012, available at <http://jordantimes.com/ombudsman-bureau-legal-aid-centre-to-cooperate-in-addressing-public-complaints>

³⁸ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Introduction*, available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Aboutus>.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Monitoring & Complaints*, available at http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Aboutus/OrganizationalStructure/Monitoring_Complaints_unit.aspx.

complaints of human rights violations, and complaints may also be submitted via its website.⁴¹ In 2011, the NCHR received 596 complaints and 156 requests for assistance.⁴²

Mizan Law Group for Human Rights (“**MIZAN**”) is an NGO that engages in human rights education campaigns and provides free legal counseling and representation to vulnerable individuals and victims of human rights violations.⁴³ MIZAN focuses in particular on providing legal assistance to juveniles, women, prisoners, laborers, refugees, asylum seekers and victims of torture. MIZAN provides a range of free legal services, including providing legal advice, interfacing with government agencies on behalf of its clients and representing clients in court. MIZAN has offices in three cities and operates a mobile legal clinic that travels to other areas to offer walk-in legal consultations. MIZAN also operates a 24-hour telephone helpline that provides free legal advice. In addition, MIZAN receives case referrals from over 12 different government departments and NGOs, including the Jordanian Women’s Commission and the Jordan River Foundation, as well as various juvenile centers and women’s shelters administered by the Ministry of Social Development.⁴⁴

MIZAN is primarily funded by donations from international sources, which have included the European Union and the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Jordan.⁴⁵ In addition to its full-time lawyers, MIZAN utilizes a group of “volunteer” lawyers who provide legal services to individuals on MIZAN’s behalf in exchange for reimbursement of costs and payment of nominal fees by MIZAN. Engaging the services of these lawyers to represent individuals in need of legal services has enabled MIZAN to meet the increasing demand for its services.⁴⁶

The Justice Center for Legal Aid (the “**JCLA**”) is an NGO that provides free legal counseling and representation to individuals who are unable to afford legal services.⁴⁷ The JCLA has a team of in-house lawyers and operates three legal aid clinics in Jordan.⁴⁸ The JCLA has also organized a “Pro Bono Legal Network,” consisting of law firms and individuals who provide free legal advice and representation to individuals referred to them by the JCLA.⁴⁹ Since its establishment in 2008, the JCLA had provided legal counseling to 2,300 individuals and legal representation to 1,450 individuals.⁵⁰ The JCLA is funded by donors that include the Foundation for the Future and the World Bank.⁵¹

The Media Legal Aid Unit of the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (“**MELAD**”) is an NGO, providing free legal services and counseling to journalists.⁵² MELAD employs four full time lawyers who are involved primarily in defending journalists entangled in publication and free expression proceedings, such as character defamation. In addition to representing journalists in litigation, MELAD operates a hotline offering free legal advice to journalists.⁵³ It also conducts legal awareness workshops for journalists and press law training workshops for lawyers. MELAD is funded by donations from the European Commission and other donors.⁵⁴

Tamkeen Centre for Legal Aid and Human Rights (“**Tamkeen**”) was founded in 2007 and works in partnership with other service providers, lawyers, consultants and advocates and a network of volunteer

⁴¹ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Contact Us*, available at <http://www.nchr.org/jo/english/ContactUs>; The National Center for Human Rights, Human Rights Violation Complaints.

⁴² Telephone Interview with Atef Al Majali, NCHR Jordan; *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n.20 at ¶¶ 214-15, available at <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/members/full-members/jordan/downloads/annual-reports/2008/view>

⁴³ MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights, available at http://www.mizangroup.jo/index_en.php; interview with Eva Abu Halaweh, Executive Director, MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights (Jan. 16, 2008).

⁴⁴ Email from Jocelyn Knight, MIZAN Law Group for Human Rights (Sept. 13, 2010) (on file with author).

⁴⁵ MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights, The Annual Report for 2010 available at <http://www.mizangroup.jo/files/2010.pdf> (Jan. 8th, 2012).

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, *About Us*, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-about-us>.

⁴⁸ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, *Legal Aid Clinics*, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-legal-and-clinics>.

⁴⁹ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, *Pro Bono Legal Network*, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-pro-bono-legal-network>.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, *Our Supporters*, available at .

⁵² CENTER FOR DEFENDING FREEDOM OF JOURNALISTS, *Media Legal Aid Unit*, at http://www.mfd-forum.com/english/?page_id=78 (last visited Jun. 4, 2012).

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

lawyers and activists who advocate and defend the rights of underprivileged people, through the provision of legal services and consultations, human rights education, advocacy and training programs, research and analytical studies, media campaigns and raising awareness activities and development of specialized programs that support human rights efforts and improve legal services. Tamkeen's Legal Unit provides services including: legal aid, court representation, one on one counseling, escort services to official institutions, referrals for victims in need for health or psychological help and assisting with labor disputes outside the judiciary system through arbitration, mediation and re-conciliation efforts.

Other organizations providing legal counseling services include:

- *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ("UNHCR")* works closely with ministries, international and national NGOs and UN agencies to provide services and assistance to refugees, including holding workshops for lawmakers, providing financial assistance and providing social and legal counseling for refugees.
- *Women in Danger*, supports detained women by providing shelter and free legal aid services in civil and criminal matters, working in partnership with the Public Security Department and the Ministry of Social Development.
- *Legal Van*, collaborates with other NGOs, allowing lawyers to travel across the country and provide legal advice and assistance to those in need, as well as lecture and raise awareness in rural communities.
- *The Hotline*, arranges for lawyers to give free legal advice over the phone.
- *The Jordanian Women's Union*, focuses on defending and protecting women's rights. It provides legal and social counseling, and operates a 24-hour counseling hotline.
- *The Jordanian Society for Human Rights*, covers a wide range of human rights issues and works on monitoring human rights violations and assisting victims.
- *The Arab Organization for Human Rights*, founded in 1990, provides free legal aid services, upon request, to people who are either suffering from human rights violations or are at risk of suffering human rights violations.

B. Barriers To *Pro Bono* Work And Other Considerations

Although the Jordanian constitution guarantees the equality of citizens before the law and access to justice for all, it does not contain an explicit right to defense or guaranteed access to courts and counsel.⁵⁵ According to the NCHR, many of the inmates in Jordanian prisons do not receive adequate legal assistance due to their poverty or their ignorance regarding the importance of legal representation.⁵⁶ As a result there are problems of access limiting an individual's ability to exercise their legal rights affecting the most impoverished sections of Jordanian society, which include the unemployed (the unemployment rate is as high as 13%), a refugee population of 450,915 (as of January 2011, consisting mainly of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees and not taking into account the recent influx of Syrian refugees),⁵⁷ juveniles and women (as Jordan remains a predominantly patriarchal society).

In 2010 the NCHR noted that despite repeated recommendations to reduce litigation costs, the cost of litigation remained one of the main the impediments to access to justice for Jordanian citizens. The NCHR observed that in 2010 there had been an increase in fees for lawyers' powers of attorney and this had been a continuing trend from the year 2008, when higher fees were imposed on citizens under the

⁵⁵ JORDAN CONST. art. 6(1), available at http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html.

⁵⁶ *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n. 20 at ¶ 15, available at <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/members/full-members/jordan/downloads/annual-reports/2008/view>; THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Status Report of Human Rights; The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*; 2006, 21 (2007), available at <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/members/full-members/jordan/downloads/annual-reports/2006/view>.

⁵⁷ Albawaba, *Jordan's unemployment rate hits 13.1 percent* (published Jan. 8th, 2012), available at <http://www.albawaba.com/business/jordans-unemployment-rate-hits-131-percent-408083>; UNHCR Jordan 2012 Country Profile, available at .

amended court fees system. It was added that this constituted an additional burden on litigants and limited their ability to resort to the judiciary.⁵⁸

Individual Jordanian lawyers have the ability to become involved in *pro bono* legal work either through volunteering or by working with NGOs in Jordan. In particular, Jordanian lawyers can provide legal services to NGOs on a *pro bono* basis, or partner with NGOs, to provide free legal services to needy individuals. For instance, Jordanian lawyers can join MIZAN's or JCLA's network of lawyers and assist in providing free legal representation to individuals on MIZAN's or JCLA's behalf.

Although foreign-qualified lawyers are limited in their ability to engage in *pro bono* legal work in Jordan by the fact that they cannot appear before Jordanian courts or practice Jordanian law, one possibility for international law firms to engage in *pro bono* work in Jordan is to provide advice regarding foreign or international laws to nonprofit organizations in Jordan. International law firms may also be able to partner with Jordanian NGOs to provide needy individuals with legal assistance on matters involving foreign laws. For instance, MIZAN has received requests for assistance from Jordanian women who are involved in marital or custody disputes in the United States.⁵⁹ US law firms may work with MIZAN to assist such individuals. Additional examples include law firms with offices in the UAE working with the Center for Justice and Legal Aid in coordinating a *pro bono* project in Jordan to help break down barriers to access to justice under Jordanian law⁶⁰ and working with USAID in conducting a comprehensive assessment of Jordan's media laws.⁶¹

III. CONCLUSION

The provision of *pro bono* legal services is not common in Jordan, however there exist a number of organizations that provide free legal services to disadvantaged groups and there are a number of opportunities for Jordanian lawyers to become involved in *pro bono* legal work. In particular, at least two NGOs have organized networks of lawyers who provide free legal services on a *pro bono* basis, or for a nominal fee, which Jordanian lawyers can join. Despite this, there is a lack of provision of legal representation for non-human-rights related cases.

As for the availability of *pro bono* opportunities for foreign-qualified lawyers in Jordan; whilst there exist restrictions on the practice of law by foreign-qualified lawyers, there is some scope for international law firms to assist nonprofit organizations and needy individuals on matters involving foreign and international law.

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Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Jordan

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⁵⁸ *State of Human Rights* (2008), *supra* n.20 at ¶ 15 (Apr. 2009), at <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/members/full-members/jordan/downloads/annual-reports/2008/view>;

http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e4865660s0ctexts/PO3JOR1123_945.pdf; THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Status Report of Human Rights; The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan* (2010), available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Publications/AnnualReports.aspx>.

⁵⁹ Interview with Eva Abu Halaweh, Executive Director, MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights (Jan. 16, 2008).

⁶⁰ REED SMITH, *Pro Bono*, at <http://m.reedsmith.com/pro-bono-eme-practices/> (last visited Jun. 4, 2012).

⁶¹ COVINGTON & BURLING, *Public Service Activities 2006 Report*, at <http://www.cov.com/files/Publication/6c55323f-0a16-4c89-9993-059ab19e42cc/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/7c7c8536-8eae-47a0-ba2c-0b51146c2f6d/Public%20Service%20Activities%202006.pdf>.