

ASHOKA: ADVANCING SOCIAL CHANGE

Ashoka is a premier global nonprofit organization investing in social entrepreneurs, helping them to positively transform communities across the globe. These social entrepreneurs, or “Ashoka Fellows”—who are chosen through a rigorous screening process—have innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social issues and offer new ideas for wide-scale change. In this 28th year of our relationship with Ashoka, nearly 150 Latham & Watkins attorneys in the United States, Europe and Asia have donated thousands of hours of pro bono legal services to Ashoka and Ashoka Fellows, spanning a wide spectrum of practice areas including finance, litigation, technology, intellectual property, corporate, employment and regulatory advice.

Latham assists with legal issues specific to the needs of Ashoka Fellows implementing innovative projects, as well as with issues related to supporting Ashoka’s global headquarters in structuring relationships with funding sources and other collaborators. The firm also provides advice on questions that impact resources available to all Ashoka Fellows. As Ashoka, with local branches in more than 35 countries, continues to expand its footprint, Latham is helping with the establishment of new offices by investigating legal structures in various countries that may provide benefits to the organization by enabling Ashoka to more efficiently apply donated funds to advance social change. Here are just a few of our pro bono projects with Ashoka and Ashoka Fellows around the globe:

Ashoka in the United States

Our New York attorneys assisted Ashoka in developing documentation to streamline the relationship of its “Changemakers” online competition program with its many corporate and foundation sponsors. The team included partner **Jennifer Ezring**, counsel **Ann Creed** and associates **Matt Sadofsky** and **Manasi Bhattacharyya**. In addition, New York associates **Conor French**, **Peter Maitland**, **Carrie Girgenti** and **Elizabeth Jaffe** negotiated specific arrangements with sponsors who work with Ashoka to enhance social entrepreneurship in areas of concern such as world hunger, advancement of women, availability of technology and sports as a path to achievement. Washington, D.C. partner **Kevin Boyle** and New York associates **Amanda Weare** and **Sarah Calvert** advised Ashoka on Internet security and data storage concerns, while Washington, D.C. partner **Bill McGlone** and associates **Shiva Aminian** and **Kim Fielding** advised Ashoka on compliance with anti-terrorism laws as they relate to funding individuals in the United States and abroad. In Orange County, counsel **Julie Dalke** and paralegal **Anna Kwan** helped Ashoka secure, maintain and protect its trademark portfolio as it expands with the organization.

Ashoka in France

For years, our Paris office has been representing Ashoka and its social entrepreneurs in France through all phases of their careers. In 2009, our Paris attorneys provided pro bono assistance to Ashoka-sponsored organizations such as *Respect Magazine*, a monthly publication focused on the promotion of diversity and the integration of minorities in French society, and *Signes de Sens*, a nonprofit organization that has developed a wide range of products for the deaf designed to provide better access to educational and cultural materials. Our Paris attorneys also provide assistance to the social entrepreneur organization S.I.E.L. BLEU (*Sport, Initiative Et Loisirs BLEU*), a nonprofit organization that provides low-cost physical training to the elderly and disabled. For additional information, see pages 20-21.

Ashoka in Germany

A team of attorneys in our Hamburg office advises Ashoka in Germany on various legal matters. For example, the team assisted on several corporate and contract matters, drafting and revising employment agreements, providing tax advice on contracts with new Ashoka Fellows and drafting agreements for Ashoka’s German Youth Venture initiative, which is active in the field of youth development. Under the leadership of Hamburg partners **Christian Scharff** and **Tobias Klass**, the team includes counsel **Norma Studt** and associates **Heinrich Bälz**, **Ritesh Rajani**, **Malte Hilpert**, **Henrik Lay**, **Andreas Lönner** and **Christian Möller**.

Ashoka in Spain

Attorneys from our Barcelona and Madrid offices worked with Ashoka to establish its presence in Spain. The team included partner **Juan Manuel de Remedios** and associates **Yoko Takagi** and **Pablo Zaldivar**. In addition, our Madrid office was honored to welcome María Calvo, the general manager of Ashoka in Spain, to speak at an event in March hosted by WEB—Women Enriching Business—our firm-wide women’s initiative designed to promote women in business by creating broader networks and productive business relationships and by attracting and investing in the long-term success of women. Latham attorneys, as well as clients and colleagues in the business community, came away from the event very excited to collaborate with Ashoka on future projects.



On effecting change through pro bono work:

“ Change is not just politics. It's not just a slogan or going to a demonstration. For us lawyers, it's also helping Ashoka and the Ashoka Fellows translate their vision of change into reality and action. The work that I do for Ashoka always has a concrete meaning. We share the Ashoka Fellows' goals and aspirations, and it's very important that we're not just providing the legal services, but we're part of the team.”

Mikael Nabati
New York finance associate

Ashoka in Hong Kong

In 2009, our Hong Kong attorneys began working with Ashoka, advising on incorporation and tax-exempt status requirements in Hong Kong and providing counsel on general corporate matters. The Hong Kong team includes partner **Jane Ng**, associates **Andrew Compton** and **Alexander Tang**, foreign legal consultant **Linda Zheng** and Hong Kong company secretary **Eunice Chan**.

Ashoka in Japan

Our Tokyo attorneys have advised Ashoka on various Japanese laws and regulations, including a new law which went into effect in 2009 relating to setting up nonprofit organizations in Japan. The team included partner **Daiske Yoshida** and associate **Saori Kawakami**. In addition, Daiske and paralegal **Yuko Shiramizu** are assisting Ashoka and its affiliate Youth Ventures in securing trademark registrations in Japan. ■

Assisting Battered Women

In partnership with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, several teams of Latham attorneys assisted immigrant battered women in obtaining relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which permits undocumented battered spouses to independently apply for immigration relief without relying on their abusive spouses. This allows our clients to break the cycle of abuse and lead independent lives. Latham attorneys assisted with VAWA matters throughout 2009, including partner **Susan Welch**, Pro Bono Counsel **Amos Hartston**, counsel **Philip Midgen** and associates **Lucas Bailey**, **Christine Chuang**, **Rebecca Couto**, **Angela Kang**, **Amanda Klopf**, **Megan Lorenz**, **Rachel Pressman**, **Halleh Rabizadeh** and **Shanaira Udwadia**.

Providing Immigration Relief

A team of Los Angeles attorneys successfully obtained asylum for a family after remand of the case from the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Our clients suffered death threats, physical attacks and firebombing of their home in North Africa on account of their religion. Latham was appointed by the Ninth Circuit as pro bono amicus curiae after the Board of Immigration Appeals denied the family's request for asylum. The three-judge panel unanimously granted the petition for asylum and remanded the case for a determination of whether country conditions had changed. In total, the family's case lasted nearly 10 years. Ultimately, the immigration judge granted asylum to the family. The team included associates **Amjad Khan** and **Hema Patel**, supervised by partners **Aaron Murphy** and **Rob Perrin**.

Helping Abused and Abandoned Youth

In 2009, our Los Angeles office assisted with several Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) matters to help abused, abandoned or neglected immigrant children. In one case, a Los Angeles team obtained SIJS for twins who were brought to the United States by their mother when they were four years old. The children were very sick and suffered from inattentive care by their mother, and their father had been largely absent from their lives. Upon arriving in the US, their mother abandoned the twins, leaving them with their grandparents, who have since been appointed their legal guardians and begun the long process of