



Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Jordan¹

INTRODUCTION

The provision of pro bono legal services by attorneys 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 (“NGOs”) 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.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

The Justice System

Constitution and Governing Laws

Jordan is governed by a limited constitutional monarchy. The King retains the legislative power to promulgate and ratify laws, direct the enactment of regulations, and ratify treaties and agreements.² The Senate and Chamber of Deputies constitute the higher and lower houses of the National Assembly, which exercises the legislative functions.

Jordan's legal system is based on its Constitution (last amended in 2011), the Court Establishment Law of 1951, and a civil and criminal code based on codes instituted by the Ottoman Empire, as well as Islamic and ecclesiastical laws.³ Civil law and family law are largely influenced by Islamic Sharia law, criminal law is mostly drawn from French law, and corporate law mainly derived from English law.⁴

The Courts

The Jordanian judicial system consists of three categories of courts: civil courts, religious courts and special courts.⁵ The civil courts are courts of general jurisdiction and hear civil and criminal cases that are not reserved by law for other courts.⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸

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

² B. Isaias, F. Jennings, Overview of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Legal System and Research, <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Jordan.htm> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

³ NGO Law Monitor: Jordan, The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (last updated June 19, 2015).

⁴ N. Mahasneh, and K. Thomas, Learning from the Unique and Common Challenges: Clinical Legal Education in Jordan, 5 Berkeley J. Mid. East & Islamic L. 1, 6 (2012).

⁵ N. J. Brown, Arab Judicial Structures, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, available at <http://web.dubaichamber.ae/LibPublic/Arab%20judicial%20structures.pdf> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁶ Nathan J. Brown, Arab Judicial Structures, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, available at <http://web.dubaichamber.ae/LibPublic/Arab%20judicial%20structures.pdf> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁷ Id.

⁸ Id.; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, 2014 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: JORDAN, (2014), available at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dld=236606> (last visited on September 4, 2015).



The new Constitutional Court, which saw its first members appointed in October 2012, is intended to guarantee a respect for the Constitution and to enforce a greater separation of powers.⁹ The creation of this Court in accordance with articles 58 and 59 of the Constitution is part of a series of reforms enacted by King Abdullah II to democratize the Kingdom in the wake of the Arab Spring revolts across the region.¹⁰ It remains to be seen whether the Court has managed to accomplish these goals, or whether it is able to exercise judgments independently or to enforce judicial decisions on other branches of the government.¹¹

The Practice of Law

Law is an undergraduate program in Jordan, and graduates must also complete a two-year training program before being admitted to the Jordanian Bar Association. No law school in Jordan has any formal program for pro bono legal services. The legal profession in Jordan is governed by the 1972 Bar Association Law (the “**Bar Association Law**”).¹² Under the Bar Association Law, all practicing attorneys in Jordan are required to join the Jordanian Bar Association (the “**Bar Association**”).¹³ In addition, attorneys must undergo a period of training before being allowed to plead cases before the courts.

Foreign-qualified attorneys generally may not practice Jordanian law or represent parties in Jordanian courts, although attorneys from Arab countries are permitted to practice law in Jordan on the basis of reciprocity. Foreign-qualified attorneys are permitted to advise Jordanian clients on matters of foreign or international law. A small number of international law firms operate in Jordan in association with Jordanian law firms.¹⁴

LEGAL RESOURCES FOR INDIGENT PERSONS AND ENTITIES

The Right to Legal Assistance

Both the Constitution of Jordan and the Code of Criminal Procedure mandate the right to a lawyer of the defendant’s own choice during an investigation and a trial period. Jordanian law provides that legal counsel is only provided at the public expense in criminal cases involving the death penalty or life imprisonment. However, the concept of legal assistance beyond the scope of capital cases in Jordan is nascent. As such, there are no established governmental or institutional mechanisms for the provision of legal assistance that are regulated and widespread.

⁹ B. Isaias, F. Jennings, Overview of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Legal System and Research, <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Jordan.htm> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

¹⁰ JT, Constitutional Court a Milestone in Reform Process, Democratic Renewal, Jordan Times, Oct. 6, 2012, available at <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/constitutional-court-milestone-reform-process-democratic-renewal-%E2%80%94-king> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

¹¹ U.S. DEP’T OF STATE BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, 2014 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: JORDAN, (2014), available at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dclid=236606> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

¹² Bar Association Law No. 11 (1972), at <http://www.tamimi.com/en/magazine/law-update/section-8/September-4/new-amendments-to-the-jordan-bar-association-law.html> (last visited on September 4, 2015).; Jordan Bar Association, <http://www.jba.org.jo/TrainingContent/HowBecomeLawyer.aspx> (Arabic) (last visited on September 4, 2015).

¹³ Bar Association Law No. 11, at art. 7.

¹⁴ The Sanad Law Group 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.



Criminal Proceedings

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 attorney if he or she cannot afford one.¹⁵ In these cases, the court is required to ask the defendant whether he or she has appointed an attorney. If the defendant replies that he or she lacks the financial means to do so, the court is required to appoint an attorney to represent the defendant.¹⁶ The defendant is not required to make any showing regarding his or her inability to afford an attorney, and the trial cannot proceed until an attorney is appointed to represent the defendant.¹⁷ In such a case, the president of the court appoints a private attorney to represent the defendant.¹⁸ The appointment is not mandatory, and the attorney may refuse the representation, or ask to be excused at any time, in which case the court is required to appoint a replacement attorney. The fees paid to the court-appointed attorney 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.¹⁹ These fees are modest relative to the fees that would ordinarily be charged by an attorney for such a case.²⁰

Defendants generally must pay court fees in order to appeal verdicts in criminal cases.²¹ It is not possible to have such fees waived or postponed.²² 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.”²³ However, verdicts resulting in a penalty of life imprisonment or death are automatically appealed and no court fees are charged for such appeals.²⁴ In addition, defendants in need are entitled to a government-provided attorney for such appeals.²⁵

Civil Proceedings

Litigants in civil cases before the civil courts of first instance, courts of conciliation in cases exceeding 1000 Jordanian Dinars (approximately US\$1,411) and in appeal proceedings must be represented by attorneys.²⁶ Neither the plaintiffs nor the defendants in civil matters have a right to free legal representation. In addition to attorney fees, plaintiffs bringing civil cases, and parties appealing rulings, must pay court fees based on a percentage of the value of the claim.²⁷ Litigants must also pay verdict and

¹⁵ JORDAN CONST., art. 6.1, at http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html (last visited on September 4, 2015).

¹⁶ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, art. 208 (1961).

¹⁷ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

¹⁸ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, supra n.15.

¹⁹ Criminal Procedure Law No. 9, supra n.15 available at <http://www.lob.gov.jo/AR/Pages/AdvancedSearch.aspx> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

²⁰ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

²¹ See THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2008), ¶ 24 (2009). <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Publications/AnnualReports.aspx> (last visited on September 4, 2015). (last visited on September 4, 2015).

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

²³ State of Human Rights (2008), supra n.28.

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

²⁵ Id.

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ 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).



implementation fees, which may be equal to the initial trial fees.²⁸ These court fees are intended to reduce the burden on the court system by ensuring that only serious cases are brought before it.²⁹ 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.³⁰

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.³¹ In order to obtain a 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.³² 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.³³ Petitions for postponement of fees are generally granted.³⁴

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.³⁵

It is permissible for a Jordanian attorney to represent a client on a contingency fee basis, such that the attorney's fees are paid out of the proceeds of the litigation received by the client, and, in such instances, the attorney is not paid unless the client prevails in the litigation.³⁶ Attorneys working on a contingency fee basis are not providing pro bono services, but the possibility of retaining an attorney on a contingency fee basis may allow some individuals who could not otherwise afford to hire attorneys access to the legal system.

PRO BONO ASSISTANCE IN JORDAN: OPPORTUNITIES

Pro Bono Opportunities

The provision of pro bono legal services by attorneys is not common in Jordan.³⁷ 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.³⁸ However, the Bar Association has no established mechanism to organize and encourage pro bono efforts by its members and there is no specific governmental body regulating pro bono work in Jordan.³⁹ Under the Bar Association Law, the President of the Bar Association may assign any Jordanian attorney, once per year, to represent an individual lacking the means to hire an attorney on

²⁸ Id.

²⁹ Id. at 29.

³⁰ Id. at 28; State of Human Rights (2008), supra n.28 at ¶ 24.

³¹ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

³² Id.

³³ Id.

³⁴ Id.

³⁵ State of Human Rights (2008), supra n.28, at ¶ 25.

³⁶ Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 22, 2008) (on file with author).

³⁷ N. Mahasneh, and K. Thomas, Learning from the Unique and Common Challenges: Clinical Legal Education in Jordan, 5 Berkeley J. Mid. East & Islamic L. 1, 6 (2012).

³⁸ Bar Association Law No. 11 of 1972, art. (5).5.

³⁹ P. Prettitore, Improving Legal Aid for the Poor in Jordan (June 17, 2015), available at <http://wbi.worldbank.org/sske/result-story/1081> (last visited on September 4, 2015).



a pro bono basis.⁴⁰ In practice, accepting a pro bono assignment is not mandatory, and the attorney may refuse to provide the representation.⁴¹ Moreover, there are no guidelines regarding who is eligible for such legal aid, and the decision to request an attorney to provide free representation rests in the sole discretion of the President of the Bar Association.⁴² Recently, the Jordanian Bar Association launched a campaign against legal aid organizations, claiming that such services are detrimental towards other lawyers, especially recent graduates, as it hinders their entering the work force as organizations that provide legal aid have a monopoly over the service.⁴³ The campaign results are pending.

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

Government Supported Initiatives

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 2012, the Ombudsman Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding with the Justice Centre for Legal Aid (the “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.⁴⁴ In February 2013, The Ombudsman Bureau had resolved 78% of complaints it had received since its inception.⁴⁵ In 2013, the Ombudsman Bureau received a total of 1,027 complaints. Of these, 208 applications were dismissed as outside of the mandate of the Ombudsman Bureau.⁴⁶

The National Center for Human Rights (the “NCHR”) is a government-supported human rights body that, among other activities, provides free legal services to victims of human rights violations.⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸ The Complaints & Legal Services unit of the NCHR, which employs several attorneys, receives and addresses complaints of human rights

⁴⁰ Bar Association Law No. 11 of 1972, art. 100.

⁴¹ 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).

⁴² Email from Yousef Khalilieh, Rajai K. W. Dajani & Associates Law Office (Jan. 15, 2008) (on file with author).

⁴³ Mohamed Saleh, القانونية المساعدة من الضعيفة الفئات تحرم المحامين.. ازمقنا: صهيونية منظمة من التمويل تتلقى، Ammonnews, February 24, 2015, available at <http://www.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleno=221902> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁴⁴ The Jordan Times article by Hani Hazaimh published on Feb. 28, 2012, available at <http://jordantimes.com/ombudsman-bureau-legal-aid-centre-to-cooperate-in-addressing-public-complaints> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁴⁵ D. Al Emam, Ombudsman Bureau Resolved 78% of Complaints Received Since 2009, The Jordan Times (Feb. 27, 2013), available at <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/ombudsman-bureau-resolved-78-complaints-received-2009> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁴⁶ E. CUVILLIER, S. ALMAROOF, A Jordan Ombudsman Bureau With Enhanced Capacity (January 2015), available at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/01/15/000470435_20150115130131/Rendered/PDF/937040BRI0Box30UBLIC000Knote00QN137.pdf (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁴⁷ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Introduction, available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Aboutus> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁴⁸ Id.



violations, often pursuing judicial remedies where appropriate.⁴⁹ The NCHR operates a hotline for complaints of human rights violations, and complaints may also be submitted via its website.⁵⁰ In 2011, the NCHR received 596 complaints and 156 requests for assistance.⁵¹

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mizan for Law (MIZAN) was established as a non-profit company on August 5, 1998, by a team of advocates for the purpose of enhancing human rights in Jordan and protecting victims of human rights violations. MIZAN also seeks to reinforce and spread democracy, develop legislations, increase awareness of laws and human rights, and participate in the international and Arab efforts to set principles and values of ensuring the universality of human rights. MIZAN engages in human rights education, awareness campaigns, and undertakes strategic litigation functions including referring cases to the Noor Network, a network of lawyers established by MIZAN, to represent vulnerable individuals and victims of human rights violations. MIZAN focuses on providing assistance to lawyers that represent victims of human rights violations including: children in conflict with the law, vulnerable children, women at risk or victims of discrimination and violations, laborers, refugees, asylum seekers and victims of torture. MIZAN assists lawyers that provide a range of free legal services, including providing legal advice, interfacing with government agencies on behalf of its clients, and represent clients in court. MIZAN also strives to build the capacity of lawyers, law practitioners, government officials and others for issues related to human rights. MIZAN is primarily funded by donations from international sources, which have included the European Union and the Embassy of France in Jordan. In addition to its network of attorneys, MIZAN utilizes a group of “volunteer” attorneys 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 attorneys to represent individuals in need of legal services has enabled MIZAN to meet the increasing demand for its services.⁵²

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.⁵³ The JCLA has a team of in-house attorneys and operates 25 legal aid clinics in Jordan.⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵ Since its establishment in 2008, the JCLA had provided legal counseling to 2,300 individuals and legal representation to 1,450 individuals.⁵⁶ The JCLA is funded by donors that include the Foundation for the Future and the World Bank.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Monitoring & Complaints, available at http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Aboutus/OrganizationalStructure/Monitoring_Complaints_unit.aspx (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵⁰ THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Contact Us, available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/ContactUs> (last visited on September 4, 2015); The National Center for Human Rights, Human Rights Violation Complaints.

⁵¹ Telephone Interview with Atef Al Majali, NCHR Jordan; State of Human Rights (2008), supra n.20 at ¶¶ 214-15, available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Publications/AnnualReports.aspx> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵² Id.

⁵³ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, About Us, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-about-us> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵⁴ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, Legal Aid Clinics, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-legal-and-clinics> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵⁵ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, Pro Bono Legal Network, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/#/en-pro-bono-legal-network> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵⁶ Id.

⁵⁷ JUSTICE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID, Our Partners, available at <http://www.jcla-org.com/ar/partner-category/strategic-partners> (last visited on September 4, 2015).



The Media Legal Aid Unit of the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (the “**MELAD**”) is an NGO, providing free legal services and counseling to journalists.⁵⁸ The MELAD employs four full time attorneys 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, the MELAD operates a hotline offering free legal advice to journalists.⁵⁹ It also conducts legal awareness workshops for journalists and press law training workshops for attorneys. The MELAD is funded by donations from the European Commission and other donors.⁶⁰

The Tamkeen Centre for Legal Aid and Human Rights (the “**Tamkeen**”) was founded in 2007 and works in partnership with other service providers, attorneys, consultants and advocates and a network of volunteer attorneys 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 the following legal services: 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 attorneys to travel across the country and providing legal advice and assistance to those in need, as well as lecturing and raising awareness in rural communities.
- *The Hotline*, arranges for attorneys 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.

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.⁶¹ According to the NCHR, many of the inmates in Jordanian prisons do not receive adequate

⁵⁸ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORLD REPORT 2013: JORDAN, available at <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/jordan> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁵⁹ Id.

⁶⁰ Id.

⁶¹ JORDAN CONST. art. 6(1), available at http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html (last visited on September 4, 2015).



legal assistance due to their poverty or their ignorance regarding the importance of legal representation.⁶² As a result, the lack of access to Jordan's legal system affects the most impoverished sections of Jordanian society: the unemployed (the unemployment rate is as high as 12%), a refugee population of 450,915,⁶³ juveniles and women.

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 the fees associated with granting powers of attorney and this had been a continuing trend since 2008, when higher fees were imposed on citizens under the amended court fees system. It was added that this constituted an additional burden on litigants and limited their ability to resort to the judiciary.⁶⁴

Individual Jordanian attorneys, including those working as in-house counsel, have the ability to become involved in pro bono legal work either through volunteering or by working with NGOs in Jordan. In particular, Jordanian attorneys 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 attorneys can join MIZAN's or JCLA's network of attorneys and assist in providing free legal representation to individuals on MIZAN's or JCLA's behalf.

Although foreign-qualified attorneys are limited in their ability to engage in pro bono legal work in Jordan because 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 non-profit 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.⁶⁵ US law firms may work with MIZAN to assist such individuals. Additional examples include law firms with offices in the United Arab Emirates 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 law⁶⁶ and working with USAID in conducting a comprehensive assessment of Jordan's media laws.⁶⁷

CONCLUSION

The provision of pro bono legal services is not common in Jordan, however, there exists a number of organizations that provide free legal services to disadvantaged groups and there are a number of opportunities for Jordanian attorneys to become involved in pro bono legal work. In particular, at least two NGOs have organized networks of attorneys who provide free legal services on a pro bono basis, or for a

⁶² HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORLD REPORT 2013: JORDAN, available at <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/jordan> (last visited July 1, 2015); THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Status Report of Human Rights; The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; 2010, 21 (2010), available at <http://www.nchr.org.jo/english/Publications/AnnualReports.aspx> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁶³ Tradinc Economics: Jordan unemployment Rate, available at <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/jordan/unemployment-rate> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁶⁴ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORLD REPORT 2013: JORDAN, available at <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/jordan> (last visited on September 4, 2015); 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> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁶⁵ Interview with Eva Abu Halaweh, Executive Director, MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights (Jan. 16, 2008).

⁶⁶ REED SMITH, Pro Bono, at <http://m.reedsmith.com/pro-bono-eme-practices/> (last visited on September 4, 2015).

⁶⁷ COVINGTON & BURLING, Public Service Activities 2008 Report, available at <https://www.cov.com/~media/files/corporate/publications/2009/03/public-service-activities-2008.pdf> (last visited on September 4, 2015); see also <https://www.cov.com/en/probono?show=morehighlights> (last visited on September 4, 2015).



nominal fee. Despite this, there is a lack of provision of legal representation for non-human-rights related cases.

While restrictions exist on the practice of law in Jordan by foreign-qualified attorneys, there is some scope for international law firms to assist non-profit organizations and needy individuals on matters involving foreign and international law.

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