

I have been working with ISLP for some years.

The International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP), is a US-based nonprofit organization, which has had a project for some years working in Monrovia, Liberia, with the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL).

ISLP describes me and my work as follows:

"ISLP volunteer Jeff Wood, a retired corporate partner from Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, is leading ISLP's assistance efforts in support of NOCAL and the government's efforts in the petroleum sector. He works with NOCAL on the modernization of Liberia's petroleum laws, the development of regulations to implement current and new laws, and issues related to oil exploration contracts.

"In addition to assistance with law reform efforts, the volunteer will assist NOCAL in dealing with the increasing number of contract interpretation questions that arise from the administration of Liberia's existing oil exploration contracts, and to respond to the proposals and advice Liberia is receiving from advisers such as the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI), a nonprofit organization, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), a nongovernmental organization based in Ghana."

They might have added:

"Of these, Jeff has particular and longstanding experience in Norway and with NORAD."

Liberia originally awarded eight offshore oil exploration and development contracts, which became largely inactive, but recent discoveries alter the situation, creating the need for more careful contract administration and interpretation of the sort which Jeff is experienced in.

Exploratory wells found clear evidence of deep water petroleum structures off Liberia's coast. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was Liberia's president from 2006 to 2018 and is a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has written that one of the high priorities of her administration as she began her second term was modernizing Liberia's petroleum law and petroleum regulatory structure. RWI, NORAD and ACET all agreed to assist the government with this process.

From the Web-Team behind our class website:

"More on The International Senior Lawyers Project, with which classmate Jeff -- and classmate Joe Bell --work.

ISLP was founded in 2000 to provide the pro bono services of highly skilled and experienced lawyers to promote human rights, equitable and sustainable economic

development and the rule of law worldwide. ISLP assists governments, non-governmental organizations and other institutions working to build legal capacity and to advance the rights and well-being of their citizens. Since beginning active operations in the fall of 2001, it provided over its first two decades an estimated US\$70 million in volunteer legal services in or affecting more than 40 countries. It has been working in Liberia since the inauguration of President Sirleaf in January 2006, providing onsite volunteers to work in the Ministries of Justice, Health, Finance and Foreign Affairs; assisting with the negotiation of major international agreements; providing capacity-building workshops; and advising on international arbitrations and other matters.

"When last we looked, ISLP had a staff of eight based in New York and affiliates in Paris and London. The capacity of its staff is significantly leveraged by the contributions of seven Volunteer Senior Program Advisors, including its Volunteer Senior Advisor for the Extractive Industries, Joseph Bell, a partner at Hogan Lovells LLP in Washington, D.C. Jeff and Joe were in the same class at Yale Law School."