



# PRO BOND & CSR

## 2024 Annual Report

Ensuring justice is served by  
providing access to the legal system.



 BOWMANS





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# CHAIRMANS FOREWORD

Ezra Davids  
Chairman and Senior Partner

I present this report with humility, knowing that inside are the real-life stories of people who have experienced what it means to receive access to justice when all seemed lost. In Leeuwkop Correctional Centre in Gauteng, an inmate studying computer science while serving a 20-year sentence is now able to access his laptop (without a modem) in his cell. This follows a Supreme Court of Appeal matter in which Bowmans acted, resulting not only in one inmate being able to effectively pursue the right to education, but many others in similar circumstances.

In Zambia, an individual from an indigenous background is administering the estate of his late brother, who lost his life in road traffic accident. After we facilitated negotiations with the insurance company, the amount due under the relevant third-party policy was paid out.

In Cape Town, an elderly widow caring for her orphaned grandchildren was, after years of delays, awarded a foster care order and the right to apply for a foster child grant. It warms my heart when such people overcome the odds stacked against them, and it gives me great joy to know that our firm, Bowmans, has played a part in this. Their stories and others are told in more detail inside this report, along with those of the many not-for-profit organisations whose work we support as they defend the human rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, victims of gender-based violence and other vulnerable people.

It is also uplifting to know that our pro bono and CSR programme is contributing to the ability of small business owners and entrepreneurs to run successful businesses that are legally compliant. Equally, we thrive on our pro bono partnerships with top pro bono clearing houses and internationally respected NGOs working to improve the lives of people in Africa and beyond.

To all the lawyers across our offices who embraced the opportunity to do pro bono work in 2023/24, I thank you for your contributions towards building societies where human rights are respected and social justice is attainable.



## 2024 IN REVIEW

Fatima Laher  
Head of Pro Bono

### An eventful year for our firm's pro bono efforts

2023, was a landmark year for our firm's pro bono practice, as we celebrated 10 years of our focused pro bono work. We marked this momentous milestone with the publication of our special 10-year edition Pro Bono Report which covered all of the pro bono work and CSR initiatives we have undertaken over the past 10 years.

This report was released at our celebratory event held at our Sandton offices and attended by our key stakeholders, colleagues and as well as our lawyers.

In 2023, we continued to service many non-profit organisations across the continent in the jurisdictions where Bowmans has offices. We provided our clients with assistance with a wide variety of matters, ranging from Legal Research to Intellectual Property, Employment Law and Codes of Conduct.

We are proud to have achieved many successes for our clients on some matters which we litigated in the courts. The details of these are contained in this report.

Providing access to justice is at the heart of what we do, so we continued our collaboration with a number of public interest organisations; hosting and facilitating key events. We have aligned our pro bono and CSR work with the United Nations Sustainable Goals, working towards sustainable growth.

Our work on gender based violence grew exponentially during this time. This was recognised when we received the ProBono.Org Award which awards the pro bono services we render weekly at the Domestic Violence Helpdesk at Randburg Court.

On the CSR front, we supported a number of charities working to alleviate poverty fight poverty in the communities in which we operate. Our Mandela Day, Youth Month and 16 Days of no Violence Against Women and Children initiatives provided our staff with opportunities to participate in CSR outreaches.

We are motivated by the support we have received from our stakeholders, our support staff as well as our lawyers and for their commitment to the pro bono work and CSR initiatives we undertook over the past year. This support is what propels us to continue doing the work that we do and ensuring access to justice to those who would otherwise not be able to access it.

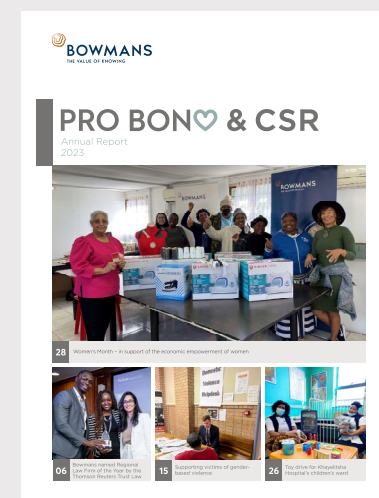
For the financial year 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024, we rendered **10 907 hours' service** with the rand value of **ZAR 33.4 million** firmwide.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### ProBono.Org Awards

Bowmans won the Domestic Violence Law Award at the annual ProBono.Org awards event held on 26 January 2023. The award recognises the significant pro bono contribution made by Bowmans under the Family Law category, particularly through the help we provide to ProBono.Org clients on domestic violence matters.

We service the Domestic Violence Helpdesk weekly at the Randburg Magistrate's Court, where we lend capacity to the courts to assist victims in obtaining protection orders. This court also covers Diepsloot, which has a high incidence of domestic violence.



### Release Of Our Annual Pro Bono and CSR Report 2022/23

In March 2023, we released our annual report for the financial year ending 28 February 2023.





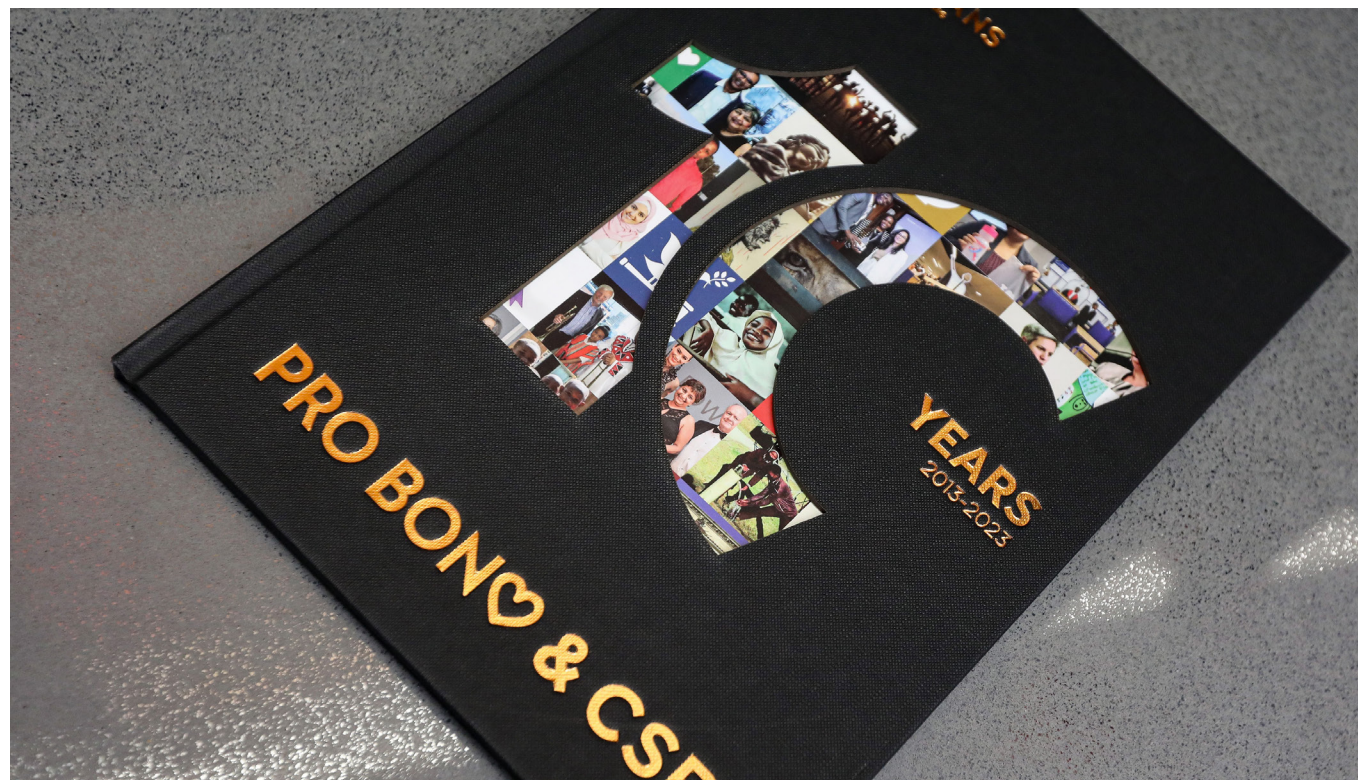
# 2023 – CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF

# PRO BON

2023 was a very special year for Bowmans as we celebrated 10 years of our pro bono work. We marked this occasion by holding a special celebratory event on 18 September 2023.



We unveiled our special edition 10-year Pro Bono and CSR Report highlighting all our work across our offices over the past 10 years.



Our keynote speaker was former Constitutional Judge, Justice Johann van der Westhuizen, who gave an interesting and thought-provoking talk. He called on all lawyers to work within the judicial system to do good, and provided some tips on how this could be done on a pro bono basis.



We screened a visual display of our pro bono work, titled 10 years in 10 minutes.

Our lawyers, stakeholders, peers from other law firms and colleagues joined us to celebrate this special evening.

For the 10-year period ending 28 February 2023, Bowmans lawyers across all its office rendered **96 500 hours** valued at over **ZAR 230 million** in direct legal services to deserving clients and their matters.

## Statistics for the 10 year period ending on 28 February 2023

 **96 500**  
HOURS

 **ZAR 230<sub>m</sub>**  
VALUE

In every jurisdiction where we have offices on the continent of Africa, our lawyers delivered corporate-based pro bono legal services and undertook ground-breaking research in favour of marginalised and vulnerable groups of people. We assisted many small business through our small business project, serviced many pro bono access-to-justice helpdesks and undertook public interest litigation that favoured vulnerable persons within our society.

Our pro bono work on gender and gender-based violence has grown exponentially over the past decade. We also forged many close relationships with various non-profit organisations and made our resources available for their worthy causes.

On the corporate social responsibility (CSR) front, we have assisted many small charities fighting poverty alleviation.

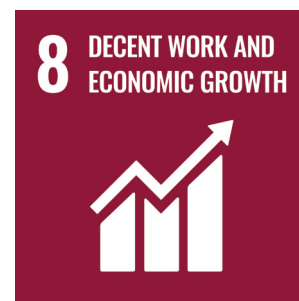
The evening gave us an opportunity to express our gratitude to our lawyers, support staff and stakeholders who worked with us over the 10-year period. It was also an opportunity for us to reflect and renew our commitment to our pro bono and CSR work.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CROSS-BORDER PRO BONO WORK

We continued to render pro bono legal services to many non-profit organisations based in the various jurisdictions on the continent of Africa and where we have offices. Our lawyers delivered specialised legal services in line with their areas of expertise.

We also endeavoured to fulfil the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through the legal services we provided to many nonprofit organisations with a presence on the continent of Africa.



## The European Union-Zambia Business Club (EUZBC)

The EUZBC is a business association made up of European Union and Zambian companies. The EUZBC was launched informally in June 2016 and was formally registered as an association under the Societies Act in June 2017. The main objective of the EUZBC is to increase trade and investment between Zambia and the European Union and to contribute to a conducive business environment in Zambia. The EUZBC allows corporations to exchange information and experience and carry out advocacy and lobby activities together.

The pro bono services we rendered to the EUZBC included reviewing and amending its Constitution and Code of Ethics. This entailed doing research on the Societies Act and regulations issued in order to ensure that the Constitution complied with the relevant provisions. We also engaged with the EUZBC's Executive to ascertain the practical challenges faced in implementing the existing Constitution at the time and the areas of concern. Following our work on this, the Constitution and Code of Ethics were adopted at the EUZBC's Annual General Meeting in 2023.

## Institute of Chartered Entrepreneurs – South Africa

The Institute of Chartered Entrepreneurs (IoCE) is a non-profit organisation whose objective is to professionalise entrepreneurship and promote good corporate governance in South Africa.

At the request of tMr Tebogo Khaas, chief entrepreneur of the IoCE, we assisted in developing various policies, guidelines and/or procedures for the organisation ahead of its launch. These were an IoCE code of professional conduct, guide to ethical behaviour, whistle-blowing policy and members' pledge.

After extensive research on entrepreneurship, a team of candidate attorneys from our Cape Town office drafted the documents.



## Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (Vance Centre)

The Vance Center is an organisation that provides pro bono legal representation to dozens of social justice organisations and engages hundreds of law firms in this worldwide work, while promoting diversity in the legal profession. Its mission is to advance global justice by engaging lawyers across borders to support civil society and an ethically active legal profession.

The Vance Center was developing an assessment of the rules, models, practices and culture for providing pro bono legal services in select sub-Saharan countries, namely Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Our offices in South Africa, Kenya and Zambia conducted an assessment of and research into the pro bono legal services framework in the respective jurisdictions and completed a questionnaire to this effect. The research involved reviewing the various laws and regulations on the provision of pro bono legal services in these jurisdictions, as well as how these law and regulations interplay with the rules and practice directions under the law society.

## Clooney Foundation for Justice – Kenya

The Clooney Foundation is a non-profit organisation that advocates for justice through accountability for human rights abuses around the world



We advised the foundation on the instances where third parties can intervene in criminal, civil and constitutional cases in Kenya.

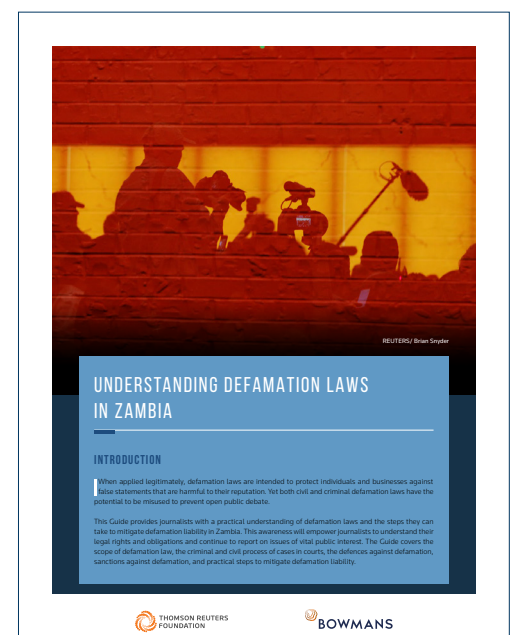
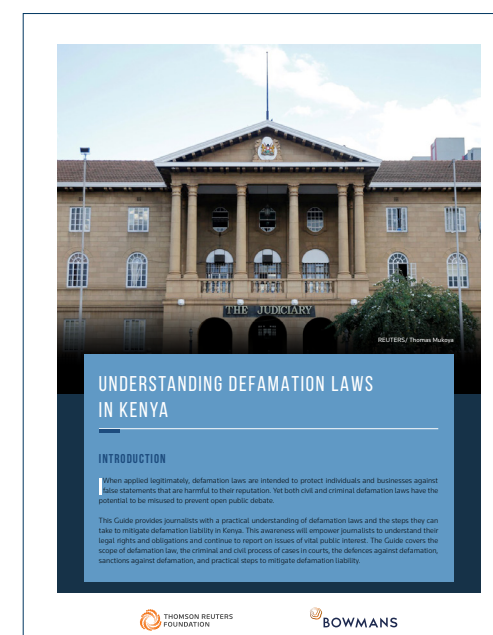
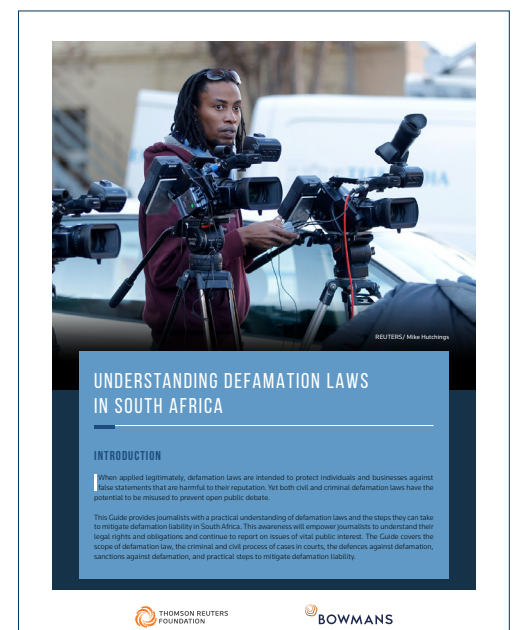
## BRIMEA trust law research – South Africa, Zambia, and Kenya

We assisted the Thomson Reuters Foundation with BRIMEA trust law research. The work related to the development of BRIMEA tools for media outlets, including the pre-publication legal review indicators and legal health check questionnaire.

In assisting with the questionnaire in respect of employment regulation for media outlets, we focused specifically on aligning the employment section with the South African legal context.

As such, we conducted the necessary legal research to determine the relevant legal provisions that are applicable.

Having identified gaps in the legal health check questionnaire, we amended the document to include particular areas either not covered or sufficiently covered. These included the Code of Good Practice for the Prevention and





Elimination of Harassment in the Workplace, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993, and the Employment Equity Amendment Act 4 of 2022.

Furthermore, the work we did in each of the jurisdictions resulted in three publications by Thomson Reuters, each titled Understanding Defamation Law. This guide assists journalists in Kenya, South Africa and Zambia to understand the defamation laws in their own countries. This assists them to mitigate against potential liability so that they can continue reporting matter on matters in the public interest.

## Azadi – Kenya

Azadi is a community-based organisation working with underprivileged communities to assist survivors of human trafficking through long-term support and capacity development.

We advised Azadi on the not-for-profit entity structures in Kenya that they could use to carry out their operations.

## Thomson Reuters Foundation – Zambia

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is a non-profit organisation that leverages the reach and reputation of Thomson Reuters to run free programs that promote the highest standards in journalism and spread excellence in the practice of legal pro bono.

In 2022 and 2023, we carried out a study of the shifting legal landscape that regulates online, print and broadcast media in Tanzania and Kenya; in both traditional and digital spaces, and its implications for reporting on illicit financial flows and tax abuse. This included doing a critical analysis of the laws and regulations that govern Ugandan media practitioners, especially journalists, as well as the applicable legal provisions and regulations that affect international instruments used in the country. We drew from case law, ongoing matters in the media field and media coverage.

In July 2023, this resulted in a publication by Thomson Reuters Foundation titled ‘Follow the Money’ wherein Bowmans lawyers in Tanzania were especially thanked for coordinating the research.



## Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs

Bowmans advised Hogan Lovells, an international law firm, in respect of its client, the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) and TrustLaw. ANDE is a global network of organisations that advocates for entrepreneurship in developing countries and provides critical financial educational and business support services to small and growing businesses.

TrustLaw is the global pro bono legal service of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which is the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company.

ANDE was conducting research, by way of a multijurisdictional questionnaire, to identify challenges and best practices in corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards across various jurisdictions. The best practices identified could then be incorporated into a user-friendly resource for corporations and small and growing businesses. ANDE and TrustLaw approached Bowmans to provide regulatory advice in respect of the existing laws and regulations on corporate ESG standards in South Africa, along with general advice from a tax and public law and regulatory perspective.

## Kholofelo Ya Phetogo NPC – South Africa

Kholofelo Ya Phetogo, which means ‘A Hope for Change’ in Sepedi,, is a non-profit organisation founded and run by and for the youth of Alexandra township in Gauteng. Its aim is to facilitate the involvement of young people in community development.

Bowmans assisted in setting up Kholofelo Ya Phetogo and drafting and filing its memorandum of incorporation. We also provided advice on the annual return filings, tax and general advice.

‘I came to Bowmans few years ago... The Bowmans team has since assisted by advising on the considerations when choosing incorporators/board of directors, drafting of our MOI, incorporation of the organisation, PBO application and explaining different compliance concepts like annual return etc.

We recently officially launched the organisation to the public, and we are working toward starting with our first project in the next few weeks. The amazing work done by the Bowmans team created a well-structured foundation that we built on with internal structures and all the admin work we have done in the organisation thus far. Approaching every aspect with attention to detail and producing a professional structure for the organisation.

Myself and the team have a passion for doing work in communities that will have a positive impact on the lives of our organisation’s beneficiaries and the broader community.’

Kholofelo Mohale, Founder, Director and CEO, Kholofelo Ya Phetogo NPC



## Rethread Africa – Kenya

Our Kenya office assisted Rethread Africa Limited, a social enterprise model that turn is developing technology to turn agricultural waste into biodegradable textile fabric.

We were required to provide advice on the process and requirements for protecting Rethread’s intellectual property rights in this technology.

We prepared a memorandum of advice which covered the IP rights in seven main areas, namely patent, utility model, copyright, trade marks, trade secrets, industrial designs and domain names. Furthermore, we held consultations with Rethread to discuss the memorandum and answer all the questions to client’s satisfaction.





## RACI Pro Bono – South Africa

We assisted Red Argentina para la Cooperacion Internacional (RACI), which is a network comprised of more than 150 civil society organisations (CSOs) from Argentina that works to strengthen civil society. The network focuses on advocacy issues, research and capacity building to democratise access to the sources of resources; to produce and disseminate information that is valuable to civil society and develop and optimise the CSOs' capacities and skills. The RACI's work deals with awareness and advocacy, training, research and civil society strengthening.

We rendered ongoing assistance in finalising research on inequality laws and regulations. This entailed clarifying questions, reviewing the summary findings and updating the tax avoidance section of the RACI report.



## Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice – South Africa

Bowmans was approached by the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (Vance Center) to assist with a publication on the under-representation of women in leadership positions in the legal sector.

The Vance Center provides pro bono legal representation to social justice organisations and engages leading law firms and partners in their worldwide work to support civil society and promote an ethically active, diverse legal profession.

Women are underrepresented in leadership positions across many countries and sectors, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the gap. In South Africa, there has been an increase in women participating in decision-making roles since the advent of democracy; however, men still hold a disproportional number of leadership positions in the legal profession, which has a particular dearth of women of colour.

The publication examined applicable international and regional instruments, domestic legislation and regulations, enforcement and implementation of these laws by considering statistics and relevant case law.

Bowmans provided an overview of the legal framework aimed at achieving substantive equality in race and gender in the legal profession in South Africa.



## Tomorrownow.org, Inc – Kenya

Tomorrownow leverages transformative philanthropy to ensure that next-generation weather and climate technology reaches communities most impacted by climate change.

We advised the organisation on the not-for-profit entity structures in Kenya that they could use to carry out their operations.

## Nairobi Climate Network – Kenya

The Nairobi Climate Network brings together climate action organisations and individuals to build a community of professionals propelling climate action in Kenya.

Our contribution was to advise the network on the not-for-profit entity structures in Kenya that they could use to conduct their operations.

## Trees for the Future – Kenya

Trees for the Future is a non-profit organisation focused on land restoration in developing communities around the world.



It runs a carbon credit project for individual farmers and request our assistance in drafting a template contract for carbon credits – the first of its kind to be prepared in Kenya. We also conducted training on the contract for the employees of Trees for the Future and explained the legal terms for the benefit of the farmer.



## Boy with a Ball – Kenya

Boy with a Ball supports youth from marginalised backgrounds to graduate from school. Our role was to provide advice on the not-for-profit entity structures in Kenya that Boy with a Ball could use to carry out its operations.



## Instiglio Kenya – Kenya



Working with development partners, Instiglio Kenya uses results-based approaches to incentivise impact and large-scale funding towards innovation and delivery systems.

We reviewed the inter-company services agreement between the Kenyan subsidiary and the parent company and advised on the applicability of value added tax on the services provided by the Kenyan subsidiary under the agreement.



## Global Health Corps (GHC) Zambia

GHC is non-profit organisation in the United States that offers a competitive fellowship to support emerging global health leaders. It selects young professionals for paid, 13-month fellowships with organisations promoting health equity in East Africa, Southern Africa and the United States.

We assisted GHC in reviewing the Fellows Parental Policy to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations in Zambia. The work involved reviewing the labour laws and other attendant regulations.

## Afra Research – Kenya

Fostering research in human health and promoting best practices in the provision of healthcare in Africa is the focus of Afra Research. We reviewed the employee and contractor policies of the organisation and advised on amendments to ensure compliance with Kenyan employment laws and regulations.







## IN THE COURTS



### Assisting Mrs M with a foster care application for her grandchild

Ms M, an elderly widow, works in Cape Town as a domestic helper. She lost her daughter due to health complications in 2014. With the loss of her husband and daughter, Mrs M, with little support, was left solely responsible to care for the remaining family members.

In the circumstances, Ms M applied through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to be granted formal foster care of both of her grandchildren so that she would be entitled to obtain foster child grants in terms of the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004. Owing to various circumstances, including the rotation of social workers and a lack of clarity from both

the SASSA offices and the Children's Court of the Wynberg Regional Court, the application process became protracted over a number of years, with little to no progress being made. Frustrated by the lack of progress with the application, and particularly given that her eldest grandson was on the verge of reaching the age of majority, thus rendering him ineligible for the child support grant, Ms M approached Bowmans' Pro Bono department to obtain assistance in accelerating the application.

Bowmans was able to clarify the requirements for foster care with the Children's Court and communicate effectively with a Court-appointed social worker to ensure that they procured the necessary documents within the required amount of time. During this period Ms M's eldest grandson reached the age of majority, thus rendering him ineligible for the grant. Bowmans persisted with the application to ensure that Ms M could access the foster child grant for her youngest grandchild.

#### FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD - PRO BONO

On 22 September 2022, the matter was heard in the Children's Court of the Wynberg Regional Court but later adjourned to 7 December 2022 to allow the appointed social worker to obtain further documentation and complete her report as per the direction of the Magistrate. On 7 December 2022, following presentation of the completed report, Bowmans successfully obtained the foster care order.

In light of the successful court application, Bowmans was able to assist Ms M with her application at the Wynberg SASSA offices for the foster child grant, which she now duly receives.

### Brian Daka (acting as Administrator of the Estate of Lazarus Daka) – Zambia

#### Third-party road accident claim succeeds

Brian Daka has an indigenous background and was appointed as Administrator of the Estate of his late brother, Lazarus Daka, who tragically lost his life in a road traffic accident.

We assisted Brian Daka in claiming a payout from an insurance company in relation to the third-party policy that insured the motor vehicle which caused the accident. We facilitated ex-curia negotiations and the amount due under the policy was duly paid.

The work involved reviewing the law governing third-party insurance, reviewing documents relevant to the matter and engaging with the insurance company and their lawyers on behalf of Brian Daka.

### Assisting Ms L with her citizenship application

Ms L's mother, an asylum seeker permit holder, approached ProBono.Org in February 2021 for assistance with obtaining documentation for her three undocumented children, one of whom is Ms L.

Ms L was born in South Africa but her mother did not apply for an asylum seeker permit on her behalf. Because Ms L is a major, she

is not considered a dependant under the Refugees Act 130 of 1998 and therefore could not obtain derivative asylum seeker status. However, in terms of section 4(3) of the South African Citizenship Act, 1995 (the Citizenship Act) children born in South Africa may, upon becoming a major, become a citizen by application if they meet two criteria. First, they must have lived in the Republic since birth and second, the birth must have been registered under the Births and Deaths Registration Act. Given that Ms L has lived in South Africa since birth and is in possession of an unabridged birth certificate, we believed that she was entitled to apply for citizenship.

Between July and August 2022, we assisted Ms L in applying for citizenship by naturalisation in terms of section 4(3) of the Citizenship Act. On 18 July 2023, Ms L's application for citizenship was conditionally approved and in October 2023, Ms L was issued with her South African identity document.

### Representing the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services as amicus curiae in the Supreme Court of Appeal: Minister of Justice and Correctional Services and 2 Others // Mbalenhle Sydney Ntuli

#### SCA upholds the right of inmates to effectively pursue their education

On 8 November 2023, the Supreme Court of Appeal (the Court) handed down a unanimous judgment in the Minister of Justice and Correctional Service and Others v Ntuli (Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services intervening as amicus curiae)(539/2022)[2023] ZASCA 146, penned by Acting Judge of Appeal Unterhalter. (Access the link to the judgment [here](#).)

Bowmans represented the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (**JICS**) in this matter on a pro bono basis. JICS is an independent statutory body that exercises oversight over the Department of Correctional Services under the control of the Inspecting Judge,





Justice Edwin Cameron. JICS is responsible for inspecting and monitoring correctional centres and remand detention facilities in South Africa so that the Inspecting Judge may report on the treatment of inmates and conditions in correctional facilities.

The appeal was brought by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, the National Commissioner of Correctional Services and the Head of Leeuwkop Medium 'C' Correctional Centre (together, the appellants), against a ruling by the Gauteng High Court that the policy on formal education issued by the Department of Correctional Services in 2007 (the Policy) was both unconstitutional and constituted unfair discrimination in that it prohibited the use of computers, without modems, in cells occupied by registered student inmates.

The High Court case was launched by Mr Ntuli, who was serving a 20-year sentence, and complained that he was struggling to complete his data processing course because he could not work from his cell where he was required to spend most of his time. While conceding that prisoners had a right to education, the Minister and Commissioner argued that allowing prisoners to keep laptops in their cells would create a security threat. JICS sought leave to be admitted as an amicus curiae in the appeal.

The Court conducted a two-pronged analysis whereby it considered (i) whether the Policy constituted an infringement of Mr Ntuli's right to education; and (ii) whether this infringement was justifiable.

In determining whether the Policy infringed Mr Ntuli's right to education, the Court noted that while Mr Ntuli was not prevented from enrolling in the computer studies course, the Policy restricted his ability to pursue this course by limiting his access to his personal computer in his cell, especially given the nature of his studies – computer science. Further, the educational materials were available in electronic form, rendering them convenient and economical when accessed on a computer. The Court found that the right to further

education includes the right to effectively pursue that education, and, if an inmate has a personal computer, it is a tool of indispensable value in the pursuit of many courses of further education.

The Court then considered whether the Policy's infringement on Mr Ntuli's right to further education constituted a justifiable infringement. The Court noted the importance of maintaining security in a prison but questioned the alleged additional risk posed by inmates' access to personal computers, without modems, in their cells. Absent any evidence, the Court found that this was a mere speculation. Therefore, the appellants failed to justify the infringement caused by the Policy on Mr Ntuli's right to further education.

The Court declared that the Policy, to the extent that it prohibits the use of personal computers in cells for study purposes, was invalid and set it aside. The Court's order of invalidity, however, has been suspended and the appellants have been afforded 12 months, from the date of the judgment, to revise the Policy, in consultation with JICS, so as to permit the use of inmates' personal computers, without modems, in their cells for study purposes.

In the interim and to ensure that inmates can enjoy immediate relief, the Court has ordered that inmates will be able 'to make use of their personal computers in their cells, where the course of study for which they have registered requires the use of a computer to support their studies or where a computer is a compulsory part of the course'. This is subject to: (i) inmates being unable to use a modem; (ii) inmates remaining registered students; and (iii) the inmates' right to make use of a personal laptop in their cell being withdrawn if they breach the relevant rules of use. These conditions collectively seem to assuage the concerns stated by the appellants. In making the order, the Court specifically thanked JICS for their assistance in the matter.

We have contributed a total of 286.70 hours valued at ZAR806 680.00 in pro bono time and value of services.



## R G // The Minister of Home Affairs and Director General: Department of Home Affairs

### Court orders authorities to accept citizenship application

We acted for a client, RG, in an application for South African citizenship by naturalisation in terms of section 4(3) of the Citizenship Act 88 of 1995 (**Act**). The client was born in South Africa in 1993 to parents who are foreign nationals. She has lived in South Africa for her entire life, attended and completed her schooling in South Africa, and has never left the country. She fulfils every criterion for citizenship under the Act.

Bowmans first submitted RG's citizenship application to the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) in August 2020. However, the DHA refused to process the application as a result of the directions published by the Minister of Home Affairs following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly limited the services of the DHA from April 2020. Despite the easing of restrictions over time, the DHA refused to accept any citizenship applications at all while the state of disaster persisted. In February 2022, we therefore instituted proceedings before the Pretoria High Court for an order, among other things, declaring our client a citizen and declaring the Department's refusal to accept her application, and citizenship applications more generally, to be unconstitutional.

Shortly after this, in April 2022, the national state of disaster was lifted and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto were repealed. We therefore made several further attempts to have our client's application processed, and amended our application to address the developments. The application was delayed again when the DHA entered last-minute opposition, tendered wasted costs and agreed to file its answering papers on an expedited basis. Despite its undertakings, the DHA again failed to deliver any affidavit and attempted to have our client reapply through its branch offices.

The hearing of the application finally took place on 16 November 2023, and the Court granted the following order in our client's favour: (i) the DHA's opposition to the application is struck out; (ii) the application is to be heard on an unopposed basis; (iii) RG is declared a citizen of the Republic of South Africa in terms of section 4(3) of the Citizenship Act 88 of 1995; and (iv) the DHA is to enter the personal details of RG into the National Population Register as a citizen and issue RG with an identity number, identity document and amended birth certificate.

Bowmans assisted RG in this matter with the preparation of the citizenship application, the court papers and continued engagements with the DHA and State Attorney on RG's behalf. Bowmans will continue to assist RG with enforcing the order.





# Llewellyn Smith and Others v The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

## Seminal judgment finds Department of Justice and Correctional Services liable for torture

On 31 August 2023, the High Court of South Africa (Gauteng Local Division, Johannesburg) handed down judgment in the first civil claim arising from torture in post-apartheid South Africa.

The claim was instituted by five inmates who alleged that they had been assaulted by several correctional service officers at Leeuwkop prison in 2014. The plaintiffs claimed that the assaults were sufficiently severe to meet the definition of torture under the Prevention and Combatting of Torture Act 2013. The High Court found that ‘the cumulative effects of the violations that the plaintiffs endured, including protracted and egregious assaults, humiliation, unlawful and inhumane segregation and the denial of timely and adequate medical treatment’ amounted to torture and held the Department of Justice and Correctional Services liable for all damages arising from such torture.

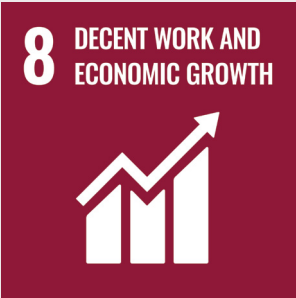
This is the first occasion on which a court has been required to apply the Torture Act and an important precedent on, among other things, the nature of conduct that falls within the definition of torture under the Act. Bowmans represented the REDRESS Trust, an international NGO specialising in justice and reparations for survivors of torture. REDRESS was admitted as a ‘friend of the court’ and presented argument on South Africa’s international law obligations on torture and inhumane treatment, as well as the distinctions between permissible and impermissible uses of force in detention settings.

In its judgment, the High Court referred extensively to REDRESS’s submissions, particularly relating to the legal framework for torture in South Africa and internationally. Bowmans, together with advocates Gilbert Marcus SC, Chris McConnachie and Natalie Chesi-Buthelezi, have been assisting REDRESS pro bono with this matter since July 2020. A total of 23 Bowmans attorneys and candidate attorneys have contributed to the matter, including through REDRESS’s admission application and submissions and attending the trial over the course of 99 days.

In all, the 23 Bowmans lawyers invested 1 218 hours to the value of more than ZAR 3.6 million.



# ISHISHINI LETHU – OUR BUSINESS



We commenced our Ishishini Lethu initiative in 2013. Through this project we render corporate-based pro bono legal services to qualifying small business and start-ups.

We continued to render these services to small businesses over the past year. We have collaborated with non-profit organisations who refer small business clients to us and participated in a number of outreaches aimed at empowering small businesses.



## Youth Entrepreneurship Expo

The Young African Entrepreneurs Institute (YAEI) is a registered youth-led non-profit company that aims to empower the youth with practical skills, organised knowledge and proactive support so that they can successfully transition from venture ideas to venture startups driving measurable venture impact.

For the second year running, Bowmans was invited to participate in the first Youth Entrepreneurship Expo, which took place in the week of 15 May 2023 at Duduza Customer Care Centre in Duduza in Nigel on the East Rand, and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University).

The purpose of the Expo was to experience, recognise and showcase youth businesses and attract investment in youth entrepreneurship. Additionally, the entrepreneurship week provided young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to connect and explore synergies for growth. Finally, the platform helps students, early-career professionals and budding entrepreneurs to enhance their innovative capability and personality to think like job creators and not job seekers.





Bowmans's participation was twofold:

- Kgabo Senyatsi, a corporate lawyer at our firm, delivered a Masterclass to entrepreneurs at the Expo on 17 May 2023 at the Duduza Customer Care Centre on the legalities and compliance demands of business.
- On 19 May 2023, three of our lawyers, Milda Mojapelo, Karabo Mahlangu and David Weber, served at our expo exhibition desk at Wits University, engaging with entrepreneurs to promote our Ishishini Lethu project and rendering initial advice to entrepreneurs seeking legal assistance with their corporate-related legal matters.



We participated in the second youth entrepreneurship week, which was held in the week of 22 to 25 November at Wits University. The aim of this week was to enhance business acumen and innovative abilities in young entrepreneurs.

Kgabo Senyatsi delivered the second Masterclass to entrepreneurs at the Expo on 23 November 2023.

Our candidate attorneys Milda Mojapelo, David Weber, Fiona Nzau and Eamonn Naidoo serviced our exhibition desk at Wits University on 24 November.



## Supporting Women's Month 2023 through our Ishishini Lethu project

Partnership for economic empowerment through Dream Factory Foundation's Emergent Academy Women Programme

On 25 August 2023, we partnered with the Dream Factory Foundation by undertaking an outreach in Philippi in Cape Town to female entrepreneurs from disadvantaged backgrounds in the low-income areas of the Cape Flats, townships such as Philippi, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Athlone and Delft. There were also a few entrepreneurs from places outside Cape Town such as Grabouw, Stellenbosch, Strand and Somerset West. The entrepreneurs are part of the current cohort of the Emergent Business Programme run by Dream Factory, as well as their alumni since 2019.

The outreach took the form of a business seminar and networking event for women entrepreneurs.

Naqeeba Hassen, a partner in Bowmans Corporate Law Practice, participated as a panellist and spoke on the legalities of growing a small business.

Entrepreneurs joined the programme because of unemployment and used the training offered to create an economic opportunity for themselves and employment opportunities for others. What the women have in common is that despite their difficult circumstances, they are motivated and determined to take their businesses to the next level.

The nature of the businesses that were represented on the day included beauty salons, clothing boutiques, construction companies, administrative assistance, catering and baking services, youth development NGOs, early childhood development care centres and manufacturing of household cleaning products.





# SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Hosting Kwanele to launch the first app for victims of abuse

On 21 February 2023, we hosted Kwanele at our offices in Cape Town. This is a Cape Town-based, non-profit organisation that works to combat gender biased violence. Kwanele has developed an app to assist victims, and the purpose of the event at Bowmans was for Kwanele to grow their network of lawyers, demonstrate how the app works and create awareness among the attendees to refer clients who may benefit from the Kwanele app.

The app enables victims of abuse to seek help and store any information pertaining to the abuse they suffer, such as photos, doctors' reports, correspondence, etc. in a safe and neutral space so that if necessary, it can be used as evidence in any court proceedings brought against the perpetrator.

The event was well attended by members of the legal profession, academics and members of the National Prosecuting Authority.

It was important for us to be able to support Kwanele's work to combat gender-based violence.



## Collaboration with CAOSA to launch the report on after-hours justice services for victims of domestic violence

Community Advice Offices of South Africa (CAOSA) is a non-profit organisation seeking to unify community advice offices around the country to ensure that marginalised communities and individuals have access to justice and legal services.

On Thursday, 25 May 2023, we hosted the launch of CAOSA's report titled *After-hours justice services for victims of domestic violence*. This report was an outcome of a Lotto-funded national project implemented with the entire cohort of CAOSA members. The data sets that were collated indicate the extent to which community-based paralegals in South Africa provide much-need after-hours support to victims and the need to consider how victims of gender-based violence access justice after hours.

The keynote speaker was Professor Barney Pitlane, the Chairperson of the National Lotteries Commission. He addressed the audience on Lotteries Commission's vision to enhance community upliftment and empower those working within their communities.

The launch of the report marked the start of an advocacy campaign called *Place to Run to*.

Members of the judiciary, government departments, civil society, business and media



attended in order to work towards eradicating gender-based violence. An interactive session followed where the audience shared challenges, ideas and thoughts on enabling a just environment for victims of gender-based violence.



Community Advice Offices South Africa

**"CAOSA remains grateful for the continuous support from Bowmans and this gesture goes a long way in supporting the working of advice offices and ultimately the indigent communities relying on community advice office for assistance."**

**- Tshenolo Tshoaedi; Executive Director, CAOSA**





## Assisting Ms NN with a protection order in a very difficult case

We assisted Ms NN in her application for a protection order against her ex-husband (the Respondent) in terms of section 6 of the Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998, as well as the preparation for, and attendance of, the action proceedings before the Athlone Magistrates' Court.

The client approached us for assistance in very difficult and acrimonious circumstances in that she was severely assaulted by her former partner. He was sentenced to imprisonment for that assault. Ms NN now sought assistance to obtain a protection order as he was released from prison after serving the sentence and she was threatened.

Bowmans became involved with the matter in 2021. Ms NN made her application for the protection order on 11 May 2021.

Subsequently, the parties exchanged supplementary, opposing and replying affidavits and the matter was first set down for a hearing of the application for a final order on 13 December 2021.

As is usual for most trials, we consulted with Ms NN, contemplated the evidence to be led in court, and accompanied Ms NN to court as her legal representatives. However, what is less usual was the

presence of the Bowmans team at the Athlone Magistrates' Court on more than 10 occasions. These attendances entailed monitoring the leading of evidence, as well as dealing with the analysis of piecemeal evidence that cropped up sporadically. We also consulted with counsel along the way on the line of questioning to adopt in cross-examination. Bowmans is grateful to have been assisted by Advocate Rustin Ravat, a member of the Cape Bar, who took on the matter pro bono. The legal team stayed the course despite a slew of postponements and wasted set-down dates due to loadshedding, the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in legal representation on the respondent's side and administrative issues from the court's side – a fact that

the Magistrate noted in her long-awaited ruling, handed down on 11 August 2023. The Magistrate granted the final protection order, and the accompanying warrant of arrest, in favour of our client against her ex-husband.

We were pleased to have assisted Ms NN with a matter that took a great deal of resilience to complete. We are very happy with the outcome in favour of our client.

## Servicing the domestic violence helpdesk

We continued to participate in the domestic violence helpdesk project at the Randburg Magistrate Court every Tuesday to assist victims of domestic violence to obtain protection orders. The project has grown phenomenally in that the informal settlement of Diepsloot now also falls within the Randburg Magistrate Court's jurisdiction.

For the financial year ending 29 February 2024, we rendered **473** hours, with a rand value of over **ZAR 1 million**, to the service of this helpdesk. We serviced **180 clients** for the year.

## 16 days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children

Observing the 2023 campaign for 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children

Annually, we observe the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign between 25 November to 10 December. Led by the United Nations, this initiative aims to incite global action to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations on gender-based violence (GBV).



This year, we supported the United Nations campaign theme, 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls'. This is a call to all global citizens to show how much they care about ending violence against women and girls by sharing the actions they are taking to create a world free from violence towards women.

As a responsible corporate citizen, Bowmans recognises that we must play our part in curbing this human rights violation. Throughout the year, we continued with our legal work on gender-based violence, in particular by collaborating with CAOSA and Kwanele, supporting Lawyers V Abuse and servicing the weekly domestic violence helpdesk at the Randburg Magistrate's Court.

As part of observing the 16 Days of Activism campaign in 2023, we supported two charities:

Atlantic Hope, which provides care for vulnerable babies in Cape Town.

The Lighthouse Baby Shelter, which takes care of abused and abandoned children in Johannesburg.





# IN SUPPORT OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE



## World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Justice was observed on 20 February 2023. We once again elected to make donations to support six worthy organisations bringing about access to justice for those who would otherwise not be able to access the courts.

## Equal Education Law Centre

We supported the Equal Education Law Centre, whose walk-in clinics render legal support to individuals and communities where learners' rights are prejudiced.



## Community Advice Offices of South Africa

Community Advice Offices of South Africa (CAOSA) is a non-profit organisation that seeks to unify Community Advice Offices around the country in a sustainable way to ensure that marginalised communities and individuals have easy access to justice and social and legal services so as to advance their human rights in South Africa.

Previously, with the support of a donation from Bowmans, CAOSA was able to assist the 10 working group advice offices with much-needed technological equipment and data. Our further donation will enable them to train and support additional personnel and provide monthly data to 20 offices.



## South African Society of Labour Law

We supported the South African Society of Labour Law (SASLAW), a non-profit organisation situated at the Labour Courts and striving to deliver quality labour law services to those who are not able to afford legal services.

Bowmans has a long-standing relationship with SASLAW. Our Employment & Benefits lawyers service the SASLAW Helpdesk on a monthly basis.



## ProBono.Org

This clearing house for pro bono matters matches indigent clients with lawyers who are prepared to render pro bono services to them, bringing about much-needed access to justice to vulnerable and indigent people.

Bowmans enjoys a long-standing relationship with ProBono.Org. For the past year, we continued to support the organisation and service its refugee, housing, deeds office and domestic violence pro bono helpdesks.



## Lawyers for Human Rights

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) is non-profit organisation which uses law as a positive instrument for change. It does this by running several strategic programmes, one of which is the Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme. The organisation helps vulnerable marginalised and indigent people and communities. Our donation was ring fenced to go towards their programme for stateless people.

LAWYERS FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS

## Lawyers Against Abuse

We supported Lawyers Against Abuse (LVA), an organisation working to strengthen societal responses to gender-based violence, by providing legal services and therapy to victims, engaging with state actors and empowering communities.





# MAKING OUR RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR WORTHY PRO BONO INITIATIVES



## Hosting the ProBono.Org Awards evening

On 26 January 2023, we hosted ProBono.Org's 11th Annual Pro Bono Awards ceremony, which recognises lawyers

who rendered pro bono services to the clients of ProBono.Org. The event was well attended by members of the legal fraternity.

Bowmans was privileged to have hosted ProBono.Org as doing so gave us an opportunity to express our gratitude to the organisation and members of the legal profession for the services they render to people who cannot afford legal fees,

ProBono.Org is a dynamic non-governmental organisation in South Africa that works with the private legal profession to provide pro bono legal services to the underprivileged. Its role is two-fold:

- First, ProBono.Org facilitates access to volunteer lawyers who are willing to provide pro bono services to people who cannot afford legal fees.
- Second, it gives lawyers and law firms such as ours the opportunity to help those who might not otherwise have access to the justice system.



## FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD - PRO BONO

## Hosting Vance Center of international Justice for its Women in the Profession Program

The Vance Center, which is based in New York, provides pro bono legal representation to various social justice organisations and works with many law firms across the world, at the same time promoting diversity in the legal profession.

On 20 April 2023, we hosted the Vance Center and South African Legal Fellows Alumni Network. Together, they initiated a two-year project on Advancing Women in the Workplace (AWW) in 2021 to address the gender gap in legal leadership positions in South Africa. The project includes activities such as a mentorship programme, training and a gender diversity and inclusion survey, modelled on the Center's Women in the Profession program (WIP) in Latin America.

Each year, the project pairs 20 mentees from all provinces in South Africa with mentors to guide and support them as they navigate their career paths and enhance their professional and leadership skills. The event at Bowmans took place to launch the second cohort of mentees and mentors, met in person for the first time and benefited from the panel discussions on mentorship. Previous mentors and mentees also attended.

Bowmans was proud to have supported this initiative empowering young female lawyers of colour in the legal profession.





## Hosting the Legal Resources Centre for the 12th Annual Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture

On 28 September 2023, we hosted the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) for the 12th Bram Fischer Lecture.

Bram Fischer was one of South Africa's most noted anti-apartheid activists and the lecture is intended to honour and remember his sacrifices.

Nelson Mandela, in his 1995 autobiography, described Bram Fischer 'as one of the bravest and staunchest friends of the freedom struggle that I have ever known'.

The keynote speaker was Lindiwe Mazibuko, a renowned South African speaker, writer and academic fellow. Her lecture highlighted the importance of working to uphold democracy and to train young people to be future leaders.

Bowmans has a long-standing and multifaceted pro bono relationship with the LRC, which is an important public interest organisation and very significant in South Africa's historical landscape.



## Participating in a panel discussion at the soft launch of the Pro Bono Institute of Kenya

The Vance Center for International Justice, in alliance with Strathmore University and Kenyatta University, engaged with Bowmans and other Kenyan law firms on establishing a pro bono clearing house in Kenya. To be known as the Pro Bono Institute of Kenya (PBIK), it would be the first of its kind in the country.

Our Kenya Office is currently assisting the project partners in setting up the institute as a non-profit entity.

On 28 April 2023 we were invited to attend the soft launch of the PBIK and participate in a panel discussion on pro bono. Kellen Maganjo, an associate at our Kenya practice, took part in the panel discussion, which focused on why it is important for law firms to work with pro bono clearing houses.

Our Head of Pro Bono is a Founding member of the PBIK, and we are proud to be associated with this groundbreaking initiative.





## Conversation on business and human rights in collaboration with the Centre for Applied Legal Studies

Bowmans and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) are hosting a series of conversations on business and human rights (BHR) over 18 months from 2023 to 2025. CALS is a human rights organisation based at the Wits School of Law and uses a combination of research, advocacy and litigation to advance social justice.

The series is being targeted at all lawyers and legal practitioners and aims to:

- demystify BHR issues;
- promote understanding and consideration of BHR law and standards in all legal fora; ensure greater protection of vulnerable people and communities against corporate violations; and
- explore the business case for BHR.

Together with CALS, we held the first talk in the series on 19 October 2023, titled 'An introduction to business and human rights'. Busisiwe Kamolane-Kgadima, attorney and Research and Advocacy Coordinator at CALS, facilitated the panel discussion involving:

- Prof Tshepo Madlingozi of CALS who focused on the political context of BHR;
- Prof Bonita Meyersfeld who focused on legal developments in relation to BHR;
- Gudani Tshikot, Community Representative from Democracy-MPDRA Project Lead at the MACUA/WAMUA Advisory Office
- Prof Douglas Cassell from the BHR Lawyers Association gave an international perspective.
- Jade Fairweather of Bowmans provided a corporate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) perspective.



## IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES



### Back to School

### Ukusa Ukosha Foundation

The Ukusa Ukosha Foundation is a non-profit organisation that aims to raise awareness in disadvantaged communities about children born with HIV or diagnosed with cancer.

The foundation launched its 'read aloud' initiative in the Diepsloot township in February 2023 to teach children to have fun with books and enjoy reading. The guests of honour were 100 children aged six to 16 years.

For the occasion, we handed over a collection of pre-loved books generously donated by Bowmans staff.



### Support for the Kirstenbosch Lions Club's Pencil Box Project

Through the Lions Club of Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, we once again made our annual donation to the Pencil Box Project. In January 2023, when schools reopened after the holidays, our donation of pencil boxes was delivered to the children at Parkfields Primary School.





## School shoe packs for learners in need through Barefoot No More

In celebration of Human Rights Month in March 2022, we collaborated with the non-profit organisation Barefoot No More, whose aim is to ensure that African children do not go barefoot to school. A total of 353 pairs of shoes were delivered to Tholo Primary School in Uitkyk Village, Madikwe, North West Province.



The school shoes were delivered by Mr Gilbert Matlapeng

## In fond memory of Toni Dammert

Toni Dammert was a young aspiring lawyer at our firm who passed on much too early after a short illness. The Toni Dammert Foundation was set up in fond memory of her as a charity in service of underprivileged people.

In January 2023, the foundation aimed to assist 100 families by donating at 2-quire books to primary and high schoolchildren in underprivileged areas in Cape Town. This followed the success of their 2022 Back to School project. Our donation in 2023 assisted the foundation to donate at least four books per learner for 100 families.

**'We handed out books and reams of copy paper to 100 children on Saturday, 21 January 2023. The project was a huge success...all because of Bowman. You have made a huge difference and impact in the lives of many children.'**

Jodene Malan, founder of the Toni Dammert Foundation



## Celebrating Youth Month Harambee receives pre-loved professional clothes for young job seekers for Youth Month

For Youth Month June 2023, and in conjunction with Advocate C Bekker from the Johannesburg Bar, we held a pre-loved professional clothes drive for young job seekers.

We requested staff at our Sandton Office to donate their preloved professional attire, including jackets/blazers, trousers, shirts/blouses, ties and suits – anything that could help young job seekers feel and look good for their first job or at job interviews.

Our staff donated generously. We had our collection dry cleaned and delivered to Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator Programme on 27 July 2024.

Harambee is a non-profit organisation that solves youth problems through partnerships. Its vision is of a growing economy and a society that works, powered by the potential of young people.

Our collection was handed to Jabhile Nene and Sandile Ngakane from Harambee.







We continued to support deserving charities working with youth in disadvantaged communities for Youth Month 2023.

## Stationery donation to Kid's Haven

On 10 August 2023, we supported Kid's Haven with a large donation of stationery items. Kids Haven is based in Benoni, in the east of Johannesburg, and serves children who are homeless and in need of protection..

**'Thank you for this wonderful donation of office stationery that we received from Bowmans today. We are excited! The boxes are filled with useful treasures like bull clips, dividers, large punchers and staplers for thick documents, note paper and post-it notes.'**

**We also notice that many items will be useful for our children who are at school. Stationery is a never-ending need. There are many rulers, pens and papers that the children will be able to use. Thank you on their behalf. We currently care for 164 children, all of whom are in a school programme from preschool through to formal school.'**

**- Susan Daly, Coordinator: Fundraising**



## Connect Sport Academy

Connect Sport Academy is a non-profit organisation nurturing South Africa's next generation of young professionals in the sports industry through consistent access to resources and opportunities. We continued to sponsor the journey to sporting greatness of Lliitha 'Mister' Ntini, a young rugby player from Khayelitsha.

## Izivunguvungu

Mike Oldham, a retired director of the South African Navy Band, heads up this organisation, which uplifts the youth of Ocean View in Cape Town through the medium of music.

In 2023, we continued our support for Izivunguvungu for the benefit of children attending schools such as Kleinberg Primary.

## Future Masters Football Club

Club Future Masters is a non-profit organisation based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, which uses the medium of soccer to uplift youth in the area. Bowmans' relationship with the club started three years ago when we began sponsoring soccer equipment and gear for their under-16 soccer team. The sponsorship was for three years, ending in 2022. . The relationship with Future Masters continues, however. In 2023, we committed to sponsoring a new under-15 team for the next three years.

## Pathways to Information – Supporting community outreach to youth in Alexandra

In observance of Youth Month 2023, we participated in the Pathways to Information event that took place in Alexandra township in Gauteng on 29 July.

The event at the Altrec Sport Centre was co-created and co-hosted by the University of Cape Town's Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Huruma Bantfu and Ikamva Youth, with financial support from Bowmans.

The event was aimed at empowering 70 young people in Alexandra by connecting them to information and opportunities for employment, education and entrepreneurship. Various organisations participated in sharing information intended to strengthen and empower the youth to thrive, despite their circumstances.





## Our contribution to the legacy

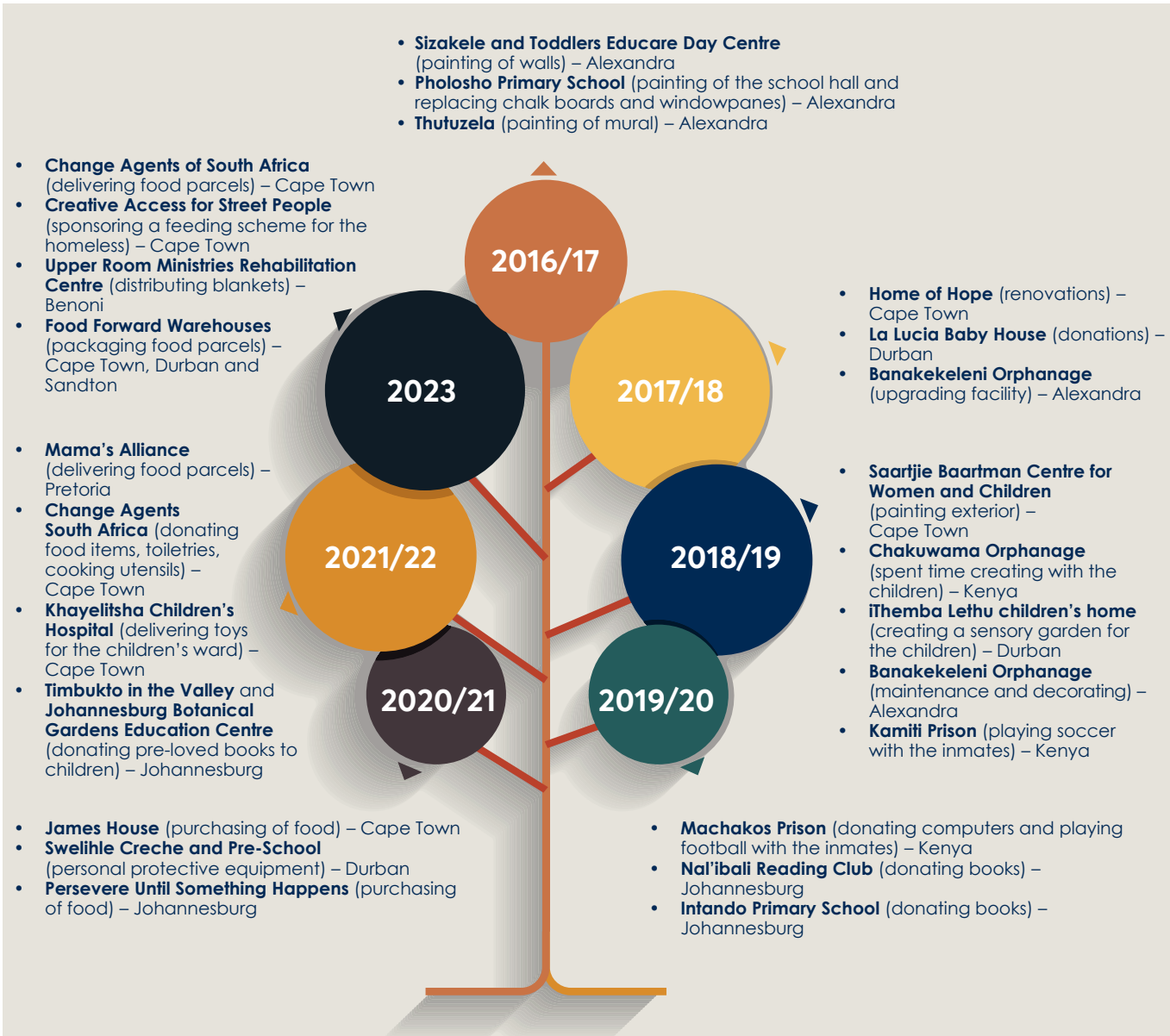
The year 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of Madiba's passing in December 2013. To commemorate this, the Nelson Mandela Foundation issued its 10-year Remembrance call to action, 'The legacy lives on through you'.

Over the years, we have undertaken many Mandela Day outreaches.

Our focus has been on painting and general maintenance work at orphanages, preschools, women's shelters and children's homes in the communities around our various offices.

We have also focused on small charities working with poverty alleviation by making donations of food parcels and other essential items. Wherever possible, we collaborate with non-profit organisations to reach out to rural communities.

The Bowmans family has heeded the call of Mandela Day since 2016. For us, fulfilling his legacy is not only an 18 July event but extends throughout each year through various corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.



For Mandela Day 2023, we remained committed to Madiba's legacy. Our focus was on supporting charities fighting hunger and homelessness.

Bowmans collaborated with the following organisations:

**Foodforward:** Members of our staff from our offices in Cape Town, Sandton and Durban spent 67 minutes this Mandela Day sorting food items and packing parcels at Feedforward's warehouses in the three cities.

FoodForward SA, a national non-profit organisation, is a long-standing pro bono client of the Firm. Focusing on food security, it was established in 2009 to address widespread hunger in South Africa by recovering quality edible surplus food from the consumer goods supply chain and distributing it to community organisations that serve the poor. During the 2022/23 financial year, Foodforward distributed 88 million meals and reached 985 000 people daily through a network of 2 750 beneficiary organisations across South Africa. It achieved this at a cost per meal of only R0,56



**Change Agents of South Africa** aims to assist people in need to become self-sufficient. Through this organisation, we donated food parcels to child-headed households, the elderly and the disabled in Montagu, Ashton and Zolani in the Western Cape.

'Thanks again for being an extension of hope to so many families whose situations seem hopeless. Yesterday's Mandela Day outreach just opened our eyes and brought new understanding of the utter poverty our communities are facing each and every day'

Olin Kiewietz, Managing Director CASA



Cape Town



Sandton



Durban



**Upper Room Ministries Rehabilitation Centre:** This is a street ministry in Johannesburg. We contributed by distributing 90 blankets to homeless people in Alberton North.

We will strive to keep the legacy of Madiba alive by ensuring that we continue to heed the call of those less fortunate than ourselves and thereby hope to leave the world a better place than we found it.



**Creative Access for Street People:** This Cape Town-based organisation works with homeless people. Our donation will be earmarked for the feeding scheme for homeless persons in Bellville, Goodwood and Kuilsriver.



## Doctors without Borders

In 2023 and for the second year running, we made a donation to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) – Doctors Without Borders. MSF is a global network of principled medical and other professionals who work in teams to respond to the medical needs of people affected by conflicts, disasters and epidemics and who are excluded from healthcare systems.

Our donation was once again earmarked as a contribution towards the work undertaken by MSF in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique, where a humanitarian crisis has been unfolding and escalating violence has displaced over half a million people.

Palma, a coastal town situated in the north of Mozambique, was the location of major attacks in March 2021. MSF has and continues to provide healthcare services, including mental healthcare, to the people displaced by the conflict. MSF supports health and cholera treatment centres and runs mobile clinics in the area. It also distributes non-food items such as plastic sheets for shelter, mosquito nets, hygiene and cooking sets, and tools for farming. MSF has improved access to clean water and sanitation, such as by constructing latrines.

As a leading African Law firm, it has been important to us to contribute to the work undertaken By MSF in Southern and East Africa.

**'I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt and sincere gratitude for Bowmans' support to Doctors Without Borders (MSF). We are extremely grateful for the trust that you have placed in our work and for your generous support over the years.'**

**Claire Waterhouse, Head of Operational Support & Regional Advocacy Coordinator,**

**MSF, Southern Africa**



## Clothes donation to Rays of Hope

On 30 August 2023, we handed over a large collection of pre-loved clothes to Rays of Hope at their premises in Lupin Road in Marlboro near Alexandra, Johannesburg, for distribution to beneficiaries of their outreach programmes. Member of our staff donated generously.

Rays of Hope is a non-profit organisation that focuses on children and their families, seeking to improve their lives by journeying with them from vulnerability to independence. It strives to create a lasting impact in the Alexandra community.





# ILoveBoobies 2023 Challenge

During the International Breast Cancer Awareness month of October 2023, Bowmans once again took part in the ILoveBoobies Imagine Challenge. ILoveBoobies is a non-profit, community healthcare services company. Its primary mission is to provide free breast examinations to South African individuals who are unable to access such medical services due to financial, locational or social challenges. ILoveBoobies also aims to create awareness and support among and for the greater public.

The participants were required to complete at least one of the following challenges: 42.2km of running; 500km of cycling; 10km of swimming;

24 hours of gym/CrossFit; 15 hours of racquet sport; or 20 hours of golf.

Bowmans entered 12 representatives from across our three South African offices to take part in the Imagine Challenge. The cost of each entry was donated towards providing free breast cancer screenings. The participants created a significant amount of awareness about breast cancer and how imperative it is for women to regularly undergo breast examinations to aid prevention. A significant component of preventing cancer is keeping healthy and active and through this Challenge, ILoveBoobies showed just that, as well as creating awareness.



## IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES - OUR CSR EFFORTS

### Year-end donation in lieu of client gifts For Afrika to Thrive

For Afrika to Thrive works on the continent of Africa to provide resources to people in need. They do this through several interventions in the spheres of emergencies, food, health, education and the economy.

In lieu of client gifts for the 2023 year-end, our Marketing Department made a donation which will be used in For Afrika's feeding programmes in countries such as Angola, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.

The organisation provides life-saving therapeutic foods to malnutrition clinics, as well as food to vulnerable families. It resources communities and schools with seeds, tools and training in agriculture and nutrition, while promoting climate-smart techniques and technologies that reduce the burden of labour and minimise losses after harvesting. For Afrika also supports communities, schools and farmers to access the resources and training they need to boost their own food production and sell their surplus produce. In 2022, For Afrika impacted the lives of 3 124 333 people across Africa.



### Playpumps

We strived to provide access to safe water for rural children by ensuring that water continues to flow in remote villages, thus improving children's educational outcomes and quality of life.

For this purpose, we collaborate with Roundabout Water Solutions, a non-profit organisation that raises donor funds to supply clean water to rural communities by means of PlayPumps – a sustainable pumping system powered by children playing on roundabouts.

Our contribution went to the maintenance of three PlayPump sites at the following schools in rural KwaZulu-Natal: Heatvitree Primary in the town of Wembezi and Patsoana Secondary and Ikaheng Primary in Vryheid.



### Year-end donation to Tshepang Care

The Tshepang Care Centre is a non-profit organisation that operates a crèche and pre-school in Thembisa, Johannesburg, and services the Vusimuzi informal settlement.

Our contribution went towards the graduation ceremony and Christmas function, held in November 2023, for the class of 2023 pre-school learners.







# BOWMANS

THE VALUE OF KNOWING

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