



CSI
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 22

WEBBER WENTZEL

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Webber Wentzel's purpose is to have a transformative and sustainable impact through our work and actions.

- While one of the objectives of the firm's Pro Bono Department is to facilitate greater access to justice by addressing systemic issues, these matters generally take a long time to process through our court system. Our **CSI Programme** supports structures and organisations that work more closely with people's everyday problems and attempt to secure their access to justice on an individual basis, and in a more immediate way.
- Corporate South Africa has a responsibility to lean in and lead during **times of crisis**. Last year, during the protests and looting in our country and the destruction of several buildings in the University of Cape Town fire, we were able to channel our resources quickly and do our part to help.
- It is equally important to us to ensure employee engagement and to motivate our younger generation to improve society and contribute towards its sustainable development. The **Webber Wentzel Leadership Network** is an initiative driven by young professionals within Webber Wentzel that aims to reinforce the firm's dedication to the future of South Africa by creating a platform to inspire, educate and support the development of leaders. They organise various CSI initiatives every year to make a social difference.

OUR CSI PROGRAMME

In 2021, our CSI Programme supported greater access to justice by making monetary donations to initiatives such as free online laws accessible to all, a free helpline that assists with queries about social grants, the employment of a full-time attorney to provide labour law advice for free, and projects that provide free psycho-social and legal support to victims of gender-based violence.



OUR 2021 BENEFICIARIES INCLUDED

BENEFICIARY & 2021 AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION / ACTIVITY FUNDED

BLACKSASH
MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS REAL

ZAR 150,000

Formed in 1955, the **Black Sash** is a national organisation that works with 400 community advice offices and community-based organisations. For the last decade, it has focused on the realisation of socio-economic rights, as outlined in the South African Constitution, emphasising social security and social protection for the most vulnerable, to reduce poverty and inequality.

A critical component of Black Sash's work is its free national Helpline, a dedicated unit based in the Gauteng regional office and staffed by two full-time paralegals. The paralegals report on trends in the queries that they receive and this information is analysed, together with that from the Black Sash community-based monitoring programme, to inform the organisation's engagement with government and its agencies about service delivery. Systemic problems are raised at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Recourse Forum and they inform the content of the Black Sash Rights Information, Education and Training Programme.



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

ZAR 50,000

Laws of South Africa is a free online service, based at the University of Pretoria and accessible from anywhere in the world. When there are amendments to Acts (or Regulations), the changes have to be applied to the Act to update it. National legislation (Acts and Regulations) covers virtually every aspect of the lives of citizens and this online legislation service is a freely accessible source of this information (reliable consolidated legislation) in South Africa. Previously the only way to see the Acts and Regulations was by purchasing access to the full set of legislation provided by the commercial publishers of this material, something ordinary South Africans cannot afford to do. If people are unaware of the laws, they are effectively excluded from access to justice. Having access to the legislation enables South Africans to know their rights in terms of the law.



ZAR 100,000

Lawyers against Abuse provides legal services and trauma counselling for victims of gender-based violence in the impoverished communities of Diepsloot and Orange Farm. For many victims of violence, securing justice can be an overwhelming, or even, impossible task. Some have lost faith in the justice system entirely due to missing evidence, countless postponements or dismissive and degrading treatment by those who are supposed to protect them. LVA's legal team assists clients throughout the entire legal process, whether by securing a protection order or pursuing a criminal case. LVA ensures that its clients are aware of their legal rights and available remedies, provides comprehensive support throughout the process and pushes the justice system to work the way it should.

Through various outreach activities, LVA reached over 16,000 community members and facilitated workshops for over 400 community members and stakeholders. LVA's community action groups also successfully planned and executed two mobilisation and awareness events, reaching over 1,000 community members.



ZAR 240,000

The South African Society for Labour Law promotes labour law in South Africa. Members are judges, advocates, attorneys, candidate attorneys, HR and IR management, government officials, CCMA commissioners, and employers' organisations. SASLAW has chapters in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the Free State. In 2011 it established SASLAW Pro Bono NPC, which administers pro bono legal clinics at the four Labour Courts - Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. These clinics assist the Labour Courts, where lay people often formulate their own reviews or appeals, or where there is often an inequality of arms, when one party is not represented because of lack of means.

Our donation covered the salary of a full-time attorney at the busiest advice office (Johannesburg) for one year. The permanent attorney has fulfilled an extremely important role during these last two years, when it has been



ZAR 150,000

Social Change Assistance Trust is a 35-year-old human rights and social justice organisation focusing on the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State. Most of the organisations that it supports are community advice offices, or 'local development agencies'. These agencies are: 1) highly responsive to critical community issues; 2) situated in the community they serve; 3) staffed by community activists; 4) governed by the community for the community; and 5) accountable to the community. The 30 community advice offices SCAT supports deal with around 32,000 cases annually and are involved in campaigns for social justice in its communities with a strong focus on gender-based violence and local government service delivery.

SCAT's overall goal is to build strong institutions which are able to respond to issues around access to justice, gender, youth empowerment and food security. It provides small grants that contribute to the core running costs of local development agencies.



ZAR 150,000

Cape Mental Health is the oldest mental health organisation in South Africa. Its mission is to provide or facilitate comprehensive mental health care services in the Western Cape. Women with intellectual disabilities are at even greater risk of gender-based violence than the general population, as they experience discrimination based on both their gender and their disability. Cape Mental Health has a deep commitment to empowering vulnerable women and children with intellectual disabilities by helping them to access justice and receive the necessary support to overcome their trauma.

The Sexual Abuse Victim Empowerment component of CMH's Access to Justice programme offers counselling and psycho-legal services to victims (mostly women and children) and their families in cases of sexual crimes. A multi-pronged approach includes training police officers, forensic social workers, prosecutors and staff of community-based organisations to equip them to provide the necessary services and support to victims and ensure successful prosecutions.



ZAR 30,000

Hot Cares runs a TEDDYTHON which raises funds for people within the community who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Its scope ranges from developing creches in informal settlements to providing weekly soup kitchens, food banks for people without income, helping entrepreneurs and NPOs who require guidance and raising resources and awareness of its programmes. It also provides medical assistance, educational bursaries for students and uplifts schools, various animal shelters and even individuals who just need a helping hand at a particularly difficult time in their life.



ZAR 250,000

ProBono.Org is the only pro bono clearinghouse in South Africa. It links individuals and organisations that require pro bono legal services with legal practitioners and mediators. It has offices in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. With Webber Wentzel's CSI donation, the ProBono.Org Cape Town office was enabled to screen all matters, identify pro bono counsel and organise workshops for attorneys on relevant areas of law. ProBono.Org also establishes onsite and offsite legal clinics and help desks in underprivileged communities and holds legal education community workshops and rights awareness interventions.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In April 2021, a large-scale wildfire caused major destruction at the University of Cape Town. The firm took bottled water, Energades, Powerades, energy bars and eyedrops to the Salt River Fire Station, to aid the relief efforts. Several of our people volunteered to help in their personal capacity and the firm made monetary donations to Volunteer Wildlife Services and the Cape of Good Hope SPCA to help with displaced animals from the fire. We also gave ZAR 200,000 to the University of Cape Town, which helped contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of UCT's Jagger Reading Room, one of the leading repositories of African research resources.

In addition to the collection drive we did during the July 2021 riots, the firm also donated ZAR 10,000 to St Theresa's Children's Home in Kwazulu Natal and ZAR 300,000 to the Gift of the Givers Foundation - to provide some food security for communities in dire need.

THE WEBBER WENTZEL LEADERSHIP NETWORK (WWLN)



The WWLN strives to engage the firm's employees in dialogue and community involvement activities that inspire leadership and reinforce a dedication to justice and the law. The WWLN got involved in various CSI activities during 2021, including:

- Running a clothing drive to assist United Way South Africa in collecting 80 bags of corporate clothing for its World of Work Programme.
- Raising funds for Reach for a Dream Foundation, to give children the opportunity to create memories that will last for a lifetime.
- Creating an online fundraiser to collect money for Seed 2 Harvest, an organisation dedicated to building food sovereignty in villages, towns, and cities.
- Taking part in the Kiptown Youth Programme to encourage the next generation to reach for the stars and achieve their goals by providing them with some advice on writing CVs and attending job interviews.
- Setting up donation points during the July 2021 riots to assist in alleviating the terrible discomfort some communities were experiencing. These donations were given to Gift of the Givers Foundation to distribute to communities in need.
- Revamping the reading corners for four of the cottages at the Johannesburg Children's Home to create a space where children could relax and spend some time reading.

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About Webber Wentzel

We are the leading full-service law firm on the African continent, providing clients with seamless, tailored and commercially-minded business solutions within record times. Our alliance with Linklaters and our relationships with outstanding law firms across Africa ensures our clients have the best expertise wherever they do business.

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