

LACE seeks to address needs of the individual client, their family and other units to which the individual is a member. It cooperates and collaborates with doctors, social workers, therapists, other lawyers, court officers, and others in its quest to provide legal services to its clients. It works with the Moi Faculty of Law, AMPATH (in whose building LACE is housed), members of the Kenya and Indiana judiciary, NGOs such as Rotary, IU law faculty, and the media.

b. Visiting Fellow – IU Program in International Human Rights Law

Moi University Faculty of Law member Vincent Mutai is the first Kenyan to become a Visiting Fellow of the Program in International Human Rights Law of Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis. During his tenure at our Human Rights Center, Professor Mutai was able to collaborate with our faculty and staff on various projects, including the shadow reporting project whereby IU and Moi students would research, draft and present reports to the United Nation about human rights violations in Kenya. Professor Mutai was also able to make progress on his own research projects, and we hope he – and others from Moi – will be able to collaborate further on research, publications, lectures, and service projects.

c. Master of Laws (LL.M.) student(s); law student interns; visiting prosecutor

LACE will be hosting an Indiana deputy prosecutor, is now hosting the two IU Law-Indianapolis human rights law student interns, and is sending a LACE Kenyan lawyer to IU Law-Indianapolis LLM in January 2009 for her Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree studies which she will undertake with a law school full scholarship conditioned on her returning as a LACE staff attorney for two years. IU Law Interns Matt Trick and Aaron Stark will deliver a presentation on *Studying Law in the U.S.* at the Moi Faculty, which may help recruit additional LL.M. students to study in the U.S.



LACE founders, left-right: LACE former Legal Director Juliet Mule, Moi University Law lecturer Vincent Mutai, Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Riley, Advocate Eric Gumbo & USAID-AMPATH's and IU Law Professor Fran Quigley.

d. Indiana Law Delegation to Eldoret – October 2009

In October 2009, LACE will host a delegation of Indiana government and private lawyers, judges, and law faculty, including IU-Indy Law Dean Gary Roberts, Judge Riley, and Professor Quigley. The delegation will visit with Kenyan judges, law professors, bar members, and LACE clients. As discussed below, there has been discussion about our IU law students returning to Kenya with the October delegation.

e. Collaboration – IU law human rights interns at LACE

Interns Matt Trick and Aaron Stark have their hands full during their short stay working at LACE in July and August. Projects they are working on include: helping to create a LACE newsletter; creating "Know Your Rights" brochures to help victims; help prepare Kenyans prepare reports to submit to the United Nations about human rights violations in Kenya; drafting a law article featuring the holistic approach to legal aid service provided by LACE; going on rounds with physicians to understand better the holistic approach; visiting the Imani workshop for HIV-AIDS patient artisan productions; drafting legal documents; developing legal templates for routine; consulting aide clinics for advice on operations; meeting with clients and assisting with client intakes; preparing court documents and accompanying advocates to court; and making at least two presentations at Moi Faculty of Law.



Also, there has been discussion of our two Indiana law student interns, Matt Trick and Aaron Stark, joining the Indiana legal delegation to help further cement ties among the Indiana legal community, IU-Indy law school, the Moi Law Faculty, LACE and the Eldoret legal community.

In a very short amount of time, Matt and Aaron became fully integrated into the work of LACE, and they stand to continue to make solid contributions during the remainder of their internships, and when (and if) they return to Eldoret in October 2009 for during the Indiana Law Delegation visit.

There is no better example of collaboration and cooperation than that involving LACE and our two Indiana human rights law interns.

f. LACE hosted my Eldoret visit

LACE also hosted my recent visit to Eldoret. After communicating with LACE, its leadership, and Moi Law Faculty, I gave a presentation at the Moi Law School on the topic of *Slavery, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Hurricane Katrina, and the Right to Health for Africans in the Diaspora and Africans in Africa*. I discussed the relationship between the right to health and all other civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights. I also spoke about legal education in the United States, and my two US students gave a powerpoint presentation about that after I left Eldoret. LACE administrators who had studied law in the US participated, as did the current LACE staff member who will commence study at IU-Indy Law in January 2010.

(10) Competence and reliability.

LACE is unquestionably competent and reliable. I've worked with many human rights NGOs, including groups that have existed for many years. LACE, in 10 months, has accomplished what it sometimes takes other NGOs years to accomplish. LACE has a steadily growing case load involving clients with a wide range of legal issues that relate to and flow from their HIV-AIDS status. LACE has successfully represented clients in Eldoret courts, and in negotiations regarding child custody, inheritance, improper disclosure of status, and discrimination because of status. I didn't spend much time with LACE clients, but I saw many waiting outside the small LACE offices, patient, knowing they could count on LACE. LACE can't guarantee that any LACE client will prevail on any specific legal issue. But LACE can, and does, guarantee that it will represent all its clients zealously, with the clients' interests paramount.

Yes, LACE is competent and reliable.

LACE has successfully helped many clients in a short time. For example, LACE helped an HIV-positive Kenyan widow inherit from her deceased husband's property that her in-laws had refused her; assisted a mother and infant son abandoned by the husband upon discovering the wife's HIV status; and assisted a client who was sexually assaulted but couldn't afford fees to file a police report or have a post-assault physical exam.

Without LACE, these people would have had no access to justice. LACE has built an advocacy model that effectively responds to legal issues surrounding HIV-AIDS, one of the great human rights challenges of our era.

VII. Conclusion

In less than a year, LACE has become the leading legal services centre servicing the poor in Eldoret, and indeed in all of Western Kenya. LACE provides high quality representation to a marginalized sector of society – individuals and families affected by HIV-AIDS—who are discriminated against, ostracized, deprived of medical and social services, and afflicted with a wide range of other legal problems. Furthermore, LACE has branched out from its initial model of representing civil clients, and now also advocates for victims of gender-based violence. LACE is blossoming.



The 2007 post-election crisis displaced 1000s of Kenyans. Many IDPs—internally displaced persons—have legal issues and are eligible for LACE legal assistance.

recognized human rights. LACE's command of the substantive human rights law issues it deals with, and LACE's determination to carry out its missions, render it highly likely to continue to be successful in righting wrongs perpetrated on its indigent clients.



LACE lunch meeting. Right to Left: Mr. Vincent Mutai (Lecturer, Moi Law Faculty); Ms. Milkah Cheptinga (LACE Legal Director); Ms. Juliet Mule (LACE's Former Legal Director); Mr. Matt Trick (IU Law Intern), Mr. Aaron Stark (IU Law Intern); Ms. Anne Konuche (Lecturer, Moi Law Faculty); Mr. Maurice Oduor (Lecturer, Moi Law Faculty)