



**FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND STRATEGIC  
LITIGATION SUPPORT FOR NGOS**

*Pro Bono Connect is a project of the Dutch Legal Committee for Human Rights (NJCM).*

 Connect with us on LinkedIn       Send us an email

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- [Trainee Visit and Pro Bono Information Day](#)
- [Startup & Stichting Rechtswinkel](#)
- [Success Story: Social Security for in-Home Caregivers](#)
- [Matching Refugee Organisations: Spotlight on DLA Piper](#)
- [PILnet Environmental and Climate Justice Survey](#)
- [Upcoming Event: Thematic Workshop for Startups and Stichtingen \(date tbd\)](#)

### Trainee Visit and Pro Bono Information Day

In March, we were delighted to welcome a group of postgraduate legal trainees from Germany. Admittedly, their initial idea of pro bono was gleaned from US-based t.v. series, so we were happy to share our real-world insights. We discussed the idea of effective access to justice, our role in the matching process, and dilemma's in pro bono collaboration between global law firms and NGOs. We sent them on their way with German pro bono resources and the message that all lawyers can contribute to justice, no matter their specialty.



## Startup & Stichting Rechtswinkel

We are proud to announce the founding of a new free legal advice clinic: The [Startup & Stichting Rechtswinkel](#) (SSRW). The initiative hopes to address the need for legal guidance during an organisation's initial phase of startup and registration. It has its roots in the thematic law clinics held with PBC, our partner firms and the Amsterdam Law Hub in 2022.

We share some highlights of our conversation with two of the organization's mentors, **Dr. Marleen van Uchelen** and **Frances Singleton**. Marleen is an associate professor at the University of Amsterdam, candidate notary at our partner firm Houthoff, and specializes in the law on foundations. Frances is the Head of Research and Innovation at the UvA Law Hub and Rechtswinkel.

### **What is the value of the Rechtswinkel for students eager to gain pro bono experience?**

"The SSRW offers valuable, hands-on skills training for students and gives them insight into the types of questions that businesses tackle during the startup phase. It also teaches students to pay attention to legal design - how they're conveying the information that they share with clients."

*-- Frances Singleton*

"The Rechtswinkel employs highly motivated students, and their enthusiasm is contagious. These students really fill a gap because start-ups and foundations cannot always easily go to a lawyer or notary's office with their questions. The students identify common questions, use their network, can make a connection and will undoubtedly learn a lot themselves."

*-- Marleen van Uchelen*



*Dr. Marleen van Uchelen*

### **What is the rationale behind combining assistance for startups and foundations at one Rechtswinkel?**

"This Rechtswinkel stands out for its focus on startups with a social mission and non-profits. For many startups, it is important to think about shaping their social purpose from the beginning. When the enterprise is making profits, how do these profits benefit the mission?"

The distinction between profit and not-for-profit organisations is less sharp these days, just look at the initiative of social enterprises in the Netherlands (maatschappelijke B.V.). In practice, new organisations have many questions about this, including the possibilities and impossibilities of using a foundation.

*-- Marleen van Uchelen*

We encourage our NGO stakeholders to contact SSRW with your questions"(form below). For more complex matters, PBC continues to support NGOs by matching requests with our partner law firms.



**STARTUP & STICHTING  
RECHTSWINKEL**

Fill in the SSRW Contact Form

### **Success Story: Social Security for in-Home Caregivers**

Pro Bono Connect is proud to have facilitated collaboration between **Bureau Clara Wichmann** and **Houthoff** in the following case:

On 30 March 2023, the Central Appeals Council [ruled](#) that **private in-home caregivers** (PGB-zorgverleners) who work less than four days **may not be excluded from entitlement to social security**, because this leads to **indirect discrimination against women** who make up a majority of this group of caregivers. The ruling has major implications for tens of thousands of in-home caregivers who currently have no social safety net.

The case was brought by women's rights organization [Bureau Clara Wichmann](#) and the [Dutch Association for Women and Law Clara Wichmann](#), in support of domestic worker Carol Kollman. PBC partner firm Houthoff provided legal counsel on a pro bono basis.



Follow [Bureau Clara Wichmann](#) for more updates, including the awaited appeal hearing of their case for **free contraception** on June 19th.

### **Matching Refugee Organisations: Spotlight on DLA Piper**

We're pleased to share PBC's recent success with the matching of two refugee organisations with one of our partner firms. DLA Piper responded to the call for volunteers in our last newsletter. DLA Piper is able to provide **UA.SUPPORT** and **Opora Foundation supporting Ukrainian refugees in the Netherlands** with legal assistance. Thank you!



### **PILnet Environmental and Climate Justice Survey**

PBC partner **PILnet** wants to understand your views on the usage, hardships, and understandings around pro bono support for **environmental and climate work**.



Their survey aims to look at this issue from the lens of both **NGOs** and **lawyers**, to inform their work using pro bono in this sector. The survey is open until the end of April and you can fill it in using the buttons below.

[Are you and NGO?](#)

[Are you a lawyer?](#)

### **Upcoming Event: Thematic Workshop for Startups and Stichtingen (date tbd)**

Pro Bono Connect and the new Startup and Stichting Rechtswinkel would like to invite you to a thematic workshop on **Social Enterprise in the Netherlands**. During the lunch event, we will discuss the various legal forms and pathways available to initiatives, researchers and organizations trying to enact positive social change. There will also be an opportunity to discuss your questions with lawyers and student legal advisors. The students will be available for longer-term guidance through the Rechtswinkel.


Email us if you have a specific issue or question we should add to the agenda.  
(Date and speakers to be shared soon!)

*(A similar event will follow in June, focusing on foundations & ANBI status).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **(date tbc)** Startup & Stichting Thematic Workshop (1)
  - **19 June:** Appeal hearing: Bureau Clara Wichmann's contraception case
  - **20 June (TBC):** Startup & Stichting Thematic Workshop (2)
  - **16-18 October:** PILnet Global Forum
- 

**in** Connect with us on LinkedIn

 Send us an email

[Submit a request](#)

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Pro Bono Connect · PO Box 2143 · Amsterdam, (NH) 1000 CS · Netherlands

