



CSI

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025/2026

WEBBER WENTZEL

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1. There are a number of cogent reasons why the Webber Wentzel CSI programme almost exclusively supports non-profit organisations that provide access to justice services to the vulnerable and most marginalised:

- It is in direct alignment with the core business of the firm, namely the provision of legal services.
- Not only is there a synergy between our core business and the right to access to justice, but it is our belief that the right to access to justice unlocks all the other rights in the South African Bill of Rights.
- One of the consequences of South Africa being the most unequal country in the world is that for the vast majority of South Africans, access to justice remains non-existent or at the very best, limited.
- Further, access to justice is a cause which does not attract funding as readily as more popular funding targets such as education, women, gender-based violence, children and the environment.
- We have a modest CSI budget and applying these funds in a targeted manner is the most effective way to have impact within the budget parameters.
- To ensure that our contributions meaningfully assist with impact work, our financial donations are to organisations with established track records in the access to justice space.
- The non-profit organisations that we support with our CSI donations, all punch above their weight by achieving impact with small staff components and modest budgets, and in these scenarios our donations are meaningful contributions.
- It has been demonstrated that a limited number of targeted donations have more measurable impact than a larger number of smaller donations.

2. All the current beneficiaries are registered with SARS as public benefit organisations, which means that each of the donations Webber Wentzel makes from its CSI budget, is tax deductible.

3. Further, all the current beneficiaries are compliant with the BBB-EEE requirements for Socio-Economic Development, and each year for the last number of years, Webber Wentzel has received the maximum score for SED in respect of the annual BEE-EEE audit.

4. The programmes and projects of the CSI beneficiaries supported by Webber Wentzel are implemented towards the fulfilment of SDGs 10 (reduced inequality), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 5 (gender equality) and 3 (good health and wellbeing).

5. The report below lists the intended beneficiaries for 2026, their access to justice work and reach, as well as the purpose and impact of the Webber Wentzel CSI donation.





Black Sash

ZAR 250,000

Black Sash is an organisation with national reach in both urban and rural areas. It has four regional offices: Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng. Nationally it works with 400 community advice offices and community-based organisations. Community advice offices are a crucial vehicle for the poor and most vulnerable in rural and peri-urban areas to access their human and particularly socio-economic rights. For years passionate and dedicated paralegals (most often volunteers) have built up an invaluable knowledge base which has assisted people and communities on a local level to exercise their agency.

Formed in 1955, the Black Sash has a long history of working in the field of human rights. Recognising the importance of empowering people with legal advice, particularly those negatively affected by the apartheid legislation, volunteers worked in the national network of advice offices and in the monitoring of courts and pass offices. Its current focus is on the realisation of socio-economic rights, as outlined in the SA Constitution, with an emphasis on social security and social protection for the most vulnerable, in order to reduce poverty and inequality.

Black Sash has three pillars to its work, one of which is promoting access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable people; and it is this work that the Webber Wentzel CSI donation supports. There are four outcomes related to its access to justice programme:

- community-based paralegal and community advice office are supported to continue providing quality support, paralegal advice and access to systems, and thereby holding government to account to its support obligations,
- policy and legislation that support the South African advice office sector,
- members of the public are actively engaged in public discourse regarding issues of social protection and human rights,
- members of the public and civil society organisations claim their rights through support from the Black Sash Helpline.

The Webber Wentzel CSI contribution will be applied towards the access to justice programme as follows:

- R180 000.00 towards annual salaries of two full-time paralegals who staff the Black Sash Helpline.
- R70 000.00 towards rights and education materials and distribution

THE IMPACT OF OUR DONATION:

- R180,000 will be about 52% of the total needed to employ two full-time paralegals to staff the free helpline service;
- the two full-time paralegals will be available to respond to almost 4,000 annual advice queries, more than half of which are from women.
- 28% of the total contribution will be utilised to distribute rights-based material in nine languages covering social assistance entitlements, consumer rights and protection against gender-based violence. These materials reach hundreds of advice offices and community partners nationwide, providing a trusted resource for both paralegals and the public.



Cape Mental Health

Cape Mental Health

ZAR 160,000

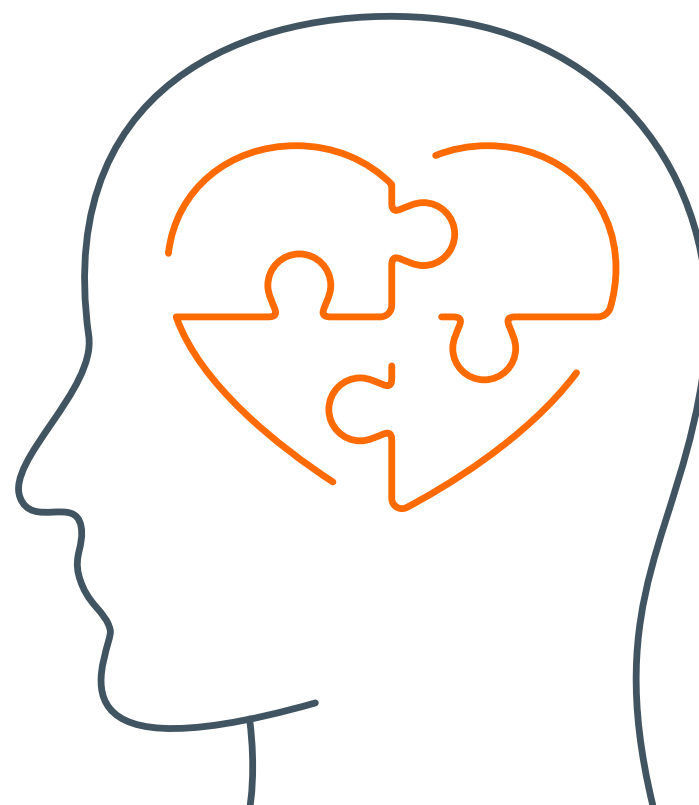
Founded in 1913, Cape Mental Health is the oldest mental health organisation in South Africa. It has a well-documented track record and has won numerous awards for its work.

Cape Mental Health's Access to Justice programme is unique in the South African landscape in its provision of psycho-legal services to people with disabilities. Included in its Access to Justice programme, is the multi-pronged Sexual Abuse Victim Empowerment (SAVE) service. SAVE offers niche counselling and psycho-legal services to victims with mental disabilities, as well as their families, in cases of sexual crimes to afford them the same access to justice as the general population in the Western Cape. It must be noted that people with mental disabilities from outside the Western Cape also access the assessment services, on an appointment basis, and Cape Mental Health provides them with modest overnight accommodation.

SAVE also includes the training of police officers, forensic social workers, public prosecutors and staff of community-based organisation; educating and equipping them to provide essential services and support to victims with mental disabilities in cases of sexual abuse. Advocate L Nel of the National Prosecuting Authority and the case manager of the Wynberg Sexual Offences Court has commented, "The Court is greatly indebted to Cape Mental Health and rely on their professional services that they have rendered to the courts and the greater community. We want to reiterate that we depend on the services of Cape Mental Health and hope to have a continued and positive involvement in years to come."

The Webber Wentzel CSI contribution will be applied as follows: R160,000.00 as an 18.5% contribution of the annual remuneration costs of the Access to Justice programme manager and three clinical psychologists.

Webber Wentzel's CSI donation, together with other grant makers, such as the Mary Oppenheimer and Daughters Foundation, support the Access to Justice programme of Cape Mental Health.



THE IMPACT OF OUR DONATION:

The clinical psychologists will conduct between 140 psycho-legal assessments of victims with mental disability in cases of sexual violence in the course of 12 months. It goes without saying that these assessments are more challenging than assessments done with people who have no mental disabilities and/or people who have not been victims of violence of any kind. These assessments are used among others to complete reports for various regional courts.



Lawyers against Abuse

ZAR 100,000

Lawyers against Abuse (LvA) provides legal services and trauma counselling for victims of gender-based violence in the Diepsloot, Johannesburg community. It provides critical support to victims of gender-based violence, including children. This includes assisting clients with protection orders, providing support in criminal cases, and facilitating therapy and counselling sessions for clients. In addition to assistance to individuals, LvA also holds workshops and other outreach initiatives for community members.





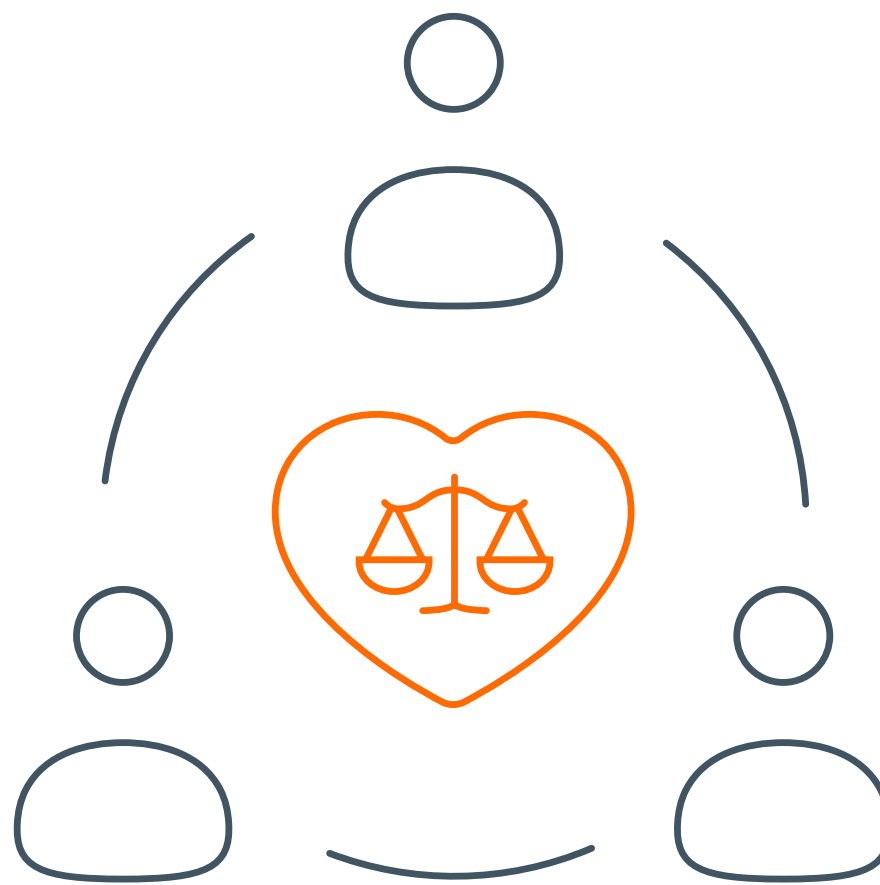
ProBono.Org
ZAR 100,000

The reach of ProBono.Org is via its three regional offices: Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town, and beyond these cities via the legal help desks or clinics which it manages and coordinates in different communities.

ProBono.Org, founded in 2006, is the only pro bono clearing house in South Africa, acting as a matchmaker between pro bono legal needs and the availability of appropriate pro bono legal assistance.

At each of its regional offices it has a staff attorney, who, among others, is responsible for the following: screening all pro bono requests for cause and merit, clearing matters which are referred to law firms, identifying pro bono counsel to be briefed when necessary, assisting firms in starting new pro bono projects, hosting seminars for attorneys on various areas of public interest and “pro bono law”, and enhancing the collaborative delivery of pro bono access to justice services through the management of onsite, offsite and virtual legal clinics and helpdesks.

The Webber Wentzel CSI contribution will be cover about 45% of the salary of the full-time attorney at the ProBono.Org Cape Town office for one year.



THE IMPACT OF OUR DONATION:

Enables the ProBono.Org Cape Town staff attorney to consult with and/or oversee the consultation of all walk-in clients for the year, manage at least four off-site clinics, and arrange a number of community legal workshops.



SA Society for Labour Law

ZAR 270,000

The South African Society for Labour Law (SASLAW) is a reputable voluntary association which promotes the discipline of labour law in South Africa, with 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 in South Africa: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. These pro bono clinics are staffed by private practice attorneys who provide free labour law advice in a dignified and respectful manner to those who cannot afford legal assistance. The pro bono clinics also assist the Labour Courts that often have to deal with a lay person formulating their own review or appeal; or an inequality of arms, where the one party is not represented because of lack of means.

The Webber Wentzel CSI contribution will be applied as follows: R270,000.00 will cover 95% of the salary of a full-time attorney at its busiest advice office (Johannesburg) for one year.



THE IMPACT OF OUR DONATION:

The employment of one full-time attorney who will see between 450 to 592 people during the 12-month period, and where necessary will do some drafting on their behalf; will assist with settlements between them and companies in such a way that they fully understand the terms of the agreement; and where their cases have no prospects of success, explain that to them clearly so that they are disinclined to make direct approaches to the Labour Court, which leads to clogging up of the administration of the Labour Court.



Social Change Assistance Trust

ZAR 150,000

Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) is a veteran human rights, social justice grant making organisation. It has pioneered a model of development that has been acknowledged as both empowering and sustainable with tangible results at the local level. SCAT was founded in the 1980s to provide grants to organisations to promote community control which was seen as a critical component of transformative development, and the building of a strong civil society, a key pillar of democracy. SCAT supports rural community-based organisations, which it refers to as local development agencies (LDAs): because they are run by the community for the community; they respond to legal needs, gender issues (GBV), food security and climate change. They are supported to involve women and youth in all levels of the organisation and community, particularly in decision making.

It has four focus areas: access to justice (strengthening the capacity of LDAs to respond to the legal needs of their community); gender and gender based violence: GBV (supporting and strengthening the capacity of LDAs to promote gender equality, and prevent and respond to GBV in their communities); youth empowerment (using the Youth Bank model we support young people as philanthropists, grant-makers and entrepreneurs); and food security using climate adaptive methods (supporting food gardeners to implement climate adaptive food gardening methods and manage water resources effectively).

Webber Wentzel's CSI donation, together with other grant makers, such as Anglo, DG Murray Foundation, European Commission and the Embassy of the Netherlands, support the work of SCAT.

The Webber Wentzel CSI contribution will be applied as follows: R150,000.00 will cover 10 grants of R15,000.00 each to ten different advice offices to assist them with basic running costs such a telephone and data expenses.



THE IMPACT OF OUR DONATION:

Each of these 10 community advice offices will be available to the people in their community for assistance with UIF applications, workmen compensation applications, maintenance order applications and variations; as well as for assistance with disputes between neighbours and sometimes in families.

Fostering positive change in communities requires a multifaceted approach, which we highlight through various outreach activities that were carried out by the Webber Wentzel Leadership Network, our next generation of leaders in the firm.

JUNIOR’S QUIZ NIGHT

Held during the Partners Conference on 15 May 2025, the Junior’s Quiz Night brought together colleagues from CA1s to Senior Associates for an evening of connection and friendly competition. Teams tested their knowledge across a variety of topics, creating a lively atmosphere filled with teamwork, laughter, and great engagement across different levels of the firm.

As part of the initiative, each participant brought along non-perishable food items, which were donated to Ladles of Love. The event not only strengthened relationships within the firm but also contributed to supporting those in need in our community.



SLAVE ROUTE CHALLENGE

Members of our Leadership Network participated in the Slave Route Challenge on 1 June 2025, a meaningful running event that honours those who helped build Cape Town and raises awareness of the city’s history and heritage. The race began at the historic Castle of Good Hope and offered participants the opportunity to take part in 5km, 10km, or 21km race distances by running, jogging, or walking together.

Each participant made a donation to St Anne’s Homes, a women’s shelter that provides a safe home and holistic support programme for pregnant, abused, and homeless women with children. Through this initiative, our collective efforts helped support a cause dedicated to empowerment, dignity, and hope.



WWLN WINTER DONATION DRIVE:
Supporting the Tshepang Care Centre

The WWLN winter donation drive, held from 9 to 30 June 2025, called on members of the Webber Wentzel community to donate winter clothing and non-perishable food items in support of the Tshepang Care Centre in Tembisa. The centre, named from the Sesotho word meaning “Have Hope”, serves as a refuge for over 500 destitute and orphaned children from the Vusimuzi informal settlement and is staffed by nine volunteers who provide essential care, including full-time residence for 12 children. The drive sought donations of jackets, jerseys, blankets, socks, shoes and food staples such as canned goods, maize meal, rice and cooking oil, with every contribution aimed at bringing warmth, nourishment and dignity to children most vulnerable during the winter months.



MANDELA DAY

On Mandela Day, colleagues from both the Cape Town and Johannesburg offices once again came together to honour Madiba’s legacy by contributing their time and support to initiatives that make a meaningful impact. The firm partnered with Ladles of Love, which set a fundraising target of R5 million to support early childhood development centres in underserved communities.

This initiative forms part of our longstanding relationship with Ladles of Love, with the firm supporting this effort each year as a way to give back and contribute to positive change in our communities.



INTRA-FIRM PADEL TOURNAMENT

October 2025 saw an exciting Intra-Firm Padel Tournament, with matches held in both the Cape Town and Johannesburg offices. Colleagues competed in a series of fast-paced, action-packed games, showcasing teamwork, skill, and friendly rivalry. A final showdown between the Cape Town and Johannesburg offices was held on the morning of the Johannesburg office Year End Function, with Francois Sieberhagen and Leroux Odendaal crowned as the Webber Wentzel Padel Champions.

The tournament was a fantastic way to bring people together across offices, encourage active participation, and enjoy some healthy competition outside the usual work environment. Congratulations to the winners, and to everyone who took part in making the event a fun and energetic success.



Intra-Firm Padel Tournament

INTER-FIRM CHARITY CUP

The Charity Cup, an annual inter-law firm fundraising soccer tournament, was held on 27 September 2025, bringing together junior professionals from Bowmans, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, ENSafrica, Norton Rose Fulbright, Webber Wentzel and Werksmans in a spirit of friendly competition and community giving. The tournament, first launched in 2017, continues to serve as a platform for raising funds for participating firms’ nominated charities, showcasing CSI initiatives and fostering meaningful connections across the legal profession.

As part of the format, each participating firm contributes R5,000 to the winning team’s nominated charity in both the men’s and ladies’ sections, ensuring that the spirit of competition translates directly into meaningful community impact. The 2025 edition proved to be a memorable occasion, with Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr claiming victory in the men’s tournament and ENSafrica taking the title in the ladies’ tournament, donations were made to the Home of Hope for Girls (Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr’s chosen charity) and Corinthians (ENSafrica’s chosen charity).

The WWLN extends its congratulations to all the winning teams and its sincere appreciation to every firm, player and supporter who contributed to making the day a success.



WOMEN WHO SPRING INTO ACTION

As part of celebrating and showcasing the incredible women at the firm, the WWLN hosted two inspiring events this year. In the Johannesburg leg, held on 23 September 2025, a joint session brought together some of the firm’s remarkable women to share their personal and professional journeys, inspiring everyone in attendance. This was a chance to hear about their journeys to partnership, their career milestones, challenges, lessons learned and more.

In the Cape Town leg, held on 1 October 2025, a panel featured women at different stages of their legal careers. With intersectionality as the theme, panellists shared how their diverse identities and life experiences have shaped their professional paths, from overcoming barriers to building balance and resilience.

Together, both events highlighted the strength, achievements, and inspiration the women across the firm bring every day.



INTER-FIRM QUIZ NIGHT – FOURTH ANNUAL PUB QUIZ EDITION

The stage was set on 7 November 2025 for the Fourth Annual Inter-Firm Quiz Night, where South Africa’s top law firms went head-to-head to determine who would be crowned the country’s best. Colleagues from our firm showcased their general knowledge across a range of topics during a lively and competitive quiz night, testing wits against the “big five” law firms.

Thrillingly, the team emerged victorious, bringing the trophy home and proving once again that teamwork, quick thinking, and a little friendly competition can make for an unforgettable evening.



IN CONVERSATION WITH MARYANA ISKANDER

On 11 November 2025, the WWLN hosted a speaking event featuring Maryana Iskander, Chief Executive Officer of the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit organisation behind Wikipedia. Born in Cairo and raised in Texas, Maryana brings a remarkable breadth of experience to her role, having studied sociology at Rice University, pursued postgraduate studies at Oxford and obtained her law degree from Yale Law School. Her career has spanned the legal, business and non-profit sectors, with notable positions including Chief Operations Officer of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Chief Executive Officer of Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, a non-profit dedicated to addressing youth unemployment in South Africa and Rwanda. In her address, Maryana shared insights into her personal journey and professional career, with a particular focus on her role at Wikimedia in safeguarding the quality and accuracy of information in the digital age.



WWLN featuring Maryana Iskander

SPONSOR A CHILD WITH SA KINDERHUIS

As the year drew to a close, the WWLN invited colleagues to support the 42 children currently cared for by SA Kinderhuis. Colleagues could choose a star individually, select multiple stars, or contribute as a team. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, the children enjoyed an outing to Canal Walk Shopping Centre, where they were able to select their own gifts up to the value of R500 – a rare and empowering opportunity. The initiative was a great success, and the WWLN looks forward to making it a firm tradition in the years ahead.



ANIMAL SHELTER DONATION DRIVE AND VOLUNTEER DAY WITH PETS JHB

In December 2025, the WWLN partnered with Pets JHB to support their work in rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming vulnerable animals through a donation drive and volunteer day. The drive resulted in the collection of donations distributed by Pets JHB as Christmas goody bags to more than 20 dogs and cats in surrounding communities, as well as a monetary donation of R8,700 directed towards sterilisation procedures carried out by Pets JHB and Gideons Animal Rescue as part of their outreach efforts to prevent neglect and overpopulation. On 6 December, WWLN members and colleagues spent the day at the Pets JHB Fourways branch, where volunteers visited and gave affection to the shelter’s dogs, a simple but meaningful act for rescues that crave socialisation and connection.

The WWLN is pleased to report that many of the dogs met on the day, including Toby, Taya and Biggie, have since been adopted into loving homes just in time for the festive season. The WWLN extends its sincere appreciation to all who donated, volunteered or supported the initiative, whose kindness continues to help Pets JHB change lives, one paw at a time.



TOILETRIES AND SANITARY TOWELS DRIVE AND VOLUNTEER DAY AT MALAIKA ORPHANAGE CENTRE

As part of its community initiatives, the WWLN partnered with the Malaika Orphanage Centre in November and December 2025 to support the ongoing work of its founder, Sheikh Juma, who established the centre in 2008 in response to the growing number of abandoned children in Johannesburg. Situated on the border of Hillbrow and Braamfontein, Malaika is today home to 50 children ranging from toddlers to teenagers, providing them with safety, nourishment and the encouragement to dream beyond their circumstances. The initiative took the form of a Toiletries and Sanitary Towels Drive, with donation stations set up across the firm’s offices throughout November and closing on 5 December 2025, collecting essential items including soap, toothbrushes, facecloths, body lotion, deodorant and sanitary towels. The drive was complemented by a Volunteer Day held on 6 December 2025, giving WWLN members and colleagues the opportunity to visit the centre, share a meal and spend time with the children and experience the direct impact of their support. More than a collection of everyday items, the initiative served as a gesture of dignity and compassion, reminding the children of Malaika that they are seen, valued and cared for.



Malaika Orphanage Centre

THE 2025 CORE WWLN TEAM CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING:



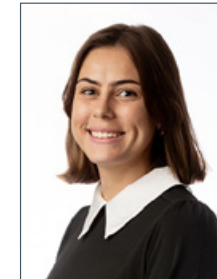
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Associate
Co-Chairperson (JHB)



Danica Jonker
Associate
Chairperson (CPT)



Gwen Mathebula
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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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