



**Claire Donse**

**Partner**

**HEAD OF PRO BONO, EMEA AND ASIA PACIFIC**

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Claire Donse leads the firm's pro bono program in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and the UK.

Claire also works with New Perimeter, DLA Piper's international pro bono initiative and nonprofit affiliate.

DLA Piper provides more than 200,000 hours of free legal services annually, and has provided over £6 million in pro bono legal services to UNICEF, the firm's global partner.

Claire's pro bono practice is focused in the areas of access to justice, child rights and capacity building. She establishes and oversees a diverse range of global pro bono initiatives. She develops high impact international pro bono projects and brings together teams of lawyers from across DLA Piper's global offices to deliver these projects. She works to build partnerships and collaborates with commercial clients, NGOs, academic institutions, government agencies and others to achieve project goals.

Claire has worked in law firms in Australia, China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Claire has conducted a major economic development project in Timor-Leste, assisted in the legal aspects of an app to collect verifiable evidence of atrocities, supported the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Bangladesh by assisting with legislative reform, supported UNICEF to ensure children are included in the transitional justice programme in The Gambia and instigated projects to release children from prisons in Africa. She has also developed and lead teaching courses for law students and practising lawyers in Brazil, Laos, Malawi, Myanmar, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Claire has advised/taught courses at the following organisations: Foreign Trade University (Vietnam); Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste; Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Law (Vietnam); International Bar Association; Koç Üniversitesi (Turkey); Law School of Tanzania (Tanzania); Oxfam; Panamerican University (Mexico); UN Global Compact; UNICEF.

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## Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales
- Solicitor of the High Court of Australia

## Recognitions

- *Who's Who Legal* 2014 named DLA Piper at the pro bono law firm of the year
- *Who's Who Legal* 2013 ranked DLA Piper as a 'top 10' pro bono practice globally
- *The American Lawyer* awarded New Perimeter its inaugural Global Citizenship Award: Lifetime Achievement for our pro bono work through New Perimeter in 2013
- *Legal Week* recognized New Perimeter with its The African Legal Awards CSR Award in 2013

## Memberships

- Association of Pro Bono Counsel
- Law Society of New South Wales
- International Bar Association

## INSIGHTS

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Claire speaks regularly on pro bono and access to justice. She has spoken at the PILnet European Pro Bono Forum, the South East Asia Pro Bono Conference and the Pro Bono Institute Conference in Washington DC. She is regularly quoted in the press.

## Publications

### DLA Piper's Commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16

25 January 2022

The private sector has a crucial role to play in the achievement of the SDGs. As a law firm, we have the ability to make a significant contribution to the objectives set out in Goal 16, which include targets related to rule of law, access to justice, accountable institutions and non-discrimination. Some examples of our work follow.

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- "How do we know if it is working? Practical approaches to evaluating pro bono work", *IBA Pro Bono E-Bulletin*
- "Le Pro Bono : nouvelle pratique incontournable des cabinets d'avocats", *Les Echos*
- "La RSE : porte-parole des valeurs d'un cabinet", *Les Echos*

## NEWS

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### New Perimeter, DLA Piper's nonprofit affiliate, to be led by cross-border team

19 January 2022

DLA Piper has appointed Sara Andrews and Claire Donse as co-directors of New Perimeter, the firm's nonprofit affiliate. Founded in 2005, New Perimeter provides long-term pro bono legal assistance in under-served regions around the world in the areas of access to justice, social and economic development, and sound legal institutions, with an overarching focus on women's advancement.

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## DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2021

28 April 2021

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 44 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2021 in the United States and May 1, 2021 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions have been made across many of the firm's practice areas in 33 different offices throughout 17 countries.

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- "La street law pour aider les étudiants en exil", *Tendance Droit*