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## Robinson+Cole Lawyers Take Part in International Pro Bono Project to Combat Wildlife Crimes in Namibia

*Land use and environmental lawyers lead effort to develop legislation that addresses poaching crisis*

HARTFORD, CT (October 25, 2016) – With poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking on the rise throughout Africa, threatening endangered species such as elephants and rhinos, Robinson+Cole is taking part in a unique pro bono project to assist Namibia's Legal Assistance Centre in improving the country's wildlife conservation laws and strengthening their enforcement.

The project is in partnership with DLA Piper, the United Kingdom's Royal Foundation, and the ABA Section of State and Local Government Law. An international team of lawyers from Robinson+Cole and DLA Piper are working in three phases to (1) analyze Namibia's legislative framework regarding its poaching laws, (2) provide recommendations for legislative reform, and (3) assist with implementing recommended changes adopted by the government.

Consisting of land use and environmental lawyers from Robinson+Cole's Hartford, Stamford, and Miami offices, the team includes [Peter R. Knight](#), the firm's pro bono partner; [Sorell E. Negro](#); [Megan E. Baroni](#); [Kelsey A. Cross](#); [Emily C. Deans](#); and Diana E. Neeves.

Ms. Negro recently traveled to Namibia for meetings with government officials, the Legal Assistance Centre, prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and other key stakeholders to discuss the poaching crisis, particularly with regard to black rhinos, and how the country's legislative framework pertaining to wildlife crimes can be reformed to be more effective. Through these meetings and the team's research, key problems with the legislative framework that contribute to the lack of effective prosecution of wildlife crimes have been identified as well as ways in which these problems can be addressed through legislative reform. A report of findings and recommendations is currently being prepared.

Once the report is completed, in either late 2016 or early 2017, members of the project team comprised of Robinson+Cole and the other organizations will return to Namibia to discuss their findings and recommendations with government officials. The project also contemplates assisting with the implementation of any reforms that might be adopted, including supporting nongovernmental organizations in Namibia with their ongoing training.

# Robinson+Cole

Robinson+Cole has a notable history of pro bono service, including years of active involvement with community organizations, individuals in need, and countless nonprofit organizations. The firm and its lawyers have been recognized repeatedly for their outstanding pro bono contributions, earning awards and accolades from the state bar, professional associations, legal services organizations, clients, and legal publications.

## About Robinson+Cole

Robinson+Cole is a service mark of Robinson & Cole LLP, an Am Law 200 firm with more than 200 lawyers in nine offices serving regional, national, and international clients, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. For more information, please visit [www.rc.com](http://www.rc.com).

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*Pictured from left to right are Christiaan Bakkes and Marcia Fagnoli, Legal Assistance Centre; Sorell E. Negro, Robinson+Cole; Jordan Lesser, New York State Assembly (representing the ABA Section of State and Local Government Law for this pro bono project); and Willem Odendaal, Legal Assistance Centre*