

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: February 10, 2012**

Contact: Sophie Gebreselassie  
Phone: 202-407-9327  
301-908-9047 cell  
Email: Gebreses@wjpnet.org



**The World Justice Project Establishes Office in Seattle**

*Multinational non-profit to advance the rule of law opens downtown Seattle office*

(SEATTLE, WA)- The World Justice Project (WJP), a multinational and multidisciplinary initiative to advance the rule of law, has opened a West Coast office at 1411 Fourth Avenue in downtown Seattle.

Since its inception in 2006, the WJP has worked to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. The Seattle office works in tandem with the organization's existing Washington, DC, office. Lead supporters of the WJP include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, LexisNexis, Microsoft Corporation, the Neukom Family Foundation, and the GE Foundation.

“Advancing the rule of law is a critical endeavor—the rule of law is the key to political stability, economic opportunity, social progress, and fundamental fairness and equity. Without the rule of law, economic growth is stifled, corrupt governments divert public resources needed for public works, and people suffer atrocities,” said Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the World Justice Project William H. Neukom.

The WJP's multinational and multidisciplinary efforts are aimed at: government reforms; development of practical programs on the ground to extend the rule of law; and increased awareness about the concept and importance of the rule of law. The WJP Rule of Law Index®, a new comprehensive diagnostic tool to measure and compare countries' adherence to the rule of law, has been cited by heads of state, chief justices and academicians to advance reforms. WJP-supported projects have included ensuring women's rights in Sierra Leone, helping marginalized communities in India obtain basic health care, and promoting labor rights of indigenous workers in Mexico. WJP also sponsors research and scholarship examining the relationship between rule of law and functional communities.

Neukom has a long history of public service in Washington State. He was the lead lawyer for Microsoft Corporation from 1978 to 2002. While at Microsoft Neukom's responsibilities included the company's community affairs, namely the initiation of the Microsoft Giving Campaign, the Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, the Microsoft Volunteer Program, and Libraries on Line. Neukom is currently in the Seattle office of the international law firm K&L Gates and Chairman Emeritus of the San Francisco Baseball Associates, L.P., the ownership group of the San Francisco Giants major league baseball team, having served as its CEO from 2008 to 2011.

“Seattle, and Washington State more broadly, has emerged as a hub for international development efforts. We are proud to join the 300 international development non-profit

organizations that are already working in the state to advance the health, prosperity, and dignity of people around the world,” Neukom said.

Dwight Gee, Executive Vice President for Planning and Development and former Executive Vice President of ArtsFund, and Nancy Ward, Director of Mainstreaming Initiatives, staff the Seattle office.

“While our base of operations are in Seattle and DC, our programs take place all over the world and engage a network of stakeholders from all over the globe; the WJP is truly a multinational effort,” said Gee. “With so many organizations and businesses in Washington who share this global perspective, the WJP is pleased to have found a second home here in Seattle.”

WJP received extensive in-kind support for establishing its Seattle office from Landesa (landlord), Callison (architecture and interior design), Skanska USA Building, Emerald City Moving and Storage, and David Cheyette (IT services).

###

### **About The World Justice Project**

The World Justice Project (WJP), an independent, non-profit organization, works to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. The WJP’s multinational and multidisciplinary efforts are aimed at: government reforms; development of practical programs on the ground in support of the rule of law; and increased awareness about the concept and impact of the rule of law. The Project has three complementary programs: Research and Scholarship, the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®, and mainstreaming practical on-the-ground programs to extend the rule of law.