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GLOBAL LEGAL AWARDS

Global Pro Bono Project of the Year Winner: The Agahozo-Shalom Solar Field

Honorees: *Jenner & Block*

Agahozo means “tears are dried” in the Kinyarwanda language, and shalom means “peace.”

It’s a fitting name for the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, a residential and educational community designed for young people who were orphaned because of the Rwandan genocide.

As if this core mission were not quixotic enough, the Village resolved in 2013 to build a solar plant, and sell power to the national grid. This would not only secure the Village’s finances. It would also serve as a model for

a sun-drenched but resource-poor nation that struggles to meet energy needs.

To realize its new dream, the Village needed help from the solar developer Gigawatt Global, from a consortium of lenders and investors, and from the law firm Jenner & Block. Despite the absence of standard documentation, Jenner succeeded in negotiating project loans, investment contracts, and a 25-year power purchase agreement with the Rwandan government.

Israel’s Shimon Peres has described Agahozo-Shalom as “a shining beacon of hope and progress for humanity.” This project ensures that the beacon will continue to shine in more ways than one.



JENNER & BLOCK LLP