The Anticorruption Policy Lab

Leveraging Pro Bono Expertise for Real-World Impact

The ever-changing landscape of cross-border corruption requires constant innovation and idea generation. To meet that challenge, Transparency International U.S. ("TI US") created the Anticorruption Policy Lab which brings together talented lawyers and other professionals from across the country and across disciplines to research and draft bold new legislation, policy proposals, and evidence-based factsheets, briefing memos, reports, and other materials.

The Lab leads specific projects—ranging from short-term legal research and analysis to in-depth research and policy development. The products have immediate and real-world application, supporting national campaigns to adopt and effectively implement legislation, rules and guidance that stems the harms caused by illicit finance, strengthens political integrity, and promotes a positive U.S. role in global anti-corruption initiatives. Importantly, the Lab works collaboratively with partners on both sides of the aisle, recruiting pro bono lawyers and other professionals to conduct and publish original research that informs anticorruption policies and practices.

The Lab builds relationships with law firms, solo practitioners, academics, associations, and other organizations to recruit attorneys and other professionals who then work with the Lab to research issues that inform TI US's work. The research provided by these volunteers informs anticorruption policy reforms and practices promoted by the organization. Some recent examples of resources created by the Lab include:

- Legal and policy research that informed the drafting of the bipartisan [ENABLERS Act,](#) which was endorsed by the U.S. National Security Council and would allow the U.S. Treasury to include those who provide certain financial services to their clients in efforts to safeguard the financial system against money laundering.

- A [legal white paper](#) analyzing the extraterritorial reach of U.S. criminal laws, including that of the bipartisan [Foreign Extortion Prevention Act.](#) With strong evidence in hand, the campaign recruited broad support, and the law passed in late 2023.

- A [report](#) comparing the anti-money laundering (AML) frameworks regulating real estate sectors in 21 countries, with key recommendations for improving the U.S. framework and informing a forthcoming rule on the topic from the U.S. Treasury. The report revealed that the United States was a singular outlier among the surveyed countries, with AML deficiencies that must be resolved to guard against money laundering in the U.S. real estate market—including the laundering of funds obtained through corruption.

Each year, the Lab continues to grow and attract some of the best talent on the issues. And, although only a few years old, dozens of attorneys, including from leading firms in the United States and across the world, have participated in a diverse set of projects.