Founded in 1988 as an independent, not-for-profit organization, the East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) works with local partners around the world to strengthen the rule of law, empower civil societies, and build free market systems. While EWMI originally focused on legal and economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, its activities now extend globally. EWMI has supported projects in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burma, Cambodia, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam and West Bank/Gaza. EWMI currently maintains offices in New York, Washington DC, Albania, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Georgia, and North Macedonia.

EWMI’s current and past funders include: United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the UK Department for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Treasury Department, the European Commission, American Jewish World Services, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Balkan Trust for Democracy, the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER), the Ford Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the MacArthur Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Open Society Foundations.

EWMI’s expertise includes judicial reform, legislative framework reform, court administration, anti-corruption and transparency, judicial and legal education, and access to justice. EWMI works with courts in emerging democracies to strengthen their capacity and independence, reduce delays and improve transparency. Knowledge of changes to criminal, civil and commercial law frameworks is also essential to long-term legal reform. EWMI helps to create indigenous judicial and legal training centers, and promotes an interactive approach to legal education. EWMI also supports targeted public education efforts, seeks to improve access to justice by organizing legal aid systems, and encourages civil society to use courts as a means to promote societal change. EWMI helps local stakeholders develop country-specific laws, regulations and codes for public and corporate governance that meet international standards.

Economic development is about government, the private sector and civil society working together to create equitable prosperity. EWMI supports this process by working with and through local institutions, building local capacity, and helping lay the legal, institutional and regulatory foundations of growth. EWMI designs and implements programs, and conducts innovative research, covering a wide range of investment climate reform, financial sector strengthening, corporate governance and sustainability, and
An active and engaged civil society is the cornerstone of sustainable development. Non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") are essential to creating and sustaining an active citizenry and responsive government. International and regional experience with diverse cultures and issues enables EWMI to work creatively and realistically with local partnerships to build autonomous, transparent, and effective NGOs. EWMI provides technical expertise and training to help NGOs identify problems, develop and implement practical solutions. EWMI’s NGO partners have actively participated in the formation of policies on a national and local level, resulting in tangible improvements in their communities. The highly-successful management of re-granting programs with the strategic aim of building and strengthening the capacity the civil society sector is a singular expertise of EWMI. Over the last three years alone, EWMI has re-granted over $20 million supporting over 500 institutions in over 30 countries. In 2013, EWMI established the Partner Legacy Support Program as a mechanism to continue to fund its NGO partners around the world. To date, EWMI has accepted donations from individuals, foundations, and donor advised funds for EWMI NGO partners in Cambodia, Kosovo and Liberia that support the ongoing activities of these organizations.

These three areas are interrelated and mutually supportive, with a vibrant civil society needed to advocate for justice sector reforms, and the rule of law needed to underpin economic development, for example. As such, EWMI works to integrate its experiences in these areas – and among different countries – to develop the deep reservoir of knowledge and experience needed to support sustainable change, always implemented in close partnership with local governmental and non-governmental counterparts.

The East-West Management Institute, Inc. qualifies as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code as amended.