

BRENT M. MCBURNEY
PRESIDENT & CEO
RUTH A. M. ROSS
DEP. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL COUNCIL

BMCBURNEY@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG
RUTHROSS@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG
WWW.ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG

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**“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back;
lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” – Isaiah 52:4**

Dear Friends,

A growing family always presents new joys and challenges, but when God’s hand directs that growth, exciting things happen. We are excited about three new family members. First, we just learned of the **Christian Legal Haitian Society (CLHS)** formed in 2010, but just joined the Advocates network last month. Second, the newly formed **Advocates St. Vincent** will host this year’s Advocates Caribbean Conference this November. Finally, we are extremely pleased to welcome Ruth Ross to the Advocates team and wanted you to find out a little bit more about who she is and what makes her tick. I’ve asked Ruth a few questions and her answers are below.

Why are you interested in joining AI?

Ruth: Ever since meeting AI founder Sam Ericsson at my first global convocation in 2000, I have been inspired by the work of Advocates International. Upon becoming a member of the Global Council in 2007, and subsequently the AI board in 2008, I recognized that this was a remarkable organization in every way. Upon stepping down from my role at Christian Legal Fellowship (CLF) in Canada after almost fourteen years, I sensed that God was not finished with me yet. I became aware of the new Deputy Executive Director position in 2013 and by the end of that same year began to seriously consider if this was indeed where God might be calling me to serve. Then, a providential meeting in December brought me alongside Brent for ministry. Serving together was a great fit and brought great joy! Sensing God’s confirmation throughout the entire selection process, including the timing of the transition at CLF in Canada, was most affirming. It has been a tremendous blessing to be part of such a rich and Godly legacy of Christian legal servants around the globe.

What makes you equipped to serve Christian lawyers internationally?

Ruth: The Lord first called our family to international service in Australia from 1996 to 2000. Since then, the Lord through His supernatural “netweaving” opened doors to lecture for lawyers in Africa, South America, Central America, and North America, including the Caribbean, on a broad number of issues including building strategic alliances and influencing advocacy in preservation of life, freedom of religion and the family. I have been blessed with deep and abiding relationships with the AI global team which have on occasion been said to be stronger than those of a natural family. Isaiah 42:1-4 has been a professional theme verse for me; while it speaks of the Messiah’s mandate to “bring justice to the nations,” we are called to be like Him and to be His representatives in the earth.

What are your goals for the future?

Ruth: My overarching goal is to align my energies, efforts, and capabilities toward achieving the prime vision of the organization and the Global Council on an expedited basis. On a practical level, this will primarily mean supporting Brent in identifying and encouraging the Global Council's Global Resource Teams (GRTs) in accomplishing their purposes. My immediate goals will include articulating the mission and vision of each of the GRTs, reaching out to additional countries, communicating with and influencing the regions, identifying projects, and assisting with funding. In so doing, I am looking forward to connecting with our varied network and learning more about the ways in which I can be a greater support on the ground.

How has your faith impacted your professional calling/ministry?

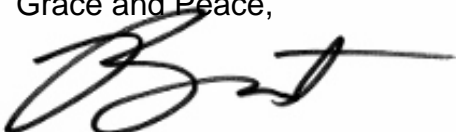
Ruth: I practiced law for eight years without God in my life. Then in 1983 I committed my career path to Christ and placed my life in God's hands. I had no idea just how significant that would be. On December 2, 1991 two Canadian newspapers reported my life threatening accident: "*Woman Escapes Death under Rolling Auto.*" Another newspaper read: "*Woman Run Over by Her Own Car Lucky to be Alive.*" And, of course, luck had little to do with it. Having endured the weight of my own 4,000-pound Chevrolet station wagon (as it was then called) pressing down upon me, it is hard to imagine how I could have survived disfigurement, let alone death. After all, one wheel of the vehicle ran diagonally across my upper body and head leaving tire tread marks embedded in my face to memorialize its path. Incredibly, the Lord not only spared my life, He completely healed my broken body and protected my mental faculties. Defying all odds, I left the hospital after just three days. I am now in my 23rd year of "post-miracle" experience and my 14th year of full-time ministry with the Christian lawyer movement. The milestones of miracles are clearly transformational. They change the course of His-story which ultimately affects us all...for the better. Heaven alone will accurately record their full impact and influence. My prayer is: "Lord, grant me and the rest of the AI team wisdom to invest these precious years in building your global Kingdom here on earth."

What a great joy it is to know Ruth and have her working alongside in this great mission to Christian lawyers, judges, law students and other advocates around the globe. It is a tremendous blessing to see how God has led Ruth this far and I, for one, look forward to seeing where the next steps will lead.

With your financial and prayer support, we've brought Ruth on board and continue to encourage and strengthen the lawyers in new fellowships like **CLHS** and **Advocates St. Vincent**. Praise God for these exciting new developments. Please keep on praying with us for an enlarged tent.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO