



The Application

1. On 30 December 2013, the Applicant, a former staff member of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), filed an application before the Tribunal contesting the decision of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA) to decline legal representation in the **“ong** case 2013/NBI/021” and “the decision of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA) to decline legal

12. In *Worsley* Order No. 79 (GVA/2010²) the Tribunal stated:

.... OSLA not only is part of the United Nations Secretariat created by General Assembly resolution 62/228, staffed with regular UN staff members and funded out of the Organization's budget—but it is part of the core UN administrative machinery. Indeed, OSLA belongs to the Office of Administration of Justice ("OAJ"), which is within the UN Secretariat.

Although OAJ is an independent office within the Secretariat, this does not mean that a part of OAJ, like OSLA, should be regarded as an entity distinct from the Secretary-General.

13. In *Larkin* UNDT/2011/028 the Tribunal reiterated the point

...for bodies endowed with an independent status in general and for OSLA in particular, that such bodies are integrated in the structure of the Organization and, whilst they may not receive instructions from their chain of command in performing the tasks entrusted to them, they are not entirely detached from the Secretary-General's authority (see *Worsley* UNDT/2011/024, *Kunanayakam* UNDT/2011/006, *Comerford-Verzu*

17. The Tribunal holds that responsibility for replying to an application which contests a decision made by OSLA lies with ALS as the Secretary General's legal representative in relation to contested decisions made within the Secretariat.