Undoubtedly the Law School to Beat

As the oldest School of Law in Kenya, the University of Nairobi School of Law has distinguished itself as a hub of legal scholarship with a strong foundation for training on basic legal concepts, legal advocacy and legal research. The School of Law has distinguished itself as a center of excellence in research, scholarship and teaching in the following five thematic areas of law:

1. Financial and Commercial Law;
2. Democracy, Governance and Law;
3. Human Rights Law;
4. Environmental Law; and
5. International Law.

Through its revamped Curriculum, the School of Law is consolidating, harnessing and nurturing its research, scholarship and teaching. The School is intent on:

1. Making the five thematic areas the embryonic foundation for centres of excellence to facilitate research, enhance pedagogy, and contribute to national and international discourses.
2. Ensuring that throughout their course of study, students are exposed to the various social, political, and economic dynamics that impact on the nature and operation of the discipline of law.
3. Offering students a unique learning experience in their fourth year of study by giving them an opportunity to specialize in one of the five thematic areas.

We seek to train and nurture lawyers who not only understand black letter laws, but even more importantly, are able to think “beyond the law box” in order to contribute to the social, economic and political development in Kenya, East Africa and beyond. To achieve these objectives, the School will be banking on its excellence which is evident in its unrivaled academic staff contingent comprising 3 Full Professors, 6 Associate Professors, 13 Senior Lecturers, and 42 Lecturers and 42 Master of Laws (LLM) holders trained locally and internationally. Many of the staff are internationally renowned and recognized as experts in varied genres of law.

It is this strong team of legal scholars that will steer the School as it continues to play a key role in the development of law and legal education nationally, regionally and internationally. Indeed, current and former scholars of the School have made significant contributions in pioneering and setting the agenda and trajectory for legal issues in the public and private sectors. They have nurtured legal researchers and practitioners who have contributed to the development and growth of endogenous jurisprudence by harnessing the capacity of individual academic staff and students in the thematic areas. This has been aided by the fact that the study of law at the University of Nairobi is grounded within and nurtures exemplary legal research and scholarship.

On account of its human resource and infrastructural strength and awareness of its trail blazing role and contribution to the development of legal education, the School of Law is the only Law School in Kenya that offers graduate law studies at Master’s and Doctoral levels. Through these programmes, the School has contributed towards nurturing and developing a legal academic and legal academics in Kenya to meet the growing demand for highly trained and qualified law teachers in the country and beyond.

Beyond the Classroom

Beyond the classroom experience, the School is also establishing a Career Advice and Placement Office; a University of Nairobi School of Law Alumni Association; and a Mentorship and Peer learning/Counselling Programme. These will work closely with stakeholders and students organizations under the Kenya Law Students’ Society (KLSS) and include the Students Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR); Students of Law and Diplomacy (SOLD); Kenya Model United Nations (KMUN) and moot Court Club.

Status of Accreditation of the School

The School started running its law programme in 1970, long before the requirement for accreditation by the Council of Legal Education (CLE). When the requirement for accreditation was instituted by CLE, we obtained provisional accreditation. We have since submitted documentation for full accreditation and we are awaiting visitation by the CLE. Pursuant to the repeal of the University of Nairobi Act and the enactment of the Universities’ Act No. 42 of 2012, we have as part of the University of Nairobi, obtained a Charter. This was granted on 1st March 2013 after an Institutional Quality Audit by the Commission for University Education (CUE).