

LEGAL TRAINING IN KENYA



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI SCHOOL OF LAW

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 unrivalled academic staff contingent comprising 3 Full Professors, 6 Associate Professors, 13 Senior Lecturers, and 48 Lecturers (28 PhD holders and 42 Master of Laws (LL.M) holders) trained locally and internationally. Many of the scholars 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 focus 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 aware 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 academy and legal academics in Kenya to meet the growing demand for highly trained and qualified law teachers in the country and beyond. It is noteworthy that staff from the School has contributed and continues to contribute to the development of law programmes for public and private universities nationally and internationally. Some staff members also serve in leadership, advisory and management roles of such universities as chancellors, vice-chancellors and council members.

The University of Nairobi is undoubtedly the training ground for senior university academic staff in public and private universities. In this role, the School of Law and other units of the University have lent support to such universities by granting leave of absence to staff to assist other universities and institutions on the understanding that the staff return after their tour of duty.

The school's programmes have also equipped other highly trained cadre of legal practitioners nationally, regionally and internationally in crucial spheres in the private and public sectors. Notably, a sizeable part of the Kenyan Bench, members of the Bar engaged in public and private sectors; civil society organizations; and legal academics comprise alumni of the School of Law, University of Nairobi.

In achieving its objectives, the School employs the following methods of delivery: Socratic and Interactive lectures; Seminar

Top Management of the School

The School is run by a strong team of legal academics organized around the office of the Dean and Associate Dean; Departments and Committees.



Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote SC,
Professor of Law & Dean,
School of Law



Prof. Wambua Musili
Associate Dean, School of
Law

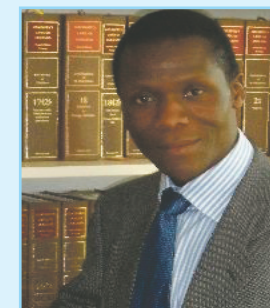
Chairs of Department include:



Prof. Francis D. P. Situma
Chair, Private Law
Department
School of Law



Ms Joy K. Asiema
Chair, Commercial Law
Department
School of Law



Prof. Albert Mumma
Chair, Department of
Commercial Law
School of Law

discussions; Tutorials; Case studies; Case method; library research; clinical teaching and simulations; presentations; moot courts; externships and role plays.

School Committees

The offices of the Dean and Chairs of Department are backed by strong committees in charge of Academic Programmes; Research, Publications and Library; Post graduate Studies; Examinations; Alumni; Staff and Student Welfare among others. These are headed by senior academic staff.

Aware of the growing demand for its services, the School has also put in place a Renovation, Refurbishment and Development Committee to work on a Master-plan for University of Nairobi School of Law.

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/Counseling 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 (SOLAD); Kenya Model United Nations (KMUN) and Moot Court Club.

The School has recently completed refurbishment of a State-of-the-art Moot Court facility which is pivotal in facilitating moot court competitions' preparation and mounting. Our students have historically participated and won in highly rated international and local Moot Court Competitions. It is for this reason that the School is slated to host the All Africa Human Rights Moot Court Competition which will be held in Kenya in October 2014 where more than 70 universities from all over Africa will be participating. Students also participate in other

engagements with several industry stakeholders where they are attached to gain experience in various thematic areas of law. A core part of the curriculum is the Clinical and Externship programmes where our students work on real life issues in preparation for launching of their legal careers.

Research at the School

All students at the School are required to take courses in legal research and writing and to write research papers as part of their training. The School of Law also runs two law journals. The University Of Nairobi Law Journal (UNLJ) is a student run and managed journal which is produced annually. The East African Law Journal (EALJ), historically a publication of the East African Community, is a peer reviewed journal managed and edited by senior academic staff of the School of Law and is part of the internationally acclaimed Heinonline collection. Various thematic journals and scholarly books have been published by staff at the School over the years. We expect that more publications will be produced to cover nascent issues of public interest and as the embryonic centres anticipated under the new curriculum develop.

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).



Students participating in a moot session in Parklands School of Law