

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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The Advocates' Benevolent Association



TO:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE ADVOCATES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 21 of the Advocates' Benevolent Association Rules, that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Association is convened for and shall be held, both physically and virtually through the Zoom/Webinar Platform, at The Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, Kisumu, on Friday, 28th March, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- Secretary to read the Notice convening the Meeting;
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda;
- 3. Silent tribute to Departed Members;
- 4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Meeting held both physically & virtually at the Rift Valley Sports Club (RVSC), Nakuru on Friday, 22nd March, 2024;
- 5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held virtually on Friday, 6th December, 2024;
- 6. Matters Arising;
- 7. The Report of the Board of Management for the year ending 31st December, 2024;
- 8. Presentation of the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 2024;
- 9. Consideration of the engagement of a Consultant to review the ABA Rules, and if members deem it fit, by a resolution, approve the engagement with the related costs to be defrayed from the Association's funds;
- 10. Notices of Motion, if any; and
- 11. Any other Business.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

FLORENCE W. MUTURI
SECRETARY/ CEO

Law Society of Kenya



TO:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA

NOTICE IS HEREBY given pursuant to Section 30(1), Section 32 of the Law Society Act, 2014 and Regulation 75 (1) of the Law Society of Kenya (General) Regulations, 2020, that an **ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** of the Law Society of Kenya, is convened for and shall be held, both physically and virtually through the Zoom/Webinar Platform at The Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, Kisumu on Friday, 28th March, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Secretary to read the Notice Convening the Meeting;
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda;
- 3. Silence in tribute to members departed;
- 4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting (AGM) held virtually/ in person on Friday 22nd March, 2024 at The Rift Valley Sports Club (RVSC), Nakuru at 11:00am;
- 5. Matters Arising;
- 6. Report of the Council 2024, pursuant to Section 30(2) of the Law Society of Kenya Act, 2014 and Regulation 24 of the Law Society (General) Regulations, 2020;
- 7. Presentation of the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st December, 2024, pursuant to Section 38(1) & (2) of the Law Society of Kenya Act, 2014 and the appointment of the Society's Statutory Auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2025, Pursuant to Regulation 52(1) & (2) of the Law Society of Kenya (General) Regulations, 2020;
- 8. Consideration of the LSK Development & Investment Committee report for the development and optimization of Law Society of Kenya properties; Gitanga Road and the South C plots and if members deem it fit, by a resolution, approve the report pursuant to Section 4 and 5 of the Law Society of Kenya;
- 9. Consideration of the report on Policy and Legal Reforms of Various Acts and Regulations concerning Advocates in Kenya and if members deem it fit, by a resolution, approve the report pursuant to Section 4 and 5 of the Law Society of Kenya;

Law Society of Kenya



- 10. Consideration of the report on the development of the LSK Flag and Creed, and if members deem it fit, by a resolution, approve the report pursuant to Section 4 and 5 of the Law Society of Kenya;
- 11. Notice of motion by member(s) given to the Secretary (if any); and
- 12. Any other business which may be admitted.

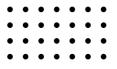
N/B:

- 1. The Ordinary General Meeting will be paperless and all documents will be provided electronically.
- 2. Registration details will be shared in due course.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

FLORENCE W. MUTURI SECRETARY/ CEO

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Introduction

It has been one year since the current Council took office for their first term. Being a transitional year, with elections taking up the first quarter of the year's activities, the Council began its work, under the leadership of Faith Odhiambo in April 2024. The Council commenced work with reconciliation of pending projects from the former Council to establish synergy with Council's priority projects and agenda items under our respective campaign agendas.

As we reflect on the past year, we have come to the realization that the world is increasingly characterized by complexity & changes and the protection of the rule of law remains a cornerstone of democratic governance, the stability of the Society remains paramount to our collective well-being and progress. We also take cognizance of the significant strides made in advancing the bar, enhancing legal practice, and prioritizing the welfare of our members.

This report focuses on the progress and activities of the Council of the Law Society of Kenya which has been categorized into a trifurcated approach as follows; P - Protect the rule of law, S - Stability of the Society, and P - Progress of the Bar, Practice, and welfare.

This annual report highlights our collective achievements, challenges, and the initiatives implemented to foster a cohesive and progressive Society. It also provides an overview of our ongoing efforts to uphold legal principles ensure judicial independence and promote accountability amongst the membership. By highlighting key initiatives, analyzing trends, and sharing success stories, this report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of our efforts to foster a stable and thriving society. Together, we can build a foundation for sustainable growth and a brighter future for all.

We invite you to explore the detailed progress and future directions outlined in this report, as we continue to strive for excellence in service to the members of the legal fraternity and the public we serve.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Faith Odhiambo	President
2	Mwaura Kabata	Vice President
3	Tom K'opere	Council Member - At least 25 years standing
5	Teresia Wavinya	Council Member - General Member
6	Hosea Manwa	Council Member - General Member
7	Gloria Kimani	Council Member - Nairobi Representative
8	Irene Otto	Council Member - Nairobi Representative
9	Stephen Mbugua	Council Member - Nairobi Representative
10	Vincent Githaiga	Council Member - Upcountry Representative
11	Lindah Kiome	Council Member - Upcountry Representative
12	Hezekiah Aseso	Council Member - Upcountry Representative
13	Zulfa Roble	Council Member - Upcountry Representative
	Elizabeth Wanjeri	Council Member - Coast Representative

Secretary / CEO

1	Florence W. Muturi	Secretary/ CEO
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LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA COUNCIL 2024- 2026

FAITH ODHIAMBO President



MWAURA KABATA Vice President



LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA COUNCIL 2024- 2026

General Member Representatives







TERESIA WAVINYA NICHOLAS



HOSEA MANWA

Nairobi Representatives



GLORIA KIMANI



STEPHEN MBUGUA



IRENE OTTO

LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA COUNCIL 2024- 2026

Upcountry Representatives









VINCENT GITHAIGA

LINDA KIOME

HEZEKIAH ASESO

ZULFA ROBLE

Coast Representative



ELIZABETH WANJERI

Secretary/CEO



FLORENCE MUTURI

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The New Council take Oath of Office during the Annual General Meeting 2024

The newly elected Council took oath of Office during the LSK Annual General Meeting, which was held on 22nd March 2024 at the Rift Valley Sports Club in Nakuru County. Being the first-ever AGM to be held outside of Nairobi, approximately 500 members attended the meeting in person, while over 4,000 members joined the meeting virtually.

The 15-point agenda item saw members deliberate on various issues at hand, with the highlight of the meeting being the swearing-in ceremony, officiated by Hon. Otiende Amollo, SC, who administered the oath to the 13 elected members representing various categories of membership. The newly elected members included; Faith Odhiambo (President), Mwaura Kabata (Vice-President), Tom K'opere (General Member representing over 25 years), Teresia Wavinya and Hosea Manwa, (General Membership Representatives); Gloria Kimani, Irene Otto and Stephen Mbugua (Nairobi Representatives); Vincent Githaiga, Lindah Kiome, Hezekiah Aseso and Zulfa Roble (Upcountry Representatives) and lastly Elizabeth Wanjeri (Coast Representative).

The Law Society of Kenya appreciates the Rift Valley Branch for their warm welcome and hospitality in hosting the AGM and to the membership for their participation and enthusiasm. We salute the newly elected Council and as they settle into office, we believe new leadership comes with fresh ideas and urge them to take the Society to greater heights.



The Council during the LSK AGM held on 22nd March 2024 at the Rift Valley Sports Club in Nakuru.



Members during the AGM 2024



Council Members Tom K'opere making a presentation during the AGM.



A section of the LSK Branch Chairs at the AGM.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2024

PROTECTION OF THE RULE OF LAW

In line with the Law Society of Kenya's functions and objects as stipulated in LSK Act to uphold the Constitution of Kenya and advance the rule of law and the administration of Justice; the Society has so far undertaken the following activities to this effect;

In the year, 2024, the Law Society of Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the rule of law as a cornerstone of justice, equality, and governance. Our efforts were directed toward strengthening legal frameworks, promoting accountability, and ensuring access to justice for all.

Our Country saw a surge in public demonstrations across Kenya, spearheaded by a generation disillusioned with systemic injustices and demanding accountability from their leaders. The Gen-Z protests, fueled by anxieties over the Finance Bill and persistent police brutality, brought to light deep-seated concerns about economic inequality and the erosion of fundamental rights. The protests, though largely peaceful, were met with a heavy-handed response from law leading enforcement, to widespread allegations of excessive force, unlawful detentions, and a blatant disregard for constitutional freedoms.

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) recognized the gravity of the situation and stepped forward to safeguard the rights of citizens and uphold the principles of the rule of law. Faced with mounting evidence of government excesses, the LSK adopted a multi-pronged approach:

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

The LSK filed numerous constitutional petitions, strategically targeting specific instances of police brutality, unlawful arrests, and the suppression of assembly and expression rights. These cases aimed not only to secure redress for individual victims but also to establish legal precedents that would deter future abuses and reinforce the constitutional framework.

LSK Efforts towards the Anti-Finance Bill Protests 2024

In 2024, particularly from June 2024, the nation was been shaken by widespread anti-finance bill protests across the country. The Law Society of Kenya stepped up and undertook a series of strategic actions to address widespread concerns over the proposed Finance Bill 2024.

parliament not to pass the finance bill taking consideration the negative effect it would have on its citizens however the same was not the case. The Parliament passed the Bill and the country was violent plunged into demonstration spanning over 35 counties country wide. Society actively undertook following strategies;

- Media Engagement; The Society has several issued statements and appeared in various media outlets (TV and Radio) before and during the protests condemning police brutality and calling on the Head of State not to assent the Bill. The Society heavily used its social media channels to reach out to a large number of citizens.
- Collaboration with Civil Society; The Society collaborated with various civil society organizations to create a unified front against the Finance Bill. This amplified the collective voice and strengthened advocacy efforts
- Instituted court cases against various government agencies and its failure to protect its citizens. The Society also challenged in court some government directives which were detrimental.

Offered Legal Support for Protesters; there is a dedicated toll- free number to report cases of unlawful arrests, abductions and police brutality

The Society began by imploring the amongst others. In addition, the Society together with partners came up with an initiative to support the Legal Aid fund for victims of protest.





 Engagement with the DCI where the Society filed a formal report for investigations into the recent rampant abductions by unidentified persons believed to be a roque faction of the police force. We emphasized concerns over the draconian. unconstitutional tactics beina deployed against Kenyan youth for exercising their democratic rights and raised our dissatisfaction with the apparent inaction by the Directorate.

Through these multifaceted efforts, LSK demonstrated its commitment to protecting the interests of Kenyan citizens and upholding the rule of law. The anti-Finance Bill protests of 2024 underscored LSK's pivotal role in championing public interest and advocating for fair and just governance.

The Society undertook the following key activities as highlighted in the above strategies;

Visiting Victims of Police Brutality at Kenyatta National Hospital

On 28th June 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya visited the Kenyatta National Hospital to check on the status of victims of police brutality who were taken to the facility amidst the anti-Finance Bill protests.

The team was hosted by the Senior Director for clinical services and the Director of Nursing Services who briefed them on the statistics of patients the hospital had handled, the nature of injuries and treatment, and steps being undertaken by the hospital to provide adequate care to all victims.

The Council emphasized on the need for cooperation between the Hospital's management, Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the LSK to conduct substantive investigations into the violence meted by police leading to the The Council also injuries. opportunity to see and converse with some of the patients, a fair number of whom noted that they were not actively involved in protests but were nonetheless targeted, attacked and left severely injured by the police.

The Society remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure justice is served for all victims of police misconduct.



The President Faith Odhiambo addressing the media after visiting victim of police brutality at the Kenyatta National Hospital.



The Council being briefed of the victims by the Senior Director of for clinical services during the visit.

Courtesy Call on the Directorate of **Criminal Services (DCI)**

In a bid to secure the release of various individuals who were abducted preceding the Anti-Finance Bill Protests 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya called on the DCI Headquarters at Kiambu Road for a meeting with the deputy director.

The Council filed a formal report for investigations into the recent rampant abductions by unidentified persons believed to be a rogue faction of the police force. We emphasized our concerns over the draconian, unconstitutional tactics being deployed against Kenyan youth for exercising their democratic rights and dissatisfaction raised our with the apparent inaction by the Directorate. The Council supplied the DCI with a list of all abductees who are yet to be released whose information has been brought to the LSK.

The Society intends to follow up on all outstanding cases and urge members of the public to raise alarm and bring to our attention any new cases of abductions that may arise.

The Council was joined by Members of Parliament: Otiende Amollo (Rarieda), Mark Mwenje (Embakasi West), Amos Mwago (Starehe), Catherine Wamboka Omanyo(Busia), Wanami (Bumula), and Nominated Senator Catherine Mumma.



The LSK Council with some Members of Parliament during the courtesy call to the DCI.



A section of the Council after securing the release of Dr. Austin Omondi alias JaPrado

CITIZENS ASSEMBLY FORUMS; NAIROBI AND MOMBASA CITIES

In 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya organized a series of Citizen Assembly Fora in Nairobi and Mombasa with an aim of empowering the youth with knowledge of their rights and fostering their active participation in the guest for justice.

These initiatives the were of part Assembly's broader commitment to promoting civic awareness and strengthening democratic values among young people.

delivered The Public Dialogues Fora significant results which were aligned with its objective of promoting justice, human rights and accountability amidst the aftermath of the GenZ protests. The forum educated participants on particularly constitutional rights, freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly under Articles 33 and 37. The testimonies and discussions raised awareness about systemic injustices, including police brutality and the misuse of force during protests.

The forum amplified advocacy efforts by giving victims an opportunity to tell their stories and give insights on systemic reforms in policing and governance. The forum fostered connections between the Law Society of Kenya (LSK),



Participants at the forum

Mombasa Law Society (MLS), civil society organizations and grassroot advocacy groups, to bolster legal aid and human rights initiatives.

The project was executed in accordance with the approved operational plan:

Participation: Engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including victims of human rights violations, youth leaders, civil society representatives and law enforcement officials.

Structure: Three thematic panel discussions effectively addressed human rights abuses, access to justice and systemic reforms, with an additional session upon the request the participants.

Outcomes: Achieved practical outcomes through interactive sessions that generated actionable recommendations for future interventions.

LSK is looking to scale up to regional engagements by expanding the public dialogue forums to other regions to increase inclusivity. The Society is keen to strengthen partnerships with international donors, local CSOs and academic institutions to enhance resource mobilization and technical support.

A gap that was also identified was the need to build psychosocial support systems which could be achieved by partnering with organizations specializing in trauma counselling to provide holistic support for victims of police brutality and systemic oppression.

The Mombasa Public Dialogue Forum demonstrated the critical role of public engagement in fostering iustice. accountability and human rights. Ву addressing systemic injustices equipping citizens with legal knowledge, the initiative set a precedent for future interventions. The strategic focus on regional expansion, deeper collaborations and enhanced legal and psychosocial frameworks will ensure sustained progress safeguarding human rights upholding the rule of law in Kenya.





The LSK President Faith Odhiambo and the Vice- President Mwaura Kabata addressing participants during the Mombasa Public Dialogue Forum, respectively.









The Citizen Assembly's engagement with the youth on their rights and quest for justice at Ufungamano House. #JusticeForAll

COURTESY CALLS WITH THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE JUSTICE SECTOR

The courtesy calls with key players in the justice sector stakeholders was more than a formality, as they are a strategic tool for relationship-building, advocacy, and progress. Ву fostering open communication and collaboration, these interactions contribute to a stronger, more equitable justice system that serves the needs of society effectively. The Society held courtesy calls with the following key players;

1.Office of the Director of **Public Prosecutions**

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya paid a courtesy call to Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Renson M. Ingonga, OGW at his office at the ODPP House.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance partnerships and collaboration between the two institutions. During the meeting, several key issues were discussed. including legal education and training workshops), (CPD, training case management and prosecutorial practices, evidence handling and forensic procedures, and continuous efforts to prosecute unqualified persons acting as advocates, among others.

The Council and the DPP agreed to collaborate in various crucial areas of criminal justice reform, with the aim of driving positive change and improving the administration of justice in Kenya.



A photo session after the Courtesy Call.

2. Attorney General

The LSK President Faith Odhiambo led the Council on a courtesy call to Attorney General (AG) Hon. JB Muturi at Sheria House. During the visit, the LSK presented memorandum addressing areas of concern and identifying potential areas for partnership and collaboration. Key topics included capacity building through CPD, workshops, and seminars. welfare concerns of State Counsels, particularly regarding voting, enhancing effectiveness and fair compensation of members of the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal (ADT), public interest litigation and law reform.

The Council and the AG agreed to collaborate on these areas to safeguard the interests of the public at large.



Council members posing for a photo with the then Hon. A.G Hon. JB Muturi at his office.

3. Speaker of the National Assembly

The Council of the LSK paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of the National Assembly Speaker, Hon. Moses Wetangula at the Parliament Buildings. The LSK President Odhiambo led the discussions highlighting various areas of collaboration which included legislative enhancement of public participation in shaping legislation & governance process, legal aid and capacity building advocates in legislative drafting. The LSK appreciates the National Assembly for the significant strides in the development of numerous legislations and hope collaborate to further improve the legislative process.

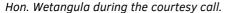


The Speaker National Assembly Hon. Moses Wetangula with the LSK Council during the courtesy call.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo during the meeting.







The Speaker National Assembly Hon. Moses Wetangula with the LSK Council during the courtesy call.

4. Chief Registrar of the Judiciary (CRJ)

On 13th May 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya, led by President Faith Odhiambo, held a meeting with the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary (CRJ) Hon. Winfridah Mokaya and other key judiciary officials. The discussion focused on several critical issues related to access to justice, the administration of justice, and enhancing service delivery to both LSK members and the public.

Key topics included the implementation of e-filing, the need to increase the number of judicial officers at various court stations, and the improvement of court infrastructure. Also in attendance were the LSK Branch Chairs, Commissioner Omwanza Ombati, and the team from the Judiciary and the CRJ's Office.

The CRJ committed to ongoing engagement with the LSK leadership to collaborate on these key issues and find ways to enhance service delivery to the public.



The CRJ Hon. Winfridah Mokaya during the meeting with the Council and members of the Law Society of Kenya.



The JSC Commissioner. Hon, Omwanza Ombati during the meeting.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo making her presentation during the meeting.



LSK Council and Judiciary staff during the meeting.

5. Mentorship session with Former LSK **Presidents**

The Law Society of Kenya Council held an interactive session with former LSK Presidents. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new Council to the former presidents and gain insights and how to execute their guidance on mandate. The former presidents offered advice to the incoming council and them of assured their continuous engagement to ensure they deliver on their mandate.



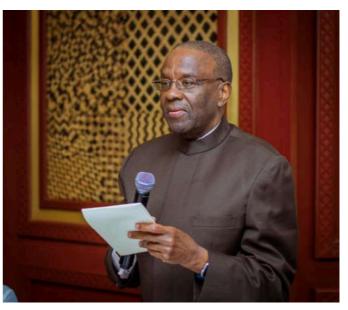
The Chairperson of the Senior Bar Dr. Fred Ojiambo during the mentorship session with the Council.



The LSK Council pose for a group photo with firmer LSK Presidents and members of the Senior Bar.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo making her remarks at the Mentorship session.



The Hon. Justice (Rtd) Dr. Willy Mutunga during the event.

Courtesy Call to the LSK by the National **Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)**

The Council was honored to host the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) at the Law Society of Kenya offices. This meeting marked a significant step towards forging a robust partnership aimed collaborative advocacy, legislative reviews, and enhancing public awareness. Both parties agreed to work together to address pressing national issues and contribute to meaningful change.





The President Faith Odhiambo and LSK CEO Florence Muturi (3rd from left) pose for a group photo with officials from the NCCK.

Law Reforms

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has been actively engaged in law reform and advocacy efforts throughout 2024. The Society recognizes the importance of contributing to a legal framework that is just, equitable, and responsive to the evolving needs of Kenyan society.

LSK's approach to law reform is multifaceted and included:

 Reviewing Bills and Legislation: LSK has reviewed several bills in 2024 and presented over 20 memoranda to Parliament and other stakeholders. This demonstrates our active involvement in the legislative process, ensuring that proposed laws align with constitutional principles and serve the best interests of the public. An example the presentation of the Memorandum on the Finance Bill 2024 where LSK made presentations on the Finance Bill 2024 before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. The Vice President, Mwaura Kabata. was accompanied by LSK Tax Committee Chair Daniel Ngumy, Council Member Elizabeth Wanjeri, and a team from the Tax Committee. LSK They made submissions on critical issues proposed in the Bill.

LSK affirmed that clauses infringing upon the fundamental rights to privacy and access to justice, particularly concerning should be taxpayers, rejected. emphasized that established procedures under the Constitution and the Data Protection Act must be upheld. Additionally. the LSK identified and elaborated on other clauses with significant socio-economic impacts on the entire country.



The LSK VP Mwaura Kabata making presentation.



Council member Elizabeth Wanjeri and member of the Tax Committee during the presentation.



Hon. Kuria Kimani, the National Assembly Chairman of Finance and Planning listening keenly to the presentation of LSK memorandum.

Presentation before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC)

On 1st July 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya through the Convener of the Law Reform Committee, Vincent Githaiga & Council member Aseso Omollo, made a presentation before the Justice & Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) and the Devolution Committees of the Senate on a petition to the Senate by Mr. Laban Omusundi on restricting county governments from hiring law firms for legal representation in court cases.

Council Members, firmly held on the Society's position and vehemently opposed the petition for being discriminative, unconstitutional and unlawful.

The Council is keen on protecting the practice space of its members which is seemingly under attack from many quotas and shrinking by the day.



Council Member Vincent Githaiga making his presentation.



Council Member Hezekiah Aseso making his presentation.





 $\label{lem:council} \textit{Council Member Vincent Githaiga poses for a photo after the presentation.}$

Presentation on the Equalization Fund

The LSK Vice President (VP) Mwaura Kabata made a presentation on the Equalisation Fund (Administration) Bill, 2023 before the Finance Committee of the National Assembly. The Equalisation Fund (Administration) Bill, 2023 has proposed provide for been to framework for administration and management of the Equalisation Fund in accordance with Article 204 of the Constitution.

Article 204 (1) of the Constitution provide that there is established an Equalisation Fund into which shall be paid one half per cent of all the revenue collected by the national government each year calculated on the basis of the most recent audited accounts of revenue received, as approved by the National Assembly. The LSK Vice President (VP) Mwaura Kabata was accompanied by the then LSK Deputy Secretary Collins Odhiambo.





The LSK VP Mwaura making his presentation.

- Engaging with Legislative Bodies: LSK established а has structure collaborate with various legislative committees at both the national and levels. This county proactive engagement allows for informed input and contributions to shape legislation before it becomes law. Examples include collaboration with Justice Affairs the and Legal Committees (JLACs) in the Senate and National Assembly and with county engagement governments on devolution-related matters.
- Advocating for Specific Amendments:
 LSK has actively advocated for
 specific amendments to existing laws
 to address identified shortcomings.
 One example is the proposal to
 amend Section 29 of the Competition
 Act to include an exemption for
 professional bodies in review of scale
 fees.

Public Awareness and Participation:
 LSK has been instrumental in raising
 public awareness about proposed
 legislation and encouraging citizen
 participation in the law-making
 process. This commitment to public
 engagement ensures that laws reflect
 the needs and aspirations of the
 people they are intended to serve.

Key achievements in law reform and advocacy in 2024 include:

- Successfully advocating for the inclusion of a provision that grants full exemption to professional bodies in Section 29 of the Competition Act.
- Presenting comments and suggestions to the National Assembly on the Finance Bill 2024, which was a subject of intense public debate and scrutiny.
- Developing a legislative tracking system that allows LSK to provide bills before timely input on Parliament. ensurina proactive participation in the legislative process.
- Collaborating with the Minority Leader in Parliament to identify areas for partnership on bill tracking and law reform.

These achievements, along with ongoing initiatives, demonstrate LSK's commitment to shaping a legal landscape that reflects the principles of justice, fairness, and responsiveness to the needs of the Kenyan people.

Transforming Judiciary and Land Registries

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has undertaken various initiatives to improve service delivery within the Judiciary and Land Registries. These interventions aim to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility for both legal professionals and the public.

Improving Service Delivery within the Judiciary

- Advocating for System **Enhancements:** The LSK has for consistently advocated enhancements and in systems processes within the Judiciary to enable advocates to serve their clients effectively. We have raised the perpetuity of system failures with the Judiciary leadership and received an undertaking that further system enhancements will be undertaken.
- Meeting with the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary: On 13 May 2024, the LSK Council, met with the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary to discuss critical issues related to access to justice and the administration of justice. A memorandum outlining the Society's concerns and recommendations for improvement was presented during this meeting.

- Reviewing and Enhancing the Conduct of Judicial Officers: The LSK has initiated steps to review and enhance the conduct of judicial officers, aiming to promote accountability and integrity within the judiciary.
- Establishing a Vetting Committee:
 The LSK has established a vetting committee to address corruption and ensure the integrity of land titles.
 This committee will collate incidences of misconduct among judicial officers and submits a memorandum documenting these incidents for action.
- Memorandum on Corruption: The Law Society, upon invitation from the Chief Justice on 17th December 2024, presented a memorandum and matrix of concerns highlighting the overwhelming complaints raised by members misconduct. on incompetence and corruption in the Judiciary. We have made clear our commitment to stem out all corrupt elements within the Judiciary and preserve it as the singular institution of last resolve in the protection of rights and the rule of law.

Improving Service Delivery within Land Registries

- Addressing Concerns Regarding the Ardhi Sasa Platform: The LSK has actively engaged with the Ministry of Lands to address challenges faced by using the Ardhi Sasa members platform. On 22 May 2024. questionnaire was distributed to members to gather feedback and identify issues on the platform and at registries nationwide. The LSK plans to take action based on the feedback received.
- Communication with the Ministry of Lands: The LSK has initiated formal engagement with the Ministry of Lands to outline concerns and recommendations regarding challenges at land registries nationwide.

Achievements:

- Increased awareness of issues affecting service delivery within the Judiciary and Land Registries.
- Enhanced communication and engagement with key stakeholders, including the Judiciary and the Ministry of Lands.
- Formalized recommendations for improvement through memoranda and letters to relevant authorities.

Challenges:

- Securing Funding for Initiatives: For example, the LSK's vetting committee requires technical and budgetary support to operate effectively.
- Overall, the LSK has demonstrated a commitment to improving service delivery within the Judiciary and Land The Registries. Society's interventions, including advocating for system enhancements, engaging in dialogue with key stakeholders, and raising awareness of challenges, have contributed to ongoing efforts enhance efficiency. to the transparency, and accessibility of justice and land administration services in Kenya.

Sensitization Clinic on the Tax Appeal Tribunal

The Law Society of Kenya together with other key stakeholders, undertook a sensitization clinic in the towns of Embu, Meru and Nyeri. The clinics were held with a view of enhancing the understanding and effectiveness of tax dispute resolution mechanisms.

The clinics served as avenues for creating awareness of the tribunal, enhanced access to justice and improved compliance amongst others. In addition, the sensitization clinics on the Tax Appeal Tribunal were essential for fostering an informed, compliant, and cooperative taxpayer base, ensuring efficient dispute resolution and ultimately

contributing to a fair and transparent tax system.



The Tax Appeal Tribunal members pose for a Group photo during the Sensitisation Clinic.

LSK Press Briefings/ Statement

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has been vocal on various topical issues affecting the Society and members of the public, conveying their stance through multiple press briefings and statements. Below are some key instances:

- On 29th February 2024: The LSK held a press briefing condemning in the strongest terms possible the willful disregards to the law being demonstrated bv Government agencies. This occurred when the officials and members of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU), led medical interns in peaceful protest over delayed posting of medical interns and payment of fees for postgraduate students. The Police responded by deploying disproportionate against the protesters leading to a shooting.

The LSK Council led by the then President Eric Theuri flanked by the Vice President Faith Odhiambo and Council Member Mwaura Kabata.

- On 15th April 2024: The LSK issued a statement addressing the Inspector General of Police's comments on the doctors' strike, labelling the strike by doctors and clinical officers then as a public nuisance. The LSK undertook to intervene by instituting appropriate legal proceedings in the Public Interest.
- On 22nd April 2024: The Society held a press briefing regarding concerns surrounding the implementation of the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program (NFSP). The program had come under scrutiny due to reports of substantial breaches of duty, acts of incompetence, and allegations of fraud and corruption.



The LSK Council led by the President Faith Odhiambo during the press briefing.

On 13th May 2024: The Law Society
of Kenya issued a statement on the
Government response to the flooding
disaster in the Country accusing the
Government of being unprepared for
such crisis.

The Society urged the government to retreat and conduct a re-evaluation of the directives that have since been issued and called upon members of the public seeking legal assistance can reach the Society through the following toll-free number **0800-720434** and or email help@lsk.or.ke



The LSK VP addressing the media flanked by other council members.

On 19th May 2024; The Society issued a statement on the Government deploying 1000 police officer to Haiti when the Court had declared the deployment unconstitutional on account of the absence of reciprocal provisions in Kenyan and Haitian laws, and the absence of a bilateral treaty. The Society urged the President of the republic

of Kenya to obey court orders, as this was the grind upon which this country strives to ensure accountability and transparency.



On 7th June, 2024; The Society held a press briefing on the impact of the Finance Bill 2024 on Tax Certainty, Cost of Living and the rule of law. Raising concerns about the potential implications of higher taxes and their impact of the regression in national equality. The Society offered to support the Departmental Committee on National Planning and Finance and the National Assembly in the public participation process to carefully consider comments put forth by various stakeholders and work towards ensurina certainty. tax reducing the cost of living and upholding the rule of law.

 On 13th June 2024; the Society condemned the heinous and tragic shooting incident at Makadara Law Courts and indicated that they would be initiating a dialogue with Chief Justice to develop comprehensive strategies aimed at safeguarding our justice system and its practitioners



 On 15th June 2024: The LSK issued a statement regarding the unfortunate shooting incident that occurred on 13th June 2024, at the Makadara Law Courts. A senior police officer. enraged by the court's decision regarding his wife's bond terms, committed an appalling act of violence by shooting Principal Magistrate Hon. Monicah Kivuti, who later succumbed to her injuries. In its statement, the Society mourned the passing of Hon. Monicah Kivuti and reiterated its commitment to

continuously engage with the relevant administrative organs to ensure that judicial officers remain safe and adequately secure as they perform their constitutional duties.

Additionally, the Society also announced the commencement of the Purple Ribbon March in remembrance of the slain magistrate. This march symbolizes solidarity and the call for justice, highlighting the importance of protecting those who serve in the judiciary.

- On 18th June 2024; The Society wrote a letter to the Nairobi Region Police Commander demanding from him to call off of the planned protesters in Nairobi opposing the Finance Bill 2024.
- On 21st June 2024: The Society issued a statement condemning the heinous and tragic killing of Rex Kanyike Masai. The Society indicated that the criminal elements within the Police should face the full force of the law. The Society further urged the members of the public to continue to express themselves and exercise their rights within the confines of the law.
- On 24th June 2024: the LSK issued a statement on Abductions calling out the relevant security agencies to help in investigating the rampant cases of abduction of various individuals.

- On 25th June 2024: The Society issued a statement on the killings of protesters during the Finance Bill demonstrations in Nairobi and across the Country. The Society called upon the international criminal investigation authorities to help poor Kenyan families quest for justice.
- On 16th September 2024: The Law Society of Kenya issued a press statement strongly condemning the withdrawal of the security of the Hon. Justice Mr. Lawrence Mugambi. The Society noted that this was unacceptable retaliation against a Judge for the lawful discharge of his duty is a threat to the Rule of Law and administration of Justice. The security of Judges was an intrinsic part of upholding Judicial Independence. The removal of a Judge's security detail was an unconstitutional act of intimidation against the Judiciary and offends the duty of the Police to uphold the Constitution. The Society called upon the National Police Service to reevaluate this unpalatable miscarriage of duty and immediately reinstate the Judge's security.



Law Society of Kenya

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Our Ref: S/24

Your Ref: TBA

Date: 16th September, 2024

PRESS STATEMENT

STATEMENT ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SECURITY DETAIL OF HON. MR. JUSTICE LAWRENCE MUGAMBI

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) stands at the forefront of upholding the principles of justice, accountability, and the rule of law within our nation. With a deep commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of all Kenyans, it is our solemn duty to address the disturbing developments surrounding Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrence Mugambi, a sitting Judge of the High Court, whose security detail was recently withdrawn following his issuance of a habeas corpus order in the case of Law Society of Kenya & 3 Others v. Inspector General of Police & 4 Others, Petition No. E436 of 2024, which culminated in contempt of court proceedings, where the Acting Inspector General was subsequently found in contempt and sentenced on the 13th September, 2024.

This action by the National Police Service constitutes an egregious violation of the rule of law and the principle of judicial independence as enshrined in our Constitution. The LSK strongly condemns this retaliatory measure, which undermines not only the authority of the Judiciary but also the constitutional protections granted to all Kenyans.

Article 160 of the Constitution of Kenya guarantees judicial independence, stating that in the exercise of judicial authority, the Judiciary shall be subject only to the Constitution and the law, and shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person or authority. The withdrawal of security for a Judge, especially in response to their lawful execution of judicial duties, is a direct violation of this constitutional provision. Judicial officers must be free to make decisions based on the law, without fear of coercion, intimidation, or interference. Any act that seeks to influence judicial outcomes through intimidation poses a grave threat to the administration of justice.

The National Police Service, as a key state actor, has a constitutional obligation under Article 244 to comply with the law and the decisions of the courts. The continued defiance of the habeas corpus order by failing to produce the individuals named in the case and the contempt of court proceedings that followed reflect a dangerous trend of law enforcement

Faith Odhiambo (President), Mwaura Kabata (Vice-President)
Tom K'opere, Teresia Wavinya, Hosea Manwa, (General Membership Representatives)
Gloria Kimani, Irene Otto, Stephen Mbugua (Nairobi Representatives)
Vincent Githaiga, Lindah Kiome, Hezekiah Aseso, Zulfa Roble (Upcountry Representatives)
Elizabeth Wanjeri (Coast Representative)

disregarding judicial orders. This is not only unlawful but also sets a dangerous precedent for impunity, where state institutions operate without accountability.

It is important to stress that any party dissatisfied with a court ruling should pursue redress through the appellate jurisdiction, rather than resorting to punitive or retaliatory actions against the Judiciary. Article 165 of the Constitution outlines the procedure for appealing to higher courts, and any grievances with a judicial decision must be addressed within this framework.

The intimidation of a Judge has far-reaching implications beyond the individual involved. It poses a significant risk to the administration of justice, as it suggests that judicial decisions can be influenced by external pressures rather than by the law. The erosion of judicial independence undermines the foundation of our constitutional democracy, where rights are safeguarded by an impartial and independent judiciary.

The Law Society of Kenya calls upon the National Police Service and all relevant state actors to immediately reinstate the security detail of Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrence Mugambi. We also urge them to comply with the orders of the court, including the habeas corpus directive, as failure to do so is not only contemptuous but also indicative of a disregard for constitutional principles.

Further, we call on the Executive and all arms of government to respect the principle of separation of powers and to uphold the rule of law. Judicial independence is not merely a privilege for the Judiciary but a cornerstone of justice for all Kenyans.

The LSK assures all Kenyans that it remains committed to defending judicial independence, the rule of law, and constitutionalism. We will continue to advocate for the protection of human rights and the integrity of our democratic institutions.

Thank you

Faith Odhiambo

President Law Society of Kenya

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Inspection of Law Firms

In a bid to Weeding Out of Masqueraders (unqualified persons in practice), the Law Society of Kenya undertook a countrywide campaign to inspect law firms to assess compliance with legal and professional standards, evaluate operational efficiency, and ensure that law firms maintain the highest levels of integrity and professionalism in their practice.

The legal profession holds a critical role in upholding justice and safeguarding the rule of law. As such, law firms are expected to adhere to strict ethical standards, provide quality legal services, and operate transparently and responsibly. This inspection aimed at ensuring members and members of the public are accorded effective delivery of legal services.

The following are some areas that the Society undertook the crackdown;

On the 21st day of June, 2024, the LSK through the Practice Standards Directorate carried out an exercise to weed out Masqueraders in Kajiado County. Among the area targeted was Kiserian town where the team, (the Council Members led Ms. Linda Kiome, by Convener, Practice Standards Committee assisted by a team from the Secretariat undertook an inspection of law firms within the town. The inspection was necessitated by the reports that the secretariat had received concerning quack advocates operating in the area.

The inspectorate team managed to have Mr. Evans Isaboke, a former clerk of the firm of Onyancha Nyakundi and Company Advocates who had been masquerading as an advocate. The suspected masquerader was arrested and booked at Kiserian Police Station awaiting arraignment in Court. #WeedOutMasqueraders.







The Practice Standards Committee Convener Linda Kiome flanked by Council Members Stephen Wanjiru and Teresia Wavinya Nicholas accompanied by police officer during the raid.

• On 31st July 2023, the LSK through the Practice Standards Directorate carried out an exercise to weed out Masqueraders in Kilimani subcounty. The team, (the Council Members led by Ms. Linda Kiome, Convener, Practice Standards Committee assisted by a team from the Secretariat undertook an inspection of law firms at Ntashaart plaza. The inspection was necessitated by the reports that the secretariat had received concerning quack advocates operating in the area. The inspectorate team managed to have Mrs Edith Nambisia of Rabala Advocates who had been masquerading as an advocate. The suspect was arrested and booked at Kilimani Police Station awaiting arraignment in Court. #WeedOutMasqueraders







Practice Standards Convener Linda Kiome and Council Member Stephen Wanjiru undertaking the raid.

On 11th September 2024, the Law Annexed Mediation Program. The LSK LSK Secretariat team, follow-up meeting as Representatives of one The masquerader had been summoned Advocates on the said date for booking. However, readily report any such the individual failed to turn up and #WeedingOutMasqueraders there were further requests from his Representative to be granted another date to present his client. The request was not granted given his absence. Mr. Gatura has been marked as a person absconding prosecution and the police shall give LSK further updates about his arrest. Additionally, the team acted on a tip-off from Advocates practicing in Kiambu County of an individual Allexander Gitau who was perceived to be offering legal services to members of the Public based on his posts on social media posts. The team in an undercover stint accompanied by the police, visited Mr. Allexander Gitau's office situated at Bishop Njenga House, Thindigua, Kiambu County. Upon thorough investigation and questioning, it was ascertained that the individual, Allexander Gitau was a Certified Mediator under the Court

Society of Kenya through the Practice team cautioned him against portraying Standards Committee convened by Ms. himself as an Advocate and was required Linda Kiome, Council Member and the to take down the offending post where he attended a purported to be in legal practice.

scheduled He was further advised to adhere to his between DCIO- Kingeero and the Legal line of work as a mediator. The Law Gatura Society of Kenya appreciates the Washington Kimani- who had been membership and the public for their earlier identified as a masqueraded, vigilance on individuals purporting to be and encourages to appear before the police personally continually be on the lookout; and to



Practice Standards Convener Linda Kiome, Council member during the investigation.



Mr. Allexander Gitau during the investigation.

Still on the campaign on #WeedingOutMasqueraders the Practice Standards Committee council members Wavinya and Steven Wanjiru Teresia nabbed renowned а notorious Masquerader named Julius Munala at Kahawa Law Courts where he appearing before Court 1 in the guise of being an advocate.

As per the investigations, it was discovered that he operates a cyber located at Hillside building around Milimani Law courts. He had been defrauding the public by posing as an advocate, where he had taken instructions, draws pleadings, represents clients and commissions affidavits using several advocates stamps.

The Society urges its members to continue setting new standards for vigilance and justice within our profession. LSK remains unwavering in tackling this pervasive threat reaffirms our dedication to protecting the legitimate interests of genuine advocates and upholding the values of our esteemed profession.



The masquerader, Mr. Julius Munala, who was accosted at his office purpoting to offer legal service.



Council members Stephen Wanjiru and Teresia Wavinya Nicholas during the raid at Mr. Julius Munala's (far right) office who was found to be masquerading as an advocate.

*WeedingOutMasqueraders, the Practice Standards and Ethics Committee chaired by Ms. Lindah Kiome, Council Member undertook an Inspection of Law Firms in Mombasa. The operation was triggered by reports of malpractice within Mombasa City. The inspection was coordinated through Practice Standards Directorate and Officials from the Mombasa Law Society. The team which included the Director Practice Standards and Head of Communication, with the support of police officers, was able to conduct a search in targeted offices. As a result of which a notorious individual purporting to be Advocate was arrested. Members of the Law Society of Kenya and the general public are urged to be on the lookout for individuals posing as advocates and report them to the LSK via practicestandards@lsk.or.ke



Council Member Stephen Wanjiru addressing the press during a raid in Nakuru.

Masquerader Case Updates



LSK NEWS ALERT

MASQUERADER BRIAN NJAGI CASE CASE REFERENCE: MCCR/E7954/2023 REPUBLIC VS BRIAN MWENDA

"The criminal case against Brian Mwenda Njagi, which has been ongoing in Makadara Law Courts, was coming up for hearing on the 6th of June 2024. During the hearing date, two witnesses were present and ready to testify. However, it was reported by the defense that the Accused had not been served with the witness statements. Therefore, the accused requested an adjournment to aid him to familiarise himself with the contents of the statements.

The court granted the adjournment. The matter will come up for hearing on 17th September 2024.

Brian Njoroge, Advocate appeared for LSK in the matter."

Courts

The LSK through the Practice Standards Directorate has been supporting in the prosecution of various cases in courts across the country that concern unqualified practice.

12th June 2024 Case Reference: R V Zuhura Misango A Mccr E290 Of 2023

The case concerns a person who was caught within Siaya Court pretending to be an advocate. The accused had been caught through an operation done by the directorate in close collaboration with the branch representatives in October 2023. During the operation the accused was caught offering legal services and the officers established that she was not an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. The case was at the hearing stage and all the witnesses both from the LSK and the Police testified.

The case will be coming up for submission in two weeks' time before a ruling is issued.

The LSK Purple Ribbon Week

The Law Society of Kenya in partnership with the LSK Nairobi Branch and IJM Kenya on 24th June 2024 launched the start of the #LSKPurpleRibbonWeek2024 at the Milimani Ceremonial Hall.

The theme for the Purple Ribbon Week focused on, Advocacy and Solidarity in Safeguarding the Rule of Law. The meeting

Masguerades Cases Updates from The paid tribute to advocates who lost their lives while in the line of duty and the LSK Odhiambo President Faith challenged Advocates to support Kenyans whose rights have been violated, especially during the ongoing demonstrations in several parts of the country due to the Finance Bill 2024.





Members following the proceedings of the launch of the Purple Ribbon week at the Milimani Ceremonial Hall.



Council Member Tom K'Opere during the launch of the Purple Ribbon week.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo delivering her address during the Purple Ribbon week.

STABILITY OF THE SOCIETY

The legal profession, much like a sturdy edifice, requires a stable foundation to uphold justice and serve society effectively. Without stability, the bar risks crumbling, unable to withstand the pressures of societal evolving needs and legal complexities. A stable bar signifies a cohesive and robust legal community, equipped to navigate challenges, uphold ethical standards, and champion the rule of law. This stability is fostered through proactive measures that bolster governance, enhance communication. promote professional development, and ensure the well-being of legal practitioners. When the bar stands firm, it instills public confidence in the legal system, fostering a society that respects the rule of law and values justice.

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has implemented various initiatives to enhance the stability of the bar in 2024. These initiatives can be categorized as follows:

Governance and Communication:

Council Induction Retreat

A critical step towards ensuring stability was the comprehensive induction retreat for the LSK Council held from 11th-12th April 2024 at Enashipai Resort and Spa in Naivasha. The retreat set the tone for collaborative governance and reinforced the commitment of Council members to their roles.

Opening Remarks and Introductions: induction began with a welcoming address by LSK CEO Florence W. Muturi, followed by introductions from all Council members. President Faith Odhiambo delivered her opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of achieving set goals and effectively serving the members of the Society. This initial session fostered a collaborative spirit among Council members.

Corporate Governance Session Facilitated by FCS Diana Sawe, an expert in corporate governance, this session was pivotal in clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Council members. Key highlights included:

- Emphasis on the Council's oversight role over the Secretariat.
- Importance of communication through the LSK President and CEO.
- Recommendation for creating a Council Almanac to ensure effectiveness and political neutrality.
- Advocacy for professional, consensusbased decision-making.

Recommendations from this session included signing the LSK Council Charter, establishing effective committees, developing a Council Almanac, and incorporating a dispute resolution clause in the Charter.

These measures are foundational to the stability and effective governance of the Society.

Strategic Communication Session Led by Joseph Bonyo, a Strategic Communication Consultant, this session underscored the importance of strategic communication in achieving organizational goals. Key points included:

- Identifying and understanding key stakeholders such as members, judiciary, public, media, and donors.
- Managing reputation through transparency, accountability, professionalism, ethical conduct, and crisis management.
- Ensuring timely and proper communication on matters of public importance.

Recommendations focused on developing effective communication channels and ensuring timely responses to public interest matters, both of which are crucial for maintaining stability and trust in the Society.

Secretariat Management Presentations On the second dav. the Secretariat Management team provided detailed presentations on the activities of their respective directorates and departments. This session allowed Council members to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Society's operations and in engage discussions on potential improvements.

Team Building Session Facilitated by Gavin Oyas of Solutions Africa Kenya, the team-building session aimed at fostering teamwork and understanding Council members and the Secretariat Activities Management. included psychometric tests to identify individual personalities and group exercises that the of emphasized importance communication and effective assignment allocation. The session highlighted the significance of diverse personalities in contributing to the organization's success.

The two-day induction program, along with strategic communication and teambuilding efforts. has significantly contributed to the stability of the Law Society of Kenya under President Faith Odhiambo's leadership. By enhancing governance, improving communication, and fostering teamwork, the Council is now better equipped to serve the LSK community effectively. These initial steps are crucial in ensuring the Society's stability and achieving its goals in the long term.

Improvement at the Secretariat

Review the implementation of Microsoft Dynamics Navision 2017 ERP System.

The Law Society of Kenya embarked on the journey of review of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). The Council directed a technical review of the existing ERP system in order to answer the following questions:

1.Does the current ERP system meet the organizational requirements of the Society.

2.Were the project objectives achieved?

3.Do all the features function as desired?

The system review identified some gaps in the current ERP system, one of them being the obsoleteness of the system and recommended for an overhaul of the ERP system.

The needs analysis has been undertaken and the procurement process of a new system is underway with the aim of addressing the shortcomings of the current system. The new ERP system is scheduled to be implemented with the year 2024 in order for the Society to offer services to its members more efficiently.

Professional Development and Ethics:

Development of the Pro Bono Guidelines: A workshop was held in Diani, Kwale County, to develop standardized pro bono guidelines for East African Law Societies. The workshop aimed to address key issues in public interest litigation and enhance the provision of pro bono services.



The LSK Council and various stakeholders Development of the East African Pro Bono Guidelines workshop.

The LSK organized a workshop titled "Development of the East African Pro Bono Guidelines: Clearing Pro Bono Pathways," held from June 5th to 8th, 2024, in Diani, Kwale County.

The workshop aimed to draft and review comprehensive pro bono guidelines and address key issues in public interest litigation. It was a collaborative effort between the LSK. the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), and Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF). These organizations share a strategic alliance focused on advancing human rights and access to justice.

Objectives and Goals

The primary objectives of the workshop were:

- To develop standardized pro bono guidelines for East African Law Societies.
- To leverage legal expertise and advocacy to enhance the provision of pro bono services by advocates across the region.
- To address critical legal issues, particularly in the realm of human rights protection and public interest litigation.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including:

- Legal experts.
- Representatives from various organizations committed to advancing human rights and access to justice.
- Members of the East African Law Society (EALS), which plays a crucial role in the adoption and implementation of these guidelines.

Workshop Highlights

- Collaborative Effort: The workshop was a result of the concerted efforts initiated in 2023 by the LSK, CRR, IMLU, and ASF. These organizations had previously initiated discussions on developing the East African Pro Bono Guidelines to standardize pro bono practices within East African Law Societies.
- Drafting and Reviewing Guidelines:
 Participants engaged in drafting and reviewing the pro bono guidelines,

ensuring they were comprehensive and adaptable to the diverse legal environments within East Africa.

- Public Interest Litigation: The workshop addressed key issues in public interest litigation, focusing on enhancing the legal framework to protect human rights effectively.
- Strategic Alliance: The collaboration between the LSK and its partners underscores the importance of strategic alliances in addressing critical legal issues and promoting human rights.

The workshop concluded with several key recommendations aimed at enhancing the provision of pro bono services:

- 1. Standardization of Practices: Adoption of the East African Pro Bono Guidelines by all East African Law Societies to ensure standardized practices across the region.
- 2. Capacity Building: Continued training and capacity building for advocates to effectively provide pro bono services.
- 3. Advocacy and Awareness: Increased advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote the importance of pro bono work and encourage more legal professionals to participate.
- 4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of pro bono services to ensure continuous improvement.

Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal (ADT)

Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal Induction Workshop

The Law Society of Kenya, through its Compliance and Ethics Directorate, conducted an induction workshop for the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal (ADT) on the 30th and 31st of May, 2024, at the Emara Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi.

The ADT is tasked with adjudicating cases of professional misconduct against advocates. With the induction of newly elected members and five Council members boasting over a decade of post-admission experience, the workshop aimed to ensure these members familiarize themselves with the Tribunal's essential processes and procedures. This initiative is expected to expedite their onboarding and enhance the swift dispensation of justice at the Tribunal. In addition to introducing new members, the workshop focused on building the capacity of existing Tribunal members, the staff of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Advocates Complaints Commission, and other stakeholders involved the administration of iustice. These stakeholders, who interact daily with the Tribunal, benefited from enhanced training designed to improve their output and efficiency.

Following extensive deliberations, the members of the ADT, along with personnel from the Compliance and Ethics Directorate and the Advocates Complaints Commission,

reaffirmed their commitment to preserving and protecting the image of the legal profession.





Members during the Disciplinary Tribunal induction workshop



Hon. Justice Chigiti making his presentation.

The Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal (ADT) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing almost 300 pending judgments. This accomplishment can be attributed to the following factors:

- Efficient Case Management: The ADT Chair, in 2023, prioritized the disposal of all pending pleas, including those from the COVID-19 period. This was achieved through the implementation of double sittings and service weeks.
- Focus on Pending Judgments: With the backlog of pleas cleared, the ADT shifted its focus to completing pending judgments. A streamlined approach was adopted, resulting in almost 200 judgments ready for final review and scheduling.
- Contribution of New Members: The induction of four new ADT members following the March 2024 elections allowed for a dedicated focus on judgments.
- Strategic Retreat: The ADT retreat, held in the last month, proved instrumental in finalising approximately 70 judgments, which will be scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of the following year.
- The successful completion of almost 300 pending judgments signifies the ADT's commitment to efficiency and the swift dispensation of justice.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Meeting with the Swedish Embassy; The Council of the Law Society of Kenya Council led by the President Faith Odhiambo held an engagement forum with the Swedish Embassy. The purpose of the meeting was to explore areas of possible collaboration. The Council was able to engage on matters of climate change, extractive sector, two thirds gender rule and the need to strengthen democracy and rule of law in the Country.



Council members with the Swedish Ambassador.



Council members during a meeting with the Swedish Ambassador.

Key Achievements Contributing to Bar Review of the Advocates (Remuneration) Stability:

LSK Corporate **Transformation**: The LSK initiated steps to Rules 2012 in respect of taxation of costs. enhance corporate governance by streamlining secretariat operations modernizing its ICT infrastructure.

Advocates Remuneration Order: The LSK comments on the 2019 Ad Hoc Committee Council reconstituted the Ad Committee on Review of the Advocates 21st June 2024, the report will be shared Remuneration Order, calling for member with the membership in due course. comments on the 2019 draft interim report. LSK is committed to addressing issues related to advocate compensation and ensuring fairness.

On 14th January, 2019, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya constituted the Ad Hoc Advocates Remuneration Committee. The Committee was tasked with amending the Advocates (Remuneration) Order 2014, the Court of Appeal Rules 2010 and the Supreme Court Rules 2012 specifically, on matters pertaining to taxation and costs. The Committee executed its mandate and developed a draft interim report ("2019 Ad Hoc Committee Draft Interim Report").

Subsequently, on 19th September, 2023, the Council reconstituted the Committee on Review of the Advocates Remuneration Order. The Committee has since formulated its terms of reference, which include, inter alia, of **Advocates** а review the Remuneration Order and the draft interim report by the Ad Hoc Committee on the

(Amendment) Order 2014, the Court of Governance Appeal Rules 2010 and the Supreme Court

and The current Council reconstituted the Ad Hoc Committee on Review of the Advocates Remuneration Order and on 13th June Review and potential amendment of the 2024, called on members to submit their Hoc Draft Interim Report whose deadline was LSK Designated a Self-Regulatory Body in Matters AML/CFT: The LSK was designated a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB) for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing, demonstrating a proactive approach to combating financial crimes within the legal profession.

The Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Act, 2023, designated LSK as a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB). This amendment safeguarded advocate-client privilege and established mechanisms for information sharing between the LSK and the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC). Consequently, the LSK Act, 2014, was amended to obligate the LSK to regulate, supervise, and enforce compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), and Combating the Financing of Proliferation (CPF) for lawyers, notaries, and other legal professionals.



Members pose for a photo during the meeting.

Recognizing their complementary roles and responsibilities under the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act (POCAMLA), the LSK and the FRC agreed to establish a framework for mutual assistance and cooperation in information exchange. This collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 15th December, 2023. The primary goal of the MoU was to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) and to work together for the benefit of the country. As part of the MoU, the FRC committed to collaborating with the LSK in supporting training initiatives that promote understanding of financial crimes, including money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. In response to this commitment, the FRC agreed to a request from the LSK to collaborate and build the staff to capacity of LSK effectively undertake their SRB functions. From May, 6th -10th, 2024, in Naivasha, the LSK Compliance & Ethics team received training on AML/CFT. This workshop conference was supported by the GIZ.



An Official from FRC during the training.





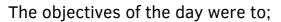
The LSK Staff during the Training.

The LSK Council and the Adhoc Committee on AML/CFT Trained

The LSK Council attended a training on the role of a legal sector regulatory body for Anti Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) organized by Hook Tangaza at a Nairobi hotel.

Among the matters discussed included:

- 1. LSKs mandate as a regulator of the legal profession, highlighting issues like;
 - The provisions of the amended POCAMLA and LSK Acts
 - The role advocates play in legitimization of the proceeds of crime
 - How money can be laundered through law firms using clients' accounts
 - Background checks and verification of clients Further, the training covered the role of the LSK in supporting the development of the governance framework and institutional capacity Kitonga during the training. required for an Anti-Money Laundering Regulatory and Supervisory regime and the resources required to deliver on this mandate.



- Share a common foundational knowledge of AML/CFT
- Understand how Kenya fits into the global AML regulatory framework
- Understand the governance framework needed for an effective Self-Regulating Body. #AML #CFT #FinancialIntegrity



The LSK CEO Florence Muturi and Job Mati, Senior Administration Legal Officer, Office of the CEO (R) during the AML/CFT Trainina.



The LSK VP Mwaura Kabata and LSK DCEO Mwathi Kitonga during the training.



The facilitator from Hook Tangaza making her presentation.



The LSK Council and facilitators from Hook Tangaza pose for a group photo after the training.

In addition, the Adhoc Committee on Anti Money Laundering/ Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) attended a training on the role of a legal Sector Regulatory Body for AML/CFT organized by Hook Tangaza at a Nairobi hotel.









The Adhoc Committee during the AML/CFT training.

These initiatives undertaken by the LSK showcase its commitment to strengthening the foundation of the legal profession in Kenya. By addressing various aspects of governance, ethics, professional development, and collaboration, the LSK is actively working towards a more stable, efficient, and respected bar. This, in turn, contributes to a more robust legal system that can effectively serve the needs of the Kenyan people and uphold the principles of justice and the rule of law.

PROGRESS OF THE BAR, PRACTICE AND WELFARE.

The advancement of the bar, its practices, resources lifeblood of a thriving legal profession. It progress, signifies growth, and commitment to continuous improvement in serving justice and meeting the everchanging needs of society. When the bar, its practices, and the welfare of its members progress, it shows a vibrant and responsive legal community that adapts to new challenges, embraces innovation, and champions the interests of its members. This progress is not just about individual success but rather a collective effort to raise the standards of legal practice. promote access to justice, and ensure the legal profession remains a pillar of a fair and just society.

Reduction of the Practising Fees

The Committee on Delegated Legislation ratified the move to reduce practising certificate fees for newly admitted advocates. We believe that this reduction will facilitate more tenable realities for young advocates as they begin their careers and navigate the onset difficulties of the legal profession. The new rates as indicated in Legal Notices 110 and 111 of 15th July 2024 are reflective of the unique circumstances faced by practitioners at every level, while maintaining the balance of reasonable

required for the proper and the well-being of its members are the functioning of the Society. We appreciate all members who have taken part in the setting of the new fees. The Council remains committed to improving the legal practice environment and delivering the best outcomes for all our members.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo and VP Mwaura Kabata during the meeting.

Legal and Law Reforms

Since the assumption of leadership, in March 2024, the Council has been at the forefront of legal and law reforms. As a result, calls for comments have been circulated to the LSK membership with regards to over 50 bills. This has led to the preparations and presentations of more than 20 memoranda before Parliament and other stakeholders upon invite. Some of the key legislation that LSK under the leadership of the current Council has reviewed are:

- 1. Affordable Housing Bill, 2023
- 2. Kenya Sign Language Bill
- 3. Draft Public Service Commission (Removal of the Director of Public Prosecutions) Regulations, 2024.
- 4. Statutory Instruments Amendment Bill, 2024
- 5. Election Offences (Amendment) Bill Senate Bill No. 9 of 2024
- 6. Political Parties (Amendment) Bill Senate Bill No. 13 of 2024
- 7. Legal Aid Fund Regulations
- 8. Occupational, Safety and Health Bill, 2024
- 9. Finance Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bills No. 30 of 2024)
- 10.Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill, 2023
- 11.Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bills No. 10 of 2024)
- 12. Draft Workers Injury Compensation Bill, 2024

13. Regulations Under the Children's Act, 2022

Reconstitution of the LSK Committees

The Law Society of Kenya has a number of committees tasked with fulfilling the objectives of the society as provided in Section 4 of the Act. With the inception of the new council, there was a need to reconstitute all committees. A call was made to members to apply for these voluntary positions, resulting in a significant number of applications.

During one of the Council's meetings, the committees were reconstituted, totaling 24 committees. Currently, these committees have already begun their deliberations, with most of them having commenced their meetings. The reconstituted committees are as follows:

- 1. Budget & Finance
- 2. Devolution Committee
- 3. Audit & Risk Committee
- 4. Anti-Money Laundering Committee
- 5. Child Law Practitioners
- 6. AdHoc Committee on Review of the Advocates Remuneration Order
- 7. Practice. Standards and Ethics
- 8. In-house Counsel Committee
- 9. ICT and Intellectual Property
- 10. Editorial Committee
- 11. Criminal Justice Committee
- 12. Public Interest, Legal Aid and
- 13. Young Lawyers Committee
- 14. Continuing Professional Development Committee

- 15. Law Reform and Legislation Gender Committee
- 16. Land, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- 17. Member-Services Committee
- 18. Medico-Legal Committee
- 19. Cross Border Practice & Immigration
- 20. Counties and Devolved Government
- 21. Lawyer Police Liaison
- 22. Alternative Dispute
- 23. Tax Committee
- 24. Commercial Law Practice Committee

Nomination to Various Boards

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has enhanced transparency in the appointment of its representatives to various boards and statutory bodies. The selection process is now competitive, with positions advertised to all members.

The Council grants appointments to the most suitable candidates after thorough consideration. So far, the Council has nominated over 30 advocates advocates to serve on various boards and institutions.

Invitation to Various Meetings

The President underscored the importance of continuity in LSK's efforts to expand outreach and accessibility. This involves forging strategic partnerships and actively participating in invited meetings and conferences.

ELGIA Women's Political Participation & Leadership Meeting

The Electoral Law and Governance Institute of Africa (ELGIA) recently convened the Women's Political Participation & Leadership Meeting. This event brought together women leaders from various sectors to discuss strategies for increasing women's involvement in decision-making processes. Participants engaged in insightful discussions and dialogues focused on addressing gender disparities in leadership roles, emphasizing the importance of inclusive governance.

Key attendees included Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary of the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action, Mr. Mark Billera from USAID ADAA, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, Mr. Bert Ubamadu, USAID Acting Mission Director, Hon. Beatrice Elachi, Deputy Chair of KEWOPA, Ms. Anne Nderitu, Registrar of ORPP, and Ms. Faith Odhiambo, President of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

The meeting focused on crucial topics such as the two-thirds gender rule, barriers to women's leadership, and the promotion of women-centric policies. Participants actively engaged in dialogues aimed at finding practical solutions to these challenges, emphasizing the importance of collaboration.

Together, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusive governance in Kenya, shaping collective efforts toward a more equitable society.



Mr. Felix Odhiambo (E.D- ELGIA), LSK President Faith Odhiambo and LSK DCEO Mwathi Kitonga pose for a photo after the meeting.

 Launch of the Report on the Kenya **Implementing** Refugee of Law-Status promotion and protection of Right of Refugees by the Kenya **National** Commission on **Human Rights**

The Law Society of Kenya CEO Florence Muturi represented the Council during the launch of the report: Implementing the Kenya Refugee Law-Status of promotion and protection of Right of Refugees by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights at Taifa Hall, University of Nairobi. The report examines the implementation of Kenya's new refugee law, which shifts from a long-standing encampment policy to promoting the socio-economic

integration of refugees. It emphasizes the need for a comprehensive refugee policy that defines refugee status, enhances the autonomy of the Department of Refugee Services, and secures sustainable funding.



The LSK CEO Florence Muturi (2nd from left) pose for a group photo during the launch of the Report.

Opening of the Dagoretti Law Courts
On 11th October, 2024, The Law Society of
Kenya (LSK) President Faith Odhiambo,
accompanied by Council member Stephen
Mbugua, attended the opening of the
Dagoretti Law Courts in Riruta ward,
Dagoretti.

In her address, Ms. Odhiambo urged advocates and all judicial officers champion for the Independence of the judiciary. Citing the location of the new Dagoretti Law Courts, she highlighted the need for mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) be systems to implemented in order to address the issues that arise among the residents of Dagoretti, including land disputes which have been witnessed to be a common occurrence in the area.

In addition, the President congratulated the judiciary for including a special area for children within the court premises. Further, Ms. Odhiambo raised concerns about the reduction of budget allocation to the judiciary despite a backlog of cases which aligns with the need to expand human resources in order to relieve sitting judges, magistrates and other judicial officers from burnout and mental health issues that arise from handling a lot of cases.

She recognized that the opening of the Court is a step towards increasing access to justice and urged the government to increase the Judiciary's budgetary allocation for infrastructure and human resource and assured the public present that advocates will continue to play their role to ensure access to justice.



The Hon. Chief Justice Marthaa Koome flanked by the LSK President Faith Odhiambo during the official opening of the Dagoretti Law Courts.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo giving her remarks during the opening of the Dagoretti Law Courts.

LSK Meeting with the International Legal Foundation

The Law Society of Kenya President Ms. Faith Odhiambo hosted representatives from the International Legal Foundation led by Executive Director Ms. Jennifer Smith together with Pretrial Detention Project Manager Ms. Susan Lee at the LSK offices. Present during the meeting was the LSK CEO Ms. Florence Muturi.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible collaboration on training and empowering legal practitioners within the criminal justice sector.



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

Meeting with the Refugee Consortium of Kenya

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya and the Law Society of Kenya convened to discuss pressing refugee matters and explore potential collaborations, including Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Advocacy and capacity building initiatives. Together, we aim to strengthen support for refugees and enhance community engagement.



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

Meeting with the Advocates Complaints Commission (ACC)

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya was represented by the Vice President, Mwaura Kabata at a consultative meeting to discuss cases pending before the Advocates Complaint Commission (ACC).

The meeting deliberated on the status of the pending cases. In attendance was the Hon. A. G Dorcas Oduor, ACC Chairperson Hon. Moses Cheboi and other officials.



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

Meeting with FIDA- Kenya



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya led by the President Faith Odhiambo held a courtesy call meeting with the leadership of the Federation of Women Lawyers- Kenya (FIDA-K) led by the Chairperson Ms. Christine Kungu.

The meeting held discussion on the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence and other areas of partnership and collaboration. Further the team agreed on exploring areas of collaboration such as CPD seminars/ webinars, partnering with the various LSK committees and being joined in PIL matters particularly touching on SGBV amongst others.



The Law Society of Kenya CEO, Florence Muturi (L) and President Ms. Faith Odhiambo (R) hosted the Witness Protection Agency (WPA) CEO Jedidah Waruhiu at the LSK offices. The meeting saw the signing of an MOU between LSK & WPA on various areas of partnership and collaboration regarding witness protection.

Meeting with the Financial Resources Centre (FRC)

The Law Society of Kenya Council led by the President Faith Odhiambo held a meeting with the FRC- Kenya Director General and also the National Coordinator for AML/ CFT/CPF Mr. Saitoti Maika, MBS together with his team.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress made by LSK in enhancing its AML/CFT/CPF regulatory function. The two parties also explored possible areas of mutual collaboration.



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

The Kenya – UK Legal Symposium

The Bar Council of England and Wales in partnership with the Law Society of Kenya held the 3rd edition of the Kenya-UK Legal Symposium on 3rd December 2024 in Nairobi.

The event included panel discussions where Kenyan advocates and UK barristers shared their expertise and knowledge on various topics, networking lunch and a cocktail reception.



Members in a panel discussion during the symposium.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo making her remarks during the symposium.

Launch of the Council for Legal Education Strategic Plan 2023- 2027

The President of the Law Society of Kenya attended the launch pf the Council for Legal Education (CLE) 2023-Strategic Plan. The President noted that in appreciation of emerging global trends, there was need to train competent and innovative lawyers capable of leading societal transformation of which, the new strategic plan encompasses this vision and highlights the ingenuity required achieve it.

In addition, she stated that the Law Society of Kenya is committed supporting the implementation of the plan in accordance with our mandate under section 4(2) of the LSK Act. Over and above strategic support, we will work with our members to enhance mentorship programs and synergize the Society's initiatives with the work done by CLE and Kenya School of Law to ensure optimal integration of students into the profession, effective Continuous and sustain Professional Development.

Further, our goal as a Society remains to ensure that the profession grows and remains competitive. Through our concerted efforts, we will stop recent attempts to water down the entry qualification for the study of law that would render the otherwise good initiatives we have in place nugatory and dilute the quality of legal education in our country.



Guests cutting the cake during the launch of the Strategic Plan.



Faith Odhiambo, LSK President making her remarks during the lauch of the strategic plan.

The National Policing Conference

The LSK President attended the National Policing Conference organized by the Police Reforms Working Group- Kenya to discuss opportunities for enhancing police reforms, accountability, and oversight. The Police are a significant stakeholder in the administration of justice, and it is therefore imperative that we ensure maximum professionalism, integrity, and dedication to serve within the National Police Service. Through Public Interest Litigation, the Law Society of Kenya has played an integral role in checking the actions of the Police including acts of impunity, abuse of power, excessive use of force, and extrajudicial killings.

forward to ensure that nothing unlawful is done in the name of enforcing the law. We join other stakeholders in urging our police to uphold the best standards of practice in delivering their mandate to the people of Kenya.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo addressing the media during the conference.

The 8th ICC Conference on International **Arbitration**

The LSK President Faith Odhiambo on behalf of the Council of the Law Society of Kenya, participated in the Conference on International Arbitration convened by International Chamber of Commerce-Kenya (ICC Kenya).

She emphasized on the integral role of Alternative Dispute Resolution, in particular Arbitration, across industries. We assessed the status of arbitration in Africa and had enlightening deliberations on how we can leverage arbitration as a continent and benefit fully from invaluable advantages. An important part We will continue to put our best foot of our mandate as legal practitioners is redefining the narrative of dispute resolution in Africa and making it more accessible. effective. and culturally resonant.

> Accordingly, ADR fills the gap of access to justice in today's vast, highly dynamic, and volatile world economy. Therefore, we must appreciate the importance of ADR in predictable, efficient. fostering and solution-driven dispute resolution between businesses. In doing so, we can increase the space, role, and gains of ADR, which stands to benefit not just the community but legal practitioners who will be directly benefit from the new and expansive frontier of practice.

We must harness the unique opportunity presented by the increased prevalence of ADR, whether through increased investment, capacity building, or relevant law reform.



The LSK President making her presentation during the conference.



The LSK President poses for photo with members during the conference.

Commissioning of the Environment & **Planning Working Group**

The President represented the Council at the Commissioning **Environment & Planning Working Group** on the Role of the Environment & Planning Division in sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and environmental protection. As collaborators in social impact issues, we appreciate the strides that have been The LSK President making her presentation during the made by Kenya in safeguarding a better, safer, and more sustainable planet for our future generations. However, we remain alive to the real and imminent threats to humanity and global posterity. It is important that we set up adequate governance structures to ensure Kenya has its best foot forward in environmental justice and climate change adaptation. We believe that the Working Group will play an instrumental role in strengthening our The LSK President posing with members. legal and institutional framework climate-related matters. We reiterate our support for the working group, and are confident that their effective fulfilment of their mandate is an invaluable enabler for effective capacity building, community engagement and realisation of human rights in the environment and climate sector.



meeting.



Open Day for the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC)



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo with the CJ, Martha Koome, CRJ, Hon. Mokaya flanked by other Judiciary officials while signing the visitor's book during the open day.



The LSK President at the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) Open Day at Milimani Grounds, where stakeholders came together to provide valuable feedback to enhance efficiency in service delivery

Debt and Anti-Corruption Citizen Assembly

The President Faith Odhiambo attended the Debt and Anti-Corruption Citizen Assembly organized by The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA). The President noted that. Kenya's ballooning Public Debt amid runaway corruption and plundering of public money remains a grave impediment to our potential as a nation.

The discourse on how the people can actively be part of the solution is timely, and it is one I invite all Kenyans to engage in. Kenya is not deficient in legal frameworks for managing public debt. However, the misuse of this resource undermines both our growth and our ability to translate the debt into tangible investments that can generate revenue to repay it.

That is where the law must intervene—not just to regulate, but to safeguard, ensuring that public borrowing is carried out with transparency, accountability, and for the best interest of the public. I urge us all to recommit ourselves to law reform aimed at bridging the gaps that are exploited by perpetrators of malfeasance.



The LSK President at the Assembly.

LSK Meeting with the AG and other Legal Education Stakeholders

The President Faith Odhiambo and the Vice President Mwaura Kabata attended a meeting convened by the Attorney General Hon. Dorcas Oduor and attended by the Council for Legal Education, Kenya School of Law and Kenya Law Reform Commission.

The meeting deliberated on issues that have been raised by students of law over legal education and the challenges of academic progression for law students. We agreed to set up a working committee to consider and make recommendations to resolve the challenges around admission criteria, fees for study of law, examinations at KSL Level, and budgetary allocations for law sector institutions.

The Committee shall actively engage the public and maintain an open-to-all approach in resolving these pertinent issues. We look forward to finding ways of preserving the integrity of our legal qualifications without prejudicially locking out sections of learners.



The LSK President with the AG and other Legal Education Stakeholders.

Africa Mediation Symposium

Kenya The Law Society of was represented by the President, Faith during the Odhiambo 2024 **Africa** Mediation Symposium at a Nairobi Hotel. The discussion was focused on advancing African mediation practices in the Landscape. We considered the legislative framework underpinning mediation as an efficient accessible and means accessing justice and settling disputes, and means to improve the place of Mediation across the continent.

The Law Society of Kenya continues to support policies that encourage out-of-court settlements, as we educate our members on mediation, and to sensitize the public on its benefits. It is our mission to ensure that every lawyer understands that their role is not only to litigate but also to facilitate healing and resolution.



The LSK President making her presentation at the symposium.

Launch of the National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ) in Kenya Annual Report 2023- 2024



The LSK President at the symposium.



Members at the symposium.

The report highlighted the statistical gains and shortfalls in the access to justice across the country, noting the now fiscal and commonplace budgetary impediments that derail access to Justice in Kenya. The President reminded the Justice Sector Stakeholders present of the high demand for commitment, sustained reform and proactiveness required to promote and uphold the Rule of Law and Human Rights both as constitutional ideals and as principles of living for Kenyans. Notably, we reflected on the manner in which the recent Gen Z protests were handled, especially by the National Police Service.

While the young people of Kenya took firm action to defend self and country, their efforts were met with undue contempt and opposition. Instead of an open ear, they were met with riot gear. Instead of dialogue, they got tear gas. Such a situation is absolutely untenable in a democracy. As long as the rule of law is compromised for some of, the protections it provides are extinguished for all of us. Accordingly, all those in the justice system must stand firm to prevent citizens from being put at risk by those meant to protect them.

To all policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and all Kenyans, we must sustain and answer to a call to action for upholding justice. We owe it to our younger generations to give hope for the Kenya they came out to fight for, one that doesn't simply preach rule of law and human rights but embodies it in every sphere of governance and public life.

Launch of the Annual State of the Judiciary and the Administration of Justice Report.

The report underscores the milestones realised by the Judiciary and justice sector as a whole in service to the people of Kenya. Despite the progress captured in the report, the Law Society of Kenya notes with concern that significant gaps remain between Kenyans and full realisation of an autonomous, impartial, service oriented and non-conformist judiciary.

From a practical perspective, practitioners and litigants continue to experience significant challenges through increasing unreliability of the e-filing system, dilapidated state of courts, slow and inconclusive handling of matters, and judgements given too late in the day to offer any reprieve. I urged the leadership of the Judiciary of Kenya to exercise immense caution and restraint in its collaboration with the Executive. While the functions of the arms of government are interdependent. each has a distinct mandate that must be exercised independently.

The Judiciary must therefore remain clear that collaboration, albeit necessary, must be mindful of the independence of the judiciary, which is a cornerstone for justice that must guide every Judge and magistrate in making decisions. While we undertake to maintain our support for full financial and operational autonomy of the Judiciary, integrity concerns raised against judges, and uncanny dalliance between the Judiciary and Executive renders all efforts futile. We must wake up and smell the coffee.

The launch was attended by the President Faith Odhiambo.



The LSK President with members of the Judiciary.



The LSK President making her presentation at the launch.

National Youth Convention

The President Faith Odhiambo attended the National Youth Convention in Nairobi. This year, more than ever, the youth of Kenya affirmed their commitment to defending and preserving their country.

This resolve is encouraging because an informed, patriotic, and involved youth is key for the prosperity of any nation. The economic growth and democratic maturity of our country rests on our young people. We undertake to support them in doing what needs to be done.



The LSK President making her presentation at the convention.

Continuous Professional Development

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has implemented various strategies to enhance its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program. The goal is to equip members with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving legal landscape and better serve their clients.

Here are specific interventions outlining LSKs achievements, and challenges in bolstering its CPD programme:

Interventions and Achievements

Transformation into a Training and Certification Centre: The LSK is in the process of transforming the CPD programme into a comprehensive training and certification centre, covering various legal and related fields. This will provide members with opportunities to specialise in emerging and in-demand areas of practice.

Specialized CPD Seminars and Trainings: The LSK has been organising specialized CPD sessions in various legal disciplines to cater to the specific needs of its members. For example, a three-day seminar on Family Law was held in Nairobi, addressing contemporary issues such as domestic violence, children's rights, and succession. The LSK has also introduced specialized CPD programmes covering topics like:

- Digital Currency and the Law
- Family Law: Embracing New Frontiers; The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) successfully held а three-day Specialized CPD Seminar on Family Law at Fairmont The Norfolk, Nairobi. In her opening remarks, LSK President Odhiambo Faith noted that seminar was specifically tailored for Family Law practitioners in response to requests from members practicing in this area. She also mentioned that the Society would continue organizing specialized CPD sessions in various legal disciplines to meet the growing demand and requests from its members





The LSK President making her opening remarks at a Family Law CPD.

- Special Economic Zones: Opportunities and Challenges for the Legal Practitioner.
- Immigration & Refugee Law: Kenya's Policy Fit and International Obligations.
- Environmental Law: Climate Change, Transitions, and Climate Justice.
- Nesting the Legal Practice: Maritime Law and the Blue Economy.
- Retooling the Advocate for ADR Practice: Towards Faster, Mutual, and Consensual Dispute Resolution.
- The Legal Practitioner and Data Protection Law: Catching Up with Developments.
- Training on Anti-Money Laundering: As part of its designation as a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB) for AML/CFT, the LSK has been actively involved in providing training to its members on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism. In November, the LSK Center of Excellence conducted specialized training on Anti-Money Laundering, leading to the certification of members as country assessors.
- On 10th September 2024, there was a seminar on AMLCFT at the Panari hotel which had over 50 participants in attendance.



Council Member Aseso Omollo at the AML/CFT CPD Seminar.



Dr. Constance Gikonyo making her presentation at the Seminar

REPORT ON THE 2024 AFRICA SOFT POWER SUMMIT

Introduction

The Africa Soft Power Summit is a premier gathering that convenes key stakeholders across diverse sectors, including law, business, technology, media, culture, and policy, to harness Africa's creative and knowledge economies as drivers of global influence. The 2024 edition was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 10th to 12th September 2024, bringing together leaders. policymakers, industry practitioners, and thought leaders to explore opportunities for advancing Africa's soft power on the global stage.

discussions focused Key on the intersection of law, policy, and Africa's creative industries, with particular emphasis on leveraging legal frameworks to support innovation, protect intellectual facilitate cross-border property, and collaborations. The summit provided an invaluable platform for legal professionals to engage with stakeholders from various sectors, reinforcing the role of the legal profession in shaping Africa's global positioning.

Outcomes

The President of the Law Society of Kenya, Faith Odhiambo actively participated in high-level discussions on rethinking governance in Africa, with a specific focus on expanding women's political participation and leadership.

The deliberations underscored the urgent need for legal and policy reforms to dismantle systemic barriers that hinder women's access to political spaces and decision-making roles.

She highlighted the need for harmonized legal frameworks across Africa to promote gender-inclusive governance while also emphasizing on the role of legal practitioners in advocating for legislative reforms, electoral policies, and affirmative action measures that foster greater representation of women in leadership positions.

facilitated Additionally, the summit meaningful with engagements international legal associations and governance experts to explore best practices for increasing women's political participation. She further highlighted the significance of capacity-building programs, mentorship initiatives, and legal protections against gender-based discrimination and electoral violence—key areas where Kenya must strengthen its legal and institutional mechanisms.

In conclusion, the President recommended the establishment of a working group dedicated to developing a continental framework for gender-responsive governance which initiative aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance women's leadership pathways and promote a rights-based approach to

political participation across Africa.

OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2024 Background

The Opening of the Legal Year is a longstanding tradition that marks the beginning of the Judicial calendar in the United Kingdom. The previous year's event took place on 30th September 2024, during which the President of the Law Society of Kenya, Faith Odhiambo represented the Law Society of Kenya upon invitation from the Law Society of England and Wales.

During the session, the President was invited to speak on the theme "How membership bodies can remind politicians, decision-makers, and the public about the importance of the rule of law." Given the prevailing socio-political landscape in Kenya at the time, the theme provided an opportunity to shed light on Kenya's experience. It also allowed for the sharing of insights with global partners regarding the country's legal circumstances and the relevance of its approaches in addressing various challenges.

Outcomes

The event was attended by Senior members of the UK Judiciary, Government officials, leaders of the Legal Profession, and representatives from Bar Associations and Law Societies worldwide. It served as a platform for legal leaders to discuss key issues, including the rule of law, judicial independence, and developments in the legal profession.

Through interactions and shared experiences with global partners and allies, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) was able to strengthen its international ties, expand opportunities for strategic partnerships and collaborations. and highlight the progress it has made in advancing legal excellence. The LSK's growing stature and recognition as the region's premier Bar Association were reaffirmed by this invitation, which served as clear recognition of its esteemed position.

During the presentation, the President outlined three fundamental duties that define the role of organizations like the LSK in reminding politicians, decisionmakers. the public about and importance of the rule of law. These included the duty to sensitize, advise, and sound the alarm, when necessary, a responsibility that the LSK had diligently fulfilled; the duty to actively defend the rule of law, which had been pursued with unwavering commitment; and the duty to resist any influence that could compromise allegiance to the law. The LSK's execution of these duties reflected the exemplary performance achieved in 2024. Looking ahead, the call was made to maintain, and even surpass, this high standard in the years to come.

Senior Lawyers Luncheon:

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) held a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Luncheon for Senior Lawyers who have been in legal practive for over 25 years at Fairmont The Norfolk in Nairobi.

The theme of the Luncheon was 'Reflections on the Future of the Legal Profession in Kenya'. Chacha Odera, Advocate who was the Guest Speaker urged lawyers to embrace technology in the management of modern and future law firms. He encouraged members of The Bar to keep pace with technology in the wake of cyber security, artificial intelligence and data protection laws, which are a major concern globally.

Chacha Odera underscored the importance of mentorship in the legal profession. Council Members Tom K'opere, Irene Otto, and Elizabeth Wanjeri attended the Luncheon. Ramadhan Abubakar, Vice President, East Africa Law Society (EALS) appreciated the event urging lawyers from Kenya to attend the upcoming EALS Conference and AGM in Kampala, Uganda in November 2024.



Members during the Luncheon.



Mr. Chacha Odera Making his presentation at the Luncheon.



Prof. PLO Lumumba addressing members at the Luncheon.



The then EALS Vice President, Ramadhan Abubakar adressing members at the Luncheon.

Specialized CPD on Legislative Drafting:

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is held a specialized Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Advocates in the Senate at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Two Rivers Mall, Kiambu County.

The Theme of the Specialized CPD was *'Legislative* Drafting: From Policy Frameworks to Precise Legal Drafting & Interpretation'. During the event, the Professional Development Continuina (CCPD) Committee Vice Chairman Mr. indicated Julius Kitheka that the Committee had rolled out specialized CPDs in response to requests from members. He stated that the training would equip Advocates in the Senate with skills on legal drafting towards improving their professional expertise.

Dr. Nabil Orina who was the Moderator of the two-day training reiterated that the Committee on CPD was committed to ensuring that the general membership benefits from its programmes. Director of Legal Services, Senate Dr. Johnson Okello appreciated the LSK and the Committee on CPD for responding to their request for the specialized CPD on Legal Drafting. Dr. Okello requested the Committee on CPD to include – in its 2025 CPD Calendar – a topic on 'Parliamentary Law & Practice', which he said is an emerging area of practice.

The Facilitators were: Hon. Justice (Rtd.) Muga Apondi, Dr. Johnson Okello, Ms. Elizabeth Ng'ang'a and Ambrose Weda, Advocate.



Dr. Nabil Orina making his presentation at the seminar.



Dr. Johnson Okello making his remarks at the seminar.



Mr. Julius Kitheka Adressing members at the seminar.

Partnership with the Clooney Foundation for Justice: LSK explored partnership with the Clooney Foundation for Justice to incorporate their 2025 Fellowship Programme into professional development offerings. This collaboration aimed at training Kenyan lawyers in public interest litigation skills, empowering them to handle complex cases and address crucial issues affecting communities.

Challenges

- Resource Constraints: LSK faces the ongoing challenge of securing funding to support its ambitious plans for the CPD programme, including the establishment of the LSK Centre of Excellence and the expansion of specialized training initiatives.
- Accessibility: While the LSK is working on devolving services and resources to its branches, ensuring equitable access to CPD opportunities for all members, particularly those in remote areas, remains a challenge.

The LSK has actively invested in its CPD programme to empower members with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in a dynamic legal environment. The transformation of the CPD programme into a training and certification centre, the focus on specialized training, and partnerships with international organizations like the Clooney Foundation for Justice underscore LSK's commitment to promoting professional excellence within the legal profession.

Joint Meeting between the Council and LSK Development & Investment Committee (LSK-DIC)

On 14th May, 2024, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Council held a joint meeting with the LSK Development and Investment Committee (DIC). The understand meetina aimed to the Committee's mandate and incorporate feedback from members following the LSK AGM in Nakuru.

Chairperson Mr. Hosea Kili emphasized member resource protection and the need for strategic investors and member contributions. Charles Owiti outlined the Highest and Best Use (HBU) Study and member responses during the AGM.

LSK Vice President Mwaura Kabata suggested simplifying the Wakili Plaza project to a 5-floor building funded by the Society. Members proposed various building sizes and emphasized public participation.

DIC members stressed the importance of moving quickly with groundbreaking and requested budget guidance. The meeting concluded with a consensus to proceed with a simpler, scalable development project aligned with available resources and LSK's strategic goals.

Joint Meeting between the Council of the Law Society of Kenya and the Nairobi Branch

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya led by the President Faith Odhiambo, hosted the Law Society of Kenya Nairobi Branch officials at the LSK Offices in Lavington, Nairobi. The Law Society of Kenya Nairobi Branch presented a memorandum on various issues affecting the Branch. Mr. Eric Kivuva indicated that the Branch was keen on working together with the National office to improve the practice standards and welfare of the membership within Nairobi and Kiambu counties. Mr. Eric Kivuva further indicated that the Branch was ready to explore avenues of collaboration, bolstered communication and liaison structures.



The Council of the Law Society of Kenya and the Nairobi Branch Council Pose for a photo after the meeting.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA

Strategic Partnerships

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has been actively engaged in building and strengthening strategic partnerships with various stakeholders to amplify its impact and reach. These partnerships aim to enhance the society's influence in legal reforms, professional development, advocacy, and access to justice.

Interventions and Achievements

Collaborations with Legislative Bodies:

The LSK has established structures to collaborate with Justice and Legal Affairs Committees (JLACs) in the Senate and National Assembly, county governments, and regional bodies. This collaboration focuses on effective law reform and advocacy.

Memoranda on Legislative Issues: The LSK has been actively involved reviewina legislation and presenting memoranda to Parliament and other stakeholders. For instance, the LSK submitted a memorandum to the JLAC proposing amendments to Section 29 of the Competition Act to include full exemption for professional bodies. In April 2024, the LSK presented memorandum to the National Assembly addressing concerns raised by members regarding various bills, legislations, and regulations. The LSK also submitted comments and suggestions on the Finance Bill 2024 to the **National** Assembly.

Partnership with Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA): The LSK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IPOA to strengthen the safequards for the protection of fundamental rights and also to enhance access to justice. The key areas for cooperation and collaboration include; offering probono legal aid to victims of Police excesses, assisting them to seek accountability compensation, police among others.



The then LSK President, Eric Theuri and the then IPOA Chair Anne Makori signing the MOU.

Partnership with Zamara Risk & Insurance Brokers Limited

The LSK partnered with Zamara Risk & Insurance Brokers Limited to provide insurance solutions for its members, including comprehensive medical, Professional Indemnity (PI), and accident cover at competitive rates.

The two parties agreed; to;

- Provide Insurance Solutions for the benefit of the Members and with the aim of improving the welfare of the members including but not limited to:-providing suitable insurance policies for the benefit of the members this is: Medical Insurance, PI, PA, Last expense, Group life, and Pension;
- Offering any value-added services related to the insurance policies or any other benefits accruing therefrom;
- Providing cost-effective insurance policies, benefits, and solutions to the Members; amongst others.

Partnership with Strathmore University:

The LSK signed an MOU with Strathmore University to collaborate on initiatives aimed at improving legal education and professional development. This partnership includes activities such as:

- Jointly organizing an Annual LSK Moot Court and Research Competition targeting university students and practicing advocates.
- Jointly organizing mentorship talk series in Kenyan universities.
- Jointly organizing and conducting an Annual LSK Essay writing competition targeting universities and topical debates for advocates.

Partnership with Nairobi Senate Office:

The LSK partnered with the Nairobi Senate Office to establish a client referral system and support programmes that connect the public with legal services.

The parties have agreed to;

- Collaborate to establish a client referral system and support programs that will provide free legal and probono services to Nairobi citizens in need, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized populations. A pilot programme has been initiated.
- Jointly develop and implement legal aid initiatives including establishment of legal aid clinics in Nairobi.
- Development of IEC material to raise awareness and enhance public understanding of legal rights and obligations.
- Content creation on legal sensitization create informative and educational content amongst others.

Center for Moots and Research-Africa ("CMR-Africa")

The parties agreed to;

- Collaboratively conduct legal aid programs on a case-by-case basis, subject to reasonable advance notice provided by either Party
- Jointly organize an Annual LSK Moot Court and Research Competition. 2.2.
 The competition targets University students and advocates practicing in the thematic areas of the moot as judges.
- Jointly organize mentorship talk series in Kenyan Universities on a case-bycase
- Jointly organize and conduct an Annual LSK Essay writing competition targeting Universities and topical Debates targeting Advocates; amongst others.

Partnership with the Bar Council of England and Wales: The LSK collaborated with the Bar Council of England and Wales to organize a high-profile Legal Symposium in Nairobi. This symposium focused on key topics like Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Anti-Money Laundering, International Climate Change Law, and Artificial Intelligence and Ethics.

Partnership with the Society of Black Lawyers: The LSK CEO Florence Muturi hosted the Society of Black Lawyers led by the Founder, Mr. Herbert Donald where the two organizations explored on potential collaborations to tackled key legal and social challenges. The team discussed strategies to enhance professional

development, support human rights advocacy, tackle unlawful arrest, extrajudicial killings and promote justice and the rule of law.



The LSK CEO Florence Muturi with the founder of the Society of Black Lawyers, Mr. Herbert Donald.



The LSK CEO Florence Muturi with members of the LSK Secretariat and the Society of Black Lawyers.

Partnership with the Kenya Editors Guild: The LSK Council led by the President Faith Odhiambo hosted the CEO of Kenya Editors Guild, Ms. Rosalia Omungo and the President of KEG, Zubeidah Kananu to an event of signing of an MOU between the two organizations.

This collaboration will see both parties working together on joint training programs, conferences, professional development training and capacity building. Also present during the meeting was the LSK CEO Madam Florence Muturi.





The LSK Council with officials from the Kenya Editor's Guild during the signing of the MoU.

Advocacy Partnerships: During the civil unrest triggered by the Generation Z protests, the LSK partnered with various organizations to provide legal assistance and advocate for systemic changes. Key collaborators included the Citizen Assembly, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Amnesty International Kenya, Defenders Coalition, and the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU). This partnership demonstrated the LSK's commitment to protecting human rights during times of crisis.

with **International Engagement** Organizations: The LSK has been actively engaging with international organizations to support its initiatives. LSK collaborated with the International Legal Foundation (ILF) and Justice Initiatives Global (JI Global) on a research project to assess the impact of early access to legal representation on pretrial detention rates. The Society explored the partnership with the Clooney Foundation for Justice to incorporate their 2025 **Fellowship** Programme into the LSK's professional development offerings.

Overall, the LSK's efforts to enhance and deepen strategic partnerships demonstrate its commitment to broadening its impact and addressing key challenges within the legal profession. By collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, the LSK leverages expertise and resources to promote legal reforms,

professional development, and access to justice, and promote the rule of law& administration of Justice to enhance legal education in Kenya.

WELLNESS AND HEALTH CARE PROMOTION.

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has undertaken various initiatives to promote the welfare and health of its members. LSK remains committed to improving the wellbeing of advocates by addressing their financial security, healthcare needs, and mental well-being.

Here's a highlight of specific interventions, achievements, and challenges related to LSK's efforts to enhance the welfare and health of its members:

Financial Security

- Improved PI Cover: LSK is working on enhancing the PI cover to include accident and last expense provisions. This will offer more comprehensive protection and support to advocates in various situations.
- Flexible Pension Plans: The LSK, through its partnership with Zamara, offers members flexible pension plans at both group and individual levels. This allows advocates to plan for their financial future and secure their retirement.

Healthcare and Well-being

 Mental Health Series: Recognizing the demanding nature of legal practice and the importance of mental well-being, LSK has introduced mental health initiatives and awareness programmes as part of its welfare efforts. This demonstrates LSK's commitment to addressing the mental health challenges faced by legal professionals.

- Cover: LSK Medical has made progress in discussions with medical cover and wellness service providers including Octagon and Zamara. Initial discussions have taken place, and public engagement is ongoing with advocates to gather feedback on the proposed medical covers before LSK formally signs MOUs with the service providers. This initiative aims to provide members with better financial security in case of medical emergencies and accidents.
- Specialized CPD Seminar on Family Law: LSK organized a three-day specialized CPD seminar on Family Law, specifically designed for practitioners in this area. The seminar included sessions on topical issues like domestic violence, children's rights, and succession. This initiative provided members with updated knowledge and skills in a demanding area of law that often involves emotionally challenging cases.
- Advocates Benevolent Association Legal Aid Clinic: The Advocates Benevolent Association, an entity affiliated with the LSK, held a legal aid clinic at the Mvideni Social Hall. This initiative provided essential legal services to the local community, contributing to the well-being of both the beneficiaries and the advocates involved.

Overall, the LSK has made significant strides in promoting the welfare and health of its members. They have implemented various interventions. ranging from financial security measures to mental health support and specialized training programmes. However. challenges like limited resources and ensuring equitable access to services across all member demographics need to be addressed for even more effective and impactful welfare initiatives.

Enhanced Participation of the Young Advocates in LSK

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has implemented several initiatives to enhance the participation of young advocates within the organization. These initiatives aim to empower and provide opportunities for younger members to engage in impactful work, contribute to the legal profession, and shape the future of the LSK.

Interventions and Achievements

Inclusion in PIL Matters (Generation Z Protests): The LSK actively involved young lawyers in public interest litigation particularly matters. durina Generation Z protests that occurred between June and July of 2024. These protests, sparked by issues like the Bill and police brutality, Finance highlighted the need for legal intervention to protect constitutional rights. Young lawyers played a crucial role in:

 Providing legal assistance to victims of police violence and extrajudicial actions.

- Advocating for systemic changes and accountability within the justice system.
- Collaborating with other civil society organizations such as the Citizen Assembly, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). This collaboration ensured collective action to defend human rights during the protests.

Mentorship and Networking Opportunities: The LSK recognizes the importance of mentorship and networking for young lawyers. Through initiatives like the LSK Annual Conference, held in August 2024, young advocates have opportunities to connect with senior members of the profession, gain insights from their experiences, and build valuable professional relationships.

Involvement in LSK Committees: The LSK encourages young advocates to actively participate in various LSK committees, providing them with platforms to contribute to policy discussions, legal reforms, and the overall direction of the organization.

Public Dialogue Forums: The LSK holds public forums to engage with the community and discuss critical issues. During the forum held at Muthu Nyali Beach Hotel in Mombasa, young lawyers actively participated, sharing their experiences and perspectives on issues like police brutality and access to justice.

The LSK's focus on involving young advocates in its activities demonstrates a commitment to fostering a dynamic and inclusive legal profession.

Transformation LSK into a Centre of Excellence

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has taken significant steps to establish the LSK Center of Excellence, with the goal of transforming its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes into a comprehensive training and certification centre. This centre aims to equip legal practitioners with advanced expertise to address emerging challenges and uphold the rule of law.

Interventions and Achievements:

Expansion of CPD Programmes: The LSK has broadened its CPD offerings to cover a wide array of specialised areas, including:

- Digital Currency and the Law: Emerging Jurisprudence
- Family Law: Embracing New Frontiers
- Special Economic Zones:
 Opportunities and Challenges for the Legal Practitioner
- Immigration & Refugee Law: Kenya's Policy Fit and International Obligations
- Environmental Law: Climate Change, Transitions, and Climate Justice

Specialized Training on Anti-Money Laundering: In November 2024, the LSK Center of Excellence conducted specialised training on Anti-Money Laundering, providing participants with in-depth knowledge and practical skills in combating financial crimes. Participants who completed the training were issued certificates as country assessors.

Focus on Emerging Legal Fields: The LSK has incorporated training and certification in areas such as Legal Audit, Environmental Justice, ADR, Business and Human Rights, Legal Drafting, Anti-Money Laundering, Corporate Governance, Data Protection, and Artificial Intelligence into its CPD programme.

Collaboration with International Organizations: The Society partnered with international organizations to enhance its training and professional development offerings:

 Partnership with The International Legal Foundation (ILF) and Justice Initiatives Global (JI Global): This partnership research involved а project assessing the impact of early access to legal representation on pretrial detention rates. The Society has also provide specialized training lawyers on early legal aid provision, particularly for petty offences.



The 20 new High Court Judges after the swearing in ceremony at Statehouse.



The LSK legal team led by the VP Mwaura Kabata and Manwa Hosea in court to represent arrested protestors who were in court to take plea at the Milimani law courts.



Council Members Teresia Wavinya and Gloria Kimani at Central Police Station to ensure compliance with the Court's directions and release of the arrested persons. All person who were booked and charged with unlawful assembly and detained at Central Police Station have been released as per the personal free bond terms. The Society's able team sensitized them to represent themselves at Milimani Law Courts on 16th July 2024 when the matter will be mentioned. The Society thanked all the medics who came to the station to give first aid support to those who had suffered injuries.



A section of newly admitted Advocates during an admission ceremony held on 29th November 2024 at the Supreme Court Buildings.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo, VP Mwaura Kabata and Amnesty Kenya E.D Irungu Houghton after the relase of Ms. Maria Sarungi Tsehai, a Tanzanian Journalist who was abducted in Nairobi.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo, in panel discussions during the In House Counsel Convention.

Joint Forum on Human Rights Reporting





Members during the forum.



ABA Chair, Byron Menezes making his presentation during the Forum.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE; SECRETARIAT

In order to comply with the statutory provisions of the Law Society of Kenya Act No. 2014, the Council resolved to establish the statutory Directorates. The establishments of the various Directorates will enhance and improve efficiency at the Secretariat. The following are the various Directorate's/ Department's activities of the Society during the year;

1.CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Introduction

The Continuing Professional Development Committee is established under the CPD Rules 2014. The principal function of the committee is to implement the Continuing Professional Development programme in the country. The composition of the Committee is as appointed by the Council from time to time. The Committee works hand in hand with the CPD Directorate at the Secretariat. The Directorate ordinates the activities of the Committee and assists in executing its mandate. The Chairperson of the committee is Mr. Henry Ongicho, the Vice Chairmen are Mr. Julius Kitheka and Ms. Mary Kinyanjui.

Responsibilities of the Committee:

- 1. Implementation of the Continuing Professional Development Programme.
- 2. Enforcement of CPD Rules. The CPD Regulations make it mandatory for all members to comply with the CPD.

Regulations every year before issuance of practicing certificates or to be exempted before renewing their Practicing Certificates. The CPD Sub- Committee on accreditation handles several applications for exemption and accreditation from members.

- 3. The Committee provides policy direction to the program.
- 4. The Committee also accredits other institutions that facilitate trainings on professional development for members.

Successes of the Programme

- 1. The CPD Committee together with the CPD directorate organized a total of 114 CPD events, 71 webinars and 43 seminars across the country.
- 2. Increased visibility and awareness of CPD events. Notices for upcoming CPD events were sent through fliers which are posted on LSK social media platforms and also circulated via whatsapp. Monthly notices are also sent to the members and weekly reminders through the LSK newsletter.
- 3. Participants appreciated the choice of speakers and topics selected by the committee.
- 4. The committee and the directorate organized 24 additional CPD webinars.

The following events elicited good response:

- 1. The evolving nature of Law on Trusts in Kenya: From the drafting to the incorporation of Trusts and governance of the Trusts.
- 2. Conveyancing post Supreme Court Ruling in the case of Dina Management Limited v County Government of Mombasa & 5 others (Petition 8 (E010) of 2021) [2023]KESC 30 (KLR).
- 3. The Remuneration Order: Bread and Butter Discourse: The Advocate in the tough economic times.
- 4. The Land Policy Review in Kenya
- 5. The jurisprudence on Sexual Offences Act.

Accreditation

The Committee successfully monitored trainings offered by accredited institutions to ensured quality assurance. The following organizations were accredited to offer unlimited trainings in 2024.

- 1. Kenya School of Law
- 2. Strathmore University
- 3.TCA Consult
- 4. Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)

The following institutions were accredited for one-off trainings

- 1. ACGC Africa
- 2. Syberint Consulting Ltd
- 3. MyAfya Africa
- 4. International Chamber of Commerce, Kenya
- 5. ICJ Kenya
- 6. Justice Advocacy Africa/ TATI

Specialized Trainings

The CPD Committee started rolling out specialized CPD trainings in response to the needs of the growing diverse membership. The Committee managed to organize two specialized seminars as follows:

- 1. Navigating Contemporary Issues in Family Law Practice.
- 2. Legislative Drafting: From Policy Frameworks to Precise Legal Drafting and Interpretation.

The specialized trainings succeeded in improving professional development of the target groups.

Partnerships

The committee together with the directorate partnered with several organizations to offer trainings for members in different areas of the law. Below are the various partnerships:

- 1. Seminars on Mediation organized in partnership with the Mediation Training Institute (MTI) East Africa.
- 2. Webinar on Professional Ethics: Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Requirements, A comparative Analysis held in collaboration with the Bar Council of England and Wales.
- 3. Kenya UK Legal symposium held in collaboration with the Bar Council of England and Wales, the seminar covered topics on Anti-Money Laundering, Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Speakers

The committee has strived to ensure that Compliance the choice of speakers who present in CPD continued to events is excellent. To that end, the with an incommittee ensured that speakers from shown below within the branches and also from the judiciary are incorporated in making Year Comp presentations as well as experts in different 2011 4685 fields who are not ordinarily members.

CPD Events Statistics

There were 44 seminars in 2014
There were 47 seminars in 2015
There were 44 seminars in 2016
There were 54 seminars in 2017
There were 56 seminars in 2018
There were 72 seminars in 2019

CPD webinars were introduced in the year 2022 15239 2020 following the outbreak of the Covid 2023 16397 19 pandemic. They have continued to date 2024 18121 alongside the physical events.

There were 45 webinars in the year 2020
There were 100 webinars in the year 2021
There were 73 webinars in the year 2022
There were 90 events (physical and virtual)
in the year 2023

There were 90 events, 47 webinars and 43 Physical Events in the year 2024 and an additional 24 webinars.

Compliance

Compliance with CPD requirements has continued to increase over the years along with an increase in the membership as shown below:

Work in progress

1. Through its sub-committee on digest, the committee is working on the second edition of the CPD digest. Papers presented at CPD events have already been collated and committee members are editing the same before publication of the digest.

Challenges

1. System challenges at the secretariat The secretariat has been facing several challenges with the system which has affected service delivery. Some of the challenges have led to zero billing of invoices, members are unable to view their points on the portal, failure in receipting after payment which affects delivery of

webinar registration links to the portal among others. The challenges are being addressed with a view of streamlining all the processes.

2.COMPLIANCE AND **ETHICS DIRECTORATE**

The Compliance and Ethics Directorate is headed by Ms. Mwathi Kitonga, Advocate who serves as the Deputy CEO/Director Compliance & Head of Projects. She is ACTIVITIES OF THE COMPLIANCE AND assisted by the Program Officer - Ms. Njeri Mutitu, Advocate and a Legal Assistant -Ms. Khanyili, Advocate. Lucy directorate also has two Legal Researchers, Ms. Rita Wairimu, Advocate and Mr. Gerry Owuor. Advocate.

The mandate of the directorate includes the following:

- 1. Issuance of approvals for the processing of Practicing Certificates for members who have complied with the orders of the Tribunal and other statutory requirements.
- 2. Ensure compliance with AML/CFT requirements.
- 3. Respond to inquiries from members of the public, DCI/police, the advocates, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders.
- 4. Attend to court summons to provide expert witness testimony when required.
- 5. Process Letters (LOGs) and Certificates (COGs) of Good Standing for advocates with disciplinary cases and law firms to enable them to participate in tenders, apply for job opportunities and seek admission in other jurisdictions.

- address Receive. evaluate and complaints against advocates.
- 7. Oversee and support the operations of the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal, acting registry and ensure with coordination the **Advocates** Complaints Commission.
- 8. Provide support to administrative staff.
- 9. Provide support to LSK Committees.
- 10. Project work.

ETHICS DIRECTORATE

- 1. **Issuance of approvals.** More than 985 have been issued approvals to Advocates who complied with the orders of the Tribunal allowing them to be issued with practicing certificates.
- Processing of complaints. The 2. directorate has processed over 250 complaints against advocates and has seen an increase in the number of advocates responding to the complaints. The directorate also maintains a spreadsheet detailing the names of the complainants, advocates complained of and the timelines of processing the complaints inception, for ease of management pending automation of the process.
- 3. **Inquiries.** The directorate handled over 1400 inquiries on members, with a quick turnaround time and transmitted 1500 responses for inquires on the physical location of Advocates and on their practice status.

4. Anti- Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)

2023, the LSK and the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) jointly submitted a memorandum that led to amendments in **POCAMLA** and LSK the Act. 2014. designating the LSK as a self-regulating body (SRB) for its members. To support this new regulatory role, the LSK has partnered with several organizations for capacity building, trainings, developing tools, guidelines, setting up an AML/CFT Compliance Unit etc. The LSK Compliance Directorate has now expanded its mandate compliance. include AML/CFT to Subsequently, the following activities have been carried out:

· Needs assessment meeting

team undertook an initial assessment where they met with a team from the LSK led by Deputy CEO, Mwathi Kitonga to discuss and assess the needs of the Secretariat in setting up the new regulatory function. The project team also met with other partners and had a session with the FRC supervisory team to better understand the broader AML/CFT regulatory environment and risks in Kenya and their expectations of the role of the LSK in reducing those risks.

Some of the key findings were that;

1. The LSK Secretariat, Council and membership needed a greater understanding of its new regulatory powers and responsibilities and the wider issues of AML/CFT and their relevance to the profession.

- 2. The new compliance function would need to be part of the Compliance & Ethics Directorate.
- 3. The compliance team was small and its capacity would need to be increased.

• Training for the Compliance and Ethics Directorate and the Practice Standards Directorate

Trainings for the Compliance and Ethics team were conducted in March & May, 2024. The team was trained on the fundamental concepts of ML, TF and PF, LSK's mandate, its powers and obligations as an SRB, governance, how to identify red flags and how to turn information into intelligence.

It was concluded that the following tasks could breakdown the needs of the profession:

Key tasks	Where LSK needs to be to meet FATF requirements?	Priorities/What's next?
Internal structure – AML tasks	Set-up of AML STR office Other roles and responsibilities Oversight AML/CFT programme management	Further work with FRC Who has which responsibilities for AML-CFT tasks? LSK's MLRO/AML-CFT programme officer
Record keeping	Security of information Effective paper trail	Review LSK procedures Identify gaps to be filled
Policies and procedures	Code of conduct Accounts rules	Review/update code of conduct Review/update accounts rules
Security review	People and location IT/data/documentation	HR issues/contracts IT and data handling security review
Training needs	Different categories of staff/teams trained	10. Identification of further training needs
Budget	Adequate Independent	 Set budget needs Identify additional resource sources

Roundtable discussion with law firms

A roundtable discussion with various law firms within Nairobi was held in March, 2024 to gather their perspectives on the AML/CFT regulatory framework. The discussion provided an opportunity to assess the level of awareness and compliance among legal practitioners, identify the challenges law firms may face in implementing AML/CFT measures and explore potential solutions. Participants shared valuable insights on client due diligence, reporting obligations and resource constraints.

Training for the Compliance & Ethics Directorate and the Project Team

A capacity-building training on AML/CFT was organized by the FRC and GIZ (Kenya) in May, 2024. The training aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge on AML/CFT, covering the general spectrum of AML/CFT, the legal framework and the reporting requirements.Key actionable points from the workshop included introducing AML/CFT section an in Practicing Certificate declaration forms and Certificates of Good Standing (COGS), increasing compliance personnel, enhancing security measures at the Secretariat to cater for the compliance unit and exploring strategies to raise funds for securing an AML platform for the LSK.

Meetings with law firms

The LSK, through the Deputy CEO and the project team. held discussions and participated in meetings with law firms to deliberate on key issues and strategies related to AML/CFT. These engagements aimed to strengthen the legal profession's role in ensuring compliance with AML/CFT regulations, enhance awareness of legal obligations and gauge the levels of compliance among law firms. The discussions also provided valuable insights into the possible challenges likely to be experienced in implementing AML/CFT measures. Additionally, the LSK consulted with practitioners from other jurisdictions, including South Africa, facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from their jurisdiction.

These engagements resulted in recommendations such as capacity-building initiatives and the development of compliance tools.

CPD on AML/CFT

To strengthen the capacity of advocates and improve their understanding of the risks related to AML/CFT in the legal profession, as well as their duties under AML/CFT laws and regulations. specialized **CPD** seminar on AML/CFT/CPF was held in September, 2024. The seminar, attracting 4 CPD units, aimed to ensure that participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the legal, regulatory and operational aspects of AML/CFT. By the end of the training, attendees were expected to demonstrate the ability to assess and identify potential ML/TF risks transactions and client relationships, recognize signs of suspicious activities, understand the mechanisms for reporting, develop and apply measures to prevent, detect and report such activities. This training played an important role in improving the overall effectiveness of AML/CFT measures in the legal profession, reducing the risks of ML/TF and ensuring that legal professionals are equipped to fulfill their regulatory duties hence adherence to global standards.

Committee

The trainings for the LSK Council and the LSK AML/CFT Committee were conducted in August, 2024.

Objectives;

- 1. To support the development of the governance framework and institutional capacity required for an AML/CFT regulatory and supervisory entity.
- 2. To share a common foundational knowledge of AML. **CFT** and proliferation.
- 3. To understand how Kenya fits into the global AML/CFT regulatory framework.
- 4. To understand the roles and responsibilities that LSK will undertake as an SRB.
- 5. To understand the governance framework needed for an SRB.

The following resolutions were made;

- 1. LSK should update SOPPEC in order to ensure that it captures the new AML regulations.
- LSK to contact CLE regarding the inclusion of AML content in the Advocates Training Program (ATP) syllabus. This would ensure that awareness of AML/CFT issues are integrated into legal training from the onset.
- 3. LSK would establish an office and hire dedicated personnel to receive and handle suspicious transaction reports from the legal profession.
- 4. LSK should go through the action plan and ensure that it is enforced and updated.

• Training on AML/CFT for the LSK 5. FRC should convene a meeting with Council and the LSK AML/CFT Adhoc advocates in order to clarify its role and the specific mandate of the organization.

3.PUBLIC INTEREST AND ADVOCACY DIRECTORATE

The report for the Public Interest and Advocate Directorate has been covered extensively under the Advocacy and Public Policy Engagement. The full report can be accessed on page 131.

4.PRACTICE STANDARDS AND ETHICS DIRECTORATE

The Law Society Act, Cap 18 Section 4(d) sets out the objects of the Society to include the representation, protection, and assisting of members of the legal profession in respect of conditions of practice for purposes of safeguarding the profession.

The Directorate as formulated under Section 28 and expressly in Section 28(2) (a) (2) of the Law Society of Kenya Act, 2014 as such:

"Section 28 of the Act requires the Secretariat to be structured in a manner that promotes the commitment to practice excellence and client care in the profession. Further

- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the secretariat shall consist of the following directorates-
- (a) the practice standards directorate which shall be responsible for the promotion of excellence in practice, client care, and the achievement of full compliance with the rules of good practice in the profession through advice, support, and other forms of assistance to advocates and law firms"

And mandated as follows:

- 1.To Enhance standards of professional and ethical conduct for the legal profession in Kenya/ practice matters.
- 2.To institutionalize and manage the operations of the Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU).
- 3.To engage in sensitization forums to advance professional practice standards.

Under the stewardship of Ms. Sophie Kaibiria- Director, assisted by Program officer- Ms. Angelica Mecha and the Assistant program officer - Ms. Esther Patrober, Advocates the secretariat is tasked with ensuring that the set standards in place for practice of law in Kenya are adhered to in line with the directorate's major role of promoting excellence in practice and achieve full compliance with the rule of good practice within the profession, which leads to actualizing of the regulatory mandate of LSK and there being an accountability mechanism in place.

The Directorate is presently capacitating the Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU) to undertake its mandate. Contextually, the Directorate receives numerous reports touching on advocates' misconduct in practice from across the country together with numerous reports on unqualified persons passing off as advocates. It is the under the CMU operations that Investigations on malpractices and countrywide inspection visits are conducted with the help of branch officials to weed out improprieties.

THE OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS of the year 2024 for the Directorate have been:

- 1. Issuance of letters of no objection numbering one thousand, two hundred and fifty (1250). The letters have facilitated law firm formations, mergers, and registrations.
- 2. Overseeing the CMU and its activities by creation of a live monitoring tool accessible by the personnel under the Directorate the same has eased of communication and updates. This tool has significantly streamlined the oversight process and improved efficiency.
- 3. The Directorate handled numerous members and inquiries on nonadvocates, with marked response time of 24 hours turn-around from receipt to completion and transmission responses mostly being on confirmation of existence of advocates and law firms. This has fostered public confidence and transparency.
- 4. Managing practice matters including tabling of various applications to the LSK Council, for registration of consultancies and requests for admission to practice within our jurisdiction by foreign advocates.
- 5. Assisting in prosecution of masqueraders in court, with nine (9) cases ongoing, 1 was diverted and 1 has been concluded.
- 6. Drafting of legal opinions and advisories on practice issues.

CHALLENGES:

Increased occurrences of unlawful and unqualified practice:

The expanded space in practice and increase in numbers of advocates and practice areas the cases of reported unqualified practice have been on the increase. The vice has been further highlighted with the increased campaign by the LSK and the Council in its fights against unqualified practices to advance practice standards. The geographical of the spread occurrences malpractices and the increased reporting made it paramount that the Directorate's capacity be increased to carry out its enforcement function effectively.

Lack of Register of Law Firms:

There have been attempts to secure the same with the BRS, however the same remains hampered as LSK is yet to integrate with the BRS system for ease referencing and tracking of registered law firms. Automation would see a lot of benefits not only in respect of access of records which would ease the work of the monitoring of law firms for the Directorate.

Pending Review of Rules and Legislations:

It is important to note that the Guidelines and Rules, particularly concerning the registration of certain legal entities not provided under the Advocates (Practice) Rules of 1966 have been pending before the appointed Adhoc Committee on Legal Reforms. The finalization would provide clarity on the queries raised by Advocates regarding practice and registration of outfits that are not law firms.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD 2025:

- 1. Sensitization forums with Advocates in conjunction with the Practice Standards Committee on the following:
- a.Emerging issues of compliance with law firm establishment and operations
- b.Advocates be taken through the available services from the directorate and how to access to the same.
- c.Continuous stakeholder engagement to mitigate challenges highlighted.
- 2. Directorate undertakes to work closely with the IT Department and the communication department to enhance the standards of practice as. We encourage Advocates to be furnishing their correct and up to-date work locations to ease on the inquires received.

The Directorate encourages Advocates to reach out via email on practicestandards@lsk.or.ke and on telephone through 0110-459-555.

5.PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

The main objective of the Directorate is to uphold the rule of law and contribute to law reform through legislative review and other related activities. In SO doing, Directorate supports the Law Society of Kenya' Strategic Priority No. 2 Legislation and Public Interest with the objective to promote and protect the public interest, grow public trust and drive legislative reforms to enhance the justice system, for the benefit of the public. The following initiatives contribute to the achievement of the above strategic priority:

- Independent critical evaluation of Law makers' policies to defend the rule of law and separation of powers.
- Draft and develop new laws affecting legal practice in consultation with the Judiciary, the executive and Parliament.
- Actively review Bills being drafted in Parliament.

The Department has been able to achieve the following milestones in support of Strategic Priority No. 2.

1.Drafting notices to make calls for comments to the members and prepare memoranda for submission in Parliament.

In the year 2024, the Department was able to prepare over 100 notices which were shared with the members. The Department further prepared and submitted over 60 memoranda. The Department continues to suffer backlog as a result of the lean staff within the Department. There is also need to develop strategies to ensure maximum participation by the membership of the Society.

2.Presentation of the prepared memoranda before various Parliamentary Committees and stakeholder engagements upon invitation.

The Department appeared before Parliament on several occasions to make oral presentations on the memoranda prepared. The Department also represented the Society in several stakeholder engagements with various organization including Landesa,

ICJ, ICPAK, IREX, Defenders Coalition, Milimani.

3. The Department Supports the following Committees of the Council.

The Department is charged with the responsibility of supporting various Council Committee as listed below:

- a. Land and Climate Justice Committee
- b. Law Reform Committee
- c. ADR Committee
- d. Adhoc Committee on Review of Advocates Remuneration Order
- e. Counties and Devolved Government Committee
- f. Special Interests Group Committee
- 4. Discussions with the International Bar Association Poverty and Social Development Committee Goal One Project which led to the development of a proposal.

The proposal developed is for a project that is meant to address sex trafficking. The proposal was submitted to the IBA Committee for review and approval. IBA did not give conclusive feedback on the proposal and the Department is hoping to share the same proposal with other potential donors.

5. Spearheaded the planning and execution of the Mombasa Public Dialogue Forum held on 8th October 2024 in Mombasa with the objective to promote justice, human rights, and accountability amidst the aftermath of the Gen Z protests.

The forum was conducted successfully and educated participants on their

constitutional rights, particularly the freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly under Articles 33 and 37. We are looking forward to supporting the Society in future engagements of a similar nature.

6. Represented the Society in the process for reviewing the Acts and Regulations Concerning advocates in Kenya began with the Society signing a contract with the consultant by the end of the year 2024. As such the Department reviewed the Contract and made its recommendations to the office of the CEO.

The consultant submitted the Inception Report which outlines the workload involved, the methods to be utilized and the timelines. The Department proposed adjustments to the Report which have been incorporated in the Report. The Department is hopeful that the review process will be concluded within the prescribed timelines.

7. Bill tracking.

The Department has been using a bring up sheet to track bills. However, since the month of June and with the support of the ICT Department, an online Bill tracker was developed. The Department is in the process of uploading the information that was previously in the bring up sheet into the online system.

8.Bill reviewing scheme.

The Department developed the Bill reviewing scheme concept note. We shall submit the same for deliberation by the Council.

9.Offered support during the LSK Annual Conference 2024

The Department in collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR) held a side event on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The session discussed key issues surrounding reproductive health, rights, and access to services. The session also explored strategies for improving SRHR awareness, policies, and service delivery.

While The Department navigated several challenges in the course of the year while executing its mandate, it continues to remain committed to promoting the implementation of the constitution, the rule of law and the administration of justice.

LIST OF SUBMITTED MEMORANDA FROM JANUARY- DECEMBER 2024

- The Public Participation Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 52 of 2023);
- The National Government Administration Laws (Amendment) Bill, (Bill No. 73 of 2023);
- The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) (National Assembly Bill No. 3 of 2024);
- The Stakeholder Engagement on the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-Related Measures to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)

by the departmental Committee of Finance and National Planning;

- The Constitution of Kenya (Amendments) Bill (Senate Bills No. 52 of 2023);
- The Conflict-of-Interest Bill (National Assembly Bills No.12 of 2023);
- The Affordable Housing Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 75 of 2023);
- The Proposed Sessional Paper and Bills in The Education Sector;
- The County Licensing (Uniform Procedures) Bill, 2022 (Senate Bill No. 9 of 2022);
- The Fire and Rescue Services Professionals Bill, 2023 (Senate Bills No. 55 of 2023);
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Senate Bills No. 1 of 2024);
- The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 40 of 2023);
- The Division of Revenue Bill,2024 (National Assembly Bil No. 14 of 2023);
- The County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Senate Bills No. 39 of 2023;
- The Nuts and Oil Crops Development Bill, 2023 (Senate Bills No. 47 of 2023);
- The Whistleblower Protection Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 56 of 2023);
- The Kenya Sign Language Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2024);

- The Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bill No. 14 of 2024);
- The Local Content Bill, 2023 (Senate Bill No. 50 of 2023);
- The House of Parliament (Bicameral Relations) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly No. 44 of 2023);
- The Draft Public Service Commission (Removal of the Director of Public Prosecutions) Regulations 2024;
- The Public Audit (Amendment) Bill No. 3 of 24) (National Assembly Bill No. 3 of 2024;
- The Review of the National Land Policy, 2024:
- The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 10 of 2024);
- The Election Offences (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 9 of 2024);
- The Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 13 of 2024);
- The Parliamentary Powers and Privileges (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 37 of 2023);
- The Treaty Making and Ratification (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024;
- The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 3 of 2024);
- The Affordable Housing Regulations, 2024;
- The Election (Amendment)Bill (Senate Bill No. 11 of 2024);
- The Social Assistance (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 80 of 2023);
- The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2024);

- The Land (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (National Assembly Bill No. 40 of 2023);
- The Proposed Amendments to the National Coroners Service Act, Cap 89;
- Legal Aid Fund Regulations;
- Occupational. Safety and Health Bill, 2024:
- Constitutional Amendment Bill, NADCO;
- The Finance Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bills No. 30 of 2024);
- Investment Promotion & Facilitation Bill, 2023;
- The Independent Electoral & Boundaries Commission (Amendment)
 Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bills No. 10 of 2024);
- Occupational Safety and Health Policy, 2024:
- The draft Workers Injury Compensation Bill, 2024;
- The Universities (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2024);
- Regulations Under the Children's Act, 2022;
- The Draft Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
- The County Boundaries Bill, 2023 (Senate Bills No. 6 of 2023);
- The Assembly and Demonstration Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bill No. 28 of 2024);
- The Review of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (Imposition of Levy Order);
- The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 11 of 2024);

- The National Disaster Management bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 24 of 2023);
- The Equalization fund (Administration)
 Bill, 2023 (Senate bill No. 14 of 2023);
- The National Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bill No. 23 of 2024);
- Environment Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (NA Bill No. 36 of 2024);
- The Medical Social Workers Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 22 of 2024);
- The County Governments (Amendment) bill (Senate Bill No. 25) 2023;
- The Treaty Establishing the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD);
- The Kenya Revenue Authority Revised Diversity and Inclusion Policy;
- The Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 37 of 2024);
- The Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024 (Senate Bills No. 46 of 2024);
- The Political Parties (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2024 (Senate Bill No.26 of 2024);
- The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly No. 78 of 2023);
- The Livestock Protection and Sustainability Bill, 2024(Senate Bills No.32 of 2024);
- The Kenya School of Law (Amendment Bill), 2023;
- Governments (Amendment) Bill, (Senate Bill No.25) 2023

6. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIRECTORATE

The Finance and Administration Directorate is headed by CPA Felix Kisoi (Finance Director) and supported by; CPA Michael Chege (Senior Accountant), Mr. Shadrack Musyoki (Accounts Assistant), Mr. Douglas Mogere (Accounts Assistant) and CPA Sylvia Simatwa (Accounts Assistant).

The year was productive despite challenges posed by demonstrations and effects of the newly introduced levies.

Management of LSK Revenue

To improve on the efficient and financial workflow, the department handled different financial transactions relating to different programs and projects such as,

- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) which were held both physically and virtually.
- Processing of annual and new practicing Certificate.
- Disciplinary Tribunal Committee which were done virtually.
- Facilitation of Good standing certificate.
- Facilitation of ABA back fees Payment.
- Management of program activities and funds.
- Support ABA in financial management.

Over 17,006 practicing certificate application payments were processed with the submission done online.

Improve Financial Management systems

The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is now up and running with well managed troubleshooting feedback mechanism. To improve the efficient of the work flow, the directorate is working closely with the ICT department to ensure that the ERP system is fully automated.

The directorate continues to improve on services to members on event booking platform despite the system challenges. Management of CPD seminars and Practicing certificate application and Certificate of good standing have been migrated to member self-service portal and this has made it a demand driven service. The directorate was able to address the increased Email and calls Enquiries by members.

Institutionalizing Budget process

The directorate in conjunction with other directorates prepared and consolidated the Society year 2025 Annual budget estimates. This together with the annual work plan were presented to the Budget and Finance committee for review and approval by Council.

Ensure statutory compliance

The directorate has ensured that all the statutory requirements are complied with.

Administrative Support-HR & General

The directorate have provided the necessary archer support to other arms of the Society as and when the need arises.

This include but limited not to: management of the Staff leave matrix, office logistics, collection and remittance of ABA fees including ABA back fees. Devolution funds disbursements and the branches Annual grant to and management of line committees among others.

Enhance Financial Reporting

The Directorate continues to be guided by Finance and Accounting Policy Manual comprehensive since it provides а documentation of the Society's financial accounting and reporting procedures and processes and budget management in line with the new system development and other related International Reporting Financial Standards (IFRS) reporting requirements. As a statutory requirement, the directorate is finalizing on the end year Y2024 Audit.

7.INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) DEPARTMENT

Introduction

Information Technology department is a strategic function in any organization because all operational functionalities are highly dependent on sound systems to operate.

The core mandate of the department can be summarized as enabling the other functional directorates/departments efficient and effective means of conducting their business with ease by ensuring smooth running of all ICT systems as well offering efficient member services.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

1. Automation of the Advocates ID

Starting 1ST January 2025, members are now able to apply for ID online, get automatic feature for members upload/change their profile pictures is now activated, members are now able to apply and print theirs LSK electronically, starting with uploading a profile picture which is send member services for approval thereafter the member uploads electronic signature and prints the ID.

The ID has a Qrcode for security features when scanned will take you to the online portal to identify the advocate and check

the status either active or inactive.

Following the Council directive, the cost on the ID was waived and therefore Members are able to download the ID from their LSK online accounts without being charged. Additionally, notices were issued to members with manuals and illustrations on how to apply for the ID.

2.PAPERLESS COUNCIL MEETING

A paperless Council or Board meeting is a meeting of a company's governing Council or Board of Directors that is conducted electronically, without the use of physical paper documents.

Instead of traditional digital board books and paper documents, all the necessary board materials are stored and accessed through a secure digital platform, known as board management software.

The LSK Council resolved to go paperless on its monthly council meeting every council member was provided with tablets as one of the measures on reducing cost and cutting back on spending when it comes to physical meeting. This has come with the following benefits to the Society.

Time Saving

One of the biggest benefits which has come with the paperless council meetings is that Council have used it to exchange updates and relevant documents and study them before the meeting occurs without the need for endless updates during the meeting.

Reduced Cost

The Society has cut spending on printing all those hard copies Council Members need for their discussion.

Improve the effectiveness of Council meetings

Paperless meeting solution has supplied members with different tools such as votes and polls that has improved decision-making process.

- Improved meeting management
- Security of Information

The electronic board pack is protected by stringent security measures whether it's in storage or in transmission. Also, anyone unauthorized to access it will have to go through multiple security levels. When the password-guessing is detected, the system automatically purges sensitive information.

3.DIGITAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT BY DEFENDERS

A Digital Security Assessment or Cybersecurity Risk Assessment is a systematic process for identification, evaluation and prioritizing potential threats and vulnerabilities of IT systems and data of an organization.

A Cybersecurity assessment/ Digital Security Assessment helps organization to close any gaps when it comes to security control and come up with mechanisms to remediate the weaknesses hence improving security poster of the organization. By helping to prioritize remediation of the most critical issues first, security assessments enable organizations to realize more impact from limited.

In the month of October an NGO DefendDefenders situated in Uganda offered to do a Digital Security Assessment for free to our IT infrastructure to determine threats/ vulnerabilities of our IT systems and data for the aim of identifying gaps when it comes to security control and come up with recommendations on how to improve our security poster.

After signing the NDA the organization under the supervision of Cosmas Ndetei Program Officer ICT carried out the Digital Security Assessment and come up with great recommendations'

- Digital Security and Safety training of secretariat staff.
- To have a fully functional ICT Policy and Data Protection Policy.
- Install a Secondary Link for Backup for internet in case of downtime.
- Digitized all LSK records.
- Implement a robust MDM (Mobile Device Management) solution to manage and secure mobile devices accessing corporate systems.

Some needed immediate actions and were implemented including training staff on Digital Security. The ones which needed long time solutions were incorporated in the Annual ICT workplan.

We could like to appreciate DefendDefenders for purchasing for us 24 licenses for Microsoft Defender for Endpoint P1 at a cost of Ksh. 111,456 that reduces the cost for the licenses (90) we had budgeted for 2025 budgets.

4. LSK –KSL-CLE-JUDICIARY INTEGRATION

The Law Society of Kenya and the Judiciary being key stakeholders offering various services to the Advocates practising in Kenya have collaborated to offer smooth and seamless services to its by automation of various members described below. For services automation to work, it was agreed that the Judiciary Advocates Management System (JAMS) and the LSK Enterprise Resource Planning system should be integrated to eliminate the processes.

A workshop meetings between the LSK and Judiciary leadership together with technical teams from the two institutions and were held in 2024 to agree on scope and plan on the integration process.

The following areas were identified for automation:

- Automation of Notice of Intention to Take Out Practicing Certificate
- Newly Admitted Advocates to LSK ERP System
- Practising Certificate issuance
- Notary Public
- Commissioner for Oaths

These meetings culminated in a joint workshop between LSK and Judiciary technical teams in October 2024 where further discussions were held and the workflows agreed.

The following are services that have so far been automated through the LSK ERP and JAMs integration:

a) Electronic Practising Certificate Issuance

Following the integration of LSK and Judiciary systems, the process of issuance of 2023 Practising Certificates online commenced in December 2022 where members need to upload the signed practicing application documents on their LSK online accounts in the quest to fully digitize the process with the goal of going paperless at the Secretariat.

Members are no longer required to physically present the Practising Certificate application documents at the Secretariat and this has made the process more user friendly as members can complete the process from wherever they are.

Additionally, members can now apply for the Practising Certificates and issued with the same in one day. Previously, Members could wait to be issued with the Practising Certificates for up to several months because of the manual processes.

Numbers as at 31st December 2024:

Total number of Members	25,568 (Deceased Excluded)
Total number of Members eligible to apply for 2023 PC	19,479
Total number of PC applications	17,564
Total PC's Paid	17,095
Total Deceased	987
Total Suspended	26
Total Struck-Off	86
Total PC's issued	16,968

Total Number of Issued PC's issued in 2024: 16,968

b) Newly Admitted Advocates

A workshop meeting between the LSK, Judiciary and CLE leadership together with technical teams from the three institutions held on October 2024 agreed process of onboarding admitted should be automated and smooth, from KSL-CEL-JUDICIARY and to LSK the process should be seamless. This will result in efficiency and data integrity. The integration between CLE Judiciary was on its final stages and it was recommended to also engage KSL to be part and parcel of the integration process. It was also discussed in lengthy on data sharing between the three institutions and be measures to incorporated to ensure data security on every end points of the institution.

c) Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public

From the integration channel, LSK is able to receive new applications/renewals for Commissioner for Oaths and/or Notary Public, generate a report to be tabled before the council and issue comments through the system after Council deliberations.

This has made the process more efficient and less error prone.

d) Automation of Notice of Intention to Take Out Practicing Certificate

During the meeting held on October 2024 between LSK, Judiciary and CEL the team managed to come up with TORs for the automation of Notice of Intention to Take Out Practicing Certificate, it was noted that the current process is purely manual which starts by a member writing a letter together with a Statutory Declaration to

the Chief Register of Judiciary which is hand delivered, stamped and again hand delivered to LSK Secretariat.

The team managed to start the process of automation which is currently ongoing aimed at making the process more effective and efficient this will ensure better service delivery to the members of the Society.

e) Member Services Support

Following the approval by the Council for the Society to have a position for Assistant Program Officer, Member Services, there is now a dedicated officer as the first person of contact between the Society and the Members in regards to assisting on any reported issues. There has been great improvement in handling of Member issues and the turn-around times. Emails are responded to promptly as well as the telephone calls.

f) ERP System Support and Updates

The ICT department with the assistance of the system vendor has continued to support the LSK ERP system to ensure that there are minimum interruptions in service delivery.

Updates were undertaken in end of year 2024 to improve on the stability of the ERP system by having a cloud-based storage for declarations from members and integration with a third-party software to help with receipting issues, the RAMs for both server was increased to improve their performances.

g) LSK Website

The ICT in collaboration with the Communications department proposed and oversaw the redesign of the new LSK website that is more user friendly and includes more functional areas. It is now possible for the Communications department together with IT department to easily update the website with the current information unlike the previous website which was too technical.

Additionally, the new website security features are enhanced such as using cloud flare.

h) Office support

The ICT department has been supporting other directorates/departments by troubleshooting and resolving intranet issues. The department has resolved the perennial WiFi instability by purchasing and installing new access points at the Secretariat.

8.PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

MCIPS Boniface Kivuva is the head of the procurement department, supported by Ms. Angela King'oo, the Logistics Officer, and Ms. Ashilin Mwita, an intern. The department is responsible for providing technical leadership on all matters related to sourcing, policy development, illuminating staff and on matters procurement systems and processes. It also addresses emerging issues in the field to enhance the Society's operational efficiency.

The department acts as a central hub for ylggus chain management processes. which include both upstream and downstream operations such as logistics management, sourcing, acquisition, and product value addition, among other critical activities. This has been achieved by fostering synergy and building strong relationships between the procurement function and user departments, all of which together form the supply chain management team.

In support of the Society's goals and objectives, the department has consistently developed sourcing strategies that align with the overall strategies of the Society. This includes the establishment of Supplier Performance Key **Indicators** (KPIs), meeting the Society's diverse procurement needs through a competitive global supply base, and creating supply options and contingency plans that help realize a shift a transactional to a from strategic approach.

The department has also focused on enhancing cross-functional collaboration to streamline the Society's procurement processes. This has involved developing clear and precise technical specifications, which have led to reduced operational costs and an improved ability to verify compliance with these specifications upon the delivery of products. As a result, the department has achieved high efficiency levels while also enhancing customer service and experience.

Additionally, the department formulated a Consolidated Annual Procurement Plan (CAPP), derived from specific departmental procurement plans or work plans. CAPP is an accounting document aligned with the overall budget estimates of the Secretariat, designed to eliminate purchasing maverick and promote strategic supply chain management by fostering fiscal discipline.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Department is tasked with helping the Society to achieve its objectives by evaluating the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control arrangements playing a key role in promoting good corporate governance. The department is headed by CPA Joab Mbakaya, assisted by CPA Chrispinus Wamoyi. The department was able to provide independent and objective assurance and advisory services in internal audit and risk assurance to both the management Council inclined towards and achievement of the Society's strategic objectives.

The department managed to implement 90% of the approved audit plan for the year 2024, where reports were generated and recommendations forwarded to the Council through the Audit & Risk Committee for adoption. The department followed up with management in ensuring that the recommendations were implemented in line with the overall Internal Audit strategy. Among the assignments undertaken for the year were:

- The department facilitated six Audit & Risk Committee meetings for the year including inaugural meeting for the current committee members where they were capacity build on their expectation in the committee;
- The department organized for the training of the whole Council in Naivasha on the role of Internal audit and the role of the Council in the Internal Audit process;

The department worked closely with the other departments where various advisories were issued both formally and informally the mitigated on a number of risks. The close working relationship with management also led to implementation of the recommendation through guidance and thus leading to the achievement of the departmental work plans for the year.

10. COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Communications Department's strategic objective provide is to transformative member service through raising LSK's visibility, improve professional enhance competence, stakeholders engagement with and improve accountability to members.

The department consists of Ms. Agnetta Rodi, Programme Officer and Mr.Scott Ian Obaro, Programme Assistant.

2024 ACTIVITIES BREAKDOWN

To achieve the strategic objective, the department undertook the various activities as highlighted below during the year 2024;

- Communication with LSK membership: The department is charged with the responsibility of communicating to the over 24,000 advocates via Email (notices and newsletters), Bulk SMS and Social Media platforms amongst others on various issues affecting the membership.
- The Department enhanced the visibility of LSK by facilitating media coverage through the mainstream for LSK media various events/activities which included: conferences/briefings/ Press statements various issues on including the campaign against masqueraders, upholding of human rights during the 2024 Gen Z maandamano, update on various cases the LSK is involved in and advisory on topical issues in regards to the rule of law and administration of justice amongst others.
- The Weekly electronic newsletter: The department circulated over fifty issues of the LSK weekly e-newsletter to members on the LSK events, programs, activities and vacancies and trainings from stakeholders within the legal fraternity.
- Revamped Website; Through the support of the ICT department, the department oversaw the review of the

LSK website which is now up to date and has improve engagement with the members (advocates) and members of the public.

- Update on Social Media Platforms: The LSK social media sites are some of the main sources of information of the LSK's undertakings which provide up information to-date on all activities, programmes and events to members, stakeholders, and the general public. The website and social media sites also provided engagements with members of the public on various aspects within law.
- LSK Events/ Activities; In collaboration with the various departments committees. the department streamed LSK events on the LSK social CPD webinars pages e,q amongst others. Other events the involved department was distributing publications during the Legal awareness week, constant and timely updates during the LSK annual conference. The department liaised with the ICT department to update the website.
- Partnerships and Stakeholder engagement: The department played a critical role in fundraising and partnering with various organizations and companies.
- Knowledge creation through publications: department The spearheaded the publishing of the LSK 2024. Journal In addition. the department also oversaw the of the LSK Advocate publication magazine (Annual Conference Edition)

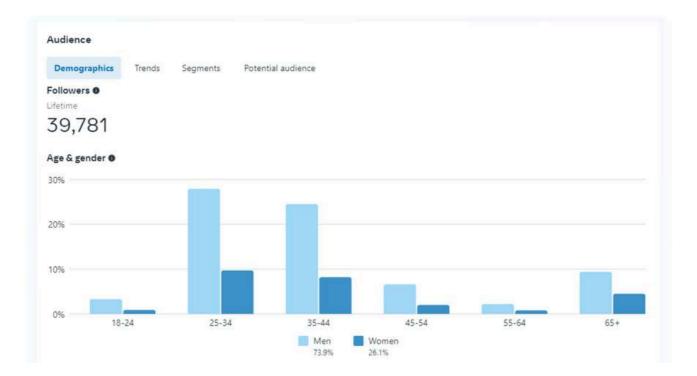
which was circulated to the members at the Conference.

- The department offered support to other departments by highlighting and reporting on their various activities/events to members through the LSK weekly newsletter and Social Media platforms.
- SMS Platform: The department also circulated over thirty Short Message Services (SMS) to members through the LSK bulk SMS platform on the various CPD Seminars, LSK events, programs, activities and trainings from stakeholders within the legal fraternity.
- To improve professional competency: the department has managed to attend and accompany the Council to various meetings, and thereafter reports disseminated to the members via the weekly newsletter.

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS A. FACEBOOK



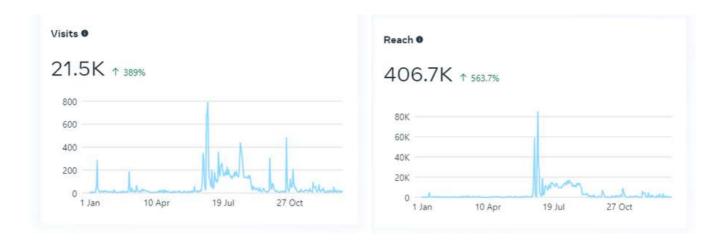
B. INSTAGRAM



Facebook and Instagram are our fastest growing platforms. The audience however are quite different. The common factor is the highest age group on both platforms is the 25-34 year olds with a higher percentage of followers being male.

In 2024, both platforms had an increase in engagement and interaction with followers and the public. This is clearly shown through the graphs below.





The potential to grow our platforms has been seen in the statistics of the year and with proper tailoring of content and audience analysis, the department has been able to increase publicity and raise visibility levels for the Society.

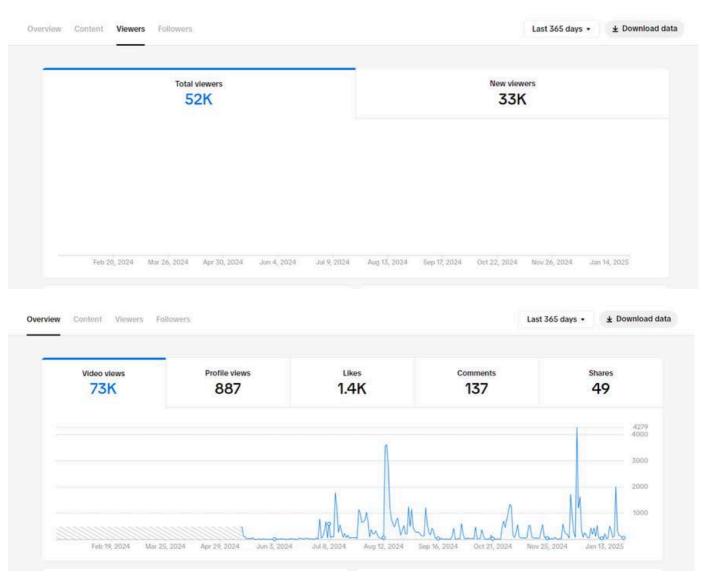
C. X (FORMERLY TWITTER)

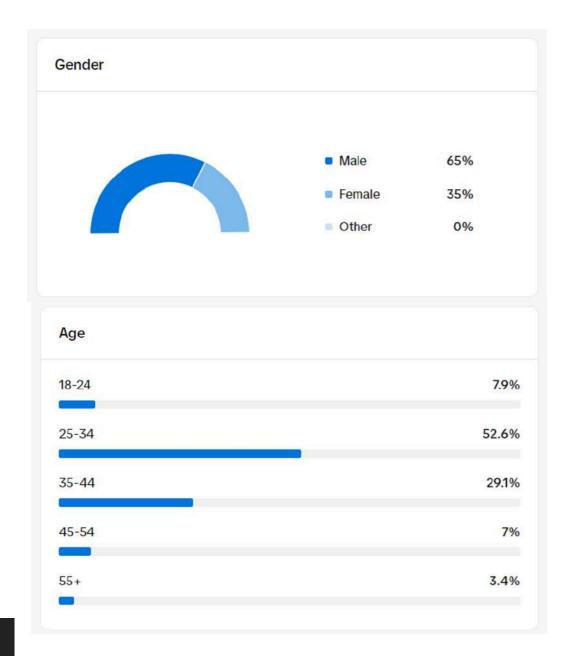
The Twitter page has had a gradual growth of followers and engagement on the page, with the peak being June 2024 during the Anti-Finance Bill Gen Z maandamano with an average of 1,000,000 impressions attained.



D. TIK TOK

The Tiktok page was started in 2024 and it has seen a growth of followers to 1131 followers between May 2024 and January 2025. The curve of growth has been so far positive and we expect to proceed on a positive trajectory in the next year.





CONCLUSION

The Communications Department has implemented improved the LSK brand through the in-house designing of posters and regular updates of the website, newsletter and notices. The impact is visible through the analytics provided above.

The department looks forward to exploring other avenues of efficiency and improvement as the Communications Policy is implemented.

LSK SECRETARIAT

MANAGEMENT TEAM



Florence W. Muturi Advocate - Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Mary Kitonga Advocate - Deputy Secretary/Director Compliance & Ethics



CPA Joab A Mbakaya Director, Audit and Risk.



CPA Felix Kisoi Finance Director



Harold Ayodo Advocate, Director -Continuing Professional Development



Sophie Kaibiria Director, Practice Standards



Esther Muriuki Advocate - Programme Officer - Advocates Benevolent Association



Job Mati
Senior Administration
Legal Officer, Office of
the CEO.



Agnetta Rodi Programme Officer -Communications



Emily Tenge Programme Officer -Continuing Professional Development



Njeri Mutitu Advocate - Programme Officer, Compliance and Ethics



Joyce Wangari Advocate - Programme Officer, Public Interest, Legal Aid and Human Rights



Cosmas Ndetei Ag. Programme Officer -ICT.



Angelica Mecha Programme Officer -Practice standards.



Boniface Kivuva Procurement Officer



Sarah Agong Programme Officer -Parliamentary & Legislative Affairs

LSK SECRETARIAT STAFF RETREAT

Introduction

The staff of the Law Society of Kenya undertook their annual teambuilding retreat from 14th to 17th November 2024 at the Elmer Resort SPA in Naivasha.

The retreat held under the theme, Strengthening Collaboration, Enhancing Productivity, was a resounding success. to fostering it aimed stronger interpersonal relationships, improve communication, and enhance team cohesion, all of which are critical to achieving organizational goals.

The retreat provided an opportunity for staff members to step away from daily routines and engage in activities that encouraged collaboration, creativity and a shared sense of purpose.

Objectives

The retreat was designed to:

- 1. Strengthen trust and camaraderie among staff members.
- 2. Enhance problem-solving and decision-making skills in a team setting.
- 3. Encourage open communication and constructive feedback.
- 4. Provide a platform to reflect on the organization's achievements and goals.

Activities and Highlights

1.Icebreaker Sessions:

 Fun and interactive games helped to break down barriers and create a relaxed environment for open interaction

2.Team Challenges:

 Activities such as obstacle courses, treasure hunts, and brainstorming sessions encouraged collaboration and strategic thinking.

3. Workshops and Discussions:

- Workshops focused on key topics, including effective communication, conflict resolution, and stress management.
- Group discussions provided a platform for staff to share ideas and suggest improvements for workplace processes.

4. Reflection and Visioning:

 A session dedicated to reflecting on past achievements and collectively setting goals for the coming year.

5. Recreational Activities:

 Time for leisure activities, such as sports allowed staff to unwind and build informal connections.

Outcomes and Impact

- Improved Collaboration: Participants reported a greater sense of unity and understanding of their colleagues' strengths and perspectives.
- Enhanced Communication: The retreat fostered open dialogue, breaking down silos between departments.
- Motivation and Morale Boost: Staff expressed renewed enthusiasm and commitment to their roles.
- Actionable Insights: Several actionable ideas and suggestions were generated to improve organizational workflows and culture.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The staff teambuilding retreat achieved its goals of fostering stronger relationships and enhancing team dynamics. Moving forward, it is recommended to:

- 1. Schedule regular follow-ups to reinforce the skills and ideas developed during the retreat.
- 2. Integrate team-building elements into everyday workplace activities.
- 3. Allocate more time for skill-building workshops in future retreats.

By investing in initiatives like this retreat, the Society reaffirms its commitment to creating a supportive and collaborative work environment that empowers staff to excel.













Staff Members participating in various activities during the team building retreat.

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

The Law Society of Kenya leveraged its platform to condemn the violence, demand accountability from those in power, and call for systemic reforms within the law enforcement agencies.

In 2024, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) stood firm as the guardian of justice, champion of constitutionalism, and a beacon of hope for the Kenyan populace. Through its tireless efforts in strategic litigation, judicial review, and advocacy, LSK has not only held the government accountable but has also restored faith in the rule of law. At the heart of this endeavor is the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Directorate, where dedicated members and pro bono lawyers devote their time, resources, and expertise to address cases impacting the lives of Kenyans directly.

Introduction

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Pillar 1: Protection of the Rule of Law and Development of Jurisprudence.

The PIL Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee: A Pillar of Support

Within the PIL Directorate, the PIL Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee serves as a vital support structure to the Convener and Council. Under the leadership of Mr. Manwa Hosea, this committee plays a pivotal role in advising the Convener and Council on various PIL-related matters. Its key responsibilities include:

- Providing strategic guidance on PIL initiatives and policy-making, ensuring that the Directorate's efforts are informed and effective.
- Offering oversight and support to the Convener and Council, guaranteeing that PIL activities align with the LSK Act and relevant regulations.
- Conducting thorough reviews of PIL projects, providing recommendations on feasibility, resource allocation, and impact assessments to optimize outcomes.

The PIL Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee operates in tandem with the PIL Directorate, supporting key areas of operation, including:

1.Case Management: The committee collaborates closely with the dedicated case management team to monitor the progress of public interest cases, from initiation to resolution.

2.Pro Bono and Legal Aid Scheme: Recognizing the importance of equitable access to justice, the committee supports the pro bono and legal aid program, which provides free or low-cost legal services to individuals and groups in need.

3.Advocacy and Program Management: The committee provides strategic guidance and oversight to advocacy efforts that extend beyond individual cases to promote social justice, equality, and the rule of law.

4.Project Management: The Committee offers support and guidance in project planning, execution, and evaluation, ensuring that initiatives align with the Directorate's strategic objectives.

LSK's Unwavering Voice for Justice

In an era where fundamental liberties are increasingly threatened, LSK has been at forefront. the ensuring that Constitution is a living document that protects the rights of all Kenyans. The society has been instrumental in fighting against unjust detentions and abductions, contentious contesting government policies, preserving the integrity of public money, and upholding environmental justice. In 2024, LSK's voice was heard in for every courtroom, arguing voiceless and defending the rights of the marginalized. Some of the noteworthy cases from the 103 lodged in 2024 include:

A. The Fight Against Forced Disappearances and Arbitrary Detentions

HCCHR PET E009/2025 - JUSTUS MUTUMWA, KARANI MUEMA & 3 OTHERS V ODPP ET AL

LSK sought and obtained orders for the production and unconditional release of Justice Mutumwa, Martin Mwau, and Karani Muema, who had been abducted and detained incommunicado. In compliance with the Court's orders, the Inspector General (IG) and the Director of the DCI personally appeared in court and were cross-examined regarding the whereabouts of the abductees.

HCCRH PET 714/2024 - RONY KIPLANGAT, STEVE KAVINGO & 5 OTHERS V KNCHR, ICJ & 15 OTHERS

LSK filed habeas corpus applications for individuals abducted under unclear circumstances. The High Court issued mandatory orders requiring their immediate production, affirming that disappearances will forced not be tolerated in a democratic state.

HCCHR PET 305/2024

The court ordered the immediate and unconditional release of 13 individuals detained incommunicado, including peaceful protesters. This ruling reaffirmed the right to peaceful assembly and protection from unlawful state actions.

B. Upholding the Right to Legal Representation

HCCRH PET E303/2024 - LSK V IRENE AKOTH OTTO & STATE LAW ET AL

Advocates were denied access to their clients at Central Police Station, violating Article 50(2)(g) of the Constitution. LSK condemned this outright defiance of court orders and called for disciplinary action against officers obstructing justice.

Public Finance and Tax Justice A. Blocking Unlawful Budget Cuts to Professional Bodies

LSK V NATIONAL TREASURY

LSK challenged the Treasury's decision to impose a 100% budget cut on membership fees and professional dues for lawyers. The matter is scheduled for directions in October 2024, with LSK fighting to ensure professionals are not financially undermined.

B. Resisting the Privatization of Public Infrastructure

HCCRH PET 583/2024 - LSK V STATE LAW OFFICE ET AL

The High Court suspended a project agreement between KETRACO and Adani Energy Solutions, preventing a 30-year lease of Kenya's power transmission infrastructure at a cost of KSh 95.68 billion. LSK's intervention ensured that public resources remained under state control.

C. High Court ruling on JKIA privatization.

LSK, alongside KHRC, obtained a court order halting the Kenya Airports Authority's plan to lease JKIA to Adani for 30 years, preventing the hasty transfer of a critical national asset without public scrutiny.

Police Accountability and Rule of Law HCCRH PET 373/2024 - LSK v Martin Mbae, Isiah Murangari & 6 Others

The High Court directed the IG to enforce police identification laws, requiring officers to wear name tags and ensuring police vehicles remain clearly marked. This ruling enhances police accountability and curbs abuses by rogue officers.

Education and Social Justice HCJR E209/2024 - LSK v State Law, Cabinet Secretary Education & Another

The High Court suspended the Ministry of Education's directive forcing school children to register for SHIF, preventing a policy that could disproportionately burden parents.

Environmental and Consumer Rights HCCRH PET E430/2024 - LSK & Others v Sanitary Product Manufacturers

LSK intervened in a case against companies misleading consumers about the composition of sanitary products. The case exposed the dangers of synthetic materials in feminine hygiene products, reinforcing corporate accountability.

Governance and Leadership Integrity

CHARLES MUGANE V GILBERT MASENGELI

LSK joined a petition seeking the removal of Gilbert Masengeli from public office due to his failure to meet Chapter 6 integrity standards, underscoring LSK's commitment to ethical leadership.

HCCHR PET 273/2024 - LSK v State Law & SRC

The High Court suspended a Gazette Notice that unlawfully granted the National Treasury and SCAC powers that constitutionally belong to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission and the Public Service Commission, ensuring legal order in governance.

The PIL cases conducted have broader implications for constitutional protection, human rights, and socioeconomic rights, as well as a significant contribution to the development of Kenyan jurisprudence, particularly in reinforcing the rule of law and protecting human rights as enshrined in Kenya's Constitution of 2010.

A. LSK's Role in Shaping Jurisprudence Through Strategic Litigation

i. Advancing Protections Against ForcedDisappearances and ArbitraryDetentions

LSK has been at the forefront in advocating for the protection of personal liberty, ensuring state accountability for enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions. Through strategic litigation, LSK has reinforced the application of Article 29 of the Constitution, aligning with domestic legal protections international human rights instruments such as the ICCPR. These efforts ensure the judiciary remains a key actor in preventing systemic state overreach. -The evolving jurisprudence surrounding civic participation and public dissent has significantly shaped by LSK's been interventions. Courts have been urged to apply strict proportionality tests to any limitations peaceful on assembly. preventing uniustified executive curtailments of fundamental freedoms. This development has brought Kenya's legal framework in line with international human rights standards, ensuring that public order laws function as safeguards for democracy rather than tools of suppression.

ii.Strengthening the Right to Legal Representation

LSK's advocacy has led to landmark judicial pronouncements affirming the right to legal representation as a fundamental component of fair trial rights under Article 50(2)(g) of the

Constitution. These decisions ensure that legal counsel is not merely a privilege but a critical necessity for the integrity of the Through iustice system. strategic litigation, LSK has played a key role in reinforcing procedural fairness, drawing from jurisprudence in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and common law traditions that emphasize unfettered access to legal representation. These efforts have influenced regional legal systems in East Africa, affirming the interconnection between legal practice and human rights advocacy.

B. Promoting Public Finance and Tax Justice

LSK has strategically litigated cases that scrutinize fiscal policies, ensuring Article adherence to 201 of Constitution, which mandates responsible financial management. By challenging arbitrary budgetary decisions, LSK has strengthened judicial oversight over executive financial actions, reinforcing economic constitutionalism as fiscal instability. safeguard against Further, LSK has championed public participation in financial governance, advocating for transparent accountable fiscal policies. These cases have reaffirmed the judiciary's role in economic policymaking, ensuring that budgetary decisions reflect democratic principles and responsible governance.

C. Enhancing Police Accountability and Rule of Law

LSK has played a crucial role in shaping the legal framework governing police accountability, ensuring compliance with Article 244 of the Constitution. By challenging unlawful police practices, LSK has contributed to legal precedents requiring law enforcement transparency procedural oversight. - These strategic litigations align with international standards such as the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, reinforcing the necessity of judicial intervention to prevent impunity in law enforcement. LSK's contributions have helped embed global legal norms into Kenya's jurisprudence, ensuring that policing practices remain within constitutional limits.

D. Advancing Education and Social Justice

Through litigation, LSK has reinforced the justiciability of socio-economic rights, particularly in education. By invoking Article 43 of the Constitution, LSK has advocated successfully for judicial interventions that prevent policies disproportionately burdening marginalized communities. - These legal advancements align with global trends emphasizing judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights. Courts, influenced by LSK's strategic litigations, have increasingly recognized the role of the judiciary in ensuring that states meet their obligations to provide equitable educational opportunities.

E. Strengthening Environmental and Consumer Rights

LSK has strategically litigated cases reinforcing the environmental protection of mandates Article 69 of Constitution. Judicial decisions. influenced by LSK's advocacy, have strengthened corporate accountability for degradation, environmental ensuring compliance with sustainable development obligations. These legal advancements mirror global jurisprudential trends where courts actively intervene in corporate governance to safeguard environmental and consumer rights. LSK's role in shaping these decisions has positioned Kenya's legal framework in alignment emerging international environmental law standards.

F. Upholding Governance and Leadership Integrity

LSK has been instrumental in enforcing the integrity provisions enshrined in Chapter Six of the Constitution. Through strategic litigation, courts have been compelled to set higher expectations for public officeholders. reinforcing constitutional principles of accountability and transparency. - The global discourse anti-corruption and governance on integrity, particularly under the UN Convention Against Corruption, influenced LSK's litigation strategy. By aligning Kenya's legal framework with international best practices, LSK has ensured that judicial precedents uphold ethical leadership and strengthen public sector accountability.

Conclusion: A Year of Impact and Hope

The Law Society of Kenya has proven beyond doubt that it is not just a professional body, but a force for justice, democracy, and constitutionalism. In 2024, LSK took on the might of the state, defended the rights of the oppressed, and ensured that no unlawful government action went unchallenged. This work would not have been possible without the relentless efforts of the PIL Committee. our fearless pro bono advocates, and the unwavering support of our members. As forward. LSK we move remains committed to upholding the rule of law. speaking truth to power, and being the unwavering voice of the people. In the face of growing impunity, LSK stands firm; in the battle for justice, LSK leads; and in the quest for a better Kenya, LSK remains the beacon of hope. The fight continues. The rule of law shall prevail.

Pillar 2: Progress of the Bar, Pro Bono Practice and Access to Justice.

PIL Pro Bono and Legal Aid Scheme Report

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is committed to ensuring that access to justice is a fundamental human right, especially for the most vulnerable in our society. Through our Pro Bono Program, we facilitate a platform for advocates to give back by assisting individuals who cannot afford legal services. Our goal is to empower those in desperate need of legal assistance, including individuals who write to LSK, call our distress hotline, or visit our offices in person. This report summarizes our activities, achievements, and the impact of our pro bono initiatives over the period of 2024.

Program Overview

In 2024, our Pro Bono Program focused on addressing legal issues across various areas of law. The most common categories included:

Employment Law (e.g., wrongful termination, wage disputes)

Family Law (e.g., custody disputes, divorce, domestic violence)

Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination cases, human rights violations)

Criminal Law (e.g., representation for accused individuals)

Succession Law (e.g., wills and inheritance disputes)

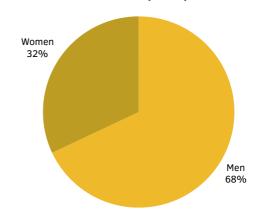
Work Injury Benefits Act (WIBA) claims (e.g., claims related to workplace injuries)

Quarterly Breakdown of Pro Bono Activities

OUARTER 1: JANUARY - MARCH 2024

Total Requests for Assistance: 450 Mode of Requests: 220 walk-ins, 150 distress hotline calls, 80 written inquiries Demographics:

> Men: 68% (306) Women: 32% (144)

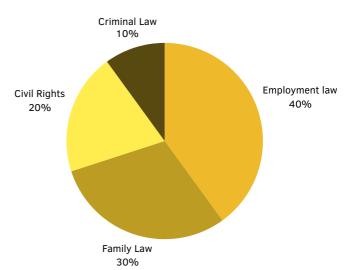


Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 15% (67)

Common Legal Concerns Noted:

Employment Law: 40%

Family Law: 30% Civil Rights: 20% Criminal Law: 10%

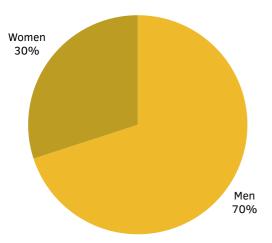


QUARTER 2: APRIL - JUNE 2024

Total Requests for Assistance: 607 Mode of Requests: 300 walk-ins, 207 distress hotline calls, 100 written inquiries

Demographics:

Men: 70% (425) Women: 30% (182)

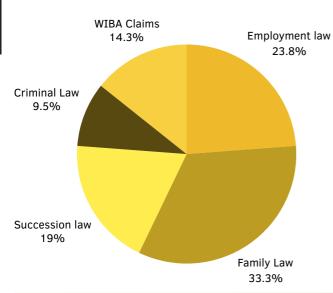


Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 10% (60)

Common Legal Concerns Noted:

Family Law: 35% Employment Law: 25% Succession Law: 20% WIBA Claims: 15%

Criminal Law: 5%



QUARTER 3: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

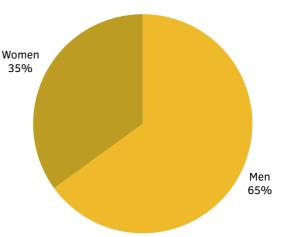
Total Requests for Assistance: 902

Mode of Requests: 450 walk-ins, 350 distress hotline calls, 102 written

inquiries

Demographics:

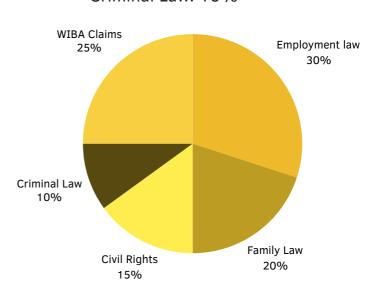
Men: 65% (586) Women: 35% (316)



Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 12% (108)

Common Legal Concerns Noted:

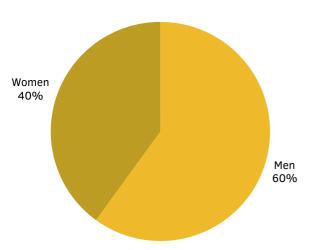
Employment Law: 30% WIBA Claims: 25% Family Law: 20% Civil Rights: 15% Criminal Law: 10%



QUARTER 4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

Total Requests for Assistance: 765 Mode of Requests: 400 walk-ins, 300 distress hotline calls, 65 written inquiries Demographics:

> Men: 60% (459) Women: 40% (306)



Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 15%

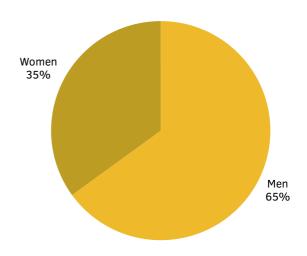
(115)

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

In 2024, the LSK Pro Bono Program successfully responded to a total of 2,724 requests for assistance, significantly impacting the lives of those we served:

Total Individuals Assisted: 2,724

Men: 1,776 (65%) Women: 948 (35%)

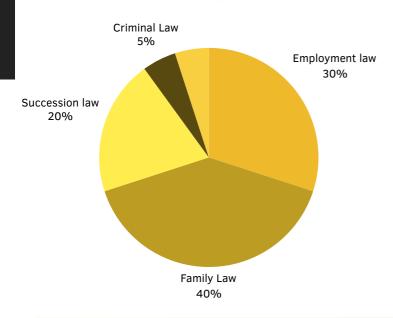


Common Legal Concerns Noted:

Family Law: 40%

Employment Law: 30% Succession Law: 20%

Civil Rights: 5% Criminal Law: 5%



Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 350

(12.8%)

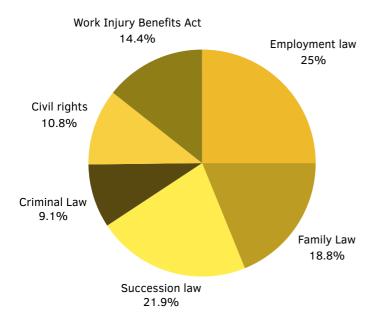
Legal Issues Addressed:

Employment Law: 700 cases (25.6%)

Family Law: 525 cases (19.3%)

Work Injury Benefits Act: 400 cases (14.7%)

Civil Rights: 303 cases (11.1%) Criminal Law: 253 cases (9.3%) Succession Law: 608 cases (22.4%)



Key Achievements

Successful Resolutions: Through the dedicated efforts of our advocates, we achieved favorable outcomes in 1,850 cases, providing vital relief and justice for those in need.

Enhanced Community Outreach: The referral system established in collaboration with local organizations enabled us to reach remote and underserved communities.

Increased Awareness: Extensive awareness campaigns led to a 30% increase in the number of individuals contacting our distress hotline, reflecting the growing trust in our services.

Conclusion

The Law Society of Kenya remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting access to justice for the most vulnerable members of our community. Our Pro Bono Program has made significant strides in addressing legal needs. empowering individuals to confront and overcome legal challenges. As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen our initiatives, ensuring that justice serves not as an ideal, but as a reality for every Kenyan, regardless of their socioeconomic standing. Together, we can create a more equitable society where all individuals have the opportunity to defend their rights and seek the legal assistance they deserve.

Advocacy and Capacity Building Programs 2024

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is unwavering in its commitment ensuring that justice is accessible to every Kenyan. The Public Interest Litigation & Advocacy Directorate unites various stakeholders and partners to address critical legal and human rights issues through a focused approach. This report highlights key thematic programs within the Directorate, showcasing our collaborative efforts, impactful outcomes, initiatives strategic aimed addressing critical challenges in society. Our programs center around five core thematic areas:

- Purple Ribbon Program Focus on police accountability, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings.
- Environmental Justice Advocacy for forest preservation and natural resource governance.
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights – Ensuring access and protection of reproductive health rights.
- **Electoral Justice** Strengthening democracy and governance practices.
- Pro Bono Pathways Enhancing access to legal services and addressing emerging trends in pro bono work.

Thematic Areas of Collaboration

Development of East Africa Pro Bono Guidelines

Partners: IMLU, CRR, ASF, EALS

The development of East Africa Pro Bono Guidelines is an ongoing initiative aimed at standardizing and enhancing pro bono legal services across the region.

Activities & Achievements:

- Phase One: Development of the framework for the guidelines.
- Phase Two: Drafting of the detailed quidelines.
- Phase Three: Validation of the guidelines through stakeholder engagement.
- Final Phase: Official launch and dissemination of the guidelines.
 Impact:

Once finalized, the guidelines will serve as a foundational tool for legal practitioners offering pro bono services, ensuring effective legal support for marginalized communities while fostering regional cooperation in public interest litigation and mentorship among legal professionals.

Capacity building in immigration law: Strengthening Legal Protection for Refugees and Stateless Persons

Partners: UNHCR, Haki Centre, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), KELIN In December 2024, LSK played a pivotal role in convening a workshop to address legal gaps affecting approximately 9,800 stateless individuals in Kenya.

Activities & Achievements:

Multi-stakeholder workshop to review the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act.

Formulation of policy recommendations to remove arbitrary registration deadlines and strengthen legal protections.

Advocacy aligning Kenya's commitments with the Global Refugee Forum's target of eradicating statelessness by 2027.

Additional Training:

LSK partnered with RCK to conduct training for members on regional, international, and national legal frameworks governing refugee protection, forced migration, human trafficking, and smuggling.

Impact:

The workshops and training sessions enhanced the legal community's understanding of refugee rights and statelessness, equipping advocates to push for stronger legal protections and legislative reforms.

Advancing Police Accountability

Partners: IPOA, IMLU

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LSK and IPOA established a robust framework for addressing police misconduct and ensuring accountability.

Activities & Achievements:

Facilitated pro bono legal representation for victims of police brutality.

Developed a legal framework for case handling and reporting.

IPOA provided critical case data to support legal interventions.

IMLU supported forensic training for PIL Committee members and provided resources for medical-legal aspects, particularly regarding excessive use of force by police.

Impact:

Victims of police violence gained access to justice through LSK's legal network, reinforcing accountability within law enforcement and restoring public trust.

Training on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Partners: KELIN, Katiba Institute

 A specialized training session was organized to equip advocates with expertise on legal frameworks governing reproductive health rights.

Activities & Achievements:

- Trained 20 advocates on legal and policy frameworks surrounding SRHR.
- Facilitated knowledge-sharing to enhance legal representation in reproductive health cases.
- Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) approach integrated into training to challenge biases and promote human rightscentered advocacy.

Impact:

Trained lawyers are now better positioned to litigate reproductive health cases and provide legal support for individuals whose rights are violated.

Participation in the Global Forum on Justice and the Rule of Law

Partners: World Bank, ISLP, ARTICLE 19 LSK actively engaged in the global forum to showcase Kenya's legal reforms and strengthen international partnerships.

Activities & Achievements:

- Established training programs with ISLP to enhance LSK members' skills.
- Deepened advocacy for freedom of expression through collaboration with ARTICLE 19.
- ARTICLE 19 also partnered with LSK to conduct human rights documentation training for the PIL Committee.

Impact:

These partnerships positioned LSK as a key player in global justice reforms and expanded its influence in international legal circles.

Capacity Building in Human Rights Documentation

Partners: OHCHR, Partners in Justice International (PIJ)

A training session focused on investigating serious human rights violations as crimes against humanity.

Activities & Achievements:

Trained lawyers on documenting human rights violations.

Developed guidelines on classifying Crimes Against Humanity under Kenya's International Crimes Act.

Impact:

The training equipped legal practitioners with skills to document violations effectively, strengthening advocacy efforts in human rights law.

Establishing the Nairobi Pro Bono Partnership

Partners: Nairobi Senate Office

LSK launched the Nairobi Pro Bono Partnership to expand access to legal services across Nairobi's 17 constituencies.

Activities & Achievements:

Developed a sustainable pro bono referral system.

Conducted community legal education and outreach programs.

Impact:

More individuals can now access free legal services, promoting justice for marginalized communities.

Anti-Finance Bill Emergency Response Project

Partners: Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)

This initiative addressed legal needs arising from widespread protests against Kenya's Finance Bill.

Activities & Achievements:

Conducted legal interventions during protests.

Provided pro bono representation for arrested individuals.

Established a Human Rights Reporting Forum for UN submissions.

Impact:

The initiative ensured that victims of human rights violations received legal support and amplified advocacy efforts for governmental accountability.

Resource Mobilization

LSK secured significant financial support from key partners to implement its advocacy programs.

Key Donors:

- Open Society Foundation
- Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)
- Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF)
- Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
- Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR)

These funds enabled the execution of critical projects, including PIL, advocacy, human rights training, and emergency response initiatives.

Conclusion

LSK's PIL and Advocacy Program has made significant strides in strengthening access to justice and upholding the rule of law. Through robust partnerships, strategic litigation, and proactive advocacy, LSK continues to empower legal practitioners and champion human rights for all Kenyans.

Pillar 3: Advancing Legal Advocacy Through Strategic Events and Initiatives.

THE LEGAL AWARENESS WEEK 2024

The LSK held impactful Legal an Awareness Week 2024 from October 28th to November 1st. This significant event, themed "Laws for the People, By Empowering Citizen the People: Participation," showcased LSK's unwavering commitment to enhancing access to justice and fostering active civic engagement among citizens. It was launched on October 28th, 2024, with a formal launch at the Milimani Law Courts Parking Yard, presided over by LSK President Ms. Faith Odhiambo and Council Members. Keynote speaker Hon. Professor Kivutha Kibwana delivered a thought-provoking address, emphasizing the critical role of an informed citizenry in challenging injustices and advocating for their rights, setting an empowering tone for the week's activities. The launch 250 attracted approximately event stakeholders. legal partners, and practitioners, highlighting the importance of collaboration in this initiative.

In a notable departure from previous strategies, LSK employed a robust mobilization approach by partnering with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Notable partners included:

- Directorate of Children Services: Engaged 100 attendees
- Come Together Widows and Orphans Organisation: Brought in 150 attendees
- Safe Online Women Kenya: Attracted
 120 attendees
- These CBOs played a pivotal role in reaching marginalized communities, leading to a significant increase in participation across various events.

Key Activities During Legal Awareness Week

Legal Aid Clinics

A hallmark of the week was the establishment of legal aid clinics in three prominent law courts: Milimani, Kibera, and Makadara. These clinics aimed to provide free legal consultations to walk-in clients over three days, from October 29th to 31st. The response was overwhelming, with a total of 1,201 individuals receiving legal aid.

The top areas of concern included:

Family Law: 40%
Property Law: 30%
Criminal Law: 30%

A substantial percentage of clients (70%) were women, highlighting the pressing need for targeted interventions to promote gender equality within legal access. Many clients reported significant barriers due to a lack of resources, underscoring the necessity of ongoing pro bono services.

Public Seminars and Training

The final day of the week, November 1st, featured a seminar focused on legal reforms and civic empowerment, drawing 250 participants. Attendees engaged in discussions that highlighted importance of legal literacy in promoting civic rights. Additionally, LSK conducted crucial training for its Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Committee on human rights documentation and reporting, empowering 50 committee members with the skills to effectively document human rights violations and communicate findings to relevant bodies.

Public Baraza for In-House Counsel

A groundbreaking public baraza was also held specifically for in-house counsel, featuring expert sessions on corporate, tax, and employment law. This event attracted another 250 participants, including small traders and enhancing entrepreneurs, understanding of legal rights and responsibilities while providing platform for networking and knowledge- community. sharing.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The success of Legal Awareness Week was significantly bolstered by valuable partnerships, which included:

- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)
- Haki Jamii
- Britam
- CREAW Kenya

- FIDA
- CIC Group
- Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (NCIARB)
- Advocates Complaints Commission
- Strathmore University
- LSK SACCO
- National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ)
- Kenya Prisons
- Tax Tribunal
- Judiciary
- LSK Nairobi Branch
- National Land Commission (NLC) Kenya
- Kenyatta University
- JKUAT
- Article 19
- Legal Empowerment Fund
- Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)

their These collaborations were instrumental in achieving the week's objectives a ensuring wider outreach and impact in the

Conclusion and Recommendations

Legal Awareness Week 2024 successfully promoted access to justice and empowered citizens to take an active role in their rights and responsibilities. Moving forward, LSK is encouraged to maintain cooperative efforts with CBOs to ensure sustained engagement with marginalized communities. Key recommendations include:

- Continued collaboration with community leaders to reach underserved populations
- Enhancement of targeted mobilization strategies to address gaps in legal service provision
- Prioritization of community engagement to align with community needs and aspirations
- Investment in capacity-building programs to equip members and partners for effective outreach
- Ongoing advocacy for policy reforms designed to dismantle systemic barriers to justice.

Through these initiatives and recommendations, LSK aims to build on the momentum generated during Legal Awareness Week 2024, fostering better access to justice for all Kenyans, especially those marginalized by socioeconomic challenges.

Training of the Public Interest Litigation Committee on Human Rights Documentation

LSK conducted a comprehensive training program for the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Committee on human rights documentation reporting. This and initiative aimed to equip the committee members with the necessary skills to effectively document human rights violations and report them to relevant bodies.

Impact:

The PIL Committee is now better equipped to document human rights violations and report them to the Special Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the UN.

Key Findings:

- The training program covered topics such as human rights law, documentation techniques, and reporting procedures.
- Committee members expressed appreciation for the skills acquired and their ability to effectively document human rights violations.
- Programmatic Initiatives:
- The LSK is collaborating with local and international organizations to provide ongoing support and resources to the PIL Committee while launching a database to track human rights violations and provide a platform for reporting.

Rights Violations During Human **Maandamano Protests**

As part of our mandate to promote and protect the rule of law in Kenya, the Law of Society Kenya undertook comprehensive investigation into human rights violations experienced during the Maandamano protests. Our findings were alarming, highlighting widespread and systematic abuses by state including excessive use of arbitrary detentions, and instances of torture. This report segment outlines our efforts to document these abuses and advocate for accountability and justice for the victims.

Key Highlights:

- 1. Documentation **Project:** We implemented documentation а project aimed at substantiating our findings through the collection of testimonies evidence and victims. This endeavor is ongoing, with the training and onboarding of rapporteurs, lawyers, and paralegals in progress.
- 2. Report and Submission to UN **Entities:** Α detailed letter of allegation was presented to the United Nations, accompanied by a comprehensive report detailing the human rights violations experienced during the protests. This submission aims to raise international attention for advocate intervention and regarding these abuses.
- 3. Advocacy and Support for Victims: LSK continues to promote

Documentation and Advocacy Efforts on accountability and justice for the victims through our engagement with offer organizations that psychosocial support and trauma counseling services. We remain committed to addressing the fears of retaliation and intimidation that have hindered many victims from speaking out.

Outcomes and Implications:

- 1. Increased Public Awareness: Our efforts have raised national and international awareness about the human rights violations experienced during the protests, highlighting the need for accountability and justice.
- 2. Strengthened **Partnerships:** Our collaboration with local organizations in providing support to victims has strengthened our network and enhanced our capacity to respond effectively to human rights abuses.
- 3. Advocacy for Reforms: The documentation and submission of our report will contribute to the ongoing efforts to reform the security sector and ensure that such abuses are prevented in the future.

Future Plans:

- 1. Continuous Documentation: We will continue to document testimonies and evidence from victims, ensuring that their voices are heard and that justice is pursued.
- 2. Advocacy will and **Support:** We maintain our advocacy efforts and continue to provide support to victims through partnerships with local organizations.

3. Engagement with UN Entities: We will engage with UN entities to ensure that our findings are given due consideration and that international pressure is applied to address these human rights abuses.

Conclusion:

The Maandamano protests presented a stark reminder of the human rights challenges that Kenya continues to face. As the Law Society of Kenya, we remain committed to promoting the rule of law, protecting human rights, and advocating for accountability and justice for all Kenyans. We are honored to be part of this important work and look forward to updating you on our progress in the coming year.

LSK will continue to support and enhance its advocacy efforts on human rights abuses, particularly in the context of public unrest and protests.

The LSK collaborate with local and international partners to promote justice and accountability for the victims of human rights abuses.

We recommend that the LSK continue to document and report on human rights abuses, with a focus on raising international attention and promoting reform of the security sector.

First-Ever In-House Counsel Public Baraza

LSK hosted a groundbreaking public baraza for in-house counsel, featuring expert sessions on corporate, tax, and employment law. This initiative aimed to enhance access to justice by providing

3. Engagement with UN Entities: We will in-house counsel with essential knowledge engage with UN entities to ensure that about their rights and responsibilities.

Impact:

A total of 250 participants attended the public baraza, including small traders, entrepreneurs, and experts from various fields.

Key Findings:

Participants reported a significant increase in knowledge and understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities.

The event provided a platform for in-house counsel to network and share best practices.

Programmatic Initiatives:

LSK is expanding its training programs for in-house counsel, covering topics such as corporate governance and risk management while launching a mentorship program to pair in-house counsel with experienced lawyers and experts.

Inaugural Gala Dinner

Event Overview

On November 1, 2024, LSK held its Inaugural Gala Dinner in a spectacular setting, marking the grand culmination of Legal Awareness Week. Set against the poignant backdrop of the anti-finance bill protests that swept across the nation earlier this year, this gala was more than just a celebration; it was a profound recognition of the courageous advocates Public who stood resolutely for justice and accountability during turbulent times. The evening was filled with elegance and purpose, as esteemed legal professionals, dignitaries, and advocates gathered to who honor those made sacrifices in the defense of civil rights.

Purpose of the Event

relentless efforts of 153 advocates who Maandamano against protests controversial finance bill. These to members of the public, navigating the treacherous waters of police brutality, arbitrary arrests, and violations fundamental human rights. Their unwavering commitment to uphold the Constitution—especially Article 37. which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly—was a testament to their public spirit and dedication to justice.

appreciation, facilitated through a collective crowdfunding initiative under the "Justice for All" project, showcasing supporting those who stood on the front commitment lines for the rights of others. Each advocate also received a certificate gallant recognizing their efforts. symbolizing LSK's gratitude for their dedication and resilience during challenging period.

Central to this mobilization was Mr. Manwa Hosea, the Convener of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) initiative, who emerged as a spearhead during the galvanized protests. His leadership various advocates across regions, fostering a spirit of unity and purpose strategic vision and unwavering

commitment to justice, Hosea played a The gala dinner acknowledged the pivotal role in coordinating legal efforts, ensuring timely representation emerged as bastions of hope during the detainees, and amplifying the voices of the those who had been silenced.

advocates provided selfless legal support. The support of the President of the Law Society and all council members was instrumental in the success this of of initiative. Their unwavering commitment to championing the rights of citizens highlighted LSK's dedication to social justice. The collaboration among council members under Hosea's quidance emphasized that the fight for justice is a shared responsibility.

Before the event, the 153 advocates The event underscored the pressing need received Kshs 5,000 each as tokens of for legal professionals to continue their role as guardians of democracy in Kenya. In a climate where the essence of civil liberties was under threat, LSK's initiative the solidarity of the community in to host this gala signified a resolute to recognizing celebrating advocates who champion the cause of justice and the rights of the oppressed.

> a Award Recipients and Their Contributions The marked evening was by the presentation of prestigious awards to ten exemplary advocates whose contributions during this critical period have left an indelible mark on the legal landscape:

Eric Muriuki

For his pivotal role in Nairobi Constitutional Petition No. E303 of 2024, where the High Court allowed advocates among legal professionals. Through his access to clients during arrests, reinforcing constitutional protections under Article

49(1)(c).

Rebecca Omwenga

Recognized for her successful litigation in Nairobi Constitutional Petition No. E373 of 2024, where she secured an order for police officers to maintain accountability by not hiding their identities during arrests, exemplifying a commitment to transparency.

Moses Kimutai Isaac

Honored for his proactive support during the Maandamano as a police officer stationed at the Supreme Court, acting as a bridge between enforcement and the legal community to protect protestor rights.

Abner Mango

Acknowledged for representing LSK in Polycarp Okello the landmark Milimani Pendo under the International Crimes the LSK and the local communities. Act.

Richard Mwaniki

Commended for his tireless work in securing the release of protesters from various Nairobi police stations, serving as a beacon of hope and support during their time of distress.

James Ongamo

Recognized for his dedicated efforts in tracing and securing the release of over the legal community's indomitable spirit.

Valine Kiptoo

Honored for organizing vigils in Eldoret advocating for the release of detained protesters, amplifying the call for justice in her region.

Derrick Mwangi

Acknowledged for his impactful interventions in Nyahururu, ensuring legal rights were upheld for those facing violations during the protests.

Brian Okoko

Recognized for his significant contributions in Mombasa, advocating for the rights of protestors and providing necessary legal assistance to those affected by the crackdown.

High Court Recognized for his strategic mobilization Criminal Case No. E074 of 2022, pushing efforts during Legal Awareness Week, forward the prosecution of police fostering access to legal services by involved in the tragic murder of Baby liaising to ensure collaboration between

> In addition to the outstanding individual advocates, members of the LSK Council and staff received awards for their unwavering support and leadership throughout these challenging times. Their dedication to fostering a strong legal framework and advocating for justice served as a crucial backbone for the advocates working on the ground.

The inaugural gala dinner serves as both a celebration of past achievements and a 200 individuals arrested, emblematic of clarion call for ongoing advocacy and collective action in the face of future challenges.

First PIL Committee Retreat/Workshop on the Development of East Africa Pro Bono Guidelines

In a noteworthy event that combined hard work and relaxation, the first-ever Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Committee Retreat took place along the scenic shores of Diani from June 5-8, 2024. Set against the tranquil backdrop of the Jacaranda Hotel, this workshop was not just another drafting session; it refreshing opportunity was dedicated committee members—many of whom work tirelessly behind the scenes and celebrate —to unwind their commitment to advancing justice.

discussions on Sexual and Amid Reproductive Health and Rights, as well as civic space litigation, the committee was crafting a comprehensive reference tool intended to clearly define pro bono and legal aid efforts across the region. The newly developed guidelines set the stage for a unified approach to best practices that will enhance the availability of legal services for those in

By the end of the workshop, participants had successfully created a detailed framework that encompasses everything from the scope of pro bono services to quality standards and innovative allocation mechanisms for case assignments. This initiative not only aims to standardize practices but also seeks to inspire a culture of volunteerism within the legal community, encouraging recognition for those who commit themselves to vulnerable serving populations.

Ultimately, the PIL Committee Retreat important was an gathering acknowledged the committee's dedication while fostering collaboration among its members. The blend relaxation and teamwork during this retreat allowed participants to reflect on their mission and strengthen their commitment to driving meaningful change across East Africa.

Conclusion of the Report

As we reflect on the events of 2024, the Law Society of Kenya can take pride in its unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law. Through the tireless efforts of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Committee and the essential support of the PIL Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee, we have made significant strides in safeguarding human and advocating for marginalized and voiceless in our society. This year has been marked by numerous challenges, yet we have demonstrated resilience and dedication in our pursuit of justice. Our strategic litigation efforts have not only held the government accountable but have also deepened public trust in our legal system. The cases we have undertaken, ranging from unlawful detentions to environmental protection, reaffirm our role as advocates fundamental freedoms for and constitutional rights.

Looking ahead, LSK remains committed to building on these achievements and continuing to confront injustices while championing the cause of the oppressed.

We recognize that our work is far from over, and we are steadfast in our resolve to ensure that every Kenyan has access to justice and the protections enshrined in our Constitution.

CONFERENCE & EVENTS

LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024



The LSK Council during the Annual Conference.

The Council of the Law Society of Kenya held its Annual Conference from the 13th – 18th August 2024 at the Diamonds Leisure Beach and Golf Resort in Diani, Ukunda Kwale County. The conference was held under the theme, *Empowering Legal Excellence: Good Governance and the Rule of Law for Sustainable Development* and the Sub theme of, *AI in Law: Navigating the Future of Legal Practice*".

The conference brought over 1,200 legal professionals. policymakers and stakeholders from across Country committed to advancing justice, transparency and accountability in Kenya and beyond. The conference featured a broad range of sessions and side events tailored to diverse segments of the legal community, including Women in law, In-House Counsel, Young Lawyers, and Senior Bar members. The aim was to foster professional development, provide address networking opportunities, and pertinent issues facing each segment of the profession in line with the theme.

Welcome Reception

The welcome reception was held on Wednesday 14th August 2024 where the LSK president Faith Odhiambo made her remarks and welcomed members to the Annual Conference 2024.

The President further stated that the welcome cocktail was a way of ushering in a reflection of truth as members would be focusing on the theme for the Conference. On the other hand, the Vice President Mwaura Kabata welcomed members and encouraged members to take advantage of the networking opportunity to mingle with old friend and meet new acquittances.



The LSK President making her opening remarks during the Annual Conference.

The invited Guests for the welcome reception included Mr. Henry Lughanje-County Attorney, Kilifi County; Mr. Faraji Chipinde from the Office of County Attorney, Kilifi County and Seth Mwatela-Speaker County. The guests welcomed members to the Coastal town of Diani and wished them a pleasant stay and productive conference.

Side Events of the LSK Annual Conference Women's Breakfast Forum:

The LSK Women's Breakfast Forum was held in partnership with Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA) under the theme; Tracing the Journey of Advancing Gender equality in Kenya: The Two-Thirds Gender Rule where two panels held various discussion on the same.

Panel 1; The Moderator was Irene Otto, Council Member and the panelists were; Ms. Miriam Bomett- FIDA Vice Chair, Rosalinda Nduati- Managing Partner at Anjarwalla and Khanna Advocates and Hon Martha Karua SC.

Panel 2; The Moderator was Elizabeth Wanjeri, Council Member and the panelist were; Dr. Mercy Deche, Mr. Kevin Walumbe.

There was also a key note address from Ms. Renee Ngamau, a Women's right Advocate and Social Entrepreneur who spoke on, *She calls a spade a space- The corporate Woman: A real Talk by Ms. Renee Ngamau.*

The two panels indeed concurred that, the Two-Thirds Gender Rule is a constitutional mandate in Kenya that sought to ensure that no gender constituted more than two-thirds of any elected or appointed position in public office. Enacted as part of the 2010 Constitution, this rule is a critical step toward achieving gender balance and promoting equal representation in decision-making bodies.

They further explored on the progress, challenges and future directions in line with the two- thirds gender rule while giving personal accounts and their efforts at their various fields.



Council members following the proceedings during the Women's Breakfast.

Young Lawyers Forum

The Young Lawyers Forum was held under the theme; Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an Enhancer, not Substitute, of Legal Excellence where the key note speaker was Dorah Msengeti, Advocate, Esheria while the panelist were; Polycarp Okello, Advocate, Naeem Hirani, Advocate and Maria Mbeneka, Advocate. held various discussion on the same.

The moderator was Mr. Wycliffe Oyoo, Advocate. The convener of the Young Lawyers Committee is Gloria Kimani, Council Member.

The Key note address indeed concurred that Artificial Intelligence was rapidly transforming various industries, including the legal profession. While AI has the potential to revolutionize how legal services are delivered, it was crucial to understand its role as a complement to, rather than a replacement for, the nuanced expertise and critical thinking that define legal excellence.

Subsequently, the Young Lawyers Forum presented an insightful discussion on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal field and explored on how AI could serve as a powerful tool to enhance legal practice, rather than replace the essential skills and judgment of legal professionals.

Senior Bar Forum

The Senior Bar Forum was held under the theme; Succession Planning for Sustainable Development where panelists were; Dr. Fred Ojiambo SC, Wilfred Nderitu SC, Lucy Kambuni SC and John Ohaga SC. The moderator was Mr. Tom K'opere Council member.

The forum highlighted that succession planning was not merely a process for replacing leaders; it was a vital component of sustainable development for law firms. By ensuring continuity, fostering growth, managing risks and aligning with core values, succession planning would help law firms thrive and adapt to an evolving legal environment. Investing in a comprehensive succession plan is essential for long-term success and stability in the legal profession. In a nut shell, effective succession planning is a strategic investment in the future of law firms, ensuring their resilience, growth, and continued success.

In-House Counsel Forum

The In-House Counsel Forum was held under the theme; The Role of In-House Counsel in shaping the future of corporate Governance. where panelists were; Paul Muthaura, Advocate- CEO Africa Carbon (ACMI), Markets Initiative Catherine Musakali, Advocate- FCPSK, ACIrb, OGW, Enock Mulongo, Advocate- Principal Legal Counsel- Financial Services Safaricom PLC. The moderator Ndinda Kinyili, was Advocate, Convener In-House Counsel Committee, LSK.

The forum held discussion and insights on the following key areas;

- Current trends in in-house counsel corporate governance
- The evolving role of in-house counsel in shaping ESG compliance in Kenya.
- Insights into the latest regulatory changes and best practices for maintaining compliance in the corporate environment.

Rights (SRHR) Forum

The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Forum was held partnership with Center for Reproductive Rights Africa under the theme; What has the Law got to do with it? Rethinking Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights where the panelists were; Mwathi CEO/ Kitonga, Deputy Director Compliance and Ethics, LSK. Timothy Thondu, Legal Advisor CRR, Edigah Kavulavu- Snr, Manager, Africa Probono Services- CRR. The Moderator was Angelica Mecha, Advocate.

It was noted that sexual and reproductive health and rights are fundamental to individual well-being, social equity and economic development. Further ensuring access to SRHR services and upholding these rights supports healthier, more empowered communities and contributes to the broader goals of human rights and sustainable development. It is essential governments, organizations, individuals to prioritize SRHR as a key component of health and social policy.

By prioritizing SRHR, we contribute to a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future for all individuals.

Key Highlights of the Main Conference

The Official opening ceremony of the #LSKAnnualConference2024 was graced by Hon Lady Justice Olga Sewe who was representing the Chief Justice Martha Koome. In her speech she Advocates to reflect on their role in the system of administration of justice to effectively uphold the rule of Law. Further, she highlighted the various ways

Sexual and Reproductive Health and the judiciary has adopted the use of technology to ease service delivery for all court users. On the challenges experienced. she indicated that Judiciary is working on eliminating the same and the protection of data.

> Hon. Lady Justice Sewe also appreciated the Advocate who stood by the Judiciary when the courts faced hostility undertaking its constitutional mandate and standing up for the rule of law.

> Preceding the Chief Justice's remarks, the CEO Florence Muturi welcomed LSK members the to #LSKAnnualConference2024 highlighting the key aspects of the Conference. She then in turn called on the Vice President, Mr. Mwaura Kabata to make his remarks. The VP made a clarion call for members to reaffirm on our commitment to the core of our business which is the protecting the sanctity of the Constitution while adhering to the rule of law and administration of Justice.

> The President Faith Odhiambo in her welcoming remarks indicated that as member converged for the conference, it was not just a momentous highly anticipated occasion members calendars but an integral forum for enhancing the unity of purpose for the legal profession. She proceeded to note that the conference came at a time when the limits of the Country's democracy was stretched and the resilience of the Constitution and rule of law were tested insidiously and blatantly. concluded by calling on Advocates to reflect on how we can translate our

individual privileges into action points to impact good governance and sustainable development in the Country.

The Key Note speaker was Mr. Pheroze Nowrojee SC who urged advocates to speak up against bad governance and be champions of good governance, in addition he stated that the office of an advocate is a constitutional office.

There were two break-away streams which addressed the following areas of the theme:

Stream A

The stream tackled the main theme, Empowering legal excellence: Good Governance and the Rule of Law for Sustainable Development and had two speakers: Hon. Kivutha Kibwana, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya who made a presentation on, Role of LSK in of promotion Rule of Law and Constitutionalism and catalyzing Socio-Political Change 1949- 2024.

The other Speaker was Charles Kanjama SC who made a presentation on, Technicalities as a Graveyard for Justice. The moderator was Dr. Nabil Orina, Advocate.

Stream B

The stream tackled the sub theme, Artificial Intelligence in Law: Navigating the Future of Legal Practice and had the following speakers; Peter Koira Advocate of the High Court of Kenya who made a presentation on, The Infinite Possibilities of Artificial Intelligence and Good Governance in Advancing Sustainable Development Goals: A Legal Perspective.

Sentai Simons, Co-founder & Director & Maria Petrat, Lawyer & Legal Innovator 637 Capital, New York & Nairobi presented on, How to Use Artificial Intelligence in the Management of a Modern Law Firm; while Immaculate Kassait, MBS Data Protection Commissioner presented on, Data **Protection Considerations** When **Incorporating** Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice

The moderator was Zakayo Alakonya.

Day 2

the the of On second day #LSKAnnualConference2024. the Chief Guest was Hon. Prof. Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister Constitutional & Legal Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania. In his address, he noted that Advancing on #GoodGovernance, it was part of the LSK's role as a #SustainableDevelopmentGoal, therefore for Lawyers, as much as we defend our people, we need to be conscious of our actions. We need to think about the people and LSK has done well in that aspect; while on Artificial Intelligence (AI), he stated that it does not replace human intelligence therefore we need to have a regional approach, not а European approach or any other. In this and other areas of integration, for instance, Kiswahili-English translation in nomenclature and vocabulary of the law so that when we feed this in the virtual world, we have a common language in the Google translator.

Mr. Elisha Ongoya delivered his address titled. Our role as Kenya Advocates in of law recentering the rule sustainable development in a fastchanging world. He highlighted that in the surge for of technology's development, he proposed four realms where the rule of law should be realigned to shape AI's advancement for our future's embrace and enhanced expense and they include the following: Advocating for legal reforms, ethical standards, promoting legal awareness and demanding accountability and finally, ensuring access to justice.

There were two break-away streams which addressed the following areas of the theme;

Stream A

held discussion Stream Α on, Empowering Legal Excellence: Good Governance and the Rule of Law for Sustainable Development and following speakers lead the discussions; Dr. Andrew Khakula, Advocate Partner, ABK Advocates LLP, made a presentation on, Exploring The Role of Citizen Participation in Championing Good Governance and The Rule of Law for Sustainable Development in Kenya

Florida Kabasinga Secretary General, East Africa Law Society & Founder & Managing Partner, CERTA Law, made a presentation on, *Empowering Legal Excellence: The Role of the Lawyer in Supporting the Development Goals and Promoting Sustainable Development of East Africa*

The moderator was Dr. Martin Oloo.

Stream B

Stream B handled, *Artificial Intelligence in Law: Navigating the Future of Legal Practice.* The following speakers led the discussions:

Beverline Ongaro Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, made a presentation on, *A Human Rights-Based Approach to Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Promise and Pitfalls*

Maria Mbeneka, Advocate, made presented on, *Impact of AI and an Overview of Ethics in the Legal Profession*

Waithera Kabiru, Digital Hub Lead – Africa, presented on *Unlocking Operational Efficiencies with A.I.*

The moderator was Christine Boke Inimah.

Closing Ceremony

The Closing ceremony of the week- long conference was graced by Hon. Martha Karua SC who appreciated the LSK for conference and the topics discussed that timely. She were very encouraged advocates to carry the lessons learned here into their respective fields, striving to uphold the principles of justice and fairness embracing the transformative potential of technology. She further stated that together, we can build a future where the rule of law and good governance continue to drive progress and ensure sustainable development for all.

"Nations are made by its citizens. Institutions are good as the persons manning it. The LSK Leadership, the previous and the current, has been able to bring cohesiveness in the profession. We need to ask ourselves how we can help our

Country get where the framers of the Constitution wanted us to be. A nation where our needs are prioritized." Martha Karua as she officially closed the #LSKAnnualConference2024.

Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

In the evening after the close of the conference, members were hosted for a Gala Dinner which was sponsored by the East Africa Breweries Limited by the sandy beaches of the Indian Ocean to of celebrate the culmination the concluded conference on Good Governance, the Rule of Law, and the evolving role of AI in law.

The Event Moderators Ms. Linda Kiome, Council member and Mr. Stephen Mbugua Council Member stated that that it was an evening to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate the sponsors, speakers and moderators of the #LSKAnnualConference2024 who made the event possible with their generous support.

In addition, it provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the rich discussions had and new connects made. They further indicated that it was an evening to acknowledge and appreciate of the sponsor the #LSKAnnualConference2024 who made the event possible with their generous support.

The event moderators led the awards ceremony where the sponsors, speakers and moderators were awarded for their support, dedication and making the conference a success. The awards were presented by the LSK Council Members.

LSK President Golf Tournament

On Saturday 17th August 2024, over 50

golf enthusiasts from around the country registered for the exciting one-day event dubbed the #LSKPresidentsGolfTournament2024 which was played at the Diamonds Leisure Beach and Golf Resort.

This year's tournament showcased the stunning, lush greens and challenging fairways of Diamonds Golf Resort. Preceding the fierce competition form the players saw the LSK President Faith Odhiambo teeing off the games to ushering in the tournament.

Spectators enjoyed the perfect Diani tropical climate, characterized by warm temperatures and high humidity adding to the tournament's charm. The event also featured various fan activities and a lively clubhouse, making it a memorable experience for all in attendance.

The day came to an end with an exciting awards ceremony which took place at the clubhouse grounds decorated with floral arrangements and golf-themed decor. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and excitement as players, their families, and spectators gathered to celebrate the achievements of the tournament's standout performers.

The following golfers were awarded as follows;

- Best Effort- James Delamere
- Men Nearest to the pin Jimmy Kingori
- Lady Nearest to the Pin- Josephine Ndiho
- Men longest drive Scott Caruthers
- Lady Longest drive- Nancy Ikinu
- Junior Longest Drive- Alpha Wise
- Sponsor winner- Sifa Dena

- Sponsor Runner up- Lawi Mbira
- Guest Winner men Milkhail Fernandes
- Guest Lady Winner Getrude Mwendah
- Gross Winner- Scott Caruthers
- Men winner- Mark Kotonya
- Lady Winner Provia Odhiambo
- Men 1st runners up- Austin Odhiambo
- Lady 1st runners up wangoko njoroge
- Men 2nd runners up Joseph wandaro
- Lady 2nd runners up Nancy Ikinu
- Men 3rd runners up C kariuki
- Overall winner Allen Gichuhi



Winners being awarded after the LSK President's Golf Tournament.

The regions that played were Nairobi, coast, Mt. Kenya, rift valley, south Eastern and western. The winners were as follows

- 1. Coast.
- 2. Nairobi and:
- 3. Kenya

The Society appreciates the MC, George Gustavo for his eneray. professionalism and ability to seamlessly guide the conference from the start to the end. while engaging meaningful interactions with the audience. contributed to the conference's success.

LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA JUSTICE GAMES

Introduction.

Over the past 20 years, the Law Society of Kenya has organized its Annual Sporting activity, dubbed the LSK Justice Cup where the main sporting activity is soccer. This annual event is fashioned as a networking and bonding event where advocates practicing in different areas across the country interact in friendly games. It is an event initiated to advance 'beyond-court' welfare of the advocates for a wholesome Society. In initial years, the games were centralized in Nairobi, however, in the past three years, there have been some significant changes. The first one is, the sporting activity evolving to be named the LSK Justice Games with the inclusion of other sporting activities and secondly is the devolution of the event to the various Branches of the LSK. The inaugural Justice Games tournament was first held out of Nairobi in 2023 with the South West Branch hosting the Games in Kisii County.

The Council constituted an Ad Hoc subcommittee of the Council to form the Planning Committee for the Justice Games 2024 as follows:

- 1. Steven Mbugua Chairperson
- 2. Teresia Nicholas Member
- 3. Ezekiah Aseso Member
- 4. Florence Muturi Secretary

The Committee was supported by the following secretariat staff members:

- 1. Sophie Kaibiria
- 2. Boniface Kivuva
- 3. Michael Chege
- 4. Angela King'oo
- 5. Agnetta Rodi

This year, the games were hosted by Mt. Kenya Branch particularly in Embu County at the University of Embu (UoE) on 27th July 2024 under the theme, Fair Play; Where law meets sports. The Games are designed to engage members of Law Society of Kenya (LSK) in a one-day recreational sporting and fun day. As such, affiliate branch members and the LSK membership through their law firms and organizations were invited to field teams in soccer, basketball, volleyball and select indoor games such as scrabble chess, badminton among others.

The event was privileged to have been officially kicked off by Hon. Justice Lucy Njuguna, Presiding Judge, Embu Law Courts where she appreciated the LSK for having the event in Embu County.

The Justice Games 2024

The Preparations for the event and the games involved several activities that were steered by the Joint Committee of the Council members, the Mt. Kenya Branch officials and the LSK secretariat. The following is a summary of the main activities that were undertaken before and during the event:

1. Facilities Preparations and Organization.

The host institution, the University of Embu was tasked to prepare the undermentioned facilities for the day.

- 4 adjacent futsal pitches for soccer.
- 1 volleyball pitch
- 1 basketball pitch
- 1 badminton pitch
- 1 indoor games room for chess and Scrabble
- Dart, pool, tug of war, and fun game areas playing area

2. Planning and cost itemization

The planning committee conducted a site visit on the 7th of June, 2024, as part of the planning process to determine the suitability of the UoE grounds for hosting the 2024 Justice Games Tournament. The site inspection was prerequisite for the committee in conducting needs analysis that informs event planning, logistical arrangements, and the costing of the event. During the site visit, a number of issues were deliberated and determined, including affirming the university as the preferred venue, as proposed by the branch.

After the site visit, in compliance with the procurement processes and in consultation with the Planning Committee, bids for the acquisition of various goods and services were solicited to inform cost itemization, guided by the relevant budget line as per the approved master budget for fiscal year 2024.

Bids were evaluated by the tender evaluation committee, and а cost itemization schedule was developed and presented to the planning committee for consideration and Subsequently, the Chair of the Planning Committee submitted the report together with the cost's itemization schedule to for consideration Council the and approval.

The Council in its meeting held on 23rd July 2024 approved the request for a supplementary budget from the Finance and Accounts Directorate to cover the budget deficit of Kshs. 3,482,163 from the surplus to support justice games 2024 to make it a success.

3. Technical Officials and Associated Personnel

Referees and umpires were sourced from regional federations to oversee all areas of operations and the smooth running of the tournament. Other relevant personnel such as medics, security, and cleaners were engaged to support the success of the day.

4. Tournament Rules and Fixtures

The soccer tournament attracted 32 teams (Annexed) which were divided into 11 pools. Based on the number of entries vis a vis the resources available in terms of facilities and time, the tournament rules and fixtures were developed to ensure the games ended on scheduled time. This was agreeable to all participants and the organizing team.

However, the transition from pool to the knock-out stage in soccer was contested by some unqualified team/ team members alleging they ought to proceed regardless. This was in contravention of the already set criteria as per the fixture. Despite all this, the soccer fixtures were concluded although late with winners awarded with merit trophies and certificates.

S/No	Sport/ Discipline	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4
1.	Football	Parliament	Okil Kamaloka Welfare	Kisii Teaching & Referral (KTRH)	Triple OK
2.	Basketball	Anjawalla & Khanna	Mashtaka	Young Bar Association	
3.	Volleyball	LSK Rift Valley	Parliament		
4.	Tug of War	South West Kenya	Mt. Kenya		
5.	Chess	ODPP A	Kanjama	ODPP B	
6.	Scrabble M	KTRH A	KTRH B	LSK NYERI	
	Scrabble W	Kanjama	Malindi	ODPP	
7.	Badminton M	West Kenya	LSK Sacco	SK	
	Badminton W	Triple OK	LSK Mombasa		

5.Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament was also featured at the sidelines of the Justice Games. The tournament was played at the Embu Golf Club and it attracted 50 entrants with a tee-off at 7.00 am. It was an incredible event honoring the top golfers during the Golf Tournament who were as follows;

- Overall Winner K. Ndwiga
- Lady Winner Advocate D. Ajwang Men Winner – J. Ngai
- Gross Winner Mediator M. Muiru Lady Runners Up – M. Makena
- Men Runners Up A. Gitonga
- Seniors Winner Hon N. Nyaga
 Sponsor Winner Advocate A. Kombo
 1st 9 Winner P. Fundi
- 2nd 9 Winner M. Njeru
- Men Longest Drive K. Ndwiga
- Ladies Longest Drive M. Njoki
- Men Nearest to PIN J. Murungi
- Two Club A. Gitonga
- Best Effort Winner Advocate L. Mumbi

Opportunities

Based on the number of participants the tournament attracted, it provided an opportunity to convince and attract corporate sponsors and partners in the future. This can be done by having an early declaration of the tournament dates, scooping the hosting Counties for probable sponsorship or teams and having attractive packages for advertising in the various LSK Platforms.

Challenges

- 1.Late confirmations by some teams especially in soccer making it difficult to generate final fixtures.
- 2. Team officials seemed overwhelmed by their members in making critical decisions that affected the flow of the fixtures in soccer.
- 3. Lack of well-lit field
- 4. Late start to the games
- 5. Availability and access to alcohol by participants in the main arena interfered officiation of games due to unruliness
- 6. Meal vouchers are normally issued to a

of 10 maximum players organisation/law firm. In scenarios where a firm has fielded two teams, they are required to take care of their extras. This headache for the planning committee, as the order placed for the was 10 players organisation/firm. However, firms fielding two teams demanded vouchers for 20 players which caused alot of chaos and discord.

Recommendations.

- 1. Factor in teams to a maximum of 20 pax per organization/ law firm on meal provision. The practice has been to factor in a maximum of 10 pax and especially for soccer team.
- Consider having charges for individual players who might want to participate in the indoor games.
- 3.Strict deadline should be set upon which teams must comply with, to avoid late confirmations.
- 4. Discipline and general team conduct of members and players should be the sole responsibility of the coach/manager whose names should be shared with the secretariat for ease of communication.
- 5. Alcohol vendors are to be allocated a secluded spot not so easily accessible to sportspersons, especially during the live games.
- 6.Avoid/limit the inclusion of professional/semi-professional players in the justice games as it's a simple day out for advocates and their families. In addition, disqualify any team who may have more than 4 professional/semi-professional players at any given time

(if included in the rules).

- 7. The Society to have a way of verifying players before kick-off to confirm that they are advocates.
- 8. Increase the number of match officials.
- 9. Display results of the ongoing matches on a screen for everyone to see.
- 10. Make yellow cards and red cards more painful for teams.
- 11. Involve more stakeholders from the legal fraternity before pooling teams and let teams be drawn fairly and transparently.
- 12. Kick-off time ought to be fixed and non-negotiable.
- 13. Increase security personnel to avoid hostile fanatics who disturb the match officials.
- 14. Secure football pitches to avoid invasion.
- 15. Recognize the most disciplined teams, best goalkeepers, best players even if they don't get to the finals.
- 16. Have a Sports Coordinator who understands football and how it's organized.
- 17. Plan to have more women-friendly games for future events.

LSK LEGAL AWARENESS WEEK

The report has been covered extensively under the Advocacy and Public Policy Engagement of this report on page 146

The International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference 2024 Background

The International Bar Association (IBA) is recognized as the world's organization for legal practitioners, bar associations. and law societies. continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the development of international legal collaboration practice and fosterina among lawyers globally. The IBA Annual Conference 2024 took place from 15th to 20th September 2024, in Mexico City serving as the premier gathering for legal professionals worldwide. The brought together thousands of lawyers, judges, legal scholars, and policymakers to discuss critical legal issues, regulatory developments, and emerging trends in the profession.

One of the key areas of engagement centered on global legal insights and best practices, which facilitated an in-depth analysis of comparative legal systems. These discussions provided an opportunity for the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) to benchmark with global peers and explore avenues for expanding Kenya's legal practice landscape beyond local and regional borders.

Outcomes

The Law Society of Kenya President Faith Odhiambo represented the LSK at the conference and participated in a joint session discussing the, IBA's Report on the Social and Economic Impact of the Legal Profession. The report examined the impact of the legal profession on society, the public perception of the profession, and identified opportunities to

enhance its positive contributions.

Findings from the report established a strong correlation between the rule of law and key social, economic, and political indicators of national prosperity. The global analysis presented in the report reinforced the necessity for the Law Society of Kenya to maintain its firm commitment to defending the rule of law, as this directly influences economic growth, social justice, national peace and cohesion, and the realization of socioeconomic rights.

Additionally, the conference addressed growing concerns regarding collaboration among Bar Associations, particularly in relation to cross-border legal practice. A key takeaway for the LSK was, the IBA's commitment to providing region-based support to ensure Bar Associations can effectively respond to emerging rule of law challenges within their specific geopolitical contexts.

The President engaged with the IBA President to discuss the extension of such support to the Global South, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. The IBA President expressed willingness to facilitate discussions on the proposal and later reiterated this commitment during the East Africa Law Society Annual Conference and General Meeting.

LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA AWARDS

LSK ANNUAL DINNER, DANCE AND AWARDS

The Society hosted the membership to the Annual Dinner, Dance and Awards ceremony which was graced by Hon. Lady Justice Hedwig Ong'udi. The Ceremony brought together esteemed guests, awardees and sponsors to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions made by members within the legal fraternity.

The ceremony commenced with opening remarks from the LSK Secretary/CEO Florence W. Muturi, who welcomed guests and expressed gratitude for their presence. She highlighted the significance of the awards in recognizing excellence in adhering to the rule of law and administration of Justice.

The presentation of the awards was made by various outgoing council members, who presented to individuals across the various categories. Each award recipient was recognized for their exceptional performance, dedication, and impact in their respective fields. The awards were presented to the following individuals:

- Hon. Lady Justice Lucy Njuguna Distinguished Service in Administration of Justice
- Sen. Prof. Tom Ojienda Roll of Honor
- Isabella Obara Father Kaiser Award



The outgoing LSK President, Eric Theuri handing over instruments of power to the incoming LSK President, Faith Odhiambo during the LSK Annual Dinner and Dance.

LSK ANNUAL DINNER, DANCE AND AWARDS







 ${\it Members \ during \ the \ LSK \ AGM \ Gala \ Dance \ \& \ Awards \ ceremony..}$

LSK LEGAL AWARENESS WEEK GALA DINNER



Members during the LSK Legal Awareness Week Gala Dinner.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA

The Communications Department remains enhancing committed to visibility, and information engagement, dissemination through strategic publications of the Society. Over the past year, we have produced a range of materials, including newsletters, reports, magazines, and digital content, aimed at keeping Advocates and Members of the public informed and engaged.

This section highlights key publications that have contributed to our organizational goals by sharing insights, success stories, and critical updates. Through these efforts, we continue to strengthen our brand presence, advocate for key issues, and ensure effective communication with our audiences.

We look forward to expanding our reach and impact through innovative and highquality publications in the coming year.







Newsletters

The Weekly Electronic Newsletter holds significant importance for several reasons, impacting both the effectiveness of communication and the overall user experience. Here are the highlights of the importance of the newsletter.

Keeping members engaged: By regularly sending newsletters, we have been able to keep our members informed on our activities and undertakings, while getting feedback on various notices we have shared.

Promotes LSK events and activities; The LSK weekly newsletter has proved instrumental in supporting and promoting other LSK events and activities including CPD seminars and webinars, Citizen's Assemblies, legal awareness week among others.

Supports our marketing channels; In addition to utilizing other channels like social media, our weekly newsletters are a useful and important way to support our broader marketing channels which include social media outlets and email marketing

In conclusion, the electronic newsletter is vital for staying updated, maximizing engagement, and aligning with evolving communication trends. It contributes to a positive user experience, strengthens brand identity, and ensures that the content remains impactful and relevant in a dynamic digital landscape.

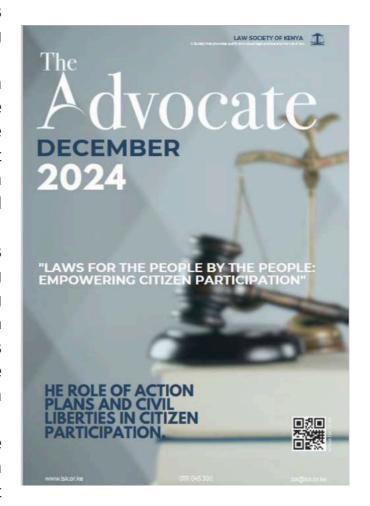
The Weekly Electronic Newsletters were circulated to the membership with assorted information that included (but not limited to) LSK event reports, Council decisions, landmark court rulings, CPD

seminars briefs, trainings, vacancies and legislations amongst others.

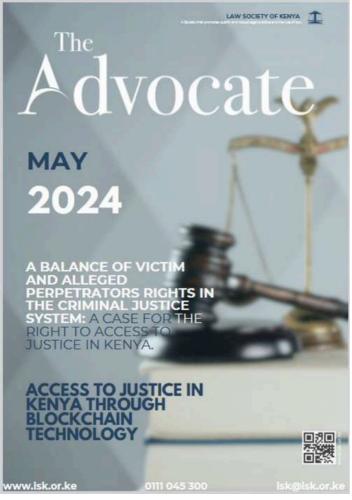
The Advocate Magazine

The Communication Departments was actively involved in the publishing the Advocate Magazine by inviting Advocates to participate in writing articles for the various editions of the LSK Advocate Magazine.

The magazine served as a powerful tool for knowledge-sharing, networking, and advocacy. It provides a platform to highlight key legal issues, emerging trends, and success stories while fostering professional development.







Some of the Key Benefits included;

- Education & Awareness Keeps advocates informed about legal updates, policies, and best practices.
- Advocacy & Influence Amplifies voices on critical issues, shaping public discourse and policy decisions.
- Networking & Collaboration –
 Connects legal professionals,
 fostering partnerships and mentorship.
- Showcasing Impact Highlights case studies, success stories, and contributions to justice.
- Resource Hub Provides research, expert opinions, and insights for professional growth.

A well-curated magazine strengthens the legal community, empowering advocates with knowledge and tools to drive meaningful change.

The past copies of the Advocate magazine can be accessed on the following link; https://lsk.or.ke/downloads/publications/

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

On 17th August 2024, the Council of the Law Society of Kenya in collaboration with the Advocate Benevolent Association (ABA) undertook the Society's Annual CSR activity at the Born Again Children's Home in Ukunda during the #LSKAnnualConference2024.

The primary objective of this CSR activity was to provide flooring materials for the Home. Renovating the flooring is essential for creating a cleaner and more hygienic environment for the children. Properly installed flooring will also help reduce dust and allergens, contributing to a safer environment and minimizing respiratory issues.

In addition to flooring, the Home had immediate needs for food, school uniforms, everyday clothes and shoes, mattresses and bedding, mosquito nets, non-perishable food items, toys, and stationery which members of the Society contributed too by offering a cash donation of Kshs. 150,000 during the CSR activity.

The team supported the Children's Home with essential supplies including foodstuff and flooring materials to help create a safe and nourishing environment for the kids. #CommunitySupport #GivingBack #LawyersForGood



LSK Members at the Born Again Children's Home during the LSK Annual CSR.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA TO COMMITTEES & VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (JSC)

The Law Society of Kenya representatives are Hon. Commissioner Jacqueline Ingutiah and Hon. Commissioner Omwanza Ombati.

This report, presented to the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), highlights the strategic achievements of the Commission for the year 2024. It underscores the relationship between the Commission and LSK in fostering access to Justice, transparency, accountability, and collaboration in the judicial sector.

During the reporting period, the Commission significant achieved milestones in line with its five strategic outcomes outlined in its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Key highlights include improved efficiency in judicial operations, with commendable 97.26% а performance score across courts, and a 99% case clearance rate. improvement from the previous year. The Commission facilitated the Judiciary to reduce case backlogs by 19% by establishing of additional High Court stations and operationalizing 27 new Small Claims Courts to enhance access to iustice.

To improve judicial accountability, the Commission concluded a total 1 14 petitions against judges and five (5) disciplinary cases against judicial Officers.

The Commission also disseminated the Judicial Service Code of Conduct to all court stations.

Leveraging technology as a key enabler, the Commission facilitated the Judiciary in rolling out e-filing in all counties; enacted an ICT Business Continuity Plan; and launching an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to streamline operations.

To strengthen integrity, the Commission developed policies, including Anti-Corruption policy and Investigations Procedures Manual.

Further, the Commission implemented continuous judicial education programs and enacted new policies to enhance professional competencies among Judges and judicial officers.

Despite these advancements, several challenges including inadequate funding hindered optimal performance. Commission recommends increased budgetary allocations to the Judiciary and the Commission, the institutionalization of regular dialogue between the Commission and LSK, and collaborative efforts to address case backlogs. These measures are critical to sustaining the momentum in the efficient and equitable delivery of justice in Kenya.

The full Judicial Service Commission report to the Law Society of Kenya on Strategic achievements for the year 2024 can be accessed on this link; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EYVcitbaQQa28B-YGP_LbFcIVPFUJcE/view?usp=sharing

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya representatives are; Nyoike S. Waigwe, Advocate and Dudley Ochiel, Advocate.

Pursuant to my nomination by the Law

Pursuant to my nomination by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and subsequent appointment by the Honorable Chief Justice Martha Koome vide Gazette Notice No. 1840, I was honored to join the National Council for Law Reporting (NCLR) as the female LSK representative and have diligently attended all meetings with a view to advancing the objectives of the Council.

Objectives

In line with the provisions of Section 4 of the Law Society of Kenya Act, the LSK has several goals, some of which resonate directly with those of the NCLR. In this regard, the Society aims to (among others);

- facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the Society;
- promote the independence of the legal profession;
- improve access to justice by members of the public;
- On the other hand, the Council for Law Reporting is charged, in a nutshell, with the responsibility of;

- providing accessible, accurate and timely publication of public legal information;
- publication of Kenya Law Reports (Rulings and Judgments) as well as other legal publications relevant to the dissemination of legal information to the public;

With the aforesaid frame of reference in mind, the Council has for the financial year (2024-2025) identified several key goals for the period. Below is a brief report on the Council activities this year.

Council Activities for the 2024 - 2025 Financial Year

The following are the activities that the Council has overseen in 2024:

i) Launch of the 24th Annual supplement:

The Launch of the 24th Annual Supplement took place on 30th April 2024. The supplement features two hundred and fifty-nine (259) revised editions of every Act, among other components. This was a huge milestone, as the last revision took place close to three decades ago, back in 1995.

ii) Re-development of the Kenya Law Website:

The revamped website went live in July 2024. The following are some of the new benefits users can expect:

- a)Easier Browsing and filtering of content;
- b)Faceted and advanced search across content;
- c)Search capabilities within documents;
- d)Historical document versions, and;
- e) Linking between documents.

iii) New and advanced hosting capabilities for the website:

The site can now handle a larger number of users and requests to the server, especially during peak hours, thanks to redundancies put in place to minimize downtime.

iv) Contribution to rule of law through case-back service and feedback on differences in judicial reasoning:

The Case-Back service system alerts a judicial officer when his or her decision has been considered by a court of higher jurisdiction. With 9,315 cases sent out as part of the case-back service system, judicial officers are able to keep track of their jurisprudential contributions and developments in jurisprudence.

v) Changes in Council Membership:

Hon. Justice Wanjiru Karanja (Court of Appeal Representative) and Hon. Winfrida Mokaya (CRJ) replaced Hon. Justice Fatuma Sichale and Hon. Anne Amadi respectively. The two new Council members are alongside two other new council members- Mr. Michael Karuru and Ms. Janette Mwangi- who also joined the Council at the tail end of 2023.

vi) Publications finalized in 2024:

- a) Devolution Digest
- b) Legal Education case digest
- c) Sexual and Gender based violence digest.
- d) Juvenile Justice case digest.
- e) Compendium on Ecological Jurisprudence

Accomplishments:

- Achievement of organizational goals is on track and the 24th Annual Supplement is now complete and available.
- Upon evaluation by the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) in November, the Corporate Board, the Chairperson, Council Members, the Editor/CEO, and the acting Corporation Secretary all scored extremely well.
- Kenya Law won the award for 3rd Overall Best Exhibitor at the Employment and Labour Relations Symposium and Exhibition;

Obstacles and proposed solutions

• Rationalized budget:

There is a proposed 40% reduction of Kenya Law budget from 455 million to 290 million, as a result of the proposed merger with the Kenya Law Reform Commission. This impacts various day to day deliverables and also the finalization of revision of the Draft National Council for Legal Information (NCLI) Bill.

• Freeze on new hires:

The Council and the institution is still with the grappling government's moratorium on hiring. When an institution is rendered unable to hire some of its key officials, then we invariably impact its efficiency in service delivery, which, in this case, includes the expeditious dissemination of information to the public. Some key positions such as that of Corporation Secretary remain without a substantive office holder.

Increase in workload

There has been an increase in the number of judicial decisions received from an average

of 300 cases per week to about 800 cases per week (266% increase). Additionally, there

has been an increase in the number of judges. Consequently, this, coupled with the inadequate staff, may sometimes occasion delays in some areas.

That notwithstanding, the Council and the institution (Kenya Law) continue to strive towards the realization of its goals.

Proposals

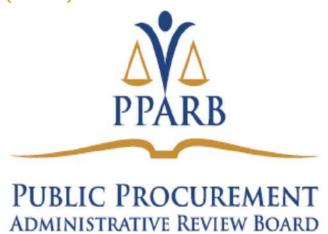
In light of the said challenges, and given Kenya Law's scope of work, I would propose that the LSK considers:

- Lobbying against the proposed Kenya Law and Kenya Law Reform merger; since the two entities have different delivery mandates.
- Lobbying against the freeze on hiring for key positions within public institutions.

Conclusion

Notwithstanding these challenges, the Council and Management at Kenya Law continue to do their utmost best to provide seamless access to legal information. These robust efforts have seen the institution make great strides in the advancement of its ICT framework and the provision of an increasingly user-friendly and enriched cyber platform.

THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW BOARD (PPARB)



PART ONE

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya Representatives are; Jessica Njeri M'mbetsa, Advocate and Jackson Awele Onyango, Advocate.

function the The main of Public Administrative Procurement Review Board (Review Board) under the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 (hereinafter "the Act") is to review, hear and determine tendering and asset disposal disputes. The period in review is from 1st July 2023 to 30th June. 2024.

This report is prepared in line with the provisions of regulation 19 of the Public Procurement & Asset Disposal Regulations, 2020 (the Regulations).

The Public Procurement Administrative Review Board.

The Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (the "Review Board") is established under Section 27 of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 (the Act) as a central, independent procurement appeals review board. The Review Board is established to promote and uphold fairness, equitability, transparency, competitiveness and cost-effectiveness in the Public Procurement System through judicious, expeditious and impartial adjudication of matters arising from disputed procurement and asset disposal proceedings in order to increase accountability and public confidence in the system.

The Review Board's objective is to determine tendering and asset disposal disputes arising from candidates and/or tenderers who claim to have suffered or risk suffering, loss or damage due to the breach of a duty imposed on a procuring entity by the Act and/or its attendant Regulations; and to perform any other function conferred to the Review Board by the Act, Regulations or any other written law.

The Composition and Membership of the Review Board

The Period under review recorded the following set of Board Members: -

NO.	BOARD MEMBER'S NAME	POSITION	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	
1	George Murugu Muthui	Chairperson	16th June 2023	
2	Alice Nyomenda Oeri	Member	16 th June 2023	
3	Susan N. Mambo (Dr.)	Member	16th June 2023	
4	Langat Kipngeno Daniel	Member	16th June 2023	
5	Alexander Curtis Nthiwa	Member	16th June 2023	
	Musau			
6	Lilian Atieno Ogombo (Eng.)	Member	16th June 2023	
7	Joshua Kiptoo	Member	16 th June 2023	
8	Qs. Hussein Were	Member	23rd February, 2024	
9	Jackson Awele Onyango	Member	23rd February, 2024	
10	Jessica Njeri M'mbetsa	Member	23rd February, 2024	
11	Stanslaus Kimani	Member	23rd February, 2024	

PART TWO

Administrative Review Cases

In the period under review, from 1st July, 2023 to 30th June, 2024 the Review Board presided over one hundred and thirty four (134) procurement and tendering disputes and has hence helped resolve and unlock critical economic value in the tenders subject of review in our economy.

The Review Board heard and determined each of the cases within the statutory time limit of twenty one (21) days from the date of their filing, as per section 171(1) of the Public Procurement & Asset Disposal Act, 2015.

The number of cases lodged with the Board during the reporting period rose by 12% and could be attributed to the fact that the year 2023/2024 saw government projects being implemented in a bigger scale from the previous year.

Categories of Procuring Entities

In terms of categories of Procuring Entities whose decisions or actions were challenged by Applicants at the Review Board, state corporations and semi-autonomous government agencies (SAGAs) provided the bulk of the procuring entities whose procurements (tenders) were challenged by Applicants at the Review Board, representing 60.4 % of the total number of cases filed. County Governments were second with 18 % while the rest of d accounted for 21.6 %.

Other Related Activities of the Administrative Review Board

During the period under review, the Review Board realized several successes in other frontiers as detailed below: -

i)Written Decisions

All the Decisions rendered by the Review Board in the reporting period were prepared and written by the respective panel of the Board and were signed by the Chair and the Board Secretary as per statute, filed in respective Case Files, and further uploaded on the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's (PPRA's) official website: www.ppra.go.ke.

The Secretariat ensured that all the parties to the Requests for Review were issued with an electronic copy (sent via email) of the subject Decision within the 21– day timeline as set in the Public Procurement & Asset Disposal Act, 2015.

ii) Development of electronic Administrative Review Management System

The Review Board embarked on the development of an electronic Administrative Review Case Management System (ARCMS) which was progressed in the course of the reporting period. This system is intended to enable the Review Board autmate some of its processes and digitise the documents the Board handles in the course of operations. The system would also enable the Board capture statistics and generate reports of its operations as well as enable easy communication and transmission of information between the Board members, the Secretariat and other parties to the Reviews.

The cases handled by the Review Board within the period were uploaded onto the online system. The development of the system (ARCMS) had been carried out by an external consultant, who was engaged by the Review Board through the PPRA and was retained on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) within reporting period. The system undergoing upgrade to endure it can be accessed and used by the parties to the matters before the Board.

iii) Development of Law Reports (Case Digest) of the Administrative Review Board's Decisions

The Review Board. under the of sponsorship the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), engaged the services of a Consultant to develop the Law Report (Case Digest) for the Review Board's cases (decisions) rendered in the period of years 2014 to 2020. The Consultant submitted the report as per the terms and conditions of the contract.

iv) Progress Report on Consultancy on Rules of Procedure

Board members gave their input on the TORs which were subsequently incorporated on the final TORs sent by PPRA to KRA, the implementing Agency, to progress the procurement process.

v)Development of PPARB Procurement Reports for the Years 2021-2023

The subject reports were delivered by the Kenya School of Law on 28th June, 2024. The Board is requested to consider approval of a retreat where the Consultants will take the Board through the Draft Report before approval. It is envisaged that the proposed retreat will also include the Board Colloquium among other matters that may require Board's attention.

vi)Engagement of Legal Research Personnel

The Review Board has been utilising legal research services provided by Legal Researchers which has enabled the Board enhance its decision making, decision - writing and drafting.

vii) PPARB Online Hearing procedure quideline, 2024

To ensure continued fulfilment of judicial function at all times, the review Board made arrangements through the use of ICT modern technologies aligned to the **Public** Procurement Regulatory Authority's ICT Policy and Quantity Management Systems ISO: 9001:2015. Three memoranda were received from the National Treasury, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya and the Law society of Kenya which were reviewed by the Board to incorporate the submissions. The Board is scheduled to approve and adopt the submissions in its next meeting.

PART THREE CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge more members of the LSK to take interest in public procurement law to help spur further development of the law in this critical area of critical public interest. The PPARB continually strives to facilitate more efficient access to its services by members of the society and the public at large through investment in technology and making available its decisions for public consumption and critique.

NAIROBI CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION (NCIA)

The Law Society of Kenya Representative is Laura Lusiji, Advocate.

The Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration ("NCIA") is a centre for promotion of international commercial arbitration & alternative forms of dispute resolution. It was established in 2013 by an Act of Parliament, the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act No. 26 of 2013, as a Centre for promotion of international commercial arbitration and other alternative forms of dispute resolution.

NCIA offers a neutral venue for the conduct of international arbitration with commitment to providing institutional support to the arbitral process. In addition, the NCIA caters for domestic arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution such as mediation. NCIA is an independent institution administered by a Board of Directors composed of professionals from the East Africa Region, including a representative from the Law Society of Kenya.

The board performs its oversight role but is not involved in Arbitration or Mediation of disputes which is the primary function of independent and professional Arbitrators and Mediators accredited by the Centre. The daily management of the NCIA is tasked to a Registrar/Chief Executive Officer with technical staff of the Secretariat.

Below is a list of activities of the NCIA in 2024, relevant to the Law Society of Kenya:

1.Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2024 on the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy

A policy proposal for a national policy on alternative dispute resolution initiated in 2020 by the then Honourable Attorney General, whose purpose is to framework create а robust strengthening, guiding and supporting the coordinated growth and uptake of ADR practice in Kenya, in accordance with Section 5 of the NCIA Act. The taskforce that was constituted undertake this task included the NCIA Secretariat, and distinguished ADR who comprised practitioners. οf members of the Board of NCIA.

The policy presents the current status of the ADR system in Kenya, and identifies the challenges, needs and gaps including lack of uniform understanding of key ADR terms and concepts; inadequate institutional, legal and policy infrastructure; inadequate governance and regulatory mechanisms; weak intra-sector coordination and linkage with the court system; amongst others, and then proposes mechanisms through which these gaps can be filled, largely through proposal of legislation. The policy proposed amendments to the Arbitration Act 1995: а proposed Construction Adjudication Bill; and a proposed Dispute Resolution Bill, that would encompass different forms of ADR mechanisms.

As at 2024, the Office of the Attorney General submitted the proposed policy to the National Assembly for consideration. The proposed amendments to the Arbitration Agreement and the proposed Bills will shortly be subjected to public participation through Parliament's Justice and Legal Affairs Committee. As key consumers and stakeholders of ADR, it is critical that members of the Law Society of Kenya interact with these proposals and submit their comments on the same.

Once the proposed legislation is subjected to public participation, the Council should notify its members, and ask them to submit their comments within a defined timeline. The Council should also consider utilizing the function of the Arbitration and ADR Committee, to ensure optimization of the process.

2. LSK Legal Awareness Week

NCIA in collaboration with the Law Society of Kenya celebrated the Legal Awareness Week 2024 at the Milimani Law Courts. The event took place from Monday, October 28, 2024, to Friday, November 1, 2024, across all LSK branches nationwide.

The theme of this year's event was "Laws for the People, By the People: Empowering Citizen Participation," and focused on enhancing legal literacy and awareness among the public. The Legal Awareness Week provided a unique platform for the public to engage with NCIA to learn about the ADR options available when disputes arise as they explore pathways to justice. NCIA had a and collaborated with booth other participants in the Justice system to empower civic participation and promote access to justice for all.

3. The Nairobi Arbitration Week

Building on the momentum of its inaugural event, NCIA is hosting the Nairobi Arbitration second Week ("NAW2025") between 17th and 21st March 2025. The theme for the same is: Arbitrating in the Age of Sustainability, addressing the dynamic interplay between arbitration and sustainable development in today's world. As a rising hub for international arbitration, Nairobi offers a unique platform explore the evolving landscape dispute resolution in the context of sustainability. The event attracts diverse array of local and global arbitration practitioners, in-house counsel. academics, and industry experts to discuss cutting-edge topics that shaping the future are arbitration, and in effect, relevant to the members of the Society.

Recommendation to the Council is that it should urge its members to participate in the Nairobi Arbitration Week in order to engage in discussions on emerging topics, as this goes towards their professional development. Further, Members will be receiving two CPD points from the event.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING SUBCOMMITTEE (SIGHT SAVERS INTERNATIONAL)

The Law Society of Kenya representative is Prof. Edwin Abuya, Advocate.

The subcommittee's primary objective is to contribute towards the enforcement of labor rights for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). This is in line with the overall objective of the LSK, namely, to protect the rights of all persons, in all spaces.

In terms of composition, it comprises of; •Academia.

- ·The Kenya Judiciary Academy,
- ·The Office of the Ombudsperson &;
- ·Select NGOs (ICJ, Equal Rights Trust, Sight Savers).

Since appointment, the representative has attended a number of meetings with the team and also had a meeting with a staffer at the LSK Secretariat who made me understand how the society can contribute to the work of the Subcommittee. Indeed, the representative received useful tips from this engagement and shared them with the team.

At the moment, the subcommittee is working on a Bench Book for judicial officers. The idea behind this document is to create awareness among judicial officers (JOs) on the legal frameworks-domestic and international- governing the

protection of PWDs in the work environment. This book will also serve as a model for future training of JOs as and when they deal with matters touching on the entitlements due to PWDs.

In terms of progress, Equal Rights Trust has shared a draft with the team and the team will have a meeting to discuss the document. The committee has also planned to share this document with Judicial Officer at a session in April this year. The document will be shared with the Society once firmed up.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (NCA)

1.0 Background

The Law Society of Kenya representative is Mercy Okiro, Advocate.

The National Construction Authority is established under the provisions of section 3 (1) of the National Construction Authority Act No. 41 of 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'). The Act came into effect on 8th June 2012. In exercise of the Cabinet Secretary's powers conferred under Section 42 of the NCA Act, the NCA Regulations were adopted by the National Assembly and took effect on the 6th June 2014 by Notice in the Kenya Gazette.

The Authority is domiciled under the State Department for Public Works under the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

2.0 Mandate of the National Construction Authority

As provided under Section 5 of the Act, the object for which the Authority is

established is to oversee the construction industry and coordinate its development. Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the National Construction Authority's Act No. 41 of 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), the Authority's functions are as follows;

- a)Promote and stimulate the development, improvement, and expansion of the construction industry;
- b) Advise and make recommendations to the Minister on matters affecting or connected with the construction industry;
- c) Undertake or commission research into any matter relating to the construction industry;
- d) Prescribe the qualifications or other attributes required for registration as a contractor under the Act:
- e)Assist in the exportation of construction services connected to the construction industry;
- f) Provide consultancy and advisory services with respect to the construction industry;
- g) Promote and ensure quality assurance in the construction industry;
- h) Enforce the prescribed building code in the country;
- i) Encourage the standardisation and improvement of construction techniques and materials;
- j) Initiate and maintain a construction industry information system;
- k) Provide. promote, review. and coordinate training programmes public organized by and private accredited training centers for skilled workers construction and site supervisors;

- I) Accredit and register contractors and regulate their professional undertakings;
- m) Accredit and certify skilled construction workers and construction site supervisors;
- n) Develop and publish a code of conduct for the construction industry;
- o) Do all other things that may be necessary for the better carrying out of its functions under the Act.

3.0 Board members of the Authority

Pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the National Construction Authority Act No. 41 of 2011, the Board of the Authority is currently composed of fourteen (14) members as follows:

No.	Name	Designation	Date of Appointment	Institution
1.	Ms. Mercy Okiro, Adv.	Chairperson	15 th November 2024	Law Society of Kenya
2.	Arch. Florence Nyole	Board Member	25th October 2024	Architectural Association of Kenya
3.	Ms. Ivy Kimani	Board Member	25 th October 2024	Kenya Federation of Master Builders
4.	Qs. Mutinda Josephat Mutuku	Board Member	25 th October 2024	Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya
5.	Eng. Catherine Munyi	Board member	28th June 2024	Institution of Engineers of Kenya
6.	Mr. Kalpesh Hirani	Board Member	25 th October 2024	Kenya Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors
7.	Mr. Peter Musango representing the	Board Member	8 th November 2024	Roads and Civil Engineering Contractors Association
8.	Eng. Godana Hargura	Board member	26 th January 2024	Special Interests Group in the construction industry
9,	Arch. Nicholas Tirop Koech	Board member	31" May 2023	Special Interests Group in the construction industry
10.	Eng. Gilbert Arasa, OGW	Alternate Member	15 th January 2024	Principal Secretary, State Department of Roads, Ministry of Roads and Transport

11.	Qs. Cassius Kusienya, MBS	Alternate Member	19th March 2024	Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development (MoLPWHUD)
12.	Qs. Rose Kotut	Alternate Member	6 th August 2024	Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Works, MoLPWHUD
13.	FA Paul Kiagu	Alternate Member	23rd April 2020	Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Economic Planning
14.	Mr. John Osero Mokomoni	Alternate Member	22 nd October 2024	Principal Secretary, State Department for
				Devolution, Office of the Deputy President

4.0 Attendance of Board Meetings

During the calendar year of 2024, as Vice Chairperson of the Board, I conducted and attended five (5) Board meetings between January and September 2024. As Chairperson of the Board, I have conducted one (1) Board Meeting held on 4th December 2024.

5.0 Successes and Achievements

Below are the Authority's successes and achievements against its deliverables during January – December 2024;

BRIEF ON F	BRIEF ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AUTHORITY		
REGIST	RATION AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS		
Registration of Contractors	The Authority has obtained an achievement of 9,747 new contractors against an annual target of 8,250 and issued a total of 66,532 certificates within the year.		
Accreditation of Skilled Construction Workers and Site Supervisors	The Authority has accredited 5894 site supervisors against an annual target of 1,600 and accredited 27,841 skilled construction workers against an annual target of 30,000.		
Publication of the Register of Contractors 2024	In line with Section 20 of the National Construction Authority Act No. 41 of 2011, the Authority has forwarded the register for the calendar year January – June 2024 has been forwarded to the Government Printer for publication.		
Registration of Projects	The Authority has established 14 regional offices and 13 liaison offices countrywide. In line with its quality assurance role under the Act, as at 30th November 2024, the Authority has made 31,327 inspections of construction projects against a target of 28,625; Approved 4,608 applications for project registration against a target of 3,934 and suspended 18,607 sites countrywide.		
Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee	As part of the Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee (MSACC), the Authority has completed an audit of 203 buildings across the country in the period, identified three unsafe buildings, and evacuated an unsafe building in Kahawa West before its collapse.		
Mobile Materials Laboratories and Non-	The Authority acquired three (3) mobile materials laboratories, three (3) sets of transportable analytical instruments and other equipment for construction onsite		
Destructive Test (NDT) Equipment	tests. In addition to these, the Authority also procured eleven (11) sets of Non-Destructive Test (NDT) Equipment, each set consisting of seven (7) number equipment.		
Subcommittee Inquiries	In exercise of its mandate under Section 22 of the Authority's Act, the Board may constitute a Subcommittee to undertake an inquiry into the conduct of contractors upon receipt of a complaint or on its own volition. Designated Subcommittees of the Board have successfully completed seven (7) inquiries within the calendar year 2024 namely; 1. Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of a gate-roof for the Proposed Inanga Hotel located in Athwana Ward, Tigania West Constituency, Meru County;		

- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of a building at a Proposed Filling Station on Plot L.R. No. 5989/208 along Northern Bypass Road in Ridgeways, Roysambu Constituency, Nairobi County;
- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of the proposed four (4) storeyed hotel development on Plot No. Gichugu/Settlement/Scheme/5691 PI area in Kirinyaga County;
- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of a maisonette building that was under construction and located near Olchorro market in Limanet Plot No. Cismara/Ilmashariani-Morijo/2351;
- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of a building in Kanguka Area of Suna East sub-county, Migori County;
- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of a proposed five (5) storey development in Kiharu Sub-County, Murang'a County;
- Subcommittee inquiry into the collapse of scaffold at a building under construction along Mukunga Drive, off Juja Road, in Juja 'A' estate, Pangani, in Starehe Constituency, Nairobi County.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION MATTERS

The National Building Code 2024

Section 42 of the National Construction Act No. 41 of 2011, gives the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to public works in consultation with the Board of the National Construction Authority powers to make regulations generally to give effect to the Act. Thus, the

Building Code has been anchored under Section 42(2) (aa) and Section 5(2) (ga) of the Authority's Act.

Accordingly, the Authority's review of the Code began in 2019, leading to stakeholder engagement and public participation forums held across the country in 2021. This process culminated in the publication of the National Building Code, 2024, in the Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXVI dated 1" March 2024 under Legal Notice No. 47. The National Assembly and Senate Committees on Delegated Legislation approved and acceded to the National Building Code 2024 on 30th April 2024 and 16th May 2024, respectively.

The National Building Code 2024 was launched on Wednesday, 16th July 2024, at the Social Housing Project at the Meteorological Site, located along Road A off Enterprise Road in Nairobi County.
The implementation of the Building Code will commence on 1" March 2025 and the Authority is currently in the process

Revised Evaluation Criteria for Contractors

Pursuant to the Authority's Act, the Authority is mandated to prescribe the qualifications or other attributes required for registration as a contractor under the Act. Towards this end, the Authority developed the initial contractor evaluation criteria in the financial year 2013/2014 to cater to the attributes and qualifications for the registration of contractors.

of undertaking stakeholder trainings on the Code.

In addressing developments in the construction industry, the Authority drafted the Revised Evaluation Criteria cited as the National Construction Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2017 to reflect current best practices, qualifications, and standards.

Nationwide public participation forums were successfully held between 2nd October to 2nd November 2023, with a total of 2,529 stakeholders in attendance. The forums included contractors, contractor associations, members of the County Governments, regulators, technical institutions, and members of the public, among others.

The development process is ongoing.

Review of the National Construction Authority Act No. 41 of 2011

The Authority seeks to amend its Act to reflect the best practices and tighten enforcement in the construction industry. The review is critical to strengthen the Authority's legal framework for effective regulation of the construction industry that reflects current industry standards.

	industry that reflects current industry standards.
	ICT MATTERS
E-Citizen Platform	The Authority has implemented NCA services on the E- citizen platform as one of the government modules. All payments for NCA services and charges are facilitated through this government platform.
Automation Services	Maintained automation of the Authority's services, including online application and renewal of contractor licences, modern Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

	system, Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) system and the implementation of an innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) for project registration and quality assurance activities – Online Project Registration System (OPRS).
Data Protection Policy	The Authority has developed a Data Protection Policy for implementation.
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans	The Authority has developed Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans.
RESEARCH, CAPACITY	BUILDING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
Training of Contractors, Skilled Site Supervisors and Construction Workers	The Authority has conducted 6 training programmes with 1,372 contractors, five (5) training programmes with 2,382 skilled workers in attendance and four (4) training programmes with 526 site supervisors in attendance.
Research in the construction industry	The Authority in line with the powers outlined in Section 5 (c), (h) and (n) of the Authority's enabling Act, is carrying out research of the following topics:
	 Assessment of Building Information Modelling (BIM) Uptake in Kenya; Development of the Construction Productivity Index: A Case of the Affordable Housing Program; Review of the National Construction Board Inquiry Reports to Develop Advisory for the Authority; Assessment of Factors for Enhancing Construction Productivity through Mechanization of MSME Contractors; Assessment of the Performance of Local Roads Works Contractors in Kenya.
International Construction Research Conference and Exhibition (ICoRCE)	The 5th ICoRCE was held from 25th - 27th September 2024 in Mombasa County. The conference attracted local and international participants, 494 delegates and 20 number exhibitors and partners. Further, 4 Sites were visited.
Construction Industry Policy	The Construction Industry Policy (CIP) was assented to by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2021. In line with policy requirements, the policy must be subjected to Cabinet deliberation and approval towards onward transmission to Parliament to be approved as a sessional paper.
Centre for Construction Industry Development (CCID)	Pursuant to Section 6 (c) of the NCA Act, the Authority seeks to establish a Centre for Construction Industry Development (CCID) at Konza Technopolis. The main objective of this centre shall be to provide expertise and related resources in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to predetermined construction areas.

6.0 Challenges

In fulfilling its regulatory mandate, the Authority has encountered challenges:

1. Distribution of the Authority's Offices

While the Authority maintains a presence through regional offices, it has yet to establish representation in all counties. Moreover, inadequate human resource capacity further constrains the Authority's ability to perform quality assurance functions nationwide. To mitigate the challenge, the Authority has recently approved a staff establishment that ensures presence in all forty-seven (47) counties.

2.Enforcement of the Authority's Act and Regulations

The Authority's compliance and quality assurance activities have revealed that multiple projects are being carried out in blatant disregard of the law, resulting in construction failures and incidents. The Authority has taken measures to promote compliance and uphold standards within construction industry, such the as establishing police officers to ensure compliance with the Authority's enabling laws. This has dramatically improved the level of compliance.

7.0. Opportunities and Recommendations to the Council

1.Amendments to the NCA Act & Regulations

The Authority has an opportunity to strengthen its legal and regulatory framework through the revision of its parent Act and the attendant regulations. Based on the experiences and lessons

learnt in its slightly over ten years of existence and leveraging its research on innovative ways of regulating the industry, the Authority intends to propose various amendments that will ensure that the industry is well-regulated and able to deal with any emerging challenges.

2.Implementation of the Affordable Housing Act

In line with the provisions of Section 11(2),(6), and 15 (1)(d) of the Affordable Housing Act No.2 of 2024, as read together with the First Schedule of the said Act. the Authority has been designated as an implementing Agency under the Act. This furthers the overall mandate under section 5(1) of the National Construction Authority Act to oversee the construction industry and coordinate its development. The Authority will leverage this provision to ensure that the capacity of local contractors improved to ensure that they have sufficient capacity to undertake projects in this space. The Authority will also develop strategies to have an adequate number of skilled construction workers and construction site supervisors available across the country to implement these projects.

SIC INVESTMENT NOMINATION COMMITEE

BACKGROUND

The Law Society of Kenya Representative is Mr. Lewis Karanja Kamau

SIC Investment Co-operative Society Limited upholds democratic ideals and seeks to nurture a responsive and effective leadership culture. SIC strives to be the investment Vehicle of choice by maximizing shareholders' wealth through prudent, sustainable, and responsible investment activities.

Under Section 28 of the Co-operative Societies Act Cap 490 of the Laws of Kenya and Section 43 (c) of the Society's By-laws, the Society formulated an Electoral Policy to provide members with guidance on:

- a) Qualifications for Membership for Management and Supervisory Committees
- b) Nomination Process
- c) Election Process

SIC Investment Cooperative promulgated the nomination and elections guidelines to provide its members with clear guidance on:

- a) How to nominate and /or elect a member into a leadership position
- b) How to seek nomination for Election.

VACANT POSITIONS

In compliance with the Co-operatives Societies Act, Co-operative Societies rules 2017, and SIC by-laws, three (3) board Members and one (1) supervisory committee member shall be retiring at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. The vacancies available in 2024 are as follows;

Table 1: Summary of Vacant Positions

Category	Retiring Members Names
SIC Board (Central Management Committee/CMC)	Eng. Emily Kilongi Tom Macakiage Judy Warui
Retiring Members of the Supervisory Committee (SC)	1. Beth Mwangi

The Management Committee ratified the appointment of the Nomination Committee for the year 2024 to enable the vetting of prospective candidates for both the Management and Supervisory Committee positions.

MANDATE OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Clause 8 of the Electoral Policy provides for the mandate of the Nomination Committee to include but not limited to the following;

- a) Designing of the nomination terms in accordance with the Society's by-laws, as well as the Co-operative Societies Act.
- b) Receiving Nomination forms from aspiring candidates.
- c) Vetting candidates aspiring for Management and Supervisory Committee positions in accordance with the Act and Society's By-laws.
- d) Issuance of Nomination certificates to successful applicants.
- e) Observing the election process.
- f) Preparing and presenting a report to the Board on the nomination and election process.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee consisted of representatives from the following institutions:

- 1) Law Society of Kenya (LSK)
- 2) The Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK)
- 3) Kenya National Chambers of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI)
- 4) Department for Co-operatives, Nairobi County.

- 5) Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK)
- 6) Institute of Certified Accountants of Kenya. (ICPAK).

There were six (6) members appointed from the recommended institutions to the Nomination Committee as follows;

- a) **David Wafula Luwigi,** Committee Chairperson: A nominee of the Institution of Surveyors Kenya (ISK).
- b) **CPA Jacob Njeru,** Committee Vice Chairperson: A nominee of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya.
- c) **Njoroge Mwangi,** Committee Member: A nominee of the Department for Cooperatives, Nairobi County.
- d) **KK Mutai, Committee Member:** A nominee of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- e) **Lewis Karanja Kamau** Advocate, Committee Member: A nominee of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).
- f) **FCS Lipio Mugambi,** Committee Member: A nominee of the of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat consisted of the following personnel from SIC Investment Cooperative Society;

- 1) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Churchill Winstones,
- 2) Head of Investor Relations, Ms. Mercy Gakonyo,
- 3) The Company Secretary & Legal Manager, Lillian Waweru,
- 4) The Legal Lead, Ms. Agnes Bukachi and:
- 5) Investor Relations Officer, Ms. Erisifa Njoroge.

Shortlisting of candidates

The vacancy advertisement was published on 23rd October 2024 with an expiry date of 12th November 2024. The secretariat issued several reminders by emails, notice broadcasts on social media platforms, and Short Message Service (SMS) to encourage participation by members before the expiry of the application deadline.

At the point of the deadline for receipt of applications, the Nominations Committee had received nine (9) applications from prospective candidates. The Nomination Committee reviewed and vetted the applications against the By-Laws and Electoral Policy requirements.

Nomination Process

The Nominations Process entailed the following;

- a) All members seeking nomination for election filled in the SIC Investment Cooperative Society Limited Nomination Form and included a proposer and seconder signing their respective Nomination Forms, both of whom were required to be members of the Society.
- b) Duly filled Nomination Forms were sent via Email or hand-delivered to the SIC Secretariat.
- c) Nomination Forms sent via email were acknowledged; those hand-delivered were acknowledged through a signature and the Society's official stamp.
- d) Upon receipt and review of the Nomination Forms, the Nomination Committee invited successful applicants to appear before the Committee for an interview with a requirement to bring along relevant documents.

- e) Unsuccessful applicants shall be formally notified in writing within a reasonable time before the advertised date for the General Meeting.
- f) The final successful candidates will be issued with a Nomination Certificate duly signed by the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee at least 21 days before the advertised date for the General Meeting.

Meetings held by the Nomination Committee

Commencement meeting:

The first kick-off meeting was on 14th October 2024, with an introduction of Committee members and the Committee Members' due election of the Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Committee then reviewed the scope of work as provided for under the Electoral Policy, the Nomination Process, and Election Guidelines.

Sensitization Session:

The Secretariat held a Sensitization Session on 22nd October 2024 for the Nominations Committee members to sensitize them on the Election Policy and bylaw provisions on the Nominations and Election Process.

Shortlisting of Candidates on 14th November 2024:

The meeting was held to review the applications received and documents submitted. The Nominations Committee shortlisted qualified candidates as per the Electoral policy. Responses were issued to the unsuccessful candidates.

Applications Received

The following applications were received for the board and Supervisory positions included the following candidates;

Table 2: Summary of Applications
Received

NO:	APPLICANT	SIC MEMBER NUMBER
1.	Geoffrey Nyatia Alex	Mmbr01356
2.	Judy Olive Warui Nini	Mmbr003775
3.	Erastus Cheti Omamo	Mmbr02498
4.	Edward Njoroge	Mmbr00800
5.	Raphael Nduyo (on behalf of Nieslen Company Ltd)	Mmbr04247
6.	Anthony Odhiambo	Mmbr01167
7.	Canute Waswa Ochieng	Mmbr00906
8.	Vincent Achola Opiyo	Mmbr00246
9.	Amos Booker Omollo	Mmbr01881

Review of Applications:

The meeting was held on 25th November 2024 to review the applications received and documents submitted. The interview date and schedules were confirmed, along with interview questions and invitations to candidates to be circulated to Committee members.

The Nomination Committee then shortlisted seven (7) candidates, for the vacant Board and Supervisory Committee positions, for the interview process as follows;

Table 3: List of Applicants qualifying for Interviews

NO:	APPLICANT	SIC MEMBER NUMBER
1.	Geoffrey Nyatia Alex	Mmbr01356
2.	Judy Olive Warui Nini	Mmbr003775
3.	Erastus Cheti Omamo	Mmbr02498
4.	Anthony Odhiambo	Mmbr01167
5.	Canute Waswa Ochieng	Mmbr00906
6.	Vincent Achola Opiyo	Mmbr00246
7.	Amos Booker Omolio	Mmbr01881

Interviews for Applicants:

The candidates were interviewed on 6th December 2024. A review and verification of their original physical documents e.g. Curriculum Vitae (CV), Education certificates, etc. from the candidates was also done by the Nomination Committee. Engaging discussions were held with the candidates. and the individual performance reports with inputs from the candidates have been attached hereto.

Unsuccessful Candidates

Upon review of applications one candidate was unsuccessful, and communication was issued formally by the Committee Chairperson through the Secretariat for the reason that after a thorough review of the application, the Committee noted that the applicant did not meet the application requirements having previously served as a Board Member for two cumulative terms. The bylaws under reference were section 45 (k) as read together with section 44 (viii).

Subsequently, the Nomination Chair communicated the outcome to the applicant below;

Table 4: List of Unsuccessful Applicants

NO:	APPLICANT	SIC MEMBER NUMBER
1.	Edward Njoroge	Mmbr00800

Withdrawn Applications

The following candidate upon submission of his application, withdrew his application mid-process and the same was formally acknowledged by the Secretariat.

Table 1: List of Withdrawn Applications

NO:	APPLICANT	SIC MEMBER NUMBER
	Raphael Nduyo (on behalf of Nieslen Company Ltd)	Mmbr04247

General overall observations from interview process

Most candidates professed diverse expertise in governance, finance, real estate, and strategy, aligning with SIC's needs for diversification and improved member engagement.

Common weaknesses included a lack of familiarity with SIC's Strategic Plan and delay in submission of pending documentation from government agencies (Good Conduct, TCC).

Key themes across candidates included commitment to enhancing governance, operational efficiency, member communication, and leveraging diaspora opportunities.

Most applicants were heavily invested in the Society and resonated with a deep sense of change required with a willingness to step up and serve to improve profitability.

Challenges indicated by candudates.

had challenges obtaining Candidates some of the documents required for the nomination process. Most candidates had challenges obtaining a Police Clearance Certificate within the mandated timeframes. These challenges beyond the applicants' control as they were occasioned by the difficulties the Police Kenya are experiencing processing Police Clearance Certificates. If these challenges persist, the Board should consider extending the time members are required to comply starting the nomination process early to allow applicants to comply. The Board should consider this for the additional reason of avoiding the locking out of suitable candidates who cannot secure the

Recommendations to LSK

documents in good time.

LSK should consider the approach taken by SIC when it comes to nomination processes for election of LSK leaders. We can have an independent body vet candidates who have met the standard requirements and issue nomination certificates.

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY REVENUE AUTHORITY

A.NRA operational plan implementation status

The Law Society of Kenya Representative is Ms. Carolyne Muthiani.

The following a summary of the key activities undertaken so far by the Board and the pending Board activities to be undertaken this year.

ACTIVITY	STATUS		
Board Induction	The Board members were inducted in June 2023 where H.E. the Governor spelt out his vision for the NRA and expectations.		
Election of Vice- Chairperson	Director Ronald Kibaara Meru was elected as the Vice Person of the Board of Directors.		
Constitution of Board Committees	The Board established 4 Committees as follows:- a. Finance, Administration & Procurement Committee b. HR Committee c. Revenue, Strategy & ICT Committee d. Audit & Risk Committee The Committees are now fully constituted with specific terms of reference.		
Revenue enhancement strategy	The Revenue, Strategy & ICT Committee, has been tasked with the responsibility of engaging the County Revenue collection team to review the existing revenue enhancement strategies and provide input.		
Approval of NRA structure	The Board reviewed and approved the draft organization structure for NRA. What remains to be done is approval by the CECM and the County Public Service Board before implementation. The Job Descriptions are yet to be developed.		
Appointment of interim Chief Executive Officer (County Revenue Administrator)			
Attachment of key NCCG staff to NRA	In addition to the Interim Chief Executive Officer, (County Revenue Administrator), the Board requested for attachment of key staff relevant for purposes of supporting operations at the NRA. The staff include an: Senior Revenue Officers (2) c) Senior Human Resources Officer d) Senior Finance Officer e) Senior Budget Officer f) Senior Procurement Officer g)		

	Senior Advocate from the County Attorney's Office h) Senior ICT Officer i) Senior Administrative Assistant. This process is ongoing.			
Office space.	Pensions Towers 23rd floor was allocated to the NRA for its operations and house its secretariat.			
NRA Operations Bank Account.	The opening of bank accounts to facilitate disbursement of NRA operational expenditures is yet to be done. This is awaiting secondment of key staff to NRA some of whom will be the bank signatories.			
Key deliverables for the Board between 1st January 2024 and 30th June 2025.	The following activities are pending: a. Opening of expenditure account of NRA, and appointing Signatories. b. Development of the Vision, Mission, Core Values, Logo & Branding c. Development of terms and conditions of service for staff of NCCRA. d. Identification of NCCG staff for secondment to NRA in consultation with NCCG & County Public Service Board. e. Development of Strategy Paper for Revenue enhancement for financial year 2024/2025 f. Approval of budget and resource requirements for the NRA g. Approval of the Procurement Plan for the NRA h. Approval of key Human Resources policy documents such as Staff Code of Conduct, Performance Management Policy, Recruitment and selection Policy among other key policies. i. Approval of the Board Charter (The Board Charter is ready for Board approval.) j. Signing of performance contract between the Board & the CECM & and between CEO and the Board.			

THE COOPERATIVE TRIBUNAL

At the Cooperative Tribunal, the law society of Kenya is represented by Michael R. Chesikaw.

The cooperative tribunal is established under section 77 of the cooperative societies Act Cap 490 laws of Kenya. Currently the tribunal has seven (7) members who are appointed under the same section of the Act as follows:

- i) The Chairperson- Appointed by the Chief Justice and president of the supreme court.
- ii) The Deputy Chairperson- Appointed by the Judicial service commission.
- iii) One (1) Member Appointed by the Law society of Kenya.
- iv) One (1) Member Appointed by Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK).
- v) Three (3) Members- Appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for cooperative Development.

The main objective of the tribunal is to hear and determine cooperative disputes that arise from time to time between cooperative societies and sacco members who are presently active, inactive or past members. It is the responsibility of the tribunal members to ensure that fair and just settlement of the disputes filed are rendered in a timely, affordable and professional manner.

In order to render efficient and timely service to their stakeholders, the tribunal runs two (2) benches with either being presided over by the chairperson or the deputy chairperson. This being a mandatory requirement, any bench that

may be constituted without either the chairperson or the deputy chairperson lacks jurisdiction.

In addition, the chairperson or the deputy chairperson verify all applications that are filed everyday in the tribunal in order to sieve those need urgent attention such as those that are filed under certificate of urgency and those that does not need urgent attention.

Jurisdiction

In recognition of the fact that cooperative societies and saccos are spread across the country, the cooperative societies Act under section 79(5) grants unlimited geographical and pecuniary jurisdiction to the tribunal. With the empowerment of this jurisdiction, the cooperative tribunal is able to constitute benches and hear cooperative societies and saccos' disputes in any part of the country upon giving prior notice to the parties through the Kenya Gazette.

Tribunal Circuits

One of the Judiciary's flagship agenda's in the Social Transformation programs is to provide access to justice to the many cooperative members in the urban and rural areas who may wish to access justice but because the tribunal is located in Nairobi, some parties who are located far away from Nairobi may not be able to travel the many kilometers.

To plug this gap, the cooperative tribunal has established nine (9) registries in various high court locations in Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kakamega, Nyeri, Embu and Meru.

This is the circuit where the tribunal schedules sittings every year to conduct hearings closer to the parties.

The purpose of these scheduled sittings is to give equal opportunities to members of cooperative societies or saccos located within or near the regions stated to attend instead of travelling to Nairobi.

Virtual Hearings

Although this has come to be very handy in conducting of mentions and sometimes hearings, the stakeholders face a lot of internet challenges and power interruptions with the use of technology especially at the point of virtual hearings.

Below is a table of tribunal cases that were brought forward from 2023 plus those filed and determined as at December 2024. Out of 10,158 cases the tribunal resolved and closed 5,129 cases/files.

This was a remarkable achievement and determination on the part of the members and the staff considering that a total of 1080 cases were determined in 2023.

Total cases filed	Resolved and closed files	Pending cases unresolved
10,158	5,129	7,058

However, the above figures don't add up because some of the files in the category of pending cases have not been uploaded.

Additionally, the cases which are pending per age in the records of the tribunal as at December 2024 have been reduced drastically as shown in the table below.

This Year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5-10 years	>10 years
1,110	1,434	523	-	194

Bar/Bench Meetings

Due to financial constraints and other logistical challenges the tribunal did not hold a bar/bench meeting in the year 2024. As a result, advocates who had matters in the tribunal continued to experience administrative issues such as missing files, dropdown of internet during hearings as well as fast tracking of cases.

Education of Sacco Committee Members.

One of the mandates of Kuscco is to empower the members, the elected board members and the staff of her member Saccos with various cooperative skills and tools through education and training.

While implementing this 5th principle of cooperatives, kuscco planned and implemented some training sessions of the elected board members of saccos in Mombasa, Nairobi, Eldoret, Nyeri and Kisumu and invited a representative member of the tribunal to accompany them.

It turned out to be very interactive and informative because some of the elected members of some Saccos don't know of the existence of the cooperative tribunal and what they do.

This ignorance of the members of Saccos also play out for the members of cooperative societies who more often than not they file their claims in magistrate's courts only for those cases to be dismissed for want of jurisdiction. Others have approached the High court in cases were the pecuniary value is high and the matters are referred back to the tribunal hear cooperative to and determine.

Mediating Cooperative Matters

Throughout the year 2024, the tribunal encouraged disputing members of cooperative societies whose claims revolve around refund of deposits/savings to try to negotiate the best way to resolve their disputes. In cases where negotiation do not yield any outcome, the tribunal encouraged the advocates to step in and mediate.

The outcomes from Negotiations and mediations during the year was very encouraging as it complimented the role played by the tribunal.

Challenges of the Tribunal

1.Cooperative tribunal is one among the busiest tribunals in the judiciary with seven (7) members who sit in the benches and at the same time write Rulings and Judgements.

The members are too few to handle the workload in the tribunal. There is therefore a need to increase the number of members and the benches.

- 2. The tribunal is over judiciliazed to the extent that it is moving away from being a friendly organ to a stringent court of law.
- 3.Members of cooperative societies and Sacco's (who are the clients of the tribunal) have a lot of difficulties while using technology during virtual hearings.
- 4. The tribunal faced a lot of financial challenges which slowed down the execution of their mandate.
- 5. Capped sittings of the members create backlogs.

Conclusion

The cooperative tribunal is a full-time tribunal yet her members are on part time which create a challenge in the hearing and determination of cases.

However, in 2024 with a resolve to reduce the case backlog which had hit the tribunal, the members created a total of three (3) months spread throughout the year to deliberate and write rulings and judgements full time from Monday's to Thursday's.

PICTORIALS



Cooperative Tribunal members - on a team building week at Sawela Lodge, Naivasha.

Seated from Right to Left: Hon. Beatrice Kimemia (CM) chairperson, Hon, Philip Gichuki and Hon. Janet Mwatsama Deputy Chairperson.

Standing from Left to Right: Hon. Michael Chesikaw, Hon. Fridah Lotuiya, Hon. Beatrice Sawe, Hon. Paul Aol.



Courtesy Call by Members of Cooperative Tribunal to the Cabinet Secretary for Cooperative Development.

From Right to left; Beatrice Sawe, Fridah Lotuiya, PS Patrick Kilemi, Hon. Beatrice Kimemia (CM - Chairperson), Hon. CS Oparanya, Hon. Mjeni Mwatsama –Deputy Chairperson, Commissioner Obonyo, Philip Gichuki and Micheal Chesikaw missing in the picture is Paul Aol.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE OF ORGANISATIONSKEBS /TC 200.

The Law Society of Kenya representatives are Mr. Chrispine Maondo Simiyu, Advocate and Ms. Maureen Cheruiyot, Advocate.

Establishment:

The KEBS/TC 200- Governance of organizations committee was established by KEBS in 2023. The Committee is a National Mirror Committee for the Global ISO TC309.

Mandate/Scope of the Committee:

The Scope essentially entails Standardization in the field of governance relating to aspects of direction, control and accountability of organizations. This applies to all organizations.

Deliverables:

Deliverables relating to governance and the tools for controlling an organization such as programmes for whistleblowing, for compliance and for anti-bribery. The Kenyan positions developed by this Committee Technical contribute produce globally relevant International Standards that can be used everywhere relating both Governance governance systems; and management and management systems.

Inauguration.

The Inaugural meeting was held on 23/08/2023.

Leadership:

The Chair of the Committee is from LSK, with KEBS as secretariat Organizations Represented:

- Law Society of Kenya
- Kenya school of Government,
- Public Service Commission
- Management University of Africa
- Institute of Public Secretaries; and
- Ethics and Anticorruption Commission

Achievements in 2023/2024 FY

In addition to a training session for the membership, the Committee over the period sat for 3 meetings, at which session the Committee was able to review and adopt the following international standards as Kenya standards

- 1) ISO 37005:2024 -This document provides guidance to governing bodies on how to approach the development and use of indicators in their governing activities.
- 2) ISO37301:2021-This document specifies requirements and provides guidelines for establishing, developing, implementing, evaluating, maintaining and effective improving an compliance within management system an organization.
- **3) ISO 37004:2023-** This document gives guidance on evaluating the establishment of governance conditions and on the application of governance principles with consideration for the ISO 37000 key aspects of practice. It sets out the concept of governance maturity and its measurement and provides a governance

maturity measurement framework, associated governance maturity scale and a governance maturity model.

- 4) ISO/TS 37008:2023 -This document gives guidance on internal investigations within organizations, including: the principles; support for investigations; establishment of the policy, procedures, processes and standards for carrying out and reporting on an investigation; the reporting of investigation results; the application of remedial measures.
- **5) 37000:2021-** This document gives guidance on the governance of organizations. It provides principles and key aspects of practices to guide governing bodies and governing groups on how to meet their responsibilities so that the organizations they govern can fulfil their purpose.
- **6) ISO 37002:2021-** This document gives guidelines for establishing, implementing and maintaining an effective whistleblowing management system principles based on the of trust. impartiality and protection in the following four steps:
- a) receiving reports of wrongdoing;
- b) assessing reports of wrongdoing;
- c) addressing reports of wrongdoing;
- d) concluding whistleblowing cases.

2025 WORKPLAN.

The Committee shall in the course of this year sit and consider the following proposals which are at their various stages of development.

Active participation in the following ongoing projects: -

- ISO 37001 Anti-bribery management systems — Requirements with guidance for use
- ISO 37003 Fraud Control Management Systems — Guidance for organizations responding to the risk of fraud
- ISO 37005 Selecting, Creating and Using Indicators: Guidance for governing bodies
- ISO 37006 Indicators of Effective Organizational Governance: Guidance
- ISO 37007 Corporate Governance -Guidelines for Efficiency Measurement
- ISO 37009 Conflicts of interest Guidelines - under development by TC309/WG9
- ISO 37200 Guidance for the prevention, identification and response to human trafficking, forced labour, and modern slavery - under development by TC 309/WG10

THE MAKUENI COUNTY PHYSICAL AND LAND USE LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Law Society of Kenya representative is Ms. Rosemary Ndulu Kavita, Advocate.

The LSK representative attended the inaugural Makueni County Physical and Land Use Liaison committee meeting and induction workshop on 26th and 27th September, 2024.

The Committee was taken through the overview and mandate of the lands department, the Legal framework of the Makueni County Physical and Land Use Liaison Committee legal framework specifically the Physical and land use Planning Act, 2019 and the Physical and Land Use Planning (Liaison Committees) Regulations, 2020.

The Committee also had a training on the Makueni County development control procedures and guidelines and how they are complementing the Physical and land use Planning Act, 2019.

The physical planners and county attorney also took the members through Makueni Arthi Platform, the status of Planning in Makueni County.

Overall, the Chief Officer was to establish a secretariat within the Lands officer so that the Committee can come up with a committee work plan and way forward. Sensitization of the existence of the Committee to be done so that parties are aware of its mandate and for any aggrieved persons to file their appeals and complaints for hearing and determination.

The Committee is yet to receive any

appeals or complaints and therefore they have not convened to hear and determine any.

The LSK representative recommendations to the Council to increase the sensitization of the existence of Physical and Land Use Liaison Committees in order to have litigants file the appeals and complaints.

THE CONFERMENT OF SELECTED TOWNS TO MUNICIPALITY STATUS BY THE WEST POKOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Law Society of Kenya representative is Ms. Fancy Chebet Ngetich, Advocate.

The County Government of West Pokot is a decentralized unit and to facilitate the decentralization it initiated the decentralization of its urban area and an subsequently appointed ad-hoc committee whose mandate was recommend the areas for conferment as per the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011.

In light of the provision of Section 8 (2) of the Urban Areas and Cities Act the committee was constituted and it comprised of various stakeholders as provided in the act.

The ad-hoc committee was tasked to establish whether the following urban centres being Chepareria, Kabichbich, Ortum, Sigor, Lomut, Alale, Konyao and Kacheliba could be conferred with status of Municipality.

Methodology

The committee in order to archive its mandate used the following methodology being literature review, Conducting Interviews and site visits.

The committed relied on the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 and Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019. It also reviewed the urban area delineation report, National Housing and Population Census report for urban area for the year 2019, West Pokot financial statements, existing Land Use Plan for Urban centres and relevant information available online. We also conducted interviews in the relevant urban centre to get their input on the various aspects and with the intention of achieving public participation. We got to visit the urban areas which include both public and private developments and investment.

Analysis

Sub Section 3 Of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2019 provides for the conditions to be met for establishment of a municipality. It was our mandate that those conditions are met as set out in the act.

CHEPARERIA URBAN CENTRE.

Chepareria urban centre as per the census report has a population of approximately 57,787. It is one of the major drivers of urbanization and economic growth in West Pokot due to its endowment in agricultural productivity, industrial activities, residential development, trade and commerce as well as core educational and health facilities.

The ad-hoc committee established that Chepareria has a local land use plan which provides layout for different land use within the area and guides development control.

With regard to revenue collection potential capacity Chepareria has a wide array of economic activities provides revenue. It was also established that chepareria had a planning and development control which was done by the county government officers at the headquarters. The county government has a County Integrated Development Plan CIDP: (2023-2027)which quides economic development for areas in the county including Chepareria urban centre. Infrastructure is available in the urban centre they have good roads serving the area and avenues/institution for active participation resident by its in management of its affairs.

Chepareria has adequate room/space for expansion as it was proposed that they have 1500 acres for expansion of the centre.

Having visited the facilities available within the urban centre and interviewed the stakeholders within Chepareria the ad hoc committee established Chepareria Urban area qualifies for a grant of municipality status.

ALALE URBAN AREA:

Alale urban area has a population of approximately 17,018 which is projected to grow spontaneously as a result of the various activities taking place there.

We established that it has a local land use plan which guides development control within the urban centre. It was also established that the urban centre has the infrastructure and had potential to generate income activities to raise finance. We equally visited the various establishments within the area.

Upon evaluation of the urban centre the ad -hoc committee established that Alale qualifies for grant of a town status.

KABICHBICH URBAN AREA.

The proposed urban area has a population of 11,141 according to census report of 2019. It was also established that it equally had a local land use plan which provides for different land uses within the area. Kabichbich also has potential of generating it's on income/revenue. The ad hoc committee made recommendation on the potential areas of improving generating income. Ιt also has infrastructure to enable management of urban centre and sufficient space for expansion.

Upon analysis of the urban centre the ad hoc committee recommended Kabichbich area qualifies for grant of town status.

KACHELIBA URBAN AREA

The urban area has a population of 27,622. The urban area has the capacity to deliver essential services to its residents in the first schedule. The urban centre has adequate space for expansion and they have several source of revenue collection.

The ad hoc committee established that urban centre qualifies for grant of town status.

KONYAO URBAN AREA

The urban area has population of 13,678. The urban centre has the infrastructure stipulated in first schedule it can be able to raise revenue to sustain its self.

The ad hoc committee established the urban centre qualifies to grant as a town status.

LOMUT URBAN AREA

It has a population of 15,009. The committee established that the urban area has a local land use plan which guides on land use and development control. The urban centre has a revenue for collection and it had enough space for expansion.

The ad hoc committee recommend the urban centre for grant of town centre.

ORTUM URBAN CENTRE

The urban centre had a population of 17,018.

The urban centre has sufficient infrastructure and mechanisms of revenue collection unfortunately the ad hoc committee noted that the urban centre is a close urban area with limited space for expansion as it is surrounded by hills. The local land use Plan proposed area for expansion which can be served for public use. The committee equally visited the several institutions and establishments within the area.

The ad hoc committee upon evaluation recommend the urban centre for grant of town status.

URBAN AREA

The urban Area a population of 12,680. The urban centre has a local land use system. The committee established that the urban area has a local land use plan which guides on land use and development control. The urban centre has a revenue for collection and it had enough space for expansion. The committee also visited the facilities with the urban centre and conducted interview the relevant stakeholders getting their views intention of on establishment of the urban centre.

After analysis the ad hoc committee recommend the urban centre for grant of town status.

Conclusion/Recommendation

Having undertaken the exercise successfully Chepareria Urban Centre was classified as a conferred municipality status.

Upon conferment of Chepareria as a municipality the report was present to the Governor the County Government was advised that the report be presented to the County Assembly of West Pokot for and of tabling **Approval** the recommendations made by the Ad-Hoc conferment committee towards Chepareria town to Municipality status. Upon approval the same be presented for Gazzetment after which a board of a municipality shall be appointed according the law.

As for Kacheliba, Alale, Konyao, Kabichbich, Sigor, Ortum and Lomut they were granted conferred the status of town centre.

On the town centres recommendation made were the county government to establish the town committee as per the Urban Areas and Cities 2019. The proposed town, under section 31 of the urban areas and cities act, 2019 should also institute measures through the public service board, employ а town administrator to perform the various functions as assigned by the town committee. The county government should also institute the process delineating the boundaries and the extends of the towns as proposed. This will propose the boundaries as per the urban areas and cities act, 2019 and be tabled and discussed and passed in the county assembly.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TRIBUNAL

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya representative is Hon. David Njoroge FCIArb, CPM, CS.

The Tribunals Vision and Mission is as stated below;

Vision: To be a premier Environmental Tribunal characterized by excellence and adherence to the rule of law

Mission: To facilitate access to justice, the rule of law and provide accessibility to environmental Justice that is expeditious and inexpensive for equitable and sustainable development.

A. Mandate of NET

The Tribunal is established under section 125 of the Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act. The Act under section 129 mandates the Tribunal to determine disputes that relate to environmental regulatory functions to wit:

- 1. Grant, refusal to grant or transfer of EIA licenses
- 2. Imposition of conditions, limitation or restrictions on licenses
- 3. Revocation, suspension or variation of licenses
- 4. Fees for EIA licenses
- 5. Environmental restoration orders or improvement orders or
- 6. Any other decision of NEMA, Its committees or agents.

The Tribunal also exercises an Appellate jurisdiction on decisions of the Kenya Forests under section 70(2) of the Forest Management and co-ordination Act which mandate focuses on disputes arising from forest conservation, utilization and management.

Under the Wildlife conservation and management Act, the Tribunal reviews the decisions of the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committee and KWS, relating to award of compensations and recommends to the responsible Cabinet Secretary on the reward to be granted for injury to persons, livestock or damage to crops.

The Tribunal under section 23(h) of the Climate Change (Amendment) Act is tasked with dispute resolution relating to land based and non-land-based climate change projects.

is a new area where the Tribunal has been clothed with Jurisdiction.

B. Appointment to Office

Following the nomination for appointment as a member of the National Environment Tribunal of Hon. David Njuguna Njoroge as per section 125 1(b) of the Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (herein referred to as EMCA) on the 17th January 2024, the Hon member was appointed to office as per section 125 (2) of EMCA on 26th September 2024 to serve for a term of 3 years with effect from 27th September 2024.

C. Oath of Office

Hon. David Njuguna Njoroge was sworn to office as a member of the National environment Tribunal on 14th October 2024. The event was held at the Supreme court building and presided over by the Deputy Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Hon. Paul Ndemo Maina, OGW. Also Present was the Registrar Tribunals Hon. Ann Asugah.



D. Task undertaken

Upon appointment and assumption of The Law Society of Kenya representative office, the Tribunal held 29 sittings in the year 2024 which is an increase from a target of 20 sittings that were to be held in the same period being a collegial effort to enhance timely delivery of justice.

Within the period, the Tribunal was able to dispense with 9 Rulings and 4 Judgments, all of which had the representation of advocates.

E. Recommendations

- The Law Society of Kenya should put in place measures to ensure its nominees to different state bodies assume office in a timely manner through collaborative meetings with the relevant officers tasked with the appointment of such nominees.
- 2. Advocates should support and ensure timely delivery of Justice by avoiding unnecessary technicalities raised through applications that require rulings to be delivered before a case can be determined on its merits.
- There is need to establish a pro-bono scheme specialized for human-wildlife affect disputes which maiorly marginalized persons.
- The Regulation and the law guiding the human-wildlife disputes need to be reviewed to allow for extension of time for disputes, this is because some merited disputes are defeated by the technicalities provided in the Laws and regulations.

AUCTIONEERS LICENSING BOARD

is Mr. Justus Mutia Advocate and Gladys Warigia Mwangi Advocate.

The Auctioneer Licensing Board is a creature of section 3 of the Auctioneers Act, Cap 526 of the Laws of Kenya, Section 3(i) (d) of the Auctioneers Act provides for appointment to the Board of two Advocates of not less than ten years standing to be nominated by the council of the Law Society of Kenya.

In 2024, the Society was represented by Ms. Purity Kemunto Makori advocate and Mr. Justus Mutisya Mutia Advocate. Ms. Makori was appointed by the then Acting Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Hon. Philomena Mbete Mwilu, through a Gazette Notice dated 22nd April 2021 to serve for a period of 3 years from that date after having been nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Kenya in its meeting of 22nd March 2022. Her term ended on 21st March 2024. Mr. Mutia was appointed by the Hon. Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Hon. Martha K. Koome, through the Gazette Notice No.10126 dated 31st July 2023 to serve for a period of 3 years effective from 7th August 2023 after being nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Kenya to serve in the Board in its meeting of 20th June 2022.

On 15th November Ms. Gladys Warigia Mwangi advocate was gazetted by the Honourable Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Hon. Martha Koome through Gazette Notice No.15338 to serve

The Auctioneers Licensing Board's main key role in the Board including acting as object and function is general supervision the Chair or Secretary of the Board in and control over the business and meetings where the substantive holders practice of auctioneers by licensing and are absent. regulating the business and practice of The Auctioneers auctioneers, supervising and disciplining chaired the licensed auctioneers and to carrying appointment as a Judge of the High Court. out training programmes for licensed The proceedings are quasi-judicial in auctioneers.

of the Law Society of Kenya the assisting the Board in all matters touching Auctioneer Licensing Board hears and or ancillary or incidental to the law. complaints filed determines Auctioneers under section 24 of the the High Court. Auctioneers Act. The 2 the representatives in Licensing Board provide legal expertise to determining the legal issues that arise during the discipline of the auctioneers, organizing conduct of proceedings in the Board. In training for auctioneers, and inspecting 2024 the Board committed itself to premises. The hearing of complaints is clearing the backlog of the complaints and done for one week in every two months. In most of the old complaints have been 2024 the Board conducted 4 workshops. finalized. decisions delivered. awaiting to be majority of the pending complaints are for Centre at the year 2024 and those filed this year. On representation of LSK, there appears Vic Hotel at Kisumu on 30.8.2024 and to be a trend whereby the replacement Asyana Gardens at Ongata Rongai on the LSK representative unnecessarily long time to be processed in a way to ensure each region has one at the office. After the time for service of workshop with the regions being four: Ms. Makori in March 2024, it was until Coast, North & South Rift, Western & November 2024 her replacement was Nyanza, and Nairobi, Mt. Kenya & Lower gazetted. This left Mr. Mutia to serve alone Eastern. A licenced auctioneer is required for the remaining period of the year. to attend at least two workshops for the There is need to put mechanisms to renewal of licence for subsequent year. ensure that once there is vacancy it is Conducting workshops has provided a filled immediately. This is important platform for the auctioneers to because the two representatives play a

Licensing Board qualified by a person nature and the representatives of the Law In line with the objects under Section 4(e) Society of Kenya play a crucial role in against Decisions of the Board are appealable to

> LSK The Board has continued to execute its Auctioneers mandate through licencing auctioneers, complaints, delivered or are The workshops were for one day each and Currently they were held at Wild Waters Conference Mombasa 23.2.2024. on Sunshine Hotel at Kericho on 26.4.2024, takes 25.10.2024. The workshops are organized

exposed to effective ways of running their businesses, as they support advocates,

even as the Board gears towards ensuring 1. the auctioneering business professionalized. The Board has a plan in (Procedure) Rules, 2024 place ensure that auctioneers' premises are inspected once in every ELRRC in 2024 was the review and year.

written examination for applicants who under Legal Notice No. 133 of 2024. wished to become auctioneers with Class These rules replaced the 2016 Rules and A or B licence. The exams are currently are designed to enhance efficiency, being processed. This was an important clarity, account step taking into that examinations were administered in 2023.

The Representatives thank the Law Society of Kenya membership through its ELRRC Council for giving them the opportunity to serve and represent the Society in the procedural challenges and Auctioneer Licensing Board.

RELATIONS RULES (ELRRC)

Introduction

The Law Society of Kenya is represented 2. Launch of the New Rules by Ms. Irene Kashindi, FCIArb.

The Committee undertook a review of the previous **Employment** and Labour Relations Court (Procedure) Rules 2016. detailed below.

Key activities and achievements

The ELRCC undertook significant activities in 2024 in line with its mandate to develop, review, and improve procedural rules governing the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC). As the LSK representative, I actively participated in these initiatives to ensure that the rules align with the objects and principles of the Society

Review and Publication of the is Employment and Labour Relations Court

One of the most critical milestones of the eventual publication of the new ELRC On 23.11.2024, the Board administered a (Procedure) Rules on 16th August 2024 and access to iustice no employment and labour disputes.

Before the publication of the Rules, the actively engaged with practitioners, gathering feedback emerging trends employment and labour in disputes. These engagements provided THE EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR valuable insights that informed **COMMITTEE** amendments incorporated into the 2024 Rules.

The Chief Justice officially launched the ELRC (Procedure) Rules, 2024, on 17th September 2024, during the Second **Employment and Labour Relations Annual** The Rules were reviewed and replaced as Symposium and Exhibition (ELRASE II). This event was attended by senior members of the Judiciary, the LSK Vice-President, government officials, labour unions, employer organizations, and legal practitioners.

3. Sensitization and Capacity Building

Following the publication of the new rules, ELRRC organized sensitization sessions for judges, judicial officers. advocates and other key stakeholders.

The first session was held on 24th Employers (FKE), along with Judiciary October 2024. where the representative alongside Mr. Ouma from the Federation of Kenyan SIA, court rules such as these are exempt Employers, Mr. Eredi, State Counsel, and from the tabling requirement, as has been the panel was moderated by Hon. Lady the case for our court rules such as the Justice Ndolo. The second session was Civil Procedure Rules and the Court of held on 31st October 2024, where the Appeal Rules. LSK representative made a presentation alongside Ms. Sheila Obiayo from the Challenges Encountered Federation of Kenyan Employers and Mr. Eredi, State Counsel, in a moderated by Hon. Mr. Justice Abuodha. a.The need for continuous capacity-Both sessions were attended by judges, building to ensure uniform application of judicial officers, and a significant number the new Rules across all ELRC stations. of LSK members.

transition from the 2016 Rules to the could be conducted within the year. 2024 Rules and to address practical challenges their implementation. in Additional sensitization sessions scheduled to continue into 2025 to reach a broader audience of practitioners and following recommendations are proposed: stakeholders.

4. Appearance before the Senate on the **New Rules**

The Senate invited the LSK President to appear before it on 12th November 2024 for the tabling of the Rules in accordance This can be done not just from the LSK with the Statutory Instruments Act (SIA). She requested me accompany her to the levels session; however, it was adjourned to 21st November 2024 and did not proceed as scheduled. Due to her unavailability on continuous the rescheduled date, she designated me implementation of the new Rules and to represent her, which I did.

members of the Rules Committee from the necessary. Judiciary and the Federation of Kenyan

LSK officials. We collectively maintained the Dickens position that, under Section 12(3) of the

Despite the notable progress, the ELRRC session faces some challenges, including:

b.Resource constraints limiting the These sessions aimed to ensure a smooth number of sensitization sessions that

Recommendations to the LSK Council

To enhance the impact of the ELRRC's are work and further strengthen labour and employment law practice in Kenya, the

a. Continuous Sensitization and Training

The LSK to consider collaborating with the ELRRC/the Judiciary continue to conducting sensitization workshops and training for its members on the new Rules to ensure their effective implementation. national office but also at the branch

b. Monitoring and Feedback Mechanisms

The LSK could establish a mechanism for the monitoring of facilitate structured feedback to The session was attended by other ELRRC for future amendments where

Conclusion

The ELRRC made significant progress in HIV and AIDS tribunal consists of the the publication of operationalization the (Procedure) Rules, 2024, being the most a) a chairman who shall be an advocate of notable achievement. Moving forward, the High Court of not less than seven continuous sensitization and stakeholder years standing engagement will be crucial in ensuring Hon. Carolyne Mboku; that the new Rules achieve their intended b) two advocates of the High Court of not objectives. The LSK's support in these less than five years standing – Hon. efforts will be instrumental in promoting Nelson Osiemo and efficiency, fairness, and accessibility in Hon. Brian Yogo; employment and labour litigation.

HIV & AIDS TRIBUNAL REPORT

Establishment of the HIV & AIDS Tribunal Established under Section 25 of the HIV d) HIV and AIDS Tribunal of Kenya is discharge of the functions of the Tribunal. mandated to adjudicate cases relating to violations of HIV & AIDS related human Tribunal's Mandate and affected by HIV in Kenya, notably Tribunal's jurisdiction: through addressing barriers to human 1. to hear and determine any complaints rights under the provisions of HAPCA. Before the enactment of the Constitution of the Act; 2010 the HIV & AIDS Tribunal was under 2. to hear and determine any matter of dint of Articles 159(1) and 169(1) all the provisions of the Act: tribunals perform quasi-judicial 3. that functions including the HIV & AIDS be conferred to it by the Act. Tribunal were moved to operate under Jurisdiction however, excludes one umbrella, the Judiciary.

In July 2015, HIV & AIDS Tribunal budget Activities conducted by the Tribunal was transferred to the Judiciary.

Tribunal Board Members

and following members appointed by the ELRC Attorney General:

- relations c) two medical practitioners recognized by the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board as specialists under the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act (Cap. 253); and
- Two persons having such specialized Prevention and Control Act of 2006, the skill or knowledge necessary for the

The Tribunal endeavours to Section 26 of the HIV & AIDS Prevention safeguard the rights of people living with and Control Act (HAPCA), sets out the

- arising out of any breach of the provisions
- the Ministry of Health; thereafter, and by Appeal as maybe made to it pursuant to
 - Perform such other functions as may

penal jurisdiction.

1. The Tribunal recorded over 50 new cases and finalized over 68 cases.

2. In June 2024, the Tribunal hosted the Tribunal sessions are conducted. Sierra Leon Judiciary and Parliamentarian representatives who had visited Country to benchmark with the HIV Tribunal with an aim of establishing a HIV Tribunal.



A session held during Sierra Leon Judges and Judicial officers visit to the Tribunal



Sierra Leon Team during visit to NEPHAK; the quests were accompanied by the Tribunal



Tribunal demonstrating to Sierra Leon Judges and Judicial officers how our virtual

The Tribunal's Users Committee in partnership with the Strathmore law clinic and UNDP participated in the development of the Tribunal's Users handbook. The handbook gives a summary of the matters handled by the Tribunal and how to approach the Tribunal.



Ms. Vwamu from UNDP-K (3rd left)presents copies of the Tribunal Users handbook to the chairperson Hon. Carolyne Mboku (2nd left) in the presence of Hon. Jane Ngoiri 3rd left)

4. The Tribunal participated in the development of Client confidentiality rules. The main objective of the Rules is to safeguard the rights of the clients in relation to privacy and confidentiality. Most respondents do not know the language of the court especially when they draw their response to claims, the way they address the claimant, the way they draw their documents, especially where they are not represented by counsel.



Tribunal at a work station in Naivasha during the development of the Client Confidentiality Rules.

5. Sensitization and access to justice During the year, the Tribunals under the Judiciary, including HIV Tribunal visited Nakuru and Eldoret Law Courts for sensitization of the public and Lawyers led by the LSK Rift Valley Branch leadership on Tribunals.



Chairperson, HIV Tribunal, Hon. Carolyne Mboku during a public engagement forum in Eldoret.

6. The Tribunal also participated in a know your Tribunal series organized by LSK Nairobi Branch.



Hon. Mboku and other Tribunal chairpersons join High Court Judge Ong'undi (middle) for a photograph during the Nakuru/Eldoret, sensitization forum.

Nairobi Branch



Recommendations.

- 1. Adopt the know your Tribunal series introduced by LSK Nairobi Branch or come up with similar initiatives to enable the membership to familiarize themselves with Tribunals.
- 2. Encourage Members of LSK to take up pro-bono briefs and represent parties appearing in the Tribunal.
- 3. Appointment of and/or renew the Tribunal members in good time to avoid a vacuum when the term of the members lapse.

ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES 1.SENIOR BAR EVENT AT LSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



The Chairperson of the Senior Counsel Bar Dr. Fred Ojiambo making a presentation during the event.







Seniors following the Senior Bar event at the sidelines of the LSK Annual Conference 2024.

PICTORIALS OF THE LSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024





The LSK Council with the Chief Guest, Prof Palamagamba at the Annual Conference.

LSK LEGAL AWARENESS WEEK LAUNCH



Prof. Kivutha Kibwana making his address at the launch of the LSK Legal Awareness Week



Members with the Chief Guest.

REPORTS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA COMMITTEES

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CPD)

Introduction

The Continuing Professional Development Committee is established under the CPD Rules 2014. The principal function of the committee is implement the Continuing Professional Development programme in the country. The composition of the Committee is as appointed by the Council from time to time. The Committee works hand in hand with the CPD Directorate at the Secretariat. The Directorate co-ordinates the activities of the Committee and assists in executing its mandate. The Chairperson of the committee is Mr. Henry Ongicho, the Vice Chairmen are Mr. Kitheka Julius and Ms. Mary Kinyanjui.

Responsibilities of the Committee:

- 1. Implementation of the Continuing Professional Development Programme.
- 2. Enforcement of CPD Rules. The CPD Regulations make it mandatory for all members to comply with the CPD Regulations every year before issuance of practicing certificates or to be exempted before renewing their Practicing Certificates. The CPD subcommittee on accreditation handles several applications for exemption and accreditation from members.
- 3. The Committee provides policy direction to the program.
- 4. The Committee also accredits other institutions that facilitate trainings on professional development for members.

Successes of the Programme

- 1. The CPD Committee together with the CPD directorate organized a total of 114 CPD events, 71 webinars and 43 seminars across the country.
- 2. Increased visibility and awareness of CPD events.

Notices for upcoming CPD events were sent through fliers which are posted on LSK social media platforms and also circulated via whatsapp. Monthly notices are also sent to the members and weekly reminders through the LSK newsletter.

- 3. Participants appreciated the choice of speakers and topics selected by the committee.
- 4. The committee and the directorate organized 24 additional CPD webinars.

The following events elicited good response:

- 1. The evolving nature of Law on Trusts in Kenya: From the drafting to the incorporation of Trusts and governance of the Trusts.
- 2. Conveyancing post Supreme Court Ruling in the case of Dina Management Limited v County Government of Mombasa & 5 others (Petition 8 (E010) of 2021) [2023]KESC 30 (KLR).
- 3. The Remuneration Order: Bread and Butter Discourse: The Advocate in the tough economic times.
- 4. The Land Policy Review in Kenya.
- 5. The jurisprudence on Sexual Offences Act.

Accreditation

The Committee successfully monitored trainings offered by accredited

institutions to ensured quality assurance. The following organizations were accredited to offer unlimited trainings in 2024.

- 1. Kenya School of Law
- 2. Strathmore University
- 3. TCA Consult
- 4. Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)

The following institutions were accredited for one-off trainings

- 1. ACGC Africa
- 2. Syberint Consulting Ltd
- 3. MyAfya Africa
- 4. International Chamber of Commerce, Kenya
- 5. ICJ Kenya
- 6. Justice Advocacy Africa/ TATI

Specialized Trainings

The CPD Committee started rolling out specialized CPD trainings in response to the needs of the growing diverse membership. The Committee managed to organize two specialized seminars as follows:

- 1.Navigating Contemporary Issues in Family Law Practice
- 2.Legislative Drafting: From Policy Frameworks to Precise Legal Drafting and Interpretation

The specialized trainings succeeded in improving professional development of the target groups.

Partnerships

The committee together with the directorate partnered with several organizations to offer trainings for members in different areas of the law. Below are the various partnerships:

- 1. Seminars on Mediation organized in partnership with the Mediation Training Institute (MTI) East Africa.
- 2. Webinar on Professional Ethics: Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Requirements, A comparative Analysis held in collaboration with the Bar Council of England and Wales
- 3. Kenya UK Legal symposium held in collaboration with the Bar Council of England and Wales, the seminar covered topics on Anti-Money Laundering, Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Speakers

The committee has strived to ensure that the choice of speakers who present in CPD events is excellent. To that end, the committee ensured that speakers from within the branches and also from the judiciary are incorporated in making presentations as well as experts in different fields who are not ordinarily members.

CPD Events Statistics

There were 44 seminars in 2014. There were 47 seminars in 2015. There were 44 seminars in 2016. There were 54 seminars in 2017. There were 56 seminars in 2018. There were 72 seminars in 2019.

CPD webinars were introduced in the year 2020 following the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. They have continued to date alongside the physical events.

There were 45 webinars in the year 2020 There were 100 webinars in the year 2021.

There were 73 webinars in the year 2022 There were 90 events (physical and virtual) in the year 2023

There were 90 events, 47 webinars and 43 Physical Events in the year 2024 and an additional 24 webinars.

Compliance

Compliance with CPD requirements has continued to increase over the years along with an increase in the membership as shown below

Year	Compliant Advocates
2011	4685
2012	5263
2013	5751
2014	6206
2015	6827
2016	7818
2017	7501
2018	9476
2019	11724
2020	13102
2021	13997
2022	15239
2023	16397
2024	18121

Work in progress

1. Through its sub-committee on digest, the committee is working on the second edition of the CPD digest. Papers presented at CPD events have already been collated and committee members are editing the same before publication of the digest.

Challenges

1.System challenges at the secretariat
The secretariat has been facing several
challenges with the system which has
affected service delivery. Some of the
challenges have led to zero billing of
invoices, members are unable to view
their points on the portal, failure in
receipting after payment which affects

delivery of webinar registration links to the portal among others. The challenges are being addressed with a view of streamlining all the processes.

IN HOUSE COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Committee is convened by Ndinda Kinyili Advocate and Co-Convened by Vincent Githaiga, Council Member.

As the business landscape shifts and global market forces converge, In-house counsel in Kenya face increasingly complex challenges. The In-house Counsel Committee of the Law Society of Kenya has responded decisively, forging a new era of professional development, mentorship, and advocacy that empower the next generation of corporate lawyers. Moreover, as a champion of justice, our committee remains committed to the well-being of Public Sector In-house counsel – the quiet guardians accountability, transparency, and integrity.

Turning Vision into Reality: Our 2024 Key Achievements

In the following pages, you'll gain insight into the initiatives and milestones that have marked our committee's journey in 2024. From the groundbreaking Mentorship Initiative to the landmark Allowance Non-Practice Advocacy Campaign, our efforts are transforming the landscape of In-house legal practice in Kenya. This report is your roadmap to understanding our vision - and our impact.

Key Initiatives and Achievements

1. Strengthening the Mentorship Program

Building upon previous efforts, the committee dedicated significant resources to finalizing the In-house Mentorship Program. Counsel initiative, now primed for an official launch, seeks to create a structured pathway for career development within the In-house legal sector. By engaging senior legal professionals as mentors, the program provides young lawyers with invaluable guidance, fostering skillbuilding and leadership growth. This initiative is expected to serve as a cornerstone for nurturing legal talent and ensuring knowledge transfer between experienced practitioners and emerging professionals.

2. LSK's Ongoing Litigation for In-house Counsel

In 2024, the Law Society of Kenya continued its efforts to advocate for the rights and welfare of In-house legal practitioners through litigation.

In the recent case of ELRC 370 of 2021: Cliff Bwogo Manoti v Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the court is deliberating on the issue of non-practice allowances for In-house counsel working within state agencies and corporations. This matter raises crucial principles surrounding fair labor practices, equality, and the overall professional welfare of legal practitioners in Kenya.

Moreover, this case follows the precedent set in **Erastus Gitonga & Others v NEMA**, where the rights of

In-house legal practitioners to receive non-practice allowances were emphasized. The LSK is actively pursuing an appeal in Nairobi Civil Appeal No. E176 of 2020 NEMA v Erastus Gitonga & 4 Others, which is scheduled for judgment on 21st February 2025 before a three-judge bench at the Court of Appeal.

LSK remains committed to protecting the interests of In-house counsel and will continue to engage in these legal battles to ensure that their entitlements, as established by relevant government policies and constitutional principles, are upheld.

3. Advancing Policy Advocacy for Fair Compensation: Empowering In-house Counsel in 2024

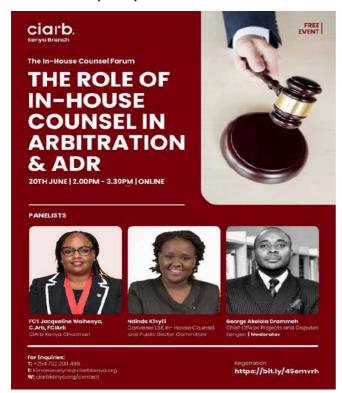
In 2024, one of the In-house Counsel Committee's paramount initiatives was the vigorous advocacy for a fair and equitable Non-Practice Allowance (NPA) for In-house counsel. Recognizing the critical need for appropriate compensation that reflects the expertise and value these professionals bring to their organizations; the committee undertook a comprehensive engagement with Salaries strategy the and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

The committee's targeted advocacy efforts have not only spotlighted the unique challenges faced by In-house counsel but have also forged a pathway toward more equitable remuneration structures within the legal profession. These proactive discussions have gained

substantial traction, setting the stage for improved compensation standards that are essential for attracting and retaining top legal talent in an increasingly competitive environment.

4. The In-house Counsel ADR Webinar.

The In-house Counsel committee collaborated with The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to host a dynamic webinar on June 20, 2024, which explored the multifaceted responsibilities of In-house professionals legal in effectively disputes and advancing managing organizational objectives through arbitration alternative and dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms.



This session underscored the critical role that In-house counsel play not only in mitigating legal risks but also in fostering collaborative and strategic approaches to dispute resolution that align with organizational goals.

5. The In-house Counsel Forum at the LSK Annual Conference 2024

One of the hallmark events of 2024 was undoubtedly the In-house Counsel Forum, held during the esteemed Law of Kenya (LSK) Society Annual Conference from August 14th at the stunning Diamonds Leisure Beach & Golf Resort in Kwale. Under the compelling "Driving Innovation theme. Resilience: The Role of In-house Counsel in Shaping the Future of Corporate Governance," this forum emerged not only as a gathering of legal minds but also as a catalyst for transformation within the corporate legal landscape. The forum proudly showcased a remarkable lineup of thought leaders and industry experts, including the distinguished Catherine Musakali, Paul Muthaura, Ndinda Kinyili, and Enock Mulongo. Their collective insights and diverse perspectives enriched discussions, offering valuable takeaways for all attendees. Their participation underscored the importance of the Inhouse counsel community and significant contributions to corporate governance and legal practice.

This event transcended traditional legal discussions, delving into key themes that resonate with today's corporate challenges:

Corporate Compliance and Risk Management: Participants engaged in profound discussions on understanding evolving legal requirements and effective risk mitigation strategies. This session illuminated the complexities faced by

businesses in maintaining compliance amidst rapidly changing regulations.

- AI and Data Privacy: The forum took a bold step into the future by addressing the pressing issue of navigating the intersection of technological advancements and regulatory compliance. Attendees explored how In-house counsel can proactively manage data privacy concerns in age where an technologies are reshaping the business landscape.
- Corporate Decision-Making: The dynamic role of In-house counsel in corporate decision-making was a focal point, with insights on how legal practitioners can steer organizations toward innovative solutions while maintaining ethical standards and compliance.Best Practices and Emerging Trends.

Attendees left the forum equipped with best practices in corporate governance and a deeper understanding of emerging legal trends that are set to shape the future. The interactive nature of the forum encouraged networking and collaboration, allowing participants to experiences, share strategies, and insights into the pivotal role of In-house fosterina counsel in organizational resilience and innovation. The In-house Counsel Forum at the LSK Annual Conference not only positioned the Inhouse counsel community at of forefront corporate governance discussions but also reaffirmed their essential role in navigating the

complexities of the modern business environment. This landmark event served as a testament to the commitment of the In-house Counsel Committee to empower legal practitioners and elevate the discourse around In-house legal practice



6. The Glass Boat Networking Event

Held on the evening of August 14th, 2024, the Glass Boat Networking Event was a unique and immersive experience that brought together In-house counsel in an engaging and relaxed atmosphere. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Indian Ocean, the event took place aboard a luxurious glass-bottom boat, allowing participants to marvel at the vibrant marine life below as they networked and shared professional insights.

The event commenced with a welcome address by the committee leadership, setting the stage for open and candid conversations. As the boat gently drifted along the coastline, attendees had the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer networking, exchanging ideas on corporate governance, legal innovation, and career advancement. The serene ocean ambiance, complemented by the cool evening breeze created the perfect setting for meaningful interractions.



Members during the glass boat networking session.

7. The international In-house Counsel Convention 2024

The Law Society of Kenya's In-house Committee convened Counsel transformative event on September 5th and 6th, 2024, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Watamu. This engaging οf session focused on the theme "Regulatory Compliance & Ethics for Inhouse Counsel" and was attended by a diverse group of In-house counsel from across East Africa.

The participants embarked on a deep dive into the essential role of ethics and regulatory compliance in the legal profession. The discussions highlighted how a steadfast commitment to professional ethics is key to navigating the complexities of a successful legal career.

The dialogue commenced with a compelling exploration of the multifaceted conflicts that In-house counsel often encounter. Attendees examined the delicate balance required in managing conflicts of interest while adhering to their professional obligations within corporate structures. This nuanced conversation illuminated the pervasive challenges that today's legal professionals must address.



The LSK President in a panel discussion during the international In-house Counsel Convention 2024.

A significant emphasis was placed on the necessity for In-house counsel to be wellversed in corporate governance guidelines and to stay attuned to the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape. The discussions underscored the critical importance of understanding proactivity in these enabling frameworks. counsel to effectively safeguard their organizations while fulfilling their legal duties.

Participants were reminded of three foundational pillars pivotal for sound decision-making: legality, rule of law, and fidelity to the law. The assertion that "ethics is the new currency for legal professionals" resonated throughout the event, reinforcing the idea that a robust ethical framework is no optional, but essential for longer sustainable legal practice.

As the session progressed, the role of Inhouse counsel as vital communicators within organizations emerged as a key theme. The attendees recognized the importance of ensuring that ethical considerations permeate corporate decision-making processes, advocating for a culture where ethics guide actions at every organizational level.





This remarkable gathering in Watamu not only fostered insightful discussions but also reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of In-house counsel to uphold the highest standards of ethics and regulatory compliance. The event served as a vital platform for participants share to experiences, enhance their professional knowledge, and strengthen their resolve to ethical practices in their champion respective organizations. In doing so, they collectively paved the way for a thriving profession future within the legal throughout East Africa.

8. In-house Counsel Committee Makes Waves with Historic Public Baraza during Legal Awareness Week 2024

It was a historic day for the In-house Counsel Committee as they piloted the first ever public Baraza during esteemed Legal Awareness Week 2024, scheduled from October 28th to November 1st. The event, held at the prestigious Milimani Ceremonial Hall. marked significant milestone for the committee, as demonstrated their unwavering commitment to empowering business entrepreneurs with leaders and knowledge they need to navigate Kenya's complex regulatory landscape.

The In-house Counsel Committee's innovative initiative brought together a dynamic panel of experts from the Business Registration Services (BRS), Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT), and Commercial Lawyers, who shared their valuable insights on crucial topics such as business registration, compliance obligations for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and common legal pitfalls. Through a series of engaging and interactive sessions, the addressed frequently asked panel clarified regulatory questions and processes that often pose significant challenges for small businesses startups.

The event, which attracted over 70 participants, was a resounding success, thanks to the committee's tireless efforts to create a platform for meaningful engagement and knowledge-sharing. By convening this historic public Baraza, the In-house Counsel Committee has set a

high benchmark for public outreach and education, reiterating their dedication to bridging the gap between legal expertise and public access to justice.

Highlights of the Historic Public Baraza:

- Innovative Platform: The first-ever public Baraza hosted by the In-house Counsel Committee provided a groundbreaking opportunity for business leaders and entrepreneurs to engage with experts in a setting that fostered meaningful dialogue and knowledge-sharing.
- Expert Panel: The distinguished panel of experts from BRS. TAT, Commercial Lawyers offered invaluable on business insights registration, compliance obligations, and common legal pitfalls, addressing frequently asked questions clarifying and regulatory processes.
- Engaging Sessions: The interactive sessions were designed to facilitate a deeper understanding of regulatory requirements and best practices for navigating Kenya's complex business landscape.
- **Strong Attendance:** The event attracted over 70 participants, underscoring the committee's commitment to engaging with the business community and promoting access to justice.

In-house Counsel Committee's pioneering effort to host the public Baraza has sent a clear and resounding message: their dedication to fostering a culture of education, legal awareness. and empowerment will continue to drive meaningful change and support Kenya's economic growth in the years to come.



In-house Counsel Committee convenor, Ndinda Kinyili making her remarks During the Baraza.



Members of the public at the Baraza

9. Enhancing Operational Efficiency through Regular Committee Meetings

To sustain momentum and ensure effective planning, the committee adhered its resolution of holding monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. In 2024, six such meetings were successfully conducted, fostering robust discussions on mentorship, policy development, and strategies professional growth. These engagements provided an essential platform for refining committee initiatives, aligning priorities, and addressing emerging challenges faced by In-house counsel. The structured approach allowed for continuous assessment of progress, ensuring that each initiative was purposefully executed. Moreover, these meetings encouraged knowledge-sharing and strengthened the committee's collective vision of enhancing

the professional standing of In-house legal insights on regulatory compliance lawyers within Kenya's corporate and legal and sectors.

Impact Stories and Success Highlights: advice. In-house Elevating the Community

The In-house Counsel Committee of the opportunity for meaningful connections Law Society of Kenya has made significant among legal professionals. Attendees strides in 2024, driving initiatives that have formed new relationships that have led to fostered a culture of growth, development, collaborations and community engagement. commitment to empowering counsel has yielded remarkable results, as 5. Litigation Advocacy: Our committee evident in the following success stories:

- with emerging legal talent. initiative has set the stage for a community. who will contribute to and enhance the conference corporate governance landscape in leading experts and Kenya.
- 2. Legal **Advocate Rights:** for engagement in landmark provided proactive cases surrounding on the welfare of In-house counsel. reputation Successful advocacy efforts have not leadership. but have also fostered a sense of unity and purpose among legal professionals.
- 3. Public Baraza's Resounding Success: committee is poised to build on the The historic public Baraza hosted during Legal Awareness Week demonstrated our commitment to community engagement and legal empowerment. Over 70 SME range of initiatives designed to empower entrepreneurs benefited from valuable

business registration, bridging knowledge gaps and providing practical

- Counsel 4. Networking for Success: The Glass Boat Networking Event provided a unique various in initiatives. Our showcasing the power of networking in In-house driving professional growth.
- has been at the forefront of litigation 1. Elevating the Mentorship Initiative: advocacy, championing the rights of In-The Mentorship Subcommittee played a house counsel and shaping the legal pivotal role in developing a framework landscape in Kenya. Our efforts have led that pairs seasoned In-house counsel to significant victories, reinforcing our This position as a leading voice in the legal
 - generation of skilled legal practitioners 6. Annual Conference Forum: Our annual forum brought practitioners to discuss pressing issues and trends in In-Our house counsel practice. The а platform for knowledge non-practice sharing, networking, and professional allowances has elevated the discourse development, cementing our committee's as а hub for

only bolstered the community's rights Looking Ahead: A Robust Workplan for 2025

As we embark on a new year, our successes of 2024. Through our three sub-committees - Training, Mentorship, and Practice Standards - we will launch a In-house counsel and drive growth in the legal community. Key highlights include:

- Launch of the Mentorship Program: YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE on the of Building success our mentorship framework, we will launch a comprehensive mentorship program that pairs experienced In-house counsel with emerging talent.
- In-house Counsel Caucus: We will establish a dedicated forum for Inhouse counsel to share experiences, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration and growth.
- Webinars and Training Sessions: Our committee will host a series of webinars and training sessions on topics relevant to In-house counsel, including compliance, regulatory contract management, and legal technology.
- Practice Standards Initiative: We will launch an initiative to develop and promote best practices in In-house counsel practice, ensuring that our members are equipped to navigate the complexities of the legal landscape.

By working through our sub-committees and driving these initiatives, we are confident that 2025 will be a year of significant growth and achievement for the In-house Counsel Committee. We invite all stakeholders to join us on this journey, as we strive to empower In-house counsel and shape the future of legal practice in Kenya.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on our mission: to cultivate excellence, integrity, and impactful contributions within the In-house legal profession.

Introduction

The Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) 2024-2026 of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) was officially constituted in 2024 with a clear mandate to represent and promote the interests of young legal practitioners in Kenya. The committee is composed of dedicated members who bring diverse skills and experiences to the table. This year's activities have laid a solid foundation for the ongoing development of young lawyers, as we work together to shape a dynamic, ethical, and innovative legal profession.

Committee Members:

- 1.Annette Mbugua Wanjiku
- 2. Caroline Wanjiku Kiarie
- 3. Chepkorir Dianah
- 4. Christabel Nanjala Masika
- 5.David W. Ogara
- 6.Derrick Bruno
- 7. Elekiah Ochola Omogi
- 8.Felix Mulaku
- 9.Kevin Machoka Orori
- 10.Kirwa Bernice
- 11.Leon Muchiri Gathira
- 12.Lewis Chiriswa
- 13.Lilly Umazi
- 14.Linet Itiata Etyang
- 15.Luke Omondi Ong'wen
- 16.Lydia Chepleting Chelogoi
- 17. Maureen Moraa Orina
- 18. Mercy Nduku Mumbu
- 19. Michael Mburu Waititu
- 20. Moses Mutungi Kioko
- 21. Nyongesa Deborah Mulemiah
- 22.Sharon Maiga
- 23. Sharon Shisia
- 24.Teresia Memia

25. Valine Kiptoo

26.Convenor: Gloria Kimani

27.Co-Convenor: Polycarp Okello

28. Secretary: Bonface Were

Key Achievements and Activities

1. Inaugural Meeting and Key Events

The YLC held its inaugural meeting on July 11, 2024, to discuss its mandate, set goals, and plan for the upcoming year. The Convenor, Gloria Kimani, also participated in the admission of new advocates at the Supreme Court in July, marking significant milestone for the committee as it officially engaged with the broader legal community.

2. Development of the LSK Advocates' Creed

A major initiative undertaken by the YLC in 2024 was the development of the LSK In response, the committee recommended Advocates' Creed, which is designed to initiatives such as AI training programs, reflect values of core professionalism, and constitutionalism. In of subsidized AI tools for young lawyers to July, a call for submissions was made, and improve their adoption of technology in five drafts were received by the deadline on legal practice. September 17, 2024. After deliberations 4.Free Webinar on Tailoring Applications and review, the top three submissions were for State Counsel Positions forwarded to the LSK Council for further In November 2024, the committee hosted consideration. Annette Mbugua, Patrick a free webinar focused on assisting young Muchangi, and Vance Wekesa recognized for their forward. submissions. Moving the of committee plans to work collaboratively improving professional development by with the authors to finalize the Creed.

3. Young Lawyers Forum 2024

The Young Lawyers Forum, held during the for future webinars aimed at helping LSK Annual Conference on August 14, young lawyers advance their careers. 2024, focused on the theme: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an Enhancer, Not a

Substitute, of Legal Efficiency/Excellence." The event featured. Keynote speaker Dora Msengeti elaborated AI's transformative on potential in legal practice, and a panel discussion involving experts such Naeem Hirani, Maria Mbeneka, Polycarp Okello discussed the ethical implications, challenges, and opportunities of integrating AI into legal work.

Key challenges identified during the forum included:

- Limited understanding of AI tools by young lawyers.
- Ethical concerns regarding the use of AI in legal practice.
- Barriers to accessing AI due to high costs.

justice, regulatory frameworks, and the provision

were lawyers with tailoring their applications outstanding for state counsel positions. This was part the committee's commitment providing practical guidance and insights into enhancing legal careers. The session was wellreceived and set the foundation

5. Workplan and Future Plans

comprehensive work plan to continue its successful, ethical, and innovative leaders efforts in mentoring and professional in the legal profession. development for young lawyers. Key future activities include:

- Annual Young Program: To provide mentorship to young personal supporting their be held annually, with the first edition set for 2025.
- Monthly Webinars Training and Sessions: These sessions will focus on various topics relevant to young lawyers, including AI, legal research, ADHOC COMMITTEE ON ANTIcareer development, and more.
- Others -The Committee also developed a comprehensive workplan that has many other scheduled activities geared towards achieving its mandate.

Conclusion

The first year of the Young Lawyers Committee's tenure has been marked by significant achievements. meaningful engagements, and a focus on enhancing the professional development of young lawyers in Kenya. Through activities such as the Young Lawyers Forum, the development of the LSK Advocates' Creed, and the hosting of practical webinars, the committee has provided valuable resources and opportunities for legal young practitioners.

The committee's success would not have been possible without the dedication of its members, speakers, and participants. We are confident that the initiatives launched

this year will continue to support young Looking ahead, the YLC has developed a lawyers in their journey toward becoming

> We remain committed to empowering the Lawyers Mentorship next generation of legal practitioners by ongoing fostering culture a of innovation, lawyers, professional growth, and advocacy.

> > and Acknowledgments

professional growth. This program will We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported the committee's initiatives in 2024, including our able Convenor, our esteemed Council, and the CEO of the Society.

MONEY LAUNDERING AND **COMBATING FINANCING OF** TERRORISM (AML/CFT)

In 2023, the LSK and the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) jointly submitted a memorandum that led to amendments in POCAMLA and LSK Act, designating the LSK as a self-regulating body (SRB) for its members. To support this new regulatory role, the LSK has partnered with several organizations for capacity building, trainings, developing tools, guidelines, setting up an AML/CFT Compliance Unit etc. The LSK Compliance Directorate has now expanded mandate to include AML/CFT compliance. Subsequently, the following activities have been carried out:

· Needs assessment meeting

team undertook an initial needs assessment where they met with a team from the LSK led by Deputy CEO, Mwathi Kitonga to discuss and assess the needs of the Secretariat in setting up the new regulatory function. The project team also met with other partners and had a session with the FRC supervisory team to better understand the broader AML/CFT regulatory environment and risks in Kenya and their expectations of the role of the LSK in reducing those risks.

Some of the key findings were that;

- 1. The LSK Secretariat, Council and membership needed a greater understanding of its new regulatory powers and responsibilities and the wider issues of AML/CFT and their relevance to the profession.
- 2. The new compliance function would need to be part of the Compliance & Ethics Directorate.
- 3. The compliance team was small and its capacity would need to be increased.
 - Training for the Compliance and Ethics Directorate and the Practice Standards Directorate

Trainings for the Compliance and Ethics team were conducted in March & May, 2024. The team was trained on the fundamental concepts of ML, TF and PF, LSK's mandate, its powers and obligations as an SRB, governance, how to identify red flags and how to turn information into intelligence.

It was concluded that the following tasks could breakdown the needs of the profession:

Key tasks
Internal structure – AML tasks
Record keeping
Policies and procedures
Security review
Training needs
Budget

Where LSK needs to be to meet FATF requirements?	Priorities/What's next?	
Set-up of AML STR office Other roles and responsibilities Oversight AML/CFT programme management	13. Further work with FRC 14. Who has which responsibilities for AML-CFT tasks? 15. LSK'S MLRO/AML- CFT programme officer	
Security of information	16. Review LSK procedures	
Effective paper trail	17. Identify gaps to be filled	
Code of conduct Accounts rules	18. Review/update code of conduct 19. Review/update accounts rules	
People and location IT/data/documentation	20. HR issues/contracts 21. IT and data handling security review	
 Different categories of staff/teams trained 	ZZ. Identification of further training needs	
Adequate Independent	23. Set budget needs 24. Identify additional resource sources	

Roundtable discussion with law firms

A roundtable discussion with various law firms within Nairobi was held in March, 2024 to gather their perspectives on the regulatory framework. AML/CFT discussion provided an opportunity to assess the level of awareness and compliance among legal practitioners, identify the challenges law firms may face in implementing AML/CFT measures and explore potential solutions. Participants shared valuable insights on client due diligence. reporting obligations and resource constraints.

Training for the Compliance & Ethics Directorate and the Project Team

A capacity-building training on AML/CFT was organized by the FRC and GIZ (Kenya) in May, 2024. The training aimed equip participants with essential knowledge on AML/CFT, covering the general spectrum of AML/CFT, the legal framework and the reporting requirements. Key actionable points from the workshop included introducing an AML/CFT section in Practicing Certificate declaration forms and Certificates of Good Standing (COGS), increasing compliance personnel, enhancing security measures at the Secretariat to cater for compliance and exploring the unit strategies to raise funds for securing an AML platform for the LSK.

· Meetings with law firms

The LSK, through the Deputy CEO and the held discussions project team, participated in meetings with law firms to deliberate on key issues and strategies related to AML/CFT. These engagements aimed to strengthen the legal profession's role in ensuring compliance with AML/CFT regulations, enhance awareness of legal obligations and gauge the levels of law firms. compliance among The discussions also provided valuable insights into the possible challenges likely be experienced in implementing AML/CFT measures. Additionally, the LSK consulted with practitioners from other jurisdictions. including South Africa, facilitating the exchange of best practices learned and lessons from their jurisdiction. These engagements resulted in recommendations such as capacitybuilding initiatives and the development of compliance tools.

• CPD on AML/CFT

To strengthen the capacity of advocates and improve their understanding of the risks related to AML/CFT in the legal profession, as well as their duties under AML/CFT and laws regulations. specialized CPD seminar on AML/CFT/CPF was held in September, 2024. The seminar, attracting 4 CPD units, aimed to ensure that participants gained comprehensive understanding of legal, regulatory and operational aspects of AML/CFT. By the end of the training, attendees were expected to demonstrate the ability to assess and identify potential ML/TF risks in transactions and client relationships. of recognize signs suspicious activities, understand the mechanisms for reporting, develop and apply measures to prevent, detect and report such activities.

This training played an important role in improving the overall effectiveness of AML/CFT measures in the legal profession, reducing the risks of ML/TF and ensuring that legal professionals are equipped to fulfill their regulatory duties hence adherence to global standards.

Training on AML/CFT for the LSK Council and the LSK AML/CFT Adhoc Committee

The trainings for the LSK Council and the LSK AML/CFT Committee were conducted in August, 2024.

Objectives;

1. To support the development of the governance framework and institutional capacity required for an AML/CFT

regulatory and supervisory entity.

- 2. To share a common foundational knowledge of AML, CFT and proliferation.
- 3. To understand how Kenya fits into the global AML/CFT regulatory framework.
- 4. To understand the roles and responsibilities that LSK will undertake as an SRB.
- 5. To understand the governance framework needed for an SRB.

The following resolutions were made;

- 1. LSK should update SOPPEC in order to ensure that it captures the new AML regulations.
- 2. LSK to contact CLE regarding the inclusion of AML content in the Advocates Training Program (ATP) syllabus. This would ensure that awareness of AML/CFT issues are integrated into legal training from the onset.
- 3. LSK would establish an office and hire dedicated personnel to receive and handle suspicious transaction reports from the legal profession.
- 4. LSK should go through the action plan and ensure that it is enforced and updated.
- 5. FRC should convene a meeting with advocates in order to clarify its role and the specific mandate of the organization.

ICT/IP COMMITTEE

The committee members have continually contributed to LSK weekly newsletter by writing educative articles touching of ICT and Intellectual property legislation and/or topical issues in an effort to impact knowledge to the general membership.

The committee was involved with the review of the LSK Data Protection Policy where members gave their valuable input to ensure that the Society has an up to date and relevant data protection policy. The committee proposed collaboration with the Data Governance Society of Kenya (DPGSK and proposed hand book, noting that a letter had already been sent to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to provide a human resource to assist in drafting of the book. Dr. William Amos was one of the speakers the 2024 Annual Conference presenting on sub-theme "AI in Law: Navigating the future of legal practice". The committee come up with a paper of not more than 1000 words under the thematic area of AI which was to be presented to the Editorial Committee by 28th June 2024 for consideration for publication.

9. Bespoke System

The LSK council started a process of upgrading our current ERP system which was developed and commissioned in the year 2017, after meetings held with the current company supporting our ERP system and the council it was concluded there's need to upgrade our current ERP to meet the need of 25, 000 plus members. As per our mission empower the legal profession with quality member services and promote the rule of law, through advocacy and good governance" the bespoke system will be built from ground up to meet the specific goals of the members in order to Improve service delivery to all members.

System Upgrade with following modules

- a) Finance & Accounts.
- b) Procurement
- c) Member Services
- d) Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- e) Compliance & Ethics
- f) Advocates Benevolent Association (ABA)
- g) Public Interest & Litigation (PIL)
- h) Human Resource Management
- i) Payroll Management
- j) Practice Standards
- k) Parliamentary
- Channels (Mobile & Web)

With the following expected output

- a) Improved efficiency and productivity
- b) Reduced costs
- c) Real-time data
- d) Future-proofed technology
- e) More use friendly member portal.
- f) Seamless presentation of member information on the portal.
- g) Integrations with Jams System, BRS, ZOOM, Bill Tracking, Register of Persons, Mpesa, Banks

The process started with engaging a consultant who did system audit and come with recommendations and together with the management team come up with TORs, the tender was advertised and the tenderers went through evaluation and now its waiting at contract awarding stage.

Challenges

- Have experienced system challenges with receipting, members not able to see their points, not able to download events materials, not able to receive links after event payments. We acknowledge the system was install back in 2017 and since then it has never being upgraded and in every year the member's number continue to raise every year.
- Integrations usually come with an additional point of failure so that in case of an issue troubleshooting and resolving is a little slower because two systems (and two support teams) are involved.

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Law Reform Committee of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is mandated to review legislation and provide expert advice on constitutional matters. administration of justice, and the rule of law. The Committee ensures that the legislative proposals align with Constitution both in letter and spirit. The Committee is convened by Mr. Vincent Githaiga, with Ms. Sarah Agong serving as the secretary.

Key Achievements in 2024

1. Legislative Review and Advisory Role

 The Committee actively reviewed several pieces of legislation, contributing to legal reform initiatives by preparing memoranda and engaging key stakeholders. It provided recommendations to enhance governance structures and ensure constitutional compliance in legislative processes.

2.Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy

- Members represented the LSK Council before Parliament and various organizations, presenting expert views on legal reforms.
- Through these engagements, the Committee influenced policy discussions on the rule of law and administration of justice.

3. Effective Use of Online Platforms

- The Committee adapted to digital platforms for regular discussions and collaboration, facilitating timely responses to legislative matters.
- Virtual consultations enabled members to contribute effectively despite logistical constraints.

4. Committee Meeting and Participation

- The Committee successfully convened a meeting in 2024 to deliberate on key legal issues and plan its activities.
- Continuous participation in online engagements ensured sustained progress in legislative review and advocacy efforts.

Conclusion

Despite limited physical meetings, the Law Reform Committee remained proactive in executing its mandate through digital collaboration, stakeholder engagements, and legislative advocacy. The Committee's contributions to legal reform in 2024 reinforced the LSK's commitment

to upholding constitutional principles, enhancing the rule of law, and ensuring justice for all. Moving forward, the Committee aims to increase its in-person engagements and broaden its legislative review scope for greater impact.

THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ADVOCATES REMUNERATION ORDER

The ad hoc Committee on the Review of the Advocates Remuneration Order (ARO) 2014 was initially established on 14th January, 2019, with the task of amending the Advocates (Remuneration) Order 2014. This resulted in the development of the 2019 Draft Interim Report. On 19th 2023. the Council September, reconstituted the Committee, expanding its membership to 22 members and reaffirming its mandate to review the ARO in light of emerging legal trends. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Chacha Odera, Ms. Teresia Wavinya as the Council representative and Ms.Linda Olingo serving as the Secretary.

Progress Update

The Committee has prepared its terms of reference which the Council approved on 9th October, 2023.

The Key objectives of the Committee include:

- Reviewing the 2019 Draft Interim Report and existing ARO.
- Consulting membership and stakeholders, including branches and Committees.
- Formulating amendments for specialized courts and emerging practice areas.

- Engaging an economist consultant to assess financial implications.
- Preparing final proposals for submission to the Chief Justice.

The 2019 Draft Interim Report was circulated for feedback on 13th June, 2024, with responses collated by 21st June, 2024. Detailed comments were received addressing areas such as virtual service of documents, Small Claims Court fees, and adjustments to fixed legal fees thresholds among others.

A joint meeting with the 2019 Committee was held on 25th September, 2024 which provided valuable insights into challenges and opportunities, including the need for economic analysis and compliance with the Competition Act.

Member comments have been adopted for incorporation into the interim report.

The Committee has prepared the terms of reference for an economist and are in the process of procuring an economist who will provide technical expertise in drafting the ARO and assessing the economic impact of the proposed amendments.

·Webinars and meetings with key stakeholders, including the Attorney General and Chief Justice, are planned.

Planned Activities

- Finalize the draft interim report by consolidating feedback.
- Schedule stakeholder consultations and CPD webinars.
- Engage an economist to support financial and economic analysis.

 Submit the final draft to the Council for review and approval.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the ARO Review significant has made progress addressing legal and economic trends. It is focused on completing stakeholder consultations. finalizing the report, and engaging an economist to ensure fair and relevant remuneration for advocates. The Committee seeks continued support from the Council and LSK members to achieve its objectives.

PRACTICE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is mandated under Section 4 of the LSK Act 2014 to ensure that all persons who practice law in Kenya or provide legal services in Kenya meet the standards of learning, professional competence, and professional conduct that are appropriate for the legal services they provide. Additionally, the LSK is required to provide and assist the members of the public in Kenya in matters touching ancillary or incidental to the law.

Further, Section 23 (1) of the LSK Act 2014 provides that the Council may from time to time appoint committees or subcommittees consisting of members of the Society; and may, except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act or by any regulations made under this Act, delegate to any such committee or subcommittee all or any of the powers of the Council. The Practice Standards and Committee is one such Committee appointed by the Council and is chaired

by Ms. Lindah Kiome, the LSK Upcountry Representative.

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Committee:

The Committee's mandate is to monitor and keep under review the ethical values, professional principles, and standards regulating and governing advocates, their organizations and their areas of practice, and in particular:

- 1.Develop proposals for best practice and changes to professional principles, values, and standards for submission to the Law Society of Kenya;
- 2. Respond to consultations on changes to professional principles, values, and standards promoted by the Law Society of Kenya and other regulators;
- 3. Provide support and advice on interpretation, management, and best practices in relation to ethical values, professional principles and standards as appropriate; and
- 4. Report to the Council of the Law Society of Kenya, and seek its approval for policy proposals and major responses to consultations so that they can comply with their responsibilities to act in the public interest, with integrity, objectivity, professional competence, due care, confidentiality, and in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

Committee Workplan 2024 - 2026

The Committee committed to having monthly meetings and the same has been taking place as and when agreed by members through the Convener and the LSK Secretariat.

For the period 2024 – 2026, the committee agreed to undertake the below activities:

- a) Monitoring adherence to the Advocates Act and the accompanying regulations through the Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU)
- b) Compile gaps in Practice Standards for submission to the Law Review Taskforce
- c) Ensure physical registration of law firms in close coordination with the BRS and the LSK ICT department
- d) Developing and/or amending rules of practice:
- i.Guidelines on Registration of Law firms, LLPs, and the use of Generic Names by Law firms:
- ii.Advocates Social Media Guidelines; and iii.LSK Dress Code 2013.
- e) Sensitization forums to advance professional practice standards
- f) Social media/ weeding out masquerader campaigns
- g) Monthly meetings (virtual and physical) to discuss committee activities

Activities Undertaken in 2024

- 1. The committee continues to follow up on the progress of developing the list of registered law firms in close coordination with the BRS.
- 2. The committee embarked on the development of Guidelines and Practice Notes on:
- a) Social Media Guidelines;
- b) The use of AI;
- Best Practices for Certification,
 Commissioning, and Notarization of
 Documents; and
- d) Practice Directions on Unqualified Persons.
- Sub committees have been formed in regard to the above and it has been reported to the main committee that the intended work is ongoing.
- 3. The committee intended to establish partnerships with law schools, CLE, KSL to partner in forums relating to ethics in the profession. The same is in progress and this time, the committee is lucky to have a lecturer from the Kenya School of Law as one of the members.
- 4. Empowering the LSK Branches and Chapters to conduct inspections across the country on weeding out masqueraders/quacks and all unqualified persons.

Achievements for the year 2024

1. Inspections of law firms and weeding out of masqueraders' campaign 2024
The Practice Standards Directorate and the PSEC has been undertaking periodic campaigns dubbed, 'Weeding out Masquerades, Quacks, Impersonators and

unauthorized/Unqualified Persons' in the year 2024. The said campaign is a continuation of the campaign that was initiated on the 2nd day of May 2023 by members of the previous committee through a notice to members and the general public to provide information on unqualified persons/practices. The same notice was also re-issued on the 26th day of August, 2024. The notice encouraged members and the public to provide information either anonymously otherwise on any individual or institution whether domestic international or purporting to offer legal services of any nature.

This was followed by a series of inspections and arrests of masqueraders across the region as per the table below

Region	Areas visited	No. of masqueraders nubbed	
Nairobi	CBD, Kilimani, Juja, Kabete/Kikuyu	1	
Nakuru	Nakuru City	4	
Mombasa	Mombasa City and the environs	1	
Kajiado	Kiserian	1	

Masqueraders Campaigns Gallery 2024



Convenor. Ms. Linda Kiome addressing the media in Nakuru



Members of the PSE Committee inspecting an office in Nakuru



Figure 1Council Members Ms. Linda Kiome and Mr. Steve Wanjiru during a law firm inspection in Kilimani area, Nairobi.

Masquerading Matters in Court

Court	Case No./Name	Status	
Milimani Law Courts	MCCR E761 of 2019 R V Mike Oyoo Oguda CMCC E7954 of 2023 R V Brian Mwenda	Hearing on going Hearing on going	
Kerugoya Law Courts	MCCR E752 of 2023 R V Peter Kihara Kariuki E028 of 2023 R V Brenda Wangui	Prosecution closed its case now awaiting Ruling on a case to answer Hearing on going	
Siaya Law Courts	MCCR E290 of 2023 R V Zuhura Misango	Ruling: Accused fined Kshs. 100,000/- or jail term	
Kwale Law Courts	MCCR E440 of 2023 R V Richard Omwange	Hearing in February 2025	
Kenol Law Courts	CR E278 of 2023	Hearing in February 2025	
Kajiado Law Courts	MCCR E695 of 2023 R V Gladys Rabera Ayuka	Hearing on going	
Embu Law Courts	E627 OF 2023 R V Jack Murithi Stanley & Russian Wakio Gicovi	Hearing on going	

Challenges faced by the PSEC

The committee had several activities that had been planned but could not be achieved due to the following hurdles:

- a) Conflicting work assignments.
- b) Lack of financial resources.
- c) Reduced committee member's participation during meetings.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Member Services Committee of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is established in accordance with Section 23 of the Law Society of Kenya Act, 2023, which provides for the formation of committees under the Council. The Committee plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the needs and welfare of LSK members are adequately

addressed by assisting the Council discharge this core mandate.

The Committee currently comprises of a 15-member working group of Advocates and is chaired by Mr. Mwaura Kabata, the Vice President of the LSK. It receives secretariat support from Ms. Angelica Mecha, Advocate, and Ms. Vivian Barongo, Assistant Program Officer, LSK Member Services Unit.

Terms of Reference

The primary function of the Member Services Committee, as postulated in Section 4 of the Law Society of Kenya Act, is to promote and enhance the interests, welfare, and professional development of LSK members. Specifically, the Committee is mandated to:

- a. Act as the conduit to the central LSK inquiry station to facilitate prompt communication to members and issue resolution.
- b. Enhance member welfare services, including financial, mental, and general well-being support.
- c. Coordinate mentorship programs, training, and professional development initiatives.
- d. Improve accessibility of LSK services by ensuring timely responses to members' inquiries.
- e. Monitor and address systemic challenges affecting LSK members, including technological and administrative bottlenecks.
- f. Engage stakeholders and external partners in providing additional resources and support to members.

2024 Achievements:

During the year under review, the Member Services Committee accomplished the following:

1. Handling Member Inquiries and Complaints:

Successfully received and processed approximately 600 complaints and general inquiries from LSK members, effectively channeling them to relevant departments for resolution.

2. Launch of the Ushauri Mentorship Program:

In December 2024, the Committee launched the Ushauri Mentorship Program targeting young advocates. The program successfully enrolled and paired mentees with experienced advocates to provide professional guidance and career development support.

Work Plan for 2025:

Recognizing the challenges facing LSK members, particularly in financial and health matters, the Committee has developed a strategic work plan for 2025 with the following objectives:

- a. Mental Health and General Well-being:
 -Promote mental health awareness among members: by organizing wellness programs, including workshops and networking events, to provide advocates with access to health resources.
- -Facilitate partnerships with health service providers to offer members affordable health and wellness solutions.
- b. Enhancement of Service Accessibility:
 -Improve the turnaround time for addressing member inquiries through the Member Services Unit.
- Champion for the introduction of technology-driven solutions to streamline communication and complaint resolution.

Challenges faced.:

While executing its mandate, the Committee encountered the following challenges:

a) LSK System Failures:

Frequent system failures and inefficiencies hindered the swift resolution

of member inquiries, leading to increased complaints.

b) Reliance on Social Media for Member Interactions:

The Committee heavily depends on social media to identify and address member concerns, which often leads to delays and difficulties in tracking progress.

Way forward and Conclusion:

To address the challenges identified, the Committee has recommended the following:

- 1. Upgrade LSK's Digital Infrastructure:
- 2. Advocate for investment in a more robust and responsive IT system to facilitate efficient service delivery.
- 3. Establish an Official Member Query Management System: with an automated inquiry tracking system to replace the reliance on social media for complaints and interventions.
- 4. Enhance Stakeholder Engagements: Collaborate with medical, financial, and wellness organizations to offer structured support systems for members.
- 5. Expand the Ushauri Mentorship Program: increase participation by onboarding more mentors and enhancing the structure of the program.

The Member Services Committee remains committed to enhancing the welfare and development professional of LSK members. Ву addressing systemic challenges, improving service accessibility, and focusing on member well-being, the Committee aims to create supportive and responsive more environment for all advocates. success of these initiatives will depend on

continued collaboration with the LSK Council, Secretariat, and external partners.

Contacts: Emailmemberservices@lsk.or.ke or telephones numbers- 0111671458/ 0799595810

Public Interest and Litigation Committee

The activities of the Committee is reported extensively on the Advocacy and Public Policy of this report[AR1]

[AR1]Provide the page

CHILD LAW COMMITTEE

Section 15 (1) of the Law Society of Kenya, The Council may from time to time appoint committees or sub-committees consisting of members of the Society; and may, except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act or by any regulations made under this Act, delegate to any such committee or subcommittee all or any of the powers of the Council. The Child Law Practitioners Committee is one such Committee appointed by the Council which is chaired by Ms. Linda Kiome

The purpose of the Committee is to provide leadership, guidance, and expertise on matters concerning child law to ensure the protection and promotion of children's rights in Kenya. The Committee will address key issues including child labour, children in conflict with the law, children in need of protection, children's rights, child trafficking, online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of child abuse.

Terms of Reference for the Child Law Committee.

The child law has these overarching terms of reference that are guiding its activities:

- 1. Propose and make recommendations to the Council on ways and means of improving the quality, fairness, and effectiveness of the Children's justice system nationally.
- 2. Propose recommendations for legislative reform to existing statutes on the Children's Justice system.
- 3. Prepare recommendations on the use of technology in the administration of justice to ensure speedy trial and resolution of children's cases.
- 4. To meet and discuss Children's law: international, regional and local as well as compliance practices and enforcement trends.
- 5. Provide pro bono legal aid services to litigants who are unable to afford legal representation in Children matters.
- 6. Propose and undertake public interest litigation on children-related cases.

Upon its establishment in June 2024 the committee has had 3 meetings and has developed objectives of the committee aligned to the TORs. These are as follows:

- 1.Advocacy on the Rights and Protection of Children
 - a. Promote the implementation and adherence to national and international standards for children's rights.
 - b. Engage in advocacy to strengthen legal frameworks and policies for the protection and welfare of children.
- 2. Engage in Initiatives to combat Child Exploitation and Abuse

- Monitor and review legislation and practices related to child labour.
- Propose reforms and initiatives to eliminate child labour and its detrimental effects on children.
- Develop strategies and recommendations to prevent and address child trafficking.
- Promote collaboration with law enforcement and other stakeholders to combat child trafficking effectively.
- Review and propose measures to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Advocate for better legal protections and enforcement mechanisms in the digital space.
- 3. Support Children in Conflict with the Law
 - a. Develop recommendations for a juvenile justice system that is fair and rehabilitative.
 - b. Address issues related to the treatment of children in conflict with the law and advocate for their right
 - c.Integrate mediation in conflict resolution
- 3. Advise on policy and legal measures to address the Needs of Special Categories of Vulnerable Children
 - a. Identify and address legal and systemic issues affecting children in need of protection, including those in care institutions.
 - b. Propose legal frameworks and measures to improve the protection and welfare of such children.
 - c. Identify and propose solutions to

- address other forms of child abuse, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.
- Raise awareness and promote legal reforms to prevent and respond to various forms of child abuse.
- 4. Engage in Partnerships and Foster Collaboration
- a. Collaboration with government and stakeholders in the justice system in fostering the objective of the committee
- b. Training and sensitisation of LSK members on the Children Act and the Regulations
- 6.Monitoring and evaluation of access to justice measures for Children in the Justice system

The committee also established 5 subcommittee to advanced its mandate during its term in office. The subcommittees included:

- 1.Legal and Policy Review and Formulation
- 2. Training and Capacity Building
- 3. Advocacy Communication & Documentation
- 4. Research Monitoring and Accountability
- 5. Partnership/Collaboration and Resource Mobilization

Challenges faced by the committee

- a) Conflicting work assignments affecting members attendance to tasks
- b) Lack of financial resources to undertake its activities

CROSS BORDER PRACTICES & IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is mandated under Section 4 of the LSK Act he

2014 to assist the Government and the courts in matters relating to legislation, the administration of justice, and the practice of law in Kenya. Additionally, the LSK is required to uphold the Constitution of Kenya and advance the Rule of Law and the administration of Justice.

Further, Section 23 (1) of the LSK Act 2014 provides that the Council may from time to time appoint committees or subcommittees consisting of members of t Society; and may, except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act or by any regulations made under this Act, delegate to any such committee or subcommittee all or any of the powers of the Council. The CrossBorder **Practice** Immigration Committee is one such Committee appointed by the Council and by Mr. Cohen chaired Amanya, Advocate and co – chaired by Zulfa Roble, the LSK Upcountry Representative.

Terms of Reference (TORS) of the Committee

The Committee's mandates are as enumerated below:

I.To advise the Council on policy and legislative reforms touching on cross - border practice.

II.To push for reciprocity of cross – border legal practice amongst East African Countries.

III.To identify matters of public interest within existing immigration legislations for litigation.

IV.To push for compliance of immigration decisions and judgments issued by courts. V. To advise the Council on policy and legislative reforms touching on immigration.

VI. To advise the Council on capacity building initiatives for members on Immigration laws.

Committee Workplan 2024 – 2026 The Committee committed to having monthly/quarterly meetings. The committee held four meetings in the year 2024.

For the period 2024 – 2026, the committee proposed to undertake the below activities:

- a) Trainings i.e. Training LSK and committee members on the practice at the East African Court of Justice.
- b) Symposiums the scope is yet to be discussed and agreed upon by the committee members.
- c) Courtesy visit to the Director of Immigration The same to be done in close coordination with the LSK Council and office of the CEO as it will go a long way in fostering a good working relationship between the two institutions.
- d) A visit to the Kakuma Refugees Camp, fully funded by the UN the Convener, Mr. Cohen Amanya to help in organizing the visit especially for the committee members.
- e) In coordination with the PIL Committee, the committee to work on a classicus case on implementation of the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol (CMP) of 2010 at the East African Court of Justice.

- f) The Committee shall be filing PIL on matters i.e. Visa issues and reciprocity between Kenya and Western Countries and Immigration issues generally affecting Kenyans.
- g) The Committee to look at the challenges faced by members in Cross Border Practice especially in their application to practice in other Bars, write a report on the same and use it to negotiate with other Bars on matters Cross Border Practice.
- h) Monthly/quarterly meetings (virtual and physical) to discuss committee activities.

The Convener of the Committee, Mr. Cohen Amanya informed committee members in the last meeting that due to other commitments, he tendered his resignation from the Committee to the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Kenya. In this regard, the members proposed Ms. Dorothy Omboto to take over as the Convenor of the Committee.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee is convened by Samuel Mbiriri and Zulfa Roble (Council Member), with Linda Olingo serving as the Secretary. The committee comprises 30 members.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting in July, where it focused on orientation, defining its functions, and adopting rules of procedure. It outlined its mandate to include:

- Contributing to legislative reforms within the ADR space.
- Sensitizing professionals and the public on the benefits of ADR.
- Supporting the judiciary in promoting ADR mechanisms such as reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, and traditional dispute resolution, as outlined in Article 159(2)(c) of the Constitution.

Achievements/Milestones

- 1.The Committee has adopted the operating model of the previous ADR Committee to ensure smooth and consistent execution of its mandate.
- 2. The Committee has established three subcommittees with distinct mandates to focus on specialized areas and provide regular updates to the main committee. These include:
- Mediation and Conciliation
 Subcommittee
- Alternative Justice Subcommittee, and
- Arbitration and Construction Adjudication Subcommittee.
- 3. The Committee has recognized the need for a standalone remuneration schedule for ADR practitioners. The Committee has formally engaged the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Advocates Remuneration Order (ARO), 2014, to co-opt two ADR members, Mr. Samuel Mbiriri (Convener) and Mr. David Njuguna, as technical experts. This proposal was approved, enabling ADR practitioners to contribute directly to the ongoing review process.
- 4. The Committee has reviewed and provided substantial input on the

Private Mediation and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. The final document was officially launched by the Chief Justice during the opening of the Court Annexed Mediation program in Marsabit.

Planned Activities

- Legislative Reforms
 - Advocate for legislative changes to strengthen the ADR framework in Kenya.
 - Develop a comprehensive remuneration schedule for ADR practitioners as part of the ARO review process.
- Public Awareness and Sensitization
 - Conduct campaigns to educate professionals and the public on the benefits of ADR as an efficient and cost-effective dispute resolution mechanism.
- Capacity Building
 - Organize training sessions for ADR practitioners to enhance their skills in mediation, arbitration, and other ADR mechanisms.
 - Collaborate with the judiciary to strengthen the implementation of Article 159(2)(c) of the Constitution.

The ADR Committee remains committed in advancing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Kenya. By fostering collaboration, driving legislative reform, and promoting public awareness, the committee aims to solidify ADR as a mainstream and effective approach to dispute resolution within the legal profession and society.

Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal

The Directorate has supported Tribunal and its operations by ensuring service is undertaken in good time and that there is ease of attendance for members in virtual sittings. E-service has been utilized at the first instance and inquiries received and responded to mainly via email and telephone to improve turn-around time. The directorate has served Notices on time, has prosecuted matters before the DT in all sittings and ensured seamless operations of the Tribunal throughout the year.

i.Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal Service Week

The directorate conducted an ADT service week in the month of July 2024 whose objectives were to;

- 1. Clear backlog
- 2. Enhance efficiency
- 3. Promote accountability

Through the service week, 197 matters were listed as below;

Service Week in July (22nd -26th July, 2024)

	Matters Settled	16
2	Matters Closed	0
3	Matters Deferred	0
4	Matters Abated	1
5	Matters Proceeding for Hearing	131
6	Matters To Mention	44
7	Matters Marked SOG	1
8	Matters Fixed for Judgment	1
9	Matters Fixed for Ruling	2
10	Matters Fixed for Mitigation & Sentencing	1

Achievements

- 1. There was timely service of both the Notices by the LSK and Affidavits of Complaints by the Advocates Complaints Commission.
- 2. Satisfactory attendance by all parties.
- 3. The LSK through the Compliance & Ethics Directorate, assisted several members of the public to attend virtual Tribunal proceedings.
- 4. The Tribunal reduced the number of mentions given to reduce the time taken for the resolution of the disputes.

Challenges

- 1. Missing/misfiled documents- several files lacked documents served by parties.
- 2. Long cause lists- there were over 50 matters per cause list making the sessions run for too long and causing uncomfortable working conditions.
- 3. Many Advocates and complainants do not understand the procedures of the Tribunal which takes up a lot of the Tribunal's time, especially on the issuance of mentions.

Recommendations

- 1. There is need to have updated information of all advocates.
- 2. The directorate recommends the need to have updated system to aid with the tedious work of manually amending notices. We note that the information as is in the old system, is not synced with members updated data and cannot auto generate up-to-date notices.
- 3. There is need for continued sensitization of advocates and members of the public on the procedures of the Tribunal to save on costs and time.

ii.Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal Judgment Writing Retreat

The Deputy CEO. the **Advocates** Disciplinary Tribunal and the Researchers held a retreat in November with the primary objective of addressing backlog of pending judgments/rulings. The team had set a target of drafting 81 judgments and successfully completed 70 judgements, making significant progress reducing the backlog, enhancing efficiency of the Tribunal and upholding justice. Further, in the last quarter of the year, over 200 more judgmets have been completed.

Achievements

- 1. About 300 judgments completed and ready for delivery.
- 2. Team building.

Challenge

1. Time, capacity and budgetary constraints.

Recommendations

- 1. The retreat be yearly.
- 2. A budget be allocated.

iii. Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal Annual Statistics Report, 2024

Mr. William Maema is the current Chair of Disciplinary Advocates Tribunal appointed by the Attorney General, with the mandate to adjudicate complaints against advocates. The current Tribunal members include Ms. Esther Muigai, Ms. Eunice Lumallas, Mr. Andrew Kituyi, Ms. Eddah Majala, Mr. Gathii Irungu and Dr. Mutuma Kenneth Wyne. The LSK Deputy CEO Ms. Mwathi Kitonga, is seconded as the Secretary to the Tribunal. Currently the Tribunal is properly constituted as per the provisions of Section 58(1) of the Advocates Act.

In 2024, hearing and determination of cases has progressed well, with the backlog of cases being significantly reduced. We conducted service week in July 2024 where we listed 197 matters. There have been less cases filed this year with a total of 328 cases.

To support Tribunal members due to the challenges in capacity, two researchers were recruited and have been assisting in research and drafting of judgments.

Matters that are active from 2015 - 2024 are 1237.

Status of Disciplinary matters

YEAR	CASES OPENED	PREVIOUSLY	CAUSES CONCLUDED IN 2024	OUTSTANDING
2015	190	107	2	81
2016	131	73	3.	55
2017	185	83	3	99
2018	54	17	0	37
2019	202	52	6	144
2020	41	18	1	22
2021	161	32	9	120
2022	286	34	17	235
2023	399	122	26	251
2024	328	130	5	193
TOTALS	1977	668	72	1237

N.B: A matter is considered to be concluded after sentencing has been done.

The Tribunal upon hearing a matter before it may under Section 60 of the Advocates Act order the complaint be dismissed or if of the opinion that the case of professional misconduct on the part of the advocate has been made, the Tribunal may order that:

- 1. The advocate be admonished.
- 2. The advocate be suspended from practice for a specified period not exceeding five years.
- 3. The name of the advocate be struck off the Roll of Advocates.
- 4. The advocate pays a fine not exceeding one million shillings.
- 5. The advocate pays to the aggrieved person compensation or reimbursement not exceeding five million shillings.
- 6. Execution be pursued against the advocate to recover the amount in question.

Below is a brief analysis of the matters dealt with by the Tribunal for the period between January and December 2024:

A: Struck off the roll of Advocate:

1. Nyakundi Robert Mongare DTC/86/2017 2. Nyakoe Nyaumah Jared DTC/34/2013 3. Kemunto P.E Melanie DTC 121/2017 4. Obara Odanijah Oira DTC 113/2017 5. Muthee Muriithi George DTC 19/2018 6. Simiyu Michael Wafula DTC 51/2017 Macmillan 7. Mutiso Mutinda DTC 141/2009 8. Sekento leornard Date DTC/13/2018 9. Angara Christiano Nyakundi DTC/39/2014 10. Kimeu John Ndungwa DTC/38/2019

B:Suspended from the Roll of Advocate:

Paul

11.0mondi

DTC/122/2015

1. Nyaribo	Bernard	Mongare
DTC/120/2	012 (24 mont	hs)

Alando

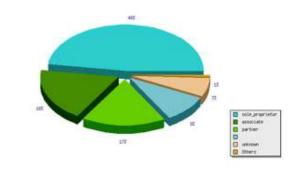
Sanate

- 2. Ngala Daniel Mutisya DTC/27/2017 (24 months)
- 3. Mwangangi John Musyoka DTC/22/2019 (24months)
- 4. Njau Leonard Njogu DTC/80/2016 (12 months)
- 5. Sena Charles Saina O. DTC/9/2019 (12 months
- 6. Ochieng Patrick Ochieng DTC/164/2017 (3 years)
- 7. Kamere Joakim Kiarie DTC/110/2016 (3 years)

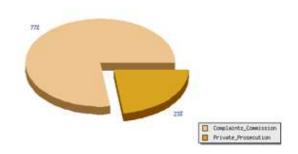
C: Settled: 135

An analysis of the cases reveals that out of the 328 new matters filed in the year 2024; 48% of the matters were against advocates practicing as sole proprietors, 18% against advocates employed as associates while 17% was against advocates practicing in partnerships. The analysis also revealed that 77% of the cases filed were by the Advocates Complaints Commission and 23% are cases filed as private prosecutions. Majority of the cases filed against Advocates are of dishonorable conduct at 30%, followed by withholding of funds/ failure to account at 25%. A further analysis revealed that 82.52% of the new cases were against male advocates while 15.95% were as against female advocates.

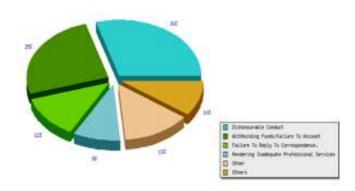
Cases by Advocate Type



Cases by prosecutor



Charge Occurrence



Gender

	Numbers	%
Female	52	15.95%
Males	269	82.52%

7.Projects:

The Directorate has handled the following projects this year:

- 1.From Bars to Justice in partnership with UNDP, EU & Amkeni Wakenya.
- 2.Phase 2 AML/CFT project in partnership with British High Commission, Hook Tangaza
- 3.AML/CFT partnership with GIZ, FRC
- 4.Swiss Embassy project i.e. Public Dialogue Forum
- 5.Collaboration with Nobuk & Mwango capital on support for legal aid for protestors and victims
- 6.Partnership with Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) on legal support during the protests
- 7.Partnership with Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF) on legal support during the protests

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The Law Society of Kenya Journal is a peer-reviewed annual publication of the Law Society of Kenya produced and published by the Editorial Committee. The Committee is convened by Prof. Michael Wabwile, and co-convened by Elizabeth Wanjeri, Council Member. The Editorial Committee's mandate includes:

- 1. To consider, edit and recommend for publication, articles for the Journal and the Advocate Magazine.
- 2. In consultation with the Committee on Continuing Legal Education, consider papers delivered at the CLE seminar for publications in Journal and Advocates Magazine.
- 3. To advise on the strategies of improving the reading and legal writing culture among members.
- 4. Consider and advise on measures for income generating activities for the Law Society publication.

The convenor chaired the Committee's inaugural meeting on 13th June 2024 and have had two meeting thereafter and the following are some of the achievements made by the committee;

- The Committee received 23 papers from members of the Society and all the papers upon the peer review process, be considered for publication.
- The Editorial Committee resolved to continue with the pace set by the previous committee of procuring the services of a peer review consultant

to aid in reviewing articles submitted by members for the advocate magazine.

- The Consultancy Contract be amended to make provision for renewal of the contract at the sole discretion of the Society. This might help to save time and costs of procuring consultancy services especially where the incumbent consultancy team has rendered satisfactory service.
- Maintain the current policy of disseminating the Journal in soft copy and hard copies. The soft copy be dispatched to the members via email with the nard copies be distributed through member's respective branches.
- Going forward the Society's workplan should be monitored to ensure that the LSK Journal is delivered to the members before the end of each calendar year.
- The LSK Journal 2024 should be delivered to the members by the end of March 2025, and thereafter, a call for 2025 papers be issued to the members.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit & Risk Committee was inaugurated in April 2024 under the leadership of Ms. Lindah Kiome. It is a Council committee consisting of five Council members and whose findings and recommendations are tabled before the full Council on quarterly basis.

For the year 2024, the committee was able to convene six time, being on 15th March 2024, 23rd May 2024, 6th June

2024, 11th October 2024, 7th November 2024 and 11th November 2024. Out of the 6 meetings, the committee passed a total of 66 resolutions that were tabled before the full Council in the respective Council meetings.

The committee was able to review the management letter of the external auditors for the year 2023 and passed resolutions that ensured the implementation of the recommendations. to support their audit and review procedures.

The committee evaluated the top ten risks for the Society in all their meetings, geared towards ensuring the effectiveness of controls are in place to manage significant risk exposures, and ensure the integrity and reliability of information and financial reporting.

GENDER COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Gender Committee of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) for the 2024–2026 tenure has made significant progress in its mission to foster gender equality,combat gender-based violence(GBV), enhance access to justice for women, and address other critical gender issues. This report highlights the committee's accomplishments, challenges, and the strategic initiatives laid out to achieveits objectives.

Committee Composition

The Gender Committee comprises 32 members, led by:

Convenor: Irene Otto

• Co-Convenor: ElizabethWanjeri

Secretary: Bonface Were

Other members include:

- 1.Mimi Aldrine
- 2. Nancy Njoki Mureithi
- 3. Tallam Duncan Kimutai
- 4. Hellen Shiro Mogeni
- 5. Jeremiah Mungai Njoroge
- 6.Dorca Eclance Olucheli Lucheli
- 7. Gatura Eunice Wameru
- 8.Lenah Kemunto Moenga
- 9.Kinyua Margaret Njeri
- 10.Mokeira Onyiego
- 11.Cynthia Mudaye Odhiambo
- 12.Dianah Kemunto Ateka
- 13. Cynthia Njeri Njoroge
- 14. Anne Ngatha Mbugua
- 15.Rosemary Ndulu Kavita
- 16.Ruth Jebet Rotich
- 17. Purity Wadegu Ouma
- 18.Sylvia Nasambu Makassy
- 19.Kevin Wanjala Walumbe 20.Jane

Akinyi Onyango

- 21.0mari Prudence Bonuke
- 22. Valentine Nyokabi Njogu
- 23. Beverly Achieng Mumbo
- 24.Ilham Hisham
- 25.Belinda Masinde

Key Achievements in 2024

- 1.Training on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)
 - Dates: 19th-20th March 2024
 - Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi
 - Collaborators: National Council on the Administration of Justice(NCAJ), UNICEF, Child Fund, and Kenya Alliance of Children Rights.

The committee organizeda two-day trainingfor advocates to address the increasing prevalence of OCSEA inKenya. Key topics included:

- The rising number of OCSEA cases in Kenya.
- Lawyers' roles in providing legal support for victimsand children in conflictwith the law.
- Implementation of the NCAJ curriculum on OCSEA investigations and prosecutions.

Advocates who completed the training were awarded certificates.

2. Public Interest Litigation Cases

The Gender Committee has actively participated in high-impact public interestlitigation (PIL) cases aimed at advancing women's rights:

·High Court Constitutional Petition No. E430 of 2024: A public interestcase against Procter& Gamble (P&G) concerning women's menstrualhealth and counterfeit products. The Society is represented by Advocate Wendy Litunya.

·Malindi Appeal (C.A E030 of 2022): A case involving Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights(SRHR) and broader reproductive rights. The Societyis represented by Advocates Phanie Kwenga and Nerima Were.

These cases underscore the committee's dedication to safeguarding women's health, dignity, and reproductive rights.

3. Participation in Legal Awareness Week 2024

During Legal AwarenessWeek 2024, the committeeset up a booth at the

MilimaniLaw Courts. Activities included:

- Sensitizing advocates and the public about the LSK Sexual Harassment and Anti- Bullying Policy.
- Distributing informational materials.
- Engaging stakeholders in meaningful discussions on fosteringsafer and more inclusive workplace environments.

This initiative highlighted the committee's efforts to promote awarenessand prevent harassment and bullying within the legal profession.

4. Advocacy and GenderEquality Forums

- Women's Breakfast Forum: Held during the LSK Annual Conference on 14th August 2024, this event focused on the theme: "Tracing the Journey of AdvancingGender Equality in Kenya: The Two-Thirds Gender Rule." Distinguished speakers and participants reflected on milestones and challenges in achieving gender parity in Kenya.
- Side Event on SRHR: Organized in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Rights during the LSK Annual Conference, this event focused on advancingSRHR in Kenya.

5. Press Statements

The committee issued press statements addressing key gender-related issues:

 Election of Mr. John Chebochok as Director of Toror Tea Factory:The LSK condemned the election of an individual implicated in sexual exploitation allegations, callingfor stringent vetting processes. Abduction, Assault, and Rape of BloggerBruce John Kajira:The LSK strongly denouncedthis attack, reaffirming its commitment to human rights and freedom of expression.

6. Formation of Subgroups

To ensure efficient execution of its objectives, the committee divided its members into three subgroups:

- Leadership and Representation: Focused on mentorship programs, advocacy for gender diversity policies, and collaboration with law schools to enhance femaleenrollment and retention.
- Gender-Based Violence and Access to Justice: Launched legal aid programsfor GBV survivors, conducted workshopson GBV laws, and collaborated with NGOs for comprehensive survivor support.
- Economic Empowerment and Public Awareness: Conducted research on barriersto women's economic empowerment, hostedseminars, and ran publicawareness campaigns on gender equality.

Challenges Faced

Despite its achievements, the committee encountered the following challenges:

- Resistance to gender equality initiatives within some sectors of the legal profession.
- Limited resources for implementing all planned activities.
- Coordination challenges among stakeholders.

Way Forward

To buildon its achievements, the committee aims to:

- Expand mentorship and leadership programs for female lawyers.
- Advocate for comprehensive policies addressing GBV and workplace harassment.
- Strengthen partnerships with local and international stakeholders.
- Mobilize resources to support ongoing and futureactivities.
- Enhance public outreach and education on gender equality issues.

Conclusion

The Gender Committee's first year has been marked by impactful initiatives and a robustfoundation for future progress.By addressing systemicgender inequalities, supporting survivors of GBV, and empowering women, the committeereaffirms its commitment to justice and equalityfor all.

The committeeremains steadfastin its mission to create a supportive environment within the legal profession and societyat large. With a clear roadmap and collaborative efforts, the committee looks forwardto achieving even greater milestones in 2025.

COUNTIES AND DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The Committee is comprised of 20 members with Ms. Nicholas as the Convener and Mr. Aseso as the Co-Convener.

The mandate of the Committee.

- Look at the welfare of the County Attorneys and legal counsels working in the counties especially on the harmonization of their salaries and payment of their non practising and prosecutorial allowances:
- Full institutionalization of the county courts in liaison with the Judiciary.
- Come up with specialized Continuous Professional Development Courses (CPDs) on counties and devolved government;
- Champion for the review of the Office of the County Attorney's Act;
- Be a podium for engagement with the Council of Governors (COG) on behalf of the advocates working in the counties in liaison with the County Attorneys and County Solicitors forum; and
- Giving advisory and/or proposals to the Council on areas of intervention where matters of devolution are concerned so that the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) can champion and push for to assist the counties and other smaller devolved structures.

Activities.

With an aim of achieving the mandate of the committee, the following are the activities that the committee carried out:

 Prepared a questionnaire on the specialized CPD trainings for County Advocates aimed at rating the previous event(s) relating to County Advocates and to propose topics for consideration in the CPD calendar for the year 2025;

- Wrote a letter to the County Government of Nairobi and organized a meeting with the County Attorney of Nairobi County hence gathered details on how they reclaimed the County Court;
- Came up with a draft organogram of the Office of the County Attorney;
 and
- Came up with a draft amendment to the Office of the County Attorney Act.

Achievements.

- Some of the proposed topics have been included in the CPD calendar for the year 2025; and
- Some members have been selected as guest speakers in the CPD events for the year 2025.

i. Special Interests Group Committee.

The Committee is comprised of 6 members with Ms. Brenda Michira as the Convener. The establishment of the committee was based on demand and embracing diversity and inclusion.

The mandate of the Committee.

- Advising the Council on policy and legislative reforms, with a focus on Article 100 of the Constitution, especially on matters affecting persons with disabilities (PWDs) and marginalized groups;
- Identifying key issues regarding the Rule of Law that impact PWDs and marginalized communities within the legal profession;

- Engaging LSK members in raising public awareness about the integration of SIGs into the justice system for sustainable development; and
- Collaborating with stakeholders to facilitate legal interventions when necessary.

Activities.

With an aim of achieving the mandate of the committee, the following are the activities that the committee carried out;

- Attended the 20th Anniversary National Disability Inclusion Conference 2024 themed "Celebrating 20 Years of Diversity and Inclusion in Kenya: Stories of Triumphs and Overcoming Barriers"; and
- Attended the first-ever Amputee
 Fashion Show Gala on 4th October
 2024. The event celebrated the
 resilience and strength of the
 amputee community and raised funds
 to make prosthetics more accessible
 to those in need.

Lands and Climate Justice Committee.

The Committee is comprised of 21 members with Ms. Nicholas as the Convener and Ms. Wanjeri as the Co-Convener.

The mandate of the Committee.

 To monitor, analyze, advise and recommend changes current and proposed legislation in regards to matters of environment, land and conveyancing.

- Advising the Council from time to time on practice issues emanating from land transactions.
- Advising the Council and build capacity of member on the emerging practice area of energy, mining and natural recourses following the discovery of oil, gas and coal in Kenya.

Activities.

With an aim of achieving the mandate of the committee, the following are the activities that the committee carried out;

- Created sub committees; Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources; Oil and Gas, wildlife and and Renewable water resources energy, Real Estate: General Conveyancing and Construction, Policy and Advocacy, Conveyancing; - and Dispute Resolution;
- Drafted a letter on the regularization of the issue of LCB Consent which is yet to be sent to the Cabinet Secretary of Lands.
- Drafted a letter to address the issue of booking and zoning laws which is yet to be sent to the Cabinet Secretary of Lands and Chief Land Registrar; and
- Drafted a paper on the free legal representation and shifting of legal costs of vendor's advocate (s) to purchasers in real estate transactions which is yet to be submitted to the Council.

Achievement.

 Some members have been selected as guest speakers in the CPD events for the year 2025.

COUNCIL DEVOLUTION COMMITTEE

The committee is convened by Counsel Teresia Wavinya Nicholas and draws its membership from the Council of the Law Society of Kenya.

The committee is mandated to advice council of Law Society of Kenya on all matters, Branches and Devolution pursuant to S.24 of the Law Society of Kenya Act and the Law Society of Kenya (General) Regulations, 2020.

During the inaugural meeting of the Committee, members adopted the below terms of Reference.

- Compliance issues by the branches before disbursement of devolution funds.
- Intra institutional homogeneity between branches and the society at large to discourage duplication of responsibilities i.e. How to relate with branches.
- Devolution responsibilities and roles.
- Intra institutional homogeneity- how to relate with each other and borrow ideas (encourage branches to fulfil mandate of section 24).
- Dispute resolutions mechanism in branches before escalation to other quarters or mediations.
- Setting up oversight of infrastructures and systems within branches.

- Dealing with statutory and regulatory compliance by branches.
- Empowering Branches to identify, undertake and carryout PIL matters at the branch level

Activities

Branch Audits

In an Effort to ensure accountability to funds released to branches the Society continues to demand compliance and transparency from Branches. In fulfilling the pre-conditions set out prior to disbursements of the funds to branches the Society through the Internal Audit & Compliance Directorate conduct periodic Audit and reviews of funds disbursed to the branch. Upon consideration of the recommendations in the Auditors Audit report on Branch compliance, more funds are either disbursed or withheld to the various branch until compliance is achieved.

Branch Disbursements

The devolution committee through the Council is mandated to **Approve** disbursements of funds to branches in line with LSK regulations, Branches must adhere to the set-out conditions including but not limited to Submission of the branch Year Annual budget. During the year 2024 the Council through the devolution committee was able enhance the annual grant disbursement from 1million to 2Million to each branch from 2024 and Devolution funds disbursed to the 7 branches that had complied.

Disbursement of the Equalization funds

In an effort to support Branches achieve their set mandate under Section 24 of LSK act, the National office has set aside 5% of the total devolution funds to be utilized as equalization share. The fund is established for sole purpose supporting less established Branches, so as to bring them to the same level, generally enjoyed by the rest of the Branches. The committee set out a call to Branches to submit applications indicating areas they need support. After the committee awarded the following branches; Mt Kenya branch, eastern branch and Rift Valley branch.

TAX COMMITTEE

The Tax Committee of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) for the year 2024, under the of Mr. Ngumi leadership Daniel (Chairman) and Ms. Elizabeth Wanjeri (Council Member liaison), has actively pursued its mandate to address taxrelated issues affecting both the legal profession and the public. Comprising 22 Advocates from diverse fields of practice and Secretariat support of Ms. Angelica Mecha, the committee has undertaken several activities and initiatives to fulfill its responsibilities.

Terms of Reference.

The Tax Committee is mandated to:

- 1. Assist in reviewing tax-related bills directed to the Law Society of Kenya and provide timely feedback.
- 2. Identify matters of public interest within existing tax legislations for litigation.
- 3. Advocate for compliance with tax decisions and judgments passed by courts.
- 4. Channel pressing needs from the public and legal practitioners to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) for facilitating ease of business transactions.
- 5. Identify key areas of tax for inclusion in the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Calendar.
- 6. Establish linkages and pursue exchange programs with other jurisdictions and Bar Associations for knowledge exchange.

Committee activities for 2024

The Committee successfully undertook the following initiatives during the year:

a. Webinar on the Kenyan Pre-Budget Cycle, Tax Procedures, and Tax Law Amendments (3rd December 2024):

The Committee hosted a successful webinar with which the presenters featured the Members this was done to provide insights into proposed tax law amendments and procedures.

b. Participation in the Petition on data protection on release of IMEI mobile information filed by Katiba Institute.

The committee is actively participating in the petition on Data Protection, maintaining a watching brief status on behalf of LSK to safeguard the interests of the legal profession. The determination shall be circulated in due course.

c. Courtesy Call to the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT) Chair:

Committee in the company of the Vice President, Mwaura Kabata and Tom K'opere, Council Member held a joint meeting with the Tax Appeal Tribunal Chairperson on 27th September, 2024, to deliberate on various issues faced by the Tax Appeal Tribunal (TAT) users. Some of the highlighted issues were; administrative delays in getting typed and certified proceedings resulting often TAT users having to file supplementary statement of facts and inaccuracies thereof, Lack opportunities to highlight submissions and examine in chief, the focus on documents as opposed to substantive arguments in delivery of justice.

In the proposed possible solutions were the following; TAT to be furnishing typed proceedings at most within two weeks. The staff thereof to exercise accuracy in documenting the Tax Appeal Tribunal (TAT) proceedings, TAT adjudicating Members were highly encouraged to adopt а case-by-case basis in highlighting of submissions, especially on complex technical matters. opportunities be availed for examine in chief for expert witnesses upon request, as the same will understanding aid in better and determination of disputes. (Attach Photo)

d. CPD Calendar Formulation for 2025:

The committee continues to play a crucial role in formulation of the CPD calendars, for year 2025, the Committee

placed an ardent request for a specialized training on the practice and procedures before the Tax Appeals Tribunal.

e. Advocacy and Recommendations:

The committee continues to provide recommendations to the LSK Council on tax matters affecting the legal profession.

Submissions were made on the Tax Amendments Bill, Tax Procedures Act Bills, and Business Laws Amendment Bill, as circulated by the National Treasury in anticipation of the Finance Bill 2025.

Way forward: Objectives for 2025

The Tax Committee looks forward to the following initiatives in the coming year:

- a. Intercept and review the Finance Bill 2025 and any other relevant upcoming tax-related Bills.
- b. Stakeholder Engagement: actively participate in stakeholder meetings, public participation forums, and consultations with government agencies, statutory bodies such as ICPAK, and the Judiciary.
- c. Advocates' Sensitization on Tax Matters: organize sensitization programs for Advocates, especially on tax compliance, in collaboration with KRA.
- d. Courtesy Call to the Commissioner of KRA: actualize the courtesy visit to the Commissioner of KRA to discuss tax issues affecting legal practitioners.

Challenges faced.

Despite its achievements, the Committee encountered the following challenges:

- 1. Complex and Dynamic Tax Laws: frequent amendments to tax laws made it challenging to keep members updated.
- 2. Limited Engagement Opportunities with Key Stakeholders: restricted access to relevant government bodies sometimes delayed advocacy efforts.
- 3. Public Awareness and Compliance Issues: the legal fraternity requires increased sensitization on taxation matters to improve overall compliance.

Recommendations

To address these challenges, the Committee recommends:

- 1. Enhanced Digital Communication Channels: develop a real-time tax update platform for advocates to stay informed on tax legislation changes.
- 2. Regular Stakeholder Engagements: increase participation in policy dialogues with KRA, National Treasury, ICPAK and Judiciary on tax matters.
- 3. Strengthening CPD Tax Training Programs: introduce advanced tax law training for advocates through partnerships with tax experts and academic institutions.

Conclusion

The Tax Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to improving the tax environment for legal practitioners and advocating for effective tax policy frameworks. The Committee appreciates the dedication of its members and urges advocates to continue engaging in tax discussions to safeguard the profession's interests.

We look forward to further interactions and collaborations in pursuit of our objectives.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Criminal Justice Committee is convened by Ms. Zulfa Roble, Advocate, who is also a Council Member. The committee is comprised of about 28 members. On 24th June 2024, the Criminal Justice Committee held its inaugural virtual meeting. The meeting saw the election of Mr. Shadrack Mwinzi Advocate as the Co-convenor. Members of the Committee were taken through the terms of reference for the Committee. They included:

- To discuss issues relevant to Kenyan penal law and procedure and the functioning of the courts with regard to criminal cases.
- Issue reports and make recommendations for legislation or change to existing statutes.
- Make proposals for prosecutorial and judicial reform.
- Prepare "status" papers, charting and detailing the consequences of significant, new legislation or court rules affecting the criminal justice system.
- Identify committee members for presentation of CPD training courses on recent developments in the law or practice.
- Meet and discuss anti-corruption laws, compliance practices, enforcement trends and asset recovery issues.
- Provide pro bono services to litigants who are unable to afford legal

representation in criminal matters.

- Study decisions of the courts on criminal matters and make recommendations for change.
- Identify ways and means of improving the quality, fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system nationally.
- Engage in active, ongoing cases through amicus briefing.
- Be a leading voice in the issues and debates that shape our criminal justice system.

It is imperative to note that since its inception, the Committee has continued to exercises its mandate. As much as the Committee has held a number of meetings to discuss issues of great importance, it has also participated in a number of stakeholder forums.

 Engagement on sensitization of Milimani Court Users' Committee on sentencing policy guidelines

On the 22nd November 2024 at Eka Hotel in Nairobi, the Co-convenor of Criminal Justice Committee Mr. Shadrack Mwinzi represented the Society at the Court Users' Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize Milimani and Makadara CUCs on the sentencing policy guidelines 2023 and guidelines for offenders.The management of petty meetina was organized bv NCAJ Committee on Criminal Justice Reform (NCCJR) and Kenya Section of the International Commission of Justice (ICJ).

LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA BRANCH REPORTS

MOUNT KENYA BRANCH

This has been a year of great wins for our Branch. We have achieved quite alot that we all ought to be proud of.

1. JUSTICE CUP

We managed to host the Justice Cup games in Embu chapter being only the 2nd upcountry branch to host this National event. The event was quite a success and put us squarely on the map as one of the great hosts for this sporting activity.

2. INTERCHAPTER GAMES

We have this year as well managed to achieve the dream of ensuring we have two inter chapter games in one calendar year so as to foster togetherness as a branch amongst our members. Embu and Nyeri were great hosts for our inter chapter games.

3. NEWSLETTER

We have also managed for the 1st time in the history of our branch, to have the first ever newsletter published. The activity which will be a quarterly affair means we get more updates from our chapters so as to ensure our chapters remain active.

4.WORKSHOPS

With the introduction of e-filing, the branch made it a success to ensure all our chapters were facilitated so as to have our court assistants and members trained on e-filing. This activity will ensure we have a smooth filing process and make our law firms as efficient as possible.

5. DEVOLUTION FUNDS

This year during the LSK Annual Conference, through the chair's caucus, the respective branch chairs rallied to successful and the National council agreed to additional funding to the branches. This will not only be sure activities in the branches are made smoother but also ensure more funding to our respective chapters to also ensure a smooth running of their operations.

6. FIGHTING QUACKS

This year we ensured we have had several masqueraders arraigned in court. We have since secured a conviction against one in Siakago Law Courts as we gear towards ensuring more convictions sustained as to SO continue protecting our practicing space. Last vear having closed down over unmanned satellite offices in the same breath created employment we opportunities for our young counsel.

7. CHAPTERS

We have since as a council ratified to have Isiolo Bar Association recognized as our 8th practice Centre officially. Isiolo having acquired the status of a high court station and having achieved more than 22 resident advocates, will now have its own autonomy from Meru Bar Association.

This is a win for the region as we bolster strengthening the representation within our branch in all chapter and practice centers.

The branch chair appreciates the fact that the chapters through their respective leadership have been thriving very well with various welfare programs that have brought about cohesiveness in our chapters.

8. ACCOLADES

We have also had a great win for our branch with one of our former Branch vice Chairs Ramadhan Abubakar being elected as the President of the East African Law Society. The members participated fully by rallying behind him and his success is the success of the Branch.

CONCLUSION.

The Chair thanks the entire executive committee, members of the Branch, the LSK Sacco who have always partnered with us and the LSK Head office for their cooperation and support throughout the year and always stepping in when called upon. We hope for more of such to ensure cohesiveness in our chapters.

God Bless LSK Mount Kenya Branch

SOUTH WEST KENYA BRANCH

Structure of the Leadership

- 1. Bernard K. Gichana Chairman
- 2. Winnie M. Mireri Vice Chairlady
- 3. Justus Maeche Secretary General
- 4. Herman Bunde -Treasurer
- 5. Jared Oremo Organising Secretary
- 6. Joyce Nyandoro -Kisii Representative
- 7. Bonnie Singei Migori Representative
- 8. Cecil Ollando -Homabay Representative

1. Council Meetings

The Branch Council has been holding meetings at least once every month. The first meetina was dedicated to developing a strategic plan and calendar of events for the year 2024. strategic plan was aligned to the objectives of the Law Society of Kenya. The other routine meetings were dedicated to planning events, assessing and reviewing the progress of previous activities.

2. Secretariat Office

The Branch office is located in Kisii town, Masaba building along Ogembo street. It is on the 21d floor of the building and has a total of 2 staff, a secretary and a clerk. It serves all chapters within the branch.

3. International Women's Day

On 7th March 2024, the branch, in collaboration with Kisii Judicial Officers, visited Kisii Women's Prison to mark International Women's Day. The members engaged with the inmates, offering words of encouragement and to addition support. In foodstufis and sanitary items, they also provided legal advice to the women, addressing any concerns they regarding their cases. The visit was a meaningful gesture, highlighting the importance of supporting and uplifting women, especially those in challenging circumstances.

4. Mediation Training

18th March 2024, a mediation training session was held at Dans Hotel, Kisii, in collaboration with the Kisii Law Courts and the Law Society of Kenya West Branch, alongside South advocates. The event was attended by judicial officers, including judges, and legal professionals focusing the importance of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution method.

The training covered several key areas, including:

- Mediation Process: Participants were guided through the mediation steps and the roles of the mediator and involved parties.
- Advantages of Mediation: Benefits such as cost-effectiveness, time efficiency. confidentiality, and empowering parties to reach mutually agreeable solutions were discussed.

 Practical Demonstrations: Mock mediation sessions allowed judges and advocates to practice resolving disputes in a structured and cooperative environment.

The event successfully equipped judicial officers and legal professionals with valuable skills to incorporate mediation into their practices, promoting faster, more accessible dispute resolutions.

This collaboration between Kisii Law Courts and the Law Society of Kenya South West Branch is a significant step in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system in the region.

5. Branch Council Retreat

On 9th April 2024, the Branch Council attended a retreat at Golden Rays Resort in Homabay County. The retreat provided an opportunity to make necessary arrangements for the upcoming branch and chapter elections. In addition, the council discussed the preparations for the upcoming Branch AGM, reviewing financial reports to ensure everything was in order.

The retreat also served as a farewell gathering for the outgoing council members, offering a chance to reflect on their contributions and bid them farewell.

6. Kisii University Law Students' Dinner
On 15th April, the branch donated funds
to Kisii University law students to
support their annual dinner and/or moot.
This contribution aims to encourage and
support the students' academic and
professional development. Additionally,
members of the branch are regularly
invited to share words of wisdom about

the legal profession, offering valuable insights and guidance to the students as they prepare for their future careers in law.

7. Branch and Chapter Elections

The South West Branch held its elections on 25th April 2024 at Kisii, Migori, and Homabay Law Courts. The elections were successful, resulting in new office bearers as listed above. Members then proceeded to Dans Hotel for a dinner to celebrate.

On 23rd April 2024, the Homabay Chapter conducted their elections at the Homabay Law Courts, followed by counting and announcement of the results at Hotel Twin Towers. The newly elected leaders were sworn in the same day by the former chair, Mr. Nyambati Gideon. The event was a success.

8. Annual General Meeting

The Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 17th May 2024 at Dans Hotel. During the meeting, members scrutinized the financial reports and statements, raising a few concerns that were promptly addressed by the outgoing council.

Following the discussions, members enjoyed lunch and drinks, taking the opportunity to relax. socialize, and interact with one another.

9. Meet and Greets

The branch council held a series of meet and greet events with chapter members to discuss the challenges facing the legal profession and explore ways to improve it.

- On 24th May 2024, the Migori Chapter met at Sunaton Hotel, where members shared their concerns and discussed strategies for enhancing the profession.
- On 31st May 2024, the Homabay Chapter gathered at Grace Gateway Resort for a similar discussion, focusing on overcoming the challenges faced by legal professionals.
- On 11th October 2024, the Kisii Chapter held their meet and greet at Dallas F emier Hotel.

Members engaged in a productive discussion on addressing challenges in the legal field and improving the profession.

Another key purpose of these meetings was to familiarize chapter members with the new branch office bearers, allowing for a smoother transition and better collaboration moving forward. The events were very successful.

10. Hon. Monicah Kivuti's Demonstration

On 20th June 2024, the branch, led by its leaders, participated in a peaceful demonstration in Kisii Town, joining other branches across the country in similar protests. The demonstration was heid in response to the tragic murder of the late Hon. Monicah Kivuti, who was killed while on duty.

The chairman of the branch reteased a statement during the demonstration, strongly condemning the act of violence

and calling on the government to enhance security measures around court premises to protect judicial officers and ensure their safety.

The demonstration served as a unified stand against the violence faced by those in the legal profession and highlighted the urgent need for improved security in judicial environments.

11. Bar-Bench Meetings

Throughout the year, the branch was invited to participate in a series of Bar Bench meetings, both virtually and physically, across various court stations within the branch. These included specialized meetings such as the ELC (Environment and Land Court) Bar Bench meetings and the High Court Bar Bench meetings, providing important platforms for dialogue between key stakeholders in the legal profession, including judicial officers, advocates, and other legal practitioners.

The discussions during these meetings covered a wide range of significant topics, including:

- Court Efficiency: Strategies to address case backlogs and streamline court processes. particularly in the ELC and High Court, were discussed to improve overall efficiency.
- Access to Justice: Ways to make legal services more accessible to marginalized and underserved communities were explored in depth.
- Ethical Standards: Ethical concerns within the profession were addressed, with a focus on upholding high standards of conduct in both the ELC and High Court.

Collaboration and Mutual Respect:
 The importance of fostering better communication. understanding, and respect between the bench and the bar was emphasized to enhance the functioning of the judicial system.

The branch's participation in these ELC and High Court Bar Bench meetings helped strengthen the relationship between the judiciary and the legal profession, contributing to the ongoing improvement of the legal system.

12. CUC Meetings

Throughout the year, the branch was invited to participate in several Court Users Committee (CUC) meetings, both virtually and physically, across various court stations within the branch.

These meetings brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including judicial officers. advocates, court staff, police, prison officers, probation officers, and other relevant agencies involved in the judicial process.

The discussions in these meetings primarily focused on improving the overall functioning of the court system. Key topics included:

- Court Efficiency: Strategies to reduce case backlogs, streamline court processes, and enhance the overall efficiency of the justice system were discussed.
- Access to Justice: Participants explored ways to make legal services more accessible to marginalized communities and ensure that justice is delivered fairly and promptly to all.

- Service Delivery: The group also addressed ways to improve service delivery within the courts, ensuring that litigants and other court users have a positive experience when engaging with the system.
- Collaboration and Communication: The importance of fostering better communication and collaboration between all court users was emphasized, aiming for а more seamless and efficient court operation.

The branch's active participation in these Court Users Committee meetings helped strengthen relationships within the legal community and contributed to ongoing efforts to improve the justice system.

13. Justice Cup Games

The Justice Cup Games were held on 27th July 2024 at Embu University. The event brought together members from various branches, providing an excellent opportunity for networking. socializing, and friendly competition.

Unfortunately, the branch football team, who had been the champions for the past two tournaments, was eliminated during the games. Despite this setback, the spirit of camaraderie and s jortsmanship was evident as branch members enjoyed interacting with their counterparts from other branches and reconnecting with old acquaintances.

While the outcome for the football team was not as hoped, the event was filled with fun and meaningful interactions.

The branch members are already looking forward to this year's Justice Cup Games, eager to participate again and continue fostering connections across the legal community.

14. Legal Awareness Week

The branch successfully held its Legal Awareness Week from 27th October to 31st October 2024, across five different court stations: Kisii, Nyamira, Homabay, Migori, and Kilgoris. The theme for the week was "Laws For The People, By The People: Empowering Citizen Participation."

During the event, members of the branch worked to raise awareness about the law and encourage citizen participation in legal processes. The branch was assisted fortunate to he by Kisii University law students, who actively participated in the exercise. The students had the opportunity to interact with advocates, gaining valuable insights into the practical aspects of the legal profession and seeing members in action during their legal duties.

The event provided a platform for citizens to engage with the legal community and understand their rights and responsibilities better. The branch members were able to directly connect with the public, fostering greater legal awareness and empowering citizens to actively participate in the Legal Awareness Week.

15. Court Visits and Open Days

In May 2024, the branch participated in several court visits and open days, making donations of funds to support various court stations, including Oyugis and Keroka Law Courts. The donations were specifically directed towards the Open Day and Tree Planting Exercise, which aimed to engage the public and promote environmental sustainability. These efforts highlight the importance of assisting the judiciary and contributing to initiatives that support both legal awareness and the betterment of our environment.

Additionally, the branch was privileged to attend the Chief Justice's visit to Kilgoris Law Courts on 12th November 2024. During this visit, the chairman raised several important issues and requested that the Chief Justice address them as soon as possible. The visit provided a valuable platform for the branch to engage directly with the highest levels of the judiciary and highlight key concerns. The branch also had the privilege of attending the Commissioner's visit to Ogembo Law Court on 15th November 2024, followed by a visit to Kisii Law Courts on 16th November 2024. During both visits. the chairman raised important issues regarding the functioning of tie courts and requested that the Commissioner take action to address them and improve court operations and service delivery.

These visits were significant in allowing the branch to advocate for the betterment of the court system while strengthening our relationship with key figures in the judiciary.

16. End of Year Parties

In December 2024, the branch held successful end-of-year parties across its

three chapters: Kisii, Migori, and Homabay. These events provided members with an opportunity to unwind and reflect on the year's accomplishments as they prepared to welcome the new year.

The parties were vibrant and full of energy, with members taking time to socialize, interact, and have fun. It was a perfect occasion for everyone to relax after a busy year and connect with old colleagues while forging new friendships within the legal community.

The events highlighted the importance of building strong bonds among members, fostering a sense of camaraderie, and celebrating the collective efforts made throughout the year. As the year came to an end, the parties served as a reminder of the value of collaboration, team spirit, and community within the branch.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH

1. CHAIPERSON'S OFFICIAL MEETINGS

During the year, the Branch Chair engaged in several meetings on behalf of the Branch. The meetings were meant to address issues affecting practice and welfare of members. Amongst them, they included the following:

- a) 13th May, 2024- meeting caucus by Chief Registrar of Judiciary chair meeting
- b) LSK annual conference had several meetings- with chairs caucus, with Chairs and LSK council, with Chairs and ABA committee.
- c) Meeting at Safari Park hotel Nairobi launching 24th Annual supplement of the laws of Kenya.

2. BRANCH EXECUTIVE'S RETREAT

In order to plan for the branches' calendar for 2024, the Branch Executive held a retreat from the 5th January 2024 at Diani Palm Resort in Diani. This was to enable the branch executives to fully concentrate and fully focus on planning of a detailed branch calendar for all our regions (5 Counties).







Branch members during the Retreat.

3. BRANCH ELECTIONS

The Branch Elections were held on 22nd February,2024. They were overseen and organized by an Ad Hoc Branch Elections Committee chaired by the chair emeritus Mr. Justus Mutia, Advocate. The Elections board consisted of five (5) members with representation from each of the five counties. The following were elected:

- 1. Mr. Mutua James Makau, Advocate P.105/6293/06 Chairman
- 2. Ms. Edith Adhiambo Onyango AdvocateP.105/10599/14 General Secretary
- 3. Ms. Edith Nzisa Mutuku, Advocate P.105/9304/12 Treasurer
- 4. Mr. Japheth Kiteme Mwalimu, Advocate- P.105/3300/96 Senior Counsel Rep.
- 5. Mr. Wilfred Mwendwa Kithuka, Advocate P.105/17856/20 Young Counsel Rep.
- 6. Mr. Chrislero Langalanga, Advocate P.105/13120/16 Machakos Rep.
- 7. Ms. Grace Muatha, Advocate P.105/13935/17 Kitui County Rep.
- 8. Mr. Ernest N. Githuka, Advocate P.105/6486/06 Kajiado County Rep.

9. MR. RAMADAN HASSAN, ADVOCATE –
P.105/1/14 – MAKUENI COUNTY REP.
10. MS. MAUREEN SERGON, ADVOCATE –
P.105/17589/20 – MAVOKO REP.
11. MR. ISAIAH M. MUNGUTI, ADVOCATE –
P.105/15570/18 –
KANGUNDO/TALA/KITHIMANI REP.
12. MR. PETER M. MUNYOKI, ADVOCATE –
P.105/12516/16 –

MWINGI/KYUSO/GARISSA REP.

4.BRANCH AGM

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on the 28th March, 2024, at GMC Resort at Kitengela. Various issues concerning our members as a branch and LSK as a whole were discussed. The new elected officials assumed office and were sworn in during the branch AGM.



5. BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Branch Executive holds at least one meeting on the third Friday of every month. The meetings assist the branch in dealing with members concerns and also plan for upcoming events both at branch level and also as invited by other bodies corporate, LSK branches and LSK council. The meetings are either held physically at the branch office board room or virtually.

5. MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES.

The branch executives organized and participated in several activities for the members including:

a. Machakos county ELC tree planting – 25th April, 2024



b.Kajiado Station Advocates team building and nyam chom session – 1st June,2024









c.Purple ribbon week 18th June- 21st June, 2024











d.Nzambani rock climb and Mbuzi meet – 6th July, 2024







e.Wakili games night.- 6th September , 2024





f.CSR Visit to Makueni Christian Home for Assisting Orphans - 12th October ,2024







g. Legal awareness week - 28th October - 1st November 2024

In 2024 the branch executives together with the members' decided to demystify the courts and placed legal awareness desks/spots not only in courts but also in the villages, market places and churches. The turnout was remarkable and we encourage other branches to adopt the same.









h.Sponsoring 4participartnts – 3 young advocates plus one executive to the EALS 29th annual conference in Uganda 27th -30th November 2024



i. Mentorship

The branch executive together with members visited the Kenya school of law on the 21st June, 2024 for a mentorship/pep talk and interaction with the law students undertaking their ATP training. Further we were able to present the various donations from members of suits, shoes, hand bags et al to the school for disbursement to the needy students.







j. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS

We were able to nominate our Members to the Machakos County Physical and liaison Committee, the position of board member to the advocates benevolent association, Mbooni **KEE** Ad Hoc Committee-, Kajiado physical planning Matungulu Ad Committee. Committee, Kajiado land use liaison Committee.

7. WAMUNYU LAW COURTS

As a branch we were elated to have a Magistrate permanent posted at Wamunyu law courts (formally a mobile court) Hon. P.E. Nabwana. The branch together attended executive inaugural Court Users Committee meeting on the 3rd November, 2024 at Wamunyu and we have faith the law courts will be of service to the area residents.





8. BAR BENCH MEETINGS

All through our branch practice centers we have vibrant Bar Bench committees that meet regularly and engage in dialogue on how to improve service delivery. Both the members of the Dar and the Bench actively participate in these meetings in lower court, small claims, ELC and High court meetings.

9. WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The branch welfare committee which runs under the Branch held its AGM on 1st March, 2024 with elections to choose chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Further the welfare constitution was deliberated and accounts presented to members.

10. FALLEN MEMBER'S SEND OFF AND FAREWELL EVENTS

During the year, the Branch lost 2 advocates practicing in our region; Ms. Charity Mumbe Kilungya and Mr. James Onchiri Nyaata.

11. JUSTICE CUP

This was held in Embu, and we managed to send our teams to participate in the same. It was a great opportunity for team building and advocates interacting with members from other branches.



12. FAMILY SPORTS DAY

This was held on 23rd November, 2024 at Machakos Golf club. Members were free to come with their families for a time of fun, bonding and enjoyment.













13.DINNER & DANCE

This was the last calendar event for the branch held on the 11th December, 2024 at Semara Hotel in Machakos town: Members wined, dined and danced as they closed the year in style.





COAST BRANCH

INTRODUCTION

Mombasa Law Society (ML) was established in the year 1911 making it one of the oldest bars in Kenya. It is considered to be the mother of the law Society of Kenya. MLS was started by a group of British and Indian Advocates who were then engaged in business and practice of law in the coastal city of Mombasa. Upon its inception Mombasa Law Society was mainly concerned with the welfare of its members and matters

related to the business and practice of law.

Subsequently, a few of the advocates shifted base to the capital city of Kenya - Nairobi where the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) was born but the rest remained in Mombasa where MLS continued to grow. Today, Mombasa

Law Society is a branch of the Law Society of Kenya representing over 700 lawyers practicing in Mombasa region. Mombasa Law Society is also registered under the Societies Act (Cap 108- laws of Kenya).

Mombasa Law Society Leadership

This leadership team has endeavored to meet the mandate of the branch ensuring practice functions smoothly members' welfare is prioritized. The team has consistently worked towards addressing the specific needs advocates, both at the practice level and their personal welfare, ensuring Mombasa Law Society remains a pivotal institution for legal practitioners in the region.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Greetings dear members of the Mombasa Law Society.

It has been a pleasure serving as your chairperson for the past year. We promised, as your Council, to actively and devotedly serve the Mombasa Law Society and have endeavored to uphold that promise.

This year has come with its difficulties and challenges for the Mombasa Law Society, our country and the legal fraternity as a whole, where we lost colleagues, colleagues lost relatives and friends, we lost members of the Bench and members of the public. However, we have also had memorable moments together. Is that not what life is made of, though?

Various blocks of happiness, sadness, achievements, failures, amongst other experiences and all we have to do is embrace all those blocks and they form a stable foundation that we can rely on and help us navigate through life.

While working on this report, it was a great reminder of our experiences in the past year. A whole year has flown by but not without the council carrying out various activities with or on behalf of the members of the Mombasa Law Society. Our main purpose is to ensure that members of the Mombasa Law Society have an emotionally, mentally, physically, and financially stable environment to practice in.

At this juncture I must recognise my council members the Vice Chairman - Michael Ngure, Secretary General- Mary Kiruriti, Deputy Secretary General - Boaz Adalla, Organizing Secretary - Cynthia Mutune, Treasurer - Titus Mukanzi, Deputy Treasurer - Bennette Nzamba. Council Members - Bettie Midia, Jack Muchiri, Sharon Maiga, Sharon Shisia, Titus Mugambi, and Winnie Julu.

Trustees – Lillian Olouch, Lucy Mulago, and Odour Siminyu. I must applaud their resoluteness while carrying out their duties for the Mombasa Law Society. I can proudly say that I could not have been blessed with a better team.

There have been very tough moments as a society where we have had setbacks but most importantly is that we learn from those setbacks, grow and move forward with the same conviction we have always had and as a team. I do not take for granted the support and cooperation the Council has received from our members, and i thank you for that.

I truly hope this report is a reflection of the Council's dedication to serve the Mombasa Law Society, and we look forward to the upcoming year and activities.

Happy Reading, Members!

To access the full report, please click on this <u>Link</u>

NAIROBI BRANCH

A. INTRODUCTION

The Law Society of Kenya Nairobi Branch comprises the Council, Secretariat, Committees and the general membership through which it executes its functions. This Report covers the activities and programs of LSK Nairobi Branch in the year 2024.

B. THE BRANCH COUNCIL

The previous Branch Council 2022 - 2024 served its term from January 2024 to June 2024. The following comprised of the previous Council members:

- 1. Ms. Helene Namisi: Chair
- 2. Ms. Elizabeth Ndung'u: Vice Chair
- 3. **Mr. Stephen Mbugua:** Secretary & Kiambu County Representative
- 4. Mr. Ribin Ondwari: Treasurer
- 5. **Mr. Victor Mulindi:** Organizing Secretary
- 6.**Ms. Joy Matheka:** Communications Secretary
- 7. **Dammary Etemesi:** In-House Counsel Representative & Fundraising Secretary
- 8. Gloria Kimani: Welfare Secretary
- 9. Teresia Wavinya
- 10. Josephine Oyombe

After the elections held on 3rd May 2024 and AGM held on 7th June 2024, the newly elected Council members were sworn into office. The current Branch Council comprises of:

- 1. Mr. Eric Kivuva: Chair
- 2. Mr. Ribin Ondwari: Vice-Chair 3. Mr. Wycklife Oyoo: Secretary 4. Ms. Irene Kiwool: Treasurer

- **5. Ms. Caroline Khasoa:** Senior Lawyer of Over 20 Years & Fundraising Secretary
- 6. **Mr. Shadrach Omondi:** In-House Counsel Representative
- 7. **Ms. Jane Ngochi:** Kiambu County Representative
- 8. **Ms. Barbara Mwaura:** Communications Secretary
- 9. **Ms. Muthoni Gachara:** Organizing Secretary
- 10. Mr. Stephen Mundia
- 11. **Effie Sheila Achieng':** Welfare Secretary

C. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Branch Council met every month in 2024 to deliberate on matters of concern to legal practitioners and assess its progress in achieving its Agenda. The Council Meetings of the Branch were and still are the forum for exploration of proposals that the Council Members have regarding the Branch and how it should run, guided by its mandate under Section 24 of the LSK Act 2014.

Corporate Governance Statement:
Attendance at Council Meetings January
– June 2024 (Council 2022 – 2024)

The previous Branch Council met on the following dates; 17th January 2024, 14th February 2024, 13th March 2024, 8th April 2024, 8th May 2024 and 5th June 2024.

Name	Council Meetings (2024)	
Helene Namisi	5/6	
Elizabeth Wanjiru Ndung'u	6/6	
Stephen Mbugua	2/6	
Ribin Ondwari	6/6	
Dammary Etemesi	6/6	
Victor Mulindi	6/6	
Josephine Oyombe	6/6	
Joy Matheka	6/6	
Teresia Wavinya	3/6	
Gloria Kimani	3/6	

Attendance at Council Meetings June – December 2024 (Council 2024 – 2026)

The previous Branch Council met on the following dates; 14th June 2024, 10th July 2024, 18th July 2024, 2nd August 2024, 21st August 2024, 18th September 2024, 16th October 2024, 13th November 2024 and 10th December 2024.

Name	Council Meetings (2024)	
Eric Kivuva	9/9	
Ribin Ondwari	9/9	
Wycklife Oyoo	9/9	
Irene Kiwool	8/9	
Caroline Khasoa	9/9	
Shadrach Omondi	9/9	
Jane Ngochi	9/9	
Barbara Mwaura	9/9	
Muthoni Gachara	9/9	
Stephen Mundia	9/9	
Effie Sheila Achieng'	9/9	

i. Council Allowances and Reimbursement

Council members received a sitting allowance of Kenya Shillings Five Thousand (Kshs.5,000.00) for attending Council meetings. The current Council had Special Council meetings on 18th July 2024 and 2nd August 2024.

D. BRANCH SECRETARIAT

At the start of 2024, the Branch Secretariat comprised of the Programs Manager, Wendy Muganda; two Program Officers, Clement Odinga and Leonora Arwa; two Program Assistants, Carol Kyarie and Clifford Ndubi; one Accounts/HR Officer, Grace Muthui; one Program Officer II, Simon Abiero; one Office Assistant, Charles Agwata and one intern, Valentine Ndanu.

By the end of 2024, we had new staff on board, therefore, the current structure is as follows: the Programs Manager, Wendy Muganda: three **Program** Officers. Leonora Arwa, Clement Odinga Clifford Ndubi; two Program Assistants, Carol Kyarie and Simon Abiero; one Accounts/HR Officer, Grace Muthui; one Office Assistant, Charles Agwata and two Valentine interns. Ndanu and Lulu Wanjiku.

1. Location

The Branch office is located at Lower Hill Duplex, Suite No. 015, Upperhill Road opposite Upperhill School. Our office contacts are as follows:

Telephone Number – 0707 256140 Emails – <u>info@lsknairobi.org</u>

2. Functions

The Secretariat is in charge of running the Branch programs. Each member of the Secretariat has been assigned specific programs to handle as follows:

- 1. Wendy Muganda-Council and Secretariat management, events calendar management, project stakeholder management, engagement, Commercial Practice, Law Reform and Devolution and Training programs, Companies Liaison Committee and capacity building for the Secretariat;
- 2. Clement Odinga and Lulu Wanjiku Bar Bench Committees and Legal Aid & PIL programs;
- 3. Leonora Arwa, Carol Kyarie and Valentine Ndanu Member Services including Mentorship programme, ICT programme, Nairobi Legal Awards, Branch Chairs Caucus Secretariat, Tax Liaison Committee, Events (Quiz Nights, Sports day, Barbeques, Legal Tech Week among others);
- 4. Clifford Ndubi and Simon Abiero -Branch Communication, partnerships and stakeholder and public relations;
- 5. Grace Muthui Implementing and monitoring financial policies, accounts management, budget management, management of all physical and electronic records of the Branch and Human Resource functions;
- 6. Charles Agwata Mans the reception desk of the office, performs general cleaning, maintains inventory of Branch property and delivers Branch correspondence; and

7. Interns – Assist in coordination of the various programs under the supervision of each Programme Officer as indicated under (a), (b) (c) and (d) respectively.

3. Communication

The Branch updated its members database in May 2024, significantly enhancing our ability to reach and communicate effectively with all our members.

To access the full report, click here, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-xuN2xRYeq5k9UgxQxQz2ReOC8zjZ09v/view?usp=sharing

WEST KENYA BRANCH

INTRODUCTION

West Kenya is one of the regional Branches of the Law Society of Kenya. Its membership is drawn from; Kisumu, Kakamega. Bungoma, and Busia chapters.

The Branch is committed to promoting the rule of law, advocating for the rights of its members and ensuring delivery of justice within the region.

The Branch office is located at Oginga Odinga Street, Alpha House 1st Floor, Kisumu County, its secretariat serves all the four Chapters.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP

The Branch Council consists of the following 8 members drawn from the four chapters.

Grace Otieno: Chairperson

Maxwell Okeyo : Vice Chairperson Wekesa E Wanjala: Secretary General Wekesa E Wanjala: Secretary General Maobe W. Mukhwana: Treasurer

Sharon Oyoko : Council Member Kisumu Chapter

Dorca E. Olucheli: Member Kakamega Chapter

Nobert Wattangah: Member Bungoma Chapter

Shihemi Newtone: Member Busia Chapter The Council holds its meetings on a monthly basis, the meetings are conducted both physically and virtually, with a rotation in all chapters. This gives the Council an opportunity to interact with members, discuss issues on practice and member wellness as well as plan for the Branch activities.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the West Kenya Branch Council aligned a series of activities in the calendar of events which members actively participated.

In 2023 the Branch was delighted to receive the equalization funds, which was used to furnish the Kakamega Advocates lounge. The Branch celebrated the grand opening of the lounge on 1st March 2024. The lounge has created a comfortable space where members can relax or take breaks when the courts adjourn. It has also provided a better working environment and promoted the wellbeing of our members.



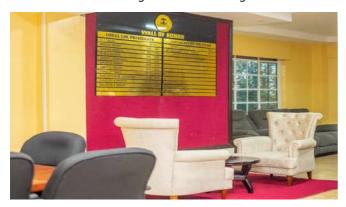
A section of the Kakamega Advocates Lounge



A section of the KakamegaAdvocates Lounge



A section of the Kakamega Advocates Lounge



The Branch participated in the Purple Ribbon Campaign that took place in June 2024, in Honour of the late Hon. Monica Kivuti (Principal Magistrate, Makadara Law Courts). The members stood in solidarity with our colleagues in the Judiciary to condemn the acts of violence and call for protection and safety of all members' of the legal profession.

On the 24th of July 2024, the Branch registered and sponsored two teams comprising of 34 members for the Justice Cup which was held at the University of Embu, Mt. Kenya Branch.





West Kenya Football team attending the Justice Cup

The Branch Council attended the LSK Annual Conference. This was an opportunity for the Council to meet with the other Branches and the National leadership to champion the Branch's agenda.

On the 1st of November 2024, the Branch was invited to participate in a public Baraza in Ukwala Division, Siaya County. This was an opportunity for the members to fulfill their professional and social responsibility as well as understand the challenges that our community faces in accessing justice.





Community members being sensitized on legal issues during the public Baraza in Ukwala

The Branch has continuously participated in the Bar Bench and Court Users Committee Meetings. These meetings have facilitated interactions between the various stakeholders and has strengthened professional relationships as well as creating an opportunity for the Branch members to raise concerns that are affecting their practice and delivery of justice.

The Branch held its Annual General meeting on the 22nd November 2024 in Busia Chapter. The Council was able to present their reports and address the concerns that were raised by members.

The Branch also conducted its elections, which was highly contested. The same was conducted by an election board whose members were drawn from all the chapters. Following the elections, the new council was installed into office on the 22nd November 2024.

The Branch held its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 19th December 2024. The dinner created a platform for members to reflect on challenges faced and the achievements earned throughout the year. They also got an opportunity to network and share their experiences.





West Kenya Branch Annual Gala Dinner 2024

RIFT VALLEY BRANCH

The LSK Rift Valley Branch is established under Section 24 of the Law Society of Kenya Act and serves as a vital organ for promoting legal practice and addressing the welfare of its members across 11 centers: Nakuru, Naivasha, Nyahururu, Kericho, Bomet, Narok, Molo, Sotik, Maralal, Kabarnet, and Engineer. Since the current council assumed office, the primary objective has been to create functional and active leadership within each center, enhancing the capacity for dealing with practice issues and improving the welfare of our members. One of our significant achievements is the

One of our significant achievements is the establishment of functional leadership across all centers. This has ensured that

members now have a direct platform for airing their grievances, participating in social activities, and engaging in professional development. Additionally, the Rift Valley Branch has grown its influence within the legal profession by fostering relationships with the national office, securing access to previously withheld funds, and increasing its visibility through a range of legal and social events.

2024 The year saw notable developments, including an expansion of judicial infrastructure in our region, the successful organization of decentralized Legal Awareness Weeks, welfare support for members, and increased engagement with community outreach initiatives. These efforts have further solidified our branch's commitment to both its members and the wider public.

Structure of Leadership

Chairperson: Aston Muchela

Vice Chairperson: Stephen Imbwaga

Secretary: Grace Githae

Vice Secretary: Kadet Kiprono

Treasurer: Kelvin Kihoro

Council Members:

- Julius Mutai
- Joyce Mwaniki
- Mercy Chepkorir
- Flora Gathii
- Nyawira Mureithi
- Mbuqua Macharia
- Walter Onchuru
- Edwin Kibet Mwaita

This leadership team has endeavored to meet the mandate of the branch, ensuring every practice center within the region functions smoothly and members' welfare is prioritized. The team has consistently worked towards addressing the specific needs of advocates, both at the practice level and in their personal welfare, ensuring that the LSK Rift Valley Branch remains a pivotal institution for legal practitioners in the region.

The full report can be accessed on this https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bv1bFJPLDldGfRaB4b106t0wcYupbVeD/view? https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bv1bFJPLDldGfRaB4b106t0wcYupbVeD/view? https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bv1bFJPLDldGfRaB4b106t0wcYupbVeD/view?

link,

LSK BRANCH CHAIRPERSONS



Natasha Ali Coast Branch



Eric Kivuva Nairobi Branch



Mutua James Makau South Eastern Branch



Joel Mutuma Mount Kenya Branch



Gichana Kiriama Benard South West Kenya Branch



Henry Kipkogei Kenei North Rift Branch



Aston Ongenge Muchela Rift Valley Branch



George Murunga Chengasia West Kenya Branch

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION/COURT CASES

The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Directorate plays a crucial role in advancing justice, promoting human rights, and ensuring accountability in governance. In the year, 2024, the Society has been actively involved in key legal actions; including filing court cases aimed at protecting constitutional rights, advocating for policy reforms, and challenging injustices affecting marginalized communities.

This section highlights significant court cases, strategic litigation efforts, and landmark rulings that have contributed to shaping legal and policy landscapes. Through these cases, we remain committed to upholding the rule of law and championing public interest in pursuit of a just and equitable society.

The cases can be accessed on this link; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H73INUDrl_XgLT31WLscoXn74h0BhMqB/view? https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H73INUDrl_XgLT31WLscoXn74h0BhMqB/view?

ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

LSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE GALA DINNER











Various Guests being Awarded during the Gala Dinner.







Guests enjoying a dance during the Gala Dinner.

LSK FORMER PRESIDENTS & COUNCIL DINNER.



LSK Council members with former President Kenneth Akide,



LSK Council members with former Presidents Eric Theuri (3rd from left), Sen. Mogeni, SC and Senior Counsel Bar Chairman, Dr Ojiambo, SC (Far Right)



LSK CEO Florence Muturi with former President, Allen Waiyaki SC.



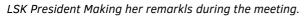
Council Member Elizabeth Wanjeri with Former LSK Presidents; From left, Paul Wamae, SC, Dr. Willy Mutunga and Justice GBM Kariuki.



LSK Council members with the former LSK Presidents.

LSK COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE JUDICIARY.







LSK CEO Florence Muturi following the meeting.



Council Members during the meeting.



Council Member Stephen Mbugua giving his input during the meeting.



Council Member Vincent Githaiga during the meeting.

OPENING OF DAGORETTI LAW COURTS



LSK President Faith Odhiambo & CJ Martha Koome during the opening.



LSK President giving he remarks during the opening.



Council Member Stephen Mbugua giving his remarks during the opening.

LSK COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH GUESTS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



LSK Council Members at the Annual Conference.



Council Member Tom K'Opere at the Annual Conference.



LSK CEO Florence Muturi Poses with Philip Murgor, SC and the Senior Bar Chairman, Prof. Fred Ojiambo SC at the Annual Conference.



Former LSK President Eric Theuri with Dr. Mercy Deche at the Annual Conference.

LSK COUNCIL VISIT TO SHERIA HOUSE



LSK Council members pose with the former Attorney General, Hon Justin Muturi after the visit.

LSK COUNCIL VISIT TO PARLIAMENT



LSK President Faith Odhiambo with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Moses Wetangula.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo, Vice President, Mwaura Kabata and CEO Florence Muturi with the then minority leader, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi.



Council Member Vincent Githaiga with the Speaker, Hon Moses Wetangula.



Council Member Teresia Wavinya with the then minority leader, Hon Opiyo Wandayi.

TREE PLANTING EXCERCISE AT THE LSK SOUTH C PLOT



A member from the Plant Your Age initiative planting a tree during the excercise.



The LSK President Faith Odhiambo, Vice President, Mwaura Kabata, CEO Florence Muturi, Dr. Isaac Kalua (far left) and LSK member Wamugunda Geteria during the exercise.



LSK Council Members pose for a photo during the tree planting excercise

LSK TAX COMMITTEE COURTESY CALL TO THE TAX APPEALS TRIBUNAL (TAT)



Council Member Tom Kopere making his presentation during the courtesy call.



Members of the LSK Tax Committee during the Courtesy call.



The LSK Tax Committee pose for a photo with the Tax Appeals Tribunal members after the courtesy call..







THE ADVOCATES BENEVOLATION ANNUAL CONTROL THE ADVOCATE OF T

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THE ADVOCATES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

LIST OF DECEASED ADVOCATES IN THE YEAR 2024

	Name of Advocate	P105 No.	Date of Death	Last Known Place of Practice
1.	Edward Ochieng Oyolla	7436/09	06-Jan-2024	Kajiado
2.	Cicily Mutitu Muriuki	19950/22	06-Jan-2024	Nairobi
3.	Mohamed Ibrahim Gedi	14934/18	13-Jan-2024	Nairobi
4.	Joseph Nduku Njuki	8009/10	13-Jan-2024	Kerugoya
5.	Antony Gathitu Kabathi	10206/14	28-Jan-2024	Nairobi
6.	Samuel Tumaini Wamocha Nasongo	15560/18	05-Feb-2024	Nairobi
7.	Joselyne Mutegeki	12453/16	08-Feb-2024	Nairobi
8.	Paul Mwangi Ndung'u	1366/84	20-Feb-2024	Nairobi
9.	Benson Rogito Isaboke	3700/98	20-Feb-2024	Kisii
10.	Jane Wanjiku Githinji	5525/04	20-Feb-2024	Nairobi
11.	Mabele Francis Apota	5627/04	03-Mar-2024	Kitale
12.	Kassam Shirin Abdullah Esmail	210/57	08-Mar-2024	Nairobi
13.	Hon, Jacqueline Muthoni Ojwang	9367/12	17-Mar-2024	Chuka
14.	Joseph Kithinji Thuranira	2933/95	18-Mar-2024	Nairobi
15.	Patrick Mwaniki Warima	4588/01	19-Mar-2024	Muranga
16.	Amos Othieno Oyalo	632/72	21-Mar-2024	Nairobi
17.	Sandra Nyaboke Nyakweba	6047/06	05-Apr-2024	Nairobi
18.	Janet Akinyi Odero	1532/86	08-Apr-2024	Nairobi
19.	Joseph Nguthiru Kingʻarui	507/69	14-May-2024	Nairobi
20.	David Wachira Kamau	2392/92	28-May-2024	Mombasa
21,	Simani Sangale, SC	468/68	10-Jun-2024	Nairobi
22.	Hon, Monica Njoki Kivuti	7194/08	14-Jun-2024	Nairobi
23.	Esther Kiiru Njoki Chege	1495/86	17-Jun-2024	Kitale

24.	Hon. Justice David Shikomera Majanja	3640/98	10-Jul-2024	Nairobi
25.	Evans Umidha Oruenjo	10430/14	12-Jul-2024	Nairobi
26.	Hon. Justice Daniel Ogola Ogembo	2616/93	17-Jul-2024	Siaya
27.	Lucy Wamuhu Kinyanjui	12234/16	18-Jul-2024	Kericho
28.	Charity Mumbe Kilungya	23689/23	18-Jul-2024	Nairobi
29.	Martin Kiai Nuthu	3839/98	11-Aug-2024	Nairobi
30.	Kibet Arap Saina Tengekyon	784/75	15-Aug-2024	Nakuru
31.	John Omari Kefa	20574/22	23-Aug-2024	Kericho
32.	Rtd. Hon. Justice Amritlal Bhagwanji Shah	398/63	07-Sep-2024	Nairobi
33.	Samuel Kinyanjui	606/71	17-Sep-2024	Nairobi
34.	Francis Mwaura Shairi	1814/88	17-Sep-2024	Limuru
35.	Barrison Gitari Mungathia	14089/17	17-Sep-2024	Nairobi
36.	Muchesi Allan Mukabane	22092/23	20-Sep-2024	Nairobi
37,	Jael Vike Ludeki	6157/06	02-Oct-2024	Nairobi
38.	Eugene Mboga Ogeto	18471/20	04-Oct-2024	Nairobi
39.	James Nyaata Onchiri	2633/93	22-Oct-2024	Kajiado
40.	Bernard Rugut Kipyegon	7091/08	22-Oct-2024	Nakuru
41.	Geoffrey Gatari Ringera	2885/95	29-Oct-2024	Meru
42.	Milton Odhiambo	2784/95	14-Nov-2024	Johannesburg
43.	Dr. Wilfred Akhonya Mutubwa	6353/06	26-Nov-2024	Nairobi
44.	Elizabeth Achieng Ouma Karanja	1662/87	28-Nov-2024	Nairobi
45.	Kennedy Mwangi Kamau	3553/97	03-Dec-2024	Muranga
46.	Paul Njagi Kiambo	643/72	05-Dec-2024	Nairobi
47.	Hon. (Rtd) Crispin Beda Nagillah	1223/82	05-Dec-2024	Nairobi
48.	Vyonna Achieng Bondi	16768/19	26-Dec-2024	Nairobi
49,	George Mugoye Mbeya	5263/03	27-Dec-2024	Nairobi



LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA THE ADVOCATES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

ABA BOARD MEMBERS



Fridah J. Lotuiya, Advocate Treasurer



Debra A. Ajwang, Advocate Board Member



Elna M. Wambua, Advocate Board Member



Byron Menezes, Advocate Chairperson



Faith Odhiambo, Advocate President, LSK (ex-officio)



Mwaura Kabata, Advocate Vice- President, LSK (ex-officio)



Florence Muturi, Advocate Secretary/CEO, LSK (ex-officio)

ABA SECRETARIAT



Esther W. Muriuki, Advocate Programme Officer



Sylvia N. Wanyonyi Programme Assistant



Felix O. Owino
Office Assistant

Who We Are

The Advocates' Benevolent Association is the welfare arm of the Law Society of Kenya and exists to support and help members who are in need, in distress, or have difficulties. The Association offers benefits to its members such as a medical benefit available to members who are admitted to the hospital and have challenges in settling their medical bills, paying. Additionally, the Association pays last expenses to families of deceased members and supports the education of their children up to the tertiary level.

The Board of Management of the Association is also tasked with entering into strategic partnerships to sustain the well-being of Advocates.

Constitution and Management of the Board

The Association is managed by a Board of Management, the members of which are elected after every two years during the relevant Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of four (4) members who assist in the discharge of the Association's mandate. The President, Vice President, and Secretary of the LSK are *ex-officio* members of the Board.



The current office bearers are:

- a. Byron Menezes, Advocate (Mr.)
- b. Debra A. Ajwang, Advocate (Ms.)
- a. Elna M. Wambua, Advocate (Ms.)
- a. Fridah J. Lotuiya, Advocate (Ms.)

Board Chairperson;

Board Member;

Board Member; and

Board Member/Treasurer

Ex-Officio Members

- a. Faith M. Odhiambo, Advocate (Ms.)
- b. Mwaura Kabata, Advocate (Mr.)
- c. Florence Muturi, Advocate (Ms.)

President, LSK;

Vice- President, LSK; and

Secretary/CEO, LSK.

The Board directs the investment of income and distributes the funds of the Association. It also deliberates on all applications for relief as well as the eligibility of applicants, the levels of such relief, the mode of affording relief, and generally, to conduct the business & operations of the Association. It also has the power to make rules and regulations for the management of the Association. The offices of the Board are based at the Law Society of Kenya Secretariat.

Membership

The membership consists of every Advocate who is a member of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) under Section 22 (b) and Section 23 of the Advocates' Act and any advocate admitted to membership by the Board under Rule 16 of the Advocates' Benevolent Association Rules.

As of 31st December, 2024, there were 1,813 Life Members and 15,123 Annual Members.

Subscriptions

Currently, the annual subscriptions are **KShs. 3,500** and **KShs. 150,000** for Life Member subscriptions.

The Board of Management is working on modalities to allow members to make payments for Life Membership subscriptions in installments.

Educational Assistance

The Association financed the education of the dependents of the following **One Hundred and Fifty-Six (156)** deceased Advocates in the Year Ended December 31st, 2024.

P.105/1905/89	Karanja, Paul Njeru	P.105/2904/95	Muindi, John Bosco
P.105/1789/88	Rebiro, James Nganga	P.105/3061/96	Bonyo, Peter Onyango
P.105/3165/96	Mbaye, John	P.105/1612/87	Wainana, George Wambuu
P.105/1860/88	Kandie, Philip Kimaiyo	P.105/1553/86	Mwangi, Ngugi Muhindi
P.105/4263/00	Sang, Joel Kimutai	P.105/5697/05	Watta, Kenneth Omondi
P.105/2508/93	Nyanyuki, Elijah Kefa Ondieki	P.105/3218/96	Wanyama, Peter Wanyonyi
P.105/2943/95	Nyakeno, Thomas	P.105/2723/94	Kenzi, Munyao
P.105/2802/95	Mbugua, Robert Mburu	P.105/3143/96	Ouma, Roy Bobby
P.105/4814/02	Getembe, Jared Machuka	P.105/7198/08	Ogola, Collins Okoth
P.105/1614/87	Thiongo, Nganga	P.105/6466/06	Murungi, Dishon Mwiti
P.105/3139/96	Onguso, Gibson Morara	P.105/652/72	Kamonde, Geoffrey Harun Muchichu
P.105/5234/03	Ogonya, Omondi Stephen	P.105/3688/98	Minda, Cyrus Onserio
P.105/3407/97	Onditi, Thomas Collins	P.105/5856/05	Kurgat, Job Kiplagat
P.105/1346/84	Ngunjiri, Antony Nahashon	P.105/5212/03	Oriaro, Geoffrey
P.105/7389/09	Muhiri, James Wambura	TO VALUE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA	DISMINONCOMPANIO
P.105/7537/09	Chebet, Nicholas Chelimo	P.105/6566/07	Odhiambo, Antony Shem Otie- no
P.105/3160/96	Okeyo, Griffin Ochieng	P.105/5690/05	Mbaabu, Robert Mugambi

P.105/3351/97	Mmaitsi, Christopher Tonny Luyali
P.105/6176/06	Misoi, Janice Cherop
P.105/3336/97	Michael, Wandera Wanjala
P.105/8148/10	Okindo, Douglas Obed
P.105/4101/99	Ongechi, Danvas Abere
P.105/8677/11	Mumia, Gladwell Vurakwa
P.105/2820/95	Raha, Jilo Mwambela
P.105/2969/95	Kioko, Joshua Kiume
P.105/3073/96	Amusavi, David Kahi
P.105/4717/01	Lubya, Ronald Joseph
P.105/6699/07	Mokua, Jared Ratemo
P.105/3880/98	Kariuki, Francis Gichure
P.105/1478/85	Maosa, Thomas Maranga
P.105/3838/98	Ndungu, Alex Karanja
P.105/2507/93	Samba, Calvin Onyari
P.105/3889/98	Kimani, Titus Muthui Timothy
P.105/3520/97	Nduati, Mark Charagu
P.105/9401/12	Wanyeki, Jeremiah Kamau
P.105/806/76	Okwach, Joe Wandago
P.105/2089/91	Ngala, Kibichy
P.105/7555/09	Miencha, Richard Oigoro
P.105/1924/89	Onguto, Joseph Louis Omondi
P.105/9390/12	Rioba, Godfrey Nyamboga
P.105/6439/06	Kiplagat, Henry Stanley Koros
P.105/4631/01	Onyango, Kwame Nkrumah
P.105/2986/96	Miano, Gacheche Wa
P.105/1093/80	Aboge, Aloys Obunga
P.105/4203/00	Mburu, Stephen Kariuki
P.105/2911/95	Gathungu, Samuel Mugambi
P.105/885/77	Khamati, Anthony Huka
P.105/9847/13	Irungu, Linda Wanjiku
P.105/4532/01	Sang, Moses Koey Bartamutta
P.105/1330/83	Anambo, Alex
P.105/5862/05	Kweyu, Charles Sunduli
P.105/9763/12	Kipchoge, Gladys Jepkemboi
P.105/3347/97	Chesang, Robert

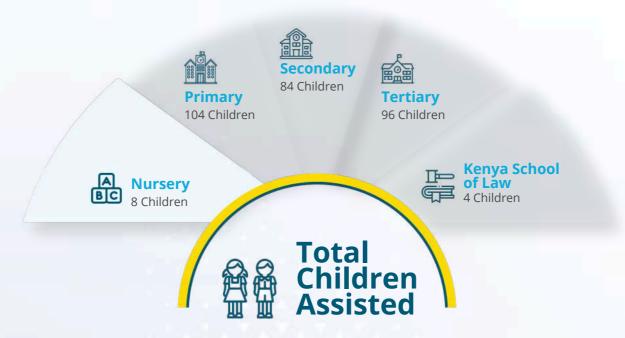
P.105/3583/98	Wachira, James Waithaka	
P.105/3647/98	Areba, Charles Keago	
P.105/4678/01	Omwakwe, Joyce Susan	
P.105/8918/11	Ameyo, Anne Otuoma	
P.105/4912/02	Simel, Alex Leteipa	
P.105/8060/10	Kibowen, Meshack Kipruto	
P.105/3464/97	Andambi, Alubala Abenayo	
P.105/6506/06	Shilenje, John Brown	
P.105/3137/96	Opiyo, Albert George	
P.105/3959/99	Kaikai, Maurice	
P.105/13071/16	Ombaba, Perminus Makori	
P.105/2431/92	Onderi, Oseko	
P.105/930/78	Anyango-ogutu, Joshua Walter	
P.105/3324/97	Mari, Kennedy Wachira	
P.105/2942/95	Alwenya, Manazes Lubia	
P.105/2539/93	Kabaka, Boniface Mutinda	
P.105/4773/02	Gacheru, Samuel Kimuya	
P.105/3576/98	Nyawara, Joshua Otieno	
P.105/1896/89	Nyamategandah, N. K.W. Bichanga	
P.105/4548/01	Gichohi, Kimandu	
P.105/3059/96	Kiptonui, Simon Kitur	
P.105/3780/98	Mburu, Francis Irungu	
P.105/694/73	Adere, Steven Ruphinus	
P.105/4433/01	Chea, Mwinga Gunga	
P.105/9223/12	Nyarera, Humphrey Otara	
P.105/2379/92	Abobo, Josiah	
P,105/3920/98	Mwaniki, Peter Kyalo	
P.105/5720/05	Kisilu, Benson Musau	
P.105/722/74	Maina, Wachira	
P.105/6681/07	Kigera, Lawrence Mwarari	
P.105/2711/94	Wagara, Joseph Onyango	
P.105/2386/92	Onyancha, Koina	
P.105/12621/16	Samuel Ndegwa Kairu	
P.105/2406/92	Walter Rachier Mungao	
P.105/5494/04	lan Maina Gachihi	
P.105/5435/04	Wilkister Nyangito	

P.105/9599/12	Ouma, Anthony Lawrence
P.105/2763/94	Kirenga, Peter Rufundamu Apuuli
P.105/4948/03	Polo, Jacqueline Achieng
P.105/5568/04	Okeche, Harrison Ogweno
P.105/3875/98	Githugu, Pauline Waithira
P.105/8050/10	Melly, Eliab Kemboi
P.105/3488/97	Kimanga, Gerald Omori
P.105/3539/97	Obiero, Beldine Atieno
P.105/7688/09	Mulei, Morris Matheka
P.105/4807/02	Wanjohi, George Mwangi
P.105/12094/16	Tombe, Robert Moses
P.105/3114/96	Juma, Kibanja Kiplenge
P.105/5600/04	Nyambati, Abedinego
P.105/8992/12	Mwaura, Caroline Gathoni
P.105/3745/98	Gicheru, Paul
P.105/3172/96	Oyombe, Joshua Adera
P.105/3951/99	Shikhule, Austin Micah
P.105/3856/98	Enonda, D. Amadara Mudanya
P.105/4931/02	Omboga, Makori Joseph
P.105/3016/96	Yabesh, Kambi Nyandoro
P.105/9921/13	Wachira, Wilfred Joseph Mwangi
P.105/8931/11	Mabera, Daniel Nyarangi
P.105/4051/99	Ondieki, Albert Mokono
P.105/682/73	Muguku, Vincent Muriu Earnest
P.105/1092/80	Njiru, Boniface
The same of the sa	

P.105/2135/91	Ngugi, Charles Murigi
P.105/3186/96	Getanda, Charles Marube
P.105/3511/97	Nyamanga, Erick Achoki
P.105/9237/12	Mutai, Vincent Kipkoech
P.105/2447/92	Osoro, Leomard Onkoba
P.105/1911/89	Kalove, Bernard K
P.105/4453/01	Juma, Musa
P.105/2458/92	Rutto, Simon Rotich
P.105/4510/01	Gekonde, Hezron
P.105/19388/21	Kiritu, Nyambura Hilda
P.105/10206/14	Kabathi, Antony Gathitu
P.105/1134/80	Nzioka, Joseph Muisyo
P.105/7436/09	Oyolla, Edward Ochieng
P.105/12453/16	Mutegeki, Joselyne
P.105/8736/11	Thureya, Rahma Ali Darani
P.105/4588/01	Warima, Patrick Mwaniki
P.105/6064/06	Kosgei, Timon Kiptanui
P.105/10430/14	Oruenjo, Evans Umidha
P.105/4411/00	Shitambasi, Fredrick Ashimosi
P.105/14089/17	Mungathia, Barrison Gitari
P.105/2633/93	Onchiri, James Nyaata
P.105/2784/95	Odhiambo, Milton
P.105/1814/88	Shairi, Francis Mwaura
P.105/7375/09	Omweri, Horace Oroo
P.105/14934/18	Gedi, Mohamed Ibrahim
P.105/3780/98	Mburu, Francis Irungu

Disbursement of funds under the Education Assistance Programme

The total number of children who received school fees assistance in the Financial Year was **Two Hundred and Ninety-Six (296)** broken down as follows:

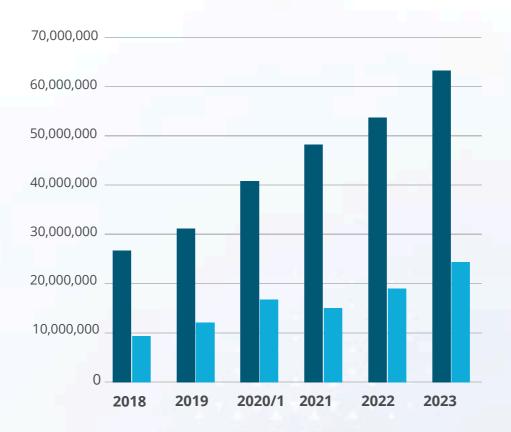


This translated into the disbursement of a total of **KShs. 23,758,049.60/=** under the Education Assistance Program.

For purposes of comparison the disbursement over the last six (6) years has been as follows:

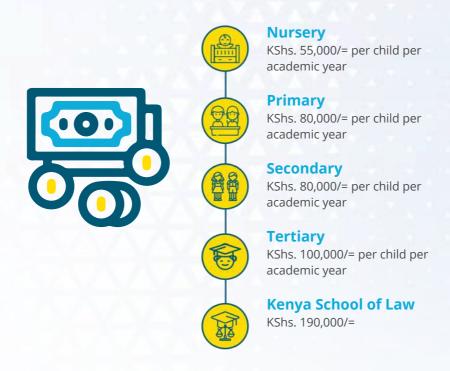


Below is a graphical representation of the Applications for Assistance received, viz a viz the level of support the Association was in a position to give:



Limits of Educational Assistance

The Educational Assistance is subject to the following limits:



Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance for the year amounted to **KShs. 1,939,210/=** to members who were admitted to some of the following treatment facilities:



Medical Assistance is capped at KShs. 150,000/=.

Last Expenses

A total of **KShs. 2,160,000/=** was paid out under the Last Expenses Assistance. This assistance was paid to the duly nominated Next of Kin of the following Deceased Advocates.

	Name of Advocate	P105 No.
1.	Edward Ochieng Oyolla	7436/09
2.	Hilda Nyambura Kiritu	19388/21
3.	Timon Kiptanui Kosgei	6064/06
4.	Joseph Nduku Njuki	8009/10
5.	Cicily Mutitu Muriuki	19950/22
6.	Antony Gathitu Kabathi	10206/14
7.	Jane Wanjiku Githinji	5525/04
8.	Paul Mwangi Ndungu	1366/84

9.	Joseph Kithinji Thuranira	2933/95
10.	Patrick Mwaniki Warima	4588/01
11.	Joselyne Mutegeki	12453/16
12.	Joseph Kariuki Mwangi	1063/79
13.	Mohamed Ibrahim Gedi	14934/18
14.	Kassam Shirin Abdullah Esmail	210/57
15.	Janet Akinyi Odero	1532/86
16.	Elizabeth Were Nanjendo	13674/17
17.	Amos Othieno Oyalo	632/72
18.	John Omari Kefa	20574/22
19.	Evans Umidha Oruenjo	10430/14
20.	Francis Mwaura Shairi	1814/88
21.	Barrison Gitari Mungathia	14089/17
22.	Muchesi Allan Mukabane	22092/23
23.	Rtd. Hon. Justice Amritlal Bhagwanji Shah	398/63
24.	Sandra Nyaboke Nyakweba	6047/06
25.	Geoffrey Gatari Ringera	2885/95
26.	James Nyaata Onchiri	2633/93
27.	Paul Njagi Kiambo	643/72
	li .	

Last Expenses is capped at **KShs. 80,000/=** for annual members and **KShs. 100,000/=** for Life Members.

Investments

The Board has continued to invest surplus funds in Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds.

This is informed by the fact that Government securities are more secure compared to other forms of investments.

Board Meetings

During the year under review, the Board convened **fourteen (14) Ordinary Board Meetings** and **one (1) Extra-Ordinary Board Meeting** to deliberate on and transact the business of the Association. These meetings facilitated the effective oversight of the Association's affairs, ensuring the implementation of key resolutions and strategic initiatives in line with its mandate.

Stakeholder Meetings

The Board held **Six (6) Stakeholder Meetings** during the Financial Year. These meetings were held on the following dates:



Webinars

The Board held **Twelve (12) Webinars** during the Financial Year. These webinars were held on the following dates:



Thursday, 4th July, 2024

Sensitization Webinar for LSK South West Branch



Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Post-Protest Psychological Trauma Support



Thursday, 25th July, 2024

Sensitization Webinar for LSK Coast Branch



Wednesday, 25th September, 2024

Navigating the Emotional Toll: Mental Health Support for Legal Professionals



Wednesday, 9th October, 2024

Wealth Creation in collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority



Friday, 25th October, 2024

Free Sensitization Webinar on the Operations of The Advocates' Benevolent Association



Thursday, 31st October, 2024

Dissenting from Death: Preventing Suicide Among Advocates



Tuesday, 5th November, 2024

Cervical Cancer Awareness



Wednesday, 6th November, 2024

Sensitization forum on the Advocates Benevolent Association



Friday, 29th November, 2024

Nutritional Awareness Webinar



Wednesday, 4th December, 2024

Why Prepare for Retirement?



Monday, 9th December, 2024

Healthy Eating During the Festive Period

ABA Board Activities: 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024

a) Y2024 ABA Board and Staff Retreat



The ABA Board and Staff Retreat was held from **24th to 27th January, 2024** at **Muthu Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha.** The retreat provided an opportunity for reflection on the Association's achievements, addressing challenges, and strategic planning for the future.

The retreat aimed to foster dialogue on enhancing member welfare through the core benefits of medical assistance, educational support, and last expenses coverage. It also served as a platform to strengthen collaboration between the Board and Secretariat in driving the Association's mission of supporting members in need.

b) Elections and Constitution of the Board for the Y2024 - Y2026 Term







Elections to serve as Board Members of the Advocates' Benevolent Association were conducted on the **ICPAK platform** on **Friday, 15th March 2024**, from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm**, with the results announced immediately upon conclusion of the voting process. The elections attracted 30 candidates and recorded participation from 6,995 members. The following advocates were duly elected to serve on the Board for the Y2024 – Y2026 term:

- Byron Menezes, Advocate P.105/16062/19
- Elna Mudibo Wambua, Advocate P.105/17201/20
- Debra Anditi Ajwang, Advocate P.105/6291/06
- Fridah Jepkoech Lotuiya, Advocate P.105/11841/15

The newly elected Board Members were sworn in and assumed office during the ABA Annual General Meeting held in a hybrid format, both physically and virtually, at the Rift Valley Sports Club, Nakuru, on Friday, 22nd March 2024, at 9:00 am. At its first meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd April 2024, the Board elected Mr. Byron Menezes, Advocate as the Chairperson and Ms. Fridah Jepkoech Lotuiya, Advocate as the Treasurer for the term.

c) ABA Board and Staff Induction and Strategy Retreat



The Y2024 Board Induction Retreat was held from 19th April, 2024 to 20th April, 2024 at Enashipai Resort and Spa, Naivasha. The retreat served as a strategic forum for the Board to reflect on the Association's achievements, address current challenges, and plan for the Y2024 – Y2026 term.

Key areas of focus included enhancing corporate governance, reviewing the Association's legal foundations and policies, understanding its operational framework, analyzing the Y2024 budget and work plan, and mapping out strategic activities for the term. The retreat provided an opportunity to strengthen governance structures, align priorities, and reinforce the Board's commitment to advancing the Association's mission of supporting members.

d) Donations to Flood Victims



In early May 2024, Mai Mahiu experienced severe flooding, resulting in 61 fatalities, 51 individuals reported missing, and 52 others injured. The disaster displaced approximately 185 families, necessitating urgent humanitarian assistance.

In response, the Law Society of Kenya issued an appeal on 3rd May 2024, calling upon its members and well-wishers to contribute towards relief efforts. On behalf of the Board of Management, the ABA Board Chairperson, Byron Menezes, coordinated a fundraising initiative to

support the affected families. This effort was undertaken in collaboration with Greensteds International School, the Greensteds School Reunion, and other well-wishers.

The donations collected were channeled through the Naivasha Law Society for distribution to the displaced families in Mai Mahiu.

e) ABA Sensitization Forum at the CPD Seminar on The Small Claims Court: The Gains and Misses



The ABA Board Chairperson, Byron Menezes, Advocate, sensitized members on the Association's mandate during the CPD Seminar on The Small Claims Court: The Gains and Misses held on Friday, 14th June 2024 at Kakamega Sports Club in Kakamega.

This sensitization forum was instrumental in enhancing members' understanding of the Association's programmes, demystifying its role, and encouraging active participation in initiatives aimed at supporting members' professional and personal welfare.

f) Participation of the ABA Board of Management at the Y2024 Justice Games













The ABA Board of Management participated in the Y2024 Justice Games organized by the LSK Mt. Kenya Branch on Saturday, 27th July, 2024 at the Embu **University** Grounds under the theme Fair Play: When Law Meets Sports. The event brought together members of the legal fraternity for various sporting activities, including football, basketball, volleyball, and a golf tournament held at the Embu Golf Club.

The ABA football team, comprising Young Advocates from the Branch, members of the ABA Secretariat, and members of the Board,

showcased teamwork and dedication, advancing to the quarter-finals. Additionally, Board Member Debra Ajwang, Advocate, emerged as the Lady Winner in the 2024 Justice Games Golf Tournament.

The Association collaborated with Urban Radio in supporting the event.

The Justice Games provided a valuable platform to promote wellness, strengthen camaraderie, and enhance networking among members. The ABA Desk served as an engagement point for sensitizing members on the Association's mandate and available programmes, reinforcing the Association's commitment to supporting members' welfare.

g) Participation of the ABA Board at the Y2024 LSK Annual Conference.

The Law Society of Kenya Annual Conference 2024 took place from August 13th to 18th at Diamonds Leisure Beach and Golf Club Resort in Diani, Kwale County. Under the theme "Empowering Legal Excellence: Good Governance and the Rule of Law for Sustainable Development," and the sub-theme "Al in Law: Navigating the Future of Legal Practise," the three-day event attracted 1,200 advocates, including high-ranking legal practitioners, policy makers and officials from various sectors.

While at the Conference, the Board of Management engaged in the following activities:

Legal Aid Clinic at Mvindeni Social Hall:













On 13th August, 2024, the Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association undertook a legal aid clinic at Mvindeni Social Hall as part of the Association's ongoing commitment to promoting community welfare and access to justice. The legal aid clinic served

as an avenue for giving back to society by providing pro bono legal services to members of the public in line with the Association's broader mandate of supporting members and communities in need.

The legal aid clinic aligned with the Association's mission as the welfare arm of the Law Society of Kenya, which not only extends benefits to members facing medical, financial, and bereavement-related challenges but also contributes to the well-being of the wider society. The initiative further reflects the Board's responsibility of fostering strategic partnerships and promoting the social responsibility role of Advocates in advancing access to justice.

The event provided an opportunity to positively impact the local community while reinforcing the Association's commitment to supporting both its members and the public through collaborative and strategic interventions.

Member Engagement And Sensitization:







In line with the Association's mandate of supporting members in need, distress, facing difficulties, the Board of Management engaged with advocates to sensitize members on the operations of the Association and the welfare programmes available to members. The Board interacted with members at the ABA Desk and at various sideline events held during the conference. The engagements provided a platform to raise awareness on the medical benefit, last expenses coverage, education support for dependents of deceased members, as well the Association's ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing members' well-being.

The interactions also enabled the Board to receive feedback, address member inquiries, and encourage active participation in the

Association's programmes. The engagement reaffirmed the Board's commitment to promoting transparency, member welfare, and partnerships in line with the Association's strategic objectives. Insights gathered during the forum will further inform the Board's efforts to improve service delivery and strengthen the Association's support systems.

Meeting with Britam

The Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association held an engagement meeting with Britam, the Fund Manager of the Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme, on 14th August 2024. The meeting formed part of the Board's ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships that promote the welfare and financial well-being of members in line with the Association's mandate of supporting members in need, distress, or facing difficulties.

The Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme is a structured and professionally managed retirement savings plan that enables members of the Association and their non-Advocate employees to save towards retirement. The Scheme serves as a strategic initiative to promote long-term financial security among Advocates, complementing the Association's welfare

programmes such as medical assistance, last expenses coverage, and education support for dependents of deceased members.



Britam provided an update on the Scheme's performance, including the membership status, fund value, investment portfolio, and returns. Discussions centered on enhancing member awareness and participation, streamlining the registration process, and addressing member feedback on the Scheme's operations. The meeting further explored collaborative strategies to promote the Scheme through member sensitization forums and direct engagements at various platforms.



The engagement reaffirmed the Board's commitment to advancing the welfare of Advocates by fostering strategic partnerships that deliver sustainable solutions to members' socio-economic needs. Insights gathered from the meeting will inform the Board's efforts to sensitize members on retirement planning and promote increased uptake of the Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme as part of a comprehensive approach to member welfare.

Meeting with the Branch Chairs Caucus











The Board of Management Advocates' of the Benevolent Association convened a meeting with the Branch Chairs Caucus on 14th August, 2024 to deliberate on operational and strategic matters affecting the Association its and The members. meeting provided an opportunity to enhance synergy between the Board and the branches, with a focus on improving communication, member engagement, and initiatives strengthening aimed at member welfare.

A key agenda item was the establishment of effective communication channels between the Board and the branches to facilitate seamless engagement and timely dissemination of information. It was agreed that direct interaction between Board Members and Branch Chairs would be encouraged, with additional communication platforms to be explored to enhance accessibility.

The Board also apprised the Branch Chairs of its intention to conduct branch-level webinars to sensitize members on the operations of the Association. The Branch Chairs welcomed this initiative and recommended structuring the webinars in a manner that maximizes participation and professional development opportunities.

Further, discussions were held on the feasibility of providing insurance coverage for members, in line with resolutions from the previous Annual General Meeting. The Board presented various funding models for consideration, and it was resolved that the most viable approach would be pursued, including the possibility of strategic partnerships. Additionally, alternative mechanisms to enhance member welfare, including financial support structures, were deliberated upon.

The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration between ABA and various establishments at the branch level to advance the interests of members. The Branch Chairs committed to assisting in the identification of potential partners, while the Board undertook to enhance the visibility of ABA programs across the branches.

In conclusion, the meeting reaffirmed the importance of continuous engagement between the Board and the branches in advancing the objectives of the Association. It was agreed that further consultations would be undertaken to ensure the effective implementation of key initiatives for the benefit of members.

CSR Activity at Born Again Children's Home, Ukunda



The Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association, in collaboration with the LSK Council. successfully carried out its annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity at Born Again Children's Home in Ukunda, Kwale County, on 17th August, 2024. As part of its commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, the Association engaged with the children and gave a donation KShs. 250.000/= towards of procurement of flooring for the Home. The activity brought together members of the legal fraternity

and stakeholders, who worked collectively to make a positive impact on the home. The Board expressed its sincere gratitude to all members and partners whose participation and contributions played a crucial

role in the success of the initiative. Special appreciation was extended to Diamond Trust Bank for its generous donation of t-shirts, which brought joy to the children.

h) ABA Participation in LSK Nairobi Branch Sports Day.







The Advocates' Benevolent Association was privileged participate in the LSK Nairobi Branch Sports Day held on Saturday, 28th September 2024, at Parklands Sports Club, under the theme "Work Hard, Play Harder." The event provided a valuable platform for the ABA to engage with members of the legal fraternity, fostering awareness about the Association's mandate and the support it offers to advocates in need. ABA Board times of Chairperson, Byron Menezes, and Felix Owino from the Secretariat actively interacted with attendees, sensitizing them on the Association's operations, benefits, and the critical role it plays in members' welfare.

Throughout the financial year, sensitization remained a key priority for the ABA, with the Board actively engaging members to enhance awareness and accessibility of the Association's benefits. The Board remains committed to continuous engagement with the legal community to strengthen awareness and encourage participation in ABA's initiatives.

i) Y2024 Legal Awareness Week











The Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association participated in the LSK Legal Awareness Week, which took place from Monday, 28th October, 2024, to Friday, 1st November, 2024. The event was observed nationwide through LSK branches.

Board Members engaged in activities across their respective branches, offering pro bono legal services to members of the public and sensitizing advocates on the mandate, operations, and benefits of the Association. This initiative aligned with the Board's ongoing efforts to enhance awareness and accessibility of ABA services among its membership.

j) Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mega Health Insurance Brokers



On Friday, 8th November 2024, the Advocates' Benevolent Association formalized a strategic partnership with Mega Health Insurance Brokers through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Law Society of Kenya Secretariat Offices on Gitanga Road.

Mega Health Insurance Brokers specializes in connecting clients with suitable insurance providers. Through this collaboration, ABA members can anticipate access to customized insurance solutions and expert support, ensuring that all claims are processed fairly and promptly. This partnership aligns with ABA's commitment to enhancing the welfare of its members by providing comprehensive support services.

k) Wellness Camp and Check-Up Clinic



Recognizing the importance of health and wellbeing within the legal profession, the Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association collaborated with Mega Health Insurance Brokers and Aga Khan University Hospital to facilitate a Wellness Camp and Check-Up Clinic.

The event was held on Friday, 8th November 2024, at the LSK Secretariat Grounds on Gitanga Road and provided members with access to essential health services. Attendees benefited from free medical check-ups, including blood pressure monitoring, random blood sugar tests, BMI assessments, and nutritional counseling.

I) Law of the Ring II Charity Event.



The Board of Management of the Advocates' Benevolent Association participated in the Law of the Ring charity boxing event held on Saturday, 23rd November 2024, at Charter Hall, Nairobi. This annual event raises funds to support boxers from informal

The highlight of the evening was a welterweight showdown between Benjamin Njeru, Advocate, and Shadrack Wambui, Advocate, both of whom showcased their skills as amateur boxers. The ABA's participation in this initiative aligns with its core mandate of supporting the well-being of legal professionals and advancing community welfare. By engaging in such events, the Board reinforces the importance of holistic wellness, both physical and mental, while strengthening networks within the legal fraternity to enhance collective social impact.

m) ABA Special General Meeting.



The Board of Management held a virtual Special General Meeting on Friday, 6th December, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. to consider the implementation of recommendations from the feasibility study on medical cover, as resolved at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd March, 2024.

The meeting reviewed the feasibility of introducing a medical cover, with options explored through engagements with insurers and financial assessments. It was noted that, for now, members would continue covering medical expenses individually while alternative solutions were considered.

The report was adopted, and members were also sensitized on existing ABA benefits.

n) Y2024 Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits AGM.

The Annual General Meeting of the Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme was held virtually on Friday, 13th December 2024, via the Microsoft Teams platform. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to review the Scheme's performance, financial position, and key developments over the past year.

o) 9th Kenya School of Law Graduation.



The Board of Management of the Advocates Benevolent Association was represented by Board Member Debra Ajwang, Advocate, at the 9th Kenya School of Law Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony held on Wednesday, 11th December 2024.

As part of its commitment to excellence in legal education, the Board sponsored the award for the Best Students in Professional Ethics, which was presented to Ali Somane Mahat and Tom Leone Kongere.

The Board congratulated the graduands and awardees on their achievements and extended best wishes for their future endeavors in the legal profession.

p) Enhancing Visibility and Regional Engagement: Strengthening Awareness of the Advocates' Benevolent Association



During the financial year under review, the Board of Management has intensified sensitization efforts to enhance awareness of the Advocates' Benevolent Association and its mandate. Recognizing the importance of visibility in strengthening member engagement, the Board undertaken strategic outreach initiatives across various regions, including Kisii, Nairobi, Malindi, and Kisumu, to ensure that more advocates are informed of the Association's welfare programs and the support available to them.

For the first time in the history of the Association, the majority of Board Members are drawn from outside Nairobi. This has reinforced the Association's commitment to diversity and devolution, ensuring broader regional representation and fostering direct engagement with advocates across the country. Additionally, the Board has leveraged digital platforms, including social media, to amplify its sensitization efforts. Through targeted online campaigns, informative posts, and real-time engagement, the Association has reached a wider audience, enabling members to stay updated on key initiatives, benefits, and upcoming events.

These sensitization initiatives have yielded several advantages. More advocates are now aware of the assistance available to them, resulting in greater utilization of the Association's programs, particularly in times of need. The outreach has also strengthened stakeholder engagement, fostering valuable partnerships that contribute to the sustainability of the Association's initiatives. By expanding its presence both physically and digitally, the Board has improved access to support for advocates facing financial distress, medical challenges, or bereavement.

The Board remains committed to sustaining these efforts to ensure that the Advocates' Benevolent Association continues to provide meaningful support to members nationwide while adapting to evolving communication trends to enhance accessibility and engagement.

q) Existing partnerships:

Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme:

Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme is a formal retirement savings plan for members of the Association and their non-Advocate employees. It is a structured and professionally run scheme to enable the Advocates to save towards their retirement.

Members who are interested in joining the scheme can access the membership portal by visiting **https://pensionscloud.azurewebsites.net/.** Payments can be made using Paybill Number: 541400 Account Number: 20046430.

Partnership between the Advocates' Benevolent Association and Counsellors and Psychologists Society of Kenya (CPS-K).

The Board of Management is cognizant of the fact that the legal profession is competitive and demanding; and that members are vulnerable to stress, anxiety, burnout, depression, divorce, substance abuse, and compulsive behaviors and their reluctance to seek help as they are fearful, in denial, afraid of being embarrassed. As such, the mental health of Advocates has become a very critical issue and the same has been further exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Accordingly, the Board of Management has entered into a partnership with the Counselors and Psychologists Society of Kenya (CPS-K) to collaborate and offer psychological and counseling services to members and their families at subsidized rates.

CPS-K is a society established under the Societies Act Cap 108 of the Laws of Kenya which among other things promotes and provides counseling and psychological services for the well-being and mental health of clients and generally offers psycho-education and psychological support to the general public.

The Board of Management shall pay for the first individual therapy session provided to paid-up members of the Association. Thereafter, members shall pay for all services rendered to them at the following agreed rates:

- Individual Therapy at KShs. 1,500/= per session;
- Couples Therapy at KShs. 2,000/= per session;
- Family Therapy at KShs. 2,500/= per session; and
- Group therapy at KShs. 600 per person with a minimum of 6 people.

Individuals in need of assistance can contact the ABA Secretariat through the details provided below or the Counsellors and Psychologists Society of Kenya (CPS-K) Chairperson, Dr. Kimani Githongo, Advocate on 0722–715–424.

The Board of Management is looking forward to:

- Increasing membership uptake of Wakili Personal Retirement Benefits Scheme;
- Fundraising activities for the Association;
- Beneficiary mapping;
- Increased sensitizations to raise membership awareness of the Association; and
- Enhancement of the Board's Corporate Governance.

LIST OF DECEASED ADVOCATES

	Name of Advocate	P105 No.	Date of Death	Last Known Place of Practice
1.	Edward Ochieng Oyolla	7436/09	06-Jan-2024	Kajiado
2.	Cicily Mutitu Muriuki	19950/22	06-Jan-2024	Nairobi
3.	Mohamed Ibrahim Gedi	14934/18	13-Jan-2024	Nairobi
4.	Joseph Nduku Njuki	8009/10	13-Jan-2024	Kerugoya
5.	Antony Gathitu Kabathi	10206/14	28-Jan-2024	Nairobi
6.	Samuel Tumaini Wamocha Nasongo	15560/18	05-Feb-2024	Nairobi
7.	Joselyne Mutegeki	12453/16	08-Feb-2024	Nairobi
8.	Paul Mwangi Ndung'u	1366/84	20-Feb-2024	Nairobi
9.	Benson Rogito Isaboke	3700/98	20-Feb-2024	Kisii
10.	Jane Wanjiku Githinji	5525/04	20-Feb-2024	Nairobi
11.	Mabele Francis Apota	5627/04	03-Mar-2024	Kitale
12.	Kassam Shirin Abdullah Esmail	210/57	08-Mar-2024	Nairobi
13.	Hon. Jacqueline Muthoni Ojwang	9367/12	17-Mar-2024	Chuka
14.	Joseph Kithinji Thuranira	2933/95	18-Mar-2024	Nairobi
15.	Patrick Mwaniki Warima	4588/01	19-Mar-2024	Muranga
16.	Amos Othieno Oyalo	632/72	21-Mar-2024	Nairobi
17.	Sandra Nyaboke Nyakweba	6047/06	05-Apr-2024	Nairobi
18.	Janet Akinyi Odero	1532/86	08-Apr-2024	Nairobi
19.	Joseph Nguthiru King'arui	507/69	14-May-2024	Nairobi
20.	David Wachira Kamau	2392/92	28-May-2024	Mombasa
21.	Simani Sangale, SC	468/68	10-Jun-2024	Nairobi
22.	Hon. Monica Njoki Kivuti	7194/08	14-Jun-2024	Nairobi
23.	Esther Kiiru Njoki Chege	1495/86	17-Jun-2024	Kitale
24.	Hon. Justice David Shikomera Majanja	3640/98	10-Jul-2024	Nairobi
25.	Evans Umidha Oruenjo	10430/14	12-Jul-2024	Nairobi
26.	Hon. Justice Daniel Ogola Ogembo	2616/93	17-Jul-2024	Siaya
27.	Lucy Wamuhu Kinyanjui	12234/16	18-Jul-2024	Kericho
28.	Charity Mumbe Kilungya	23689/23	18-Jul-2024	Nairobi
29.	Martin Kiai Nuthu	3839/98	11-Aug-2024	Nairobi
30.	Kibet Arap Saina Tengekyon	784/75	15-Aug-2024	Nakuru
31.	John Omari Kefa	20574/22	23-Aug-2024	Kericho
32.	Rtd. Hon. Justice Amritlal Bhagwanji Shah	398/63	07-Sep-2024	Nairobi

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33.	Samuel Kinyanjui	606/71	17-Sep-2024	Nairobi
34.	Francis Mwaura Shairi	1814/88	17-Sep-2024	Limuru
35.	Barrison Gitari Mungathia	14089/17	17-Sep-2024	Nairobi
36.	Muchesi Allan Mukabane	22092/23	20-Sep-2024	Nairobi
37.	Jael Vike Ludeki	6157/06	02-Oct-2024	Nairobi
38.	Eugene Mboga Ogeto	18471/20	04-Oct-2024	Nairobi
39.	James Nyaata Onchiri	2633/93	22-Oct-2024	Kajiado
40.	Bernard Rugut Kipyegon	7091/08	22-Oct-2024	Nakuru
41.	Geoffrey Gatari Ringera	2885/95	29-Oct-2024	Meru
42.	Milton Odhiambo	2784/95	14-Nov-2024	Johannesburg
43.	Dr. Wilfred Akhonya Mutubwa	6353/06	26-Nov-2024	Nairobi
44.	Elizabeth Achieng Ouma Karanja	1662/87	28-Nov-2024	Nairobi
45.	Kennedy Mwangi Kamau	3553/97	03-Dec-2024	Muranga
46.	Paul Njagi Kiambo	643/72	05-Dec-2024	Nairobi
47.	Hon. (Rtd) Crispin Beda Nagillah	1223/82	05-Dec-2024	Nairobi
48.	Vyonna Achieng Bondi	16768/19	26-Dec-2024	Nairobi
49.	George Mugoye Mbeya	5263/03	27-Dec-2024	Nairobi

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LSK COUNCIL, 2024-2026



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