



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
& MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Legal Bulletin

E-Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION



CONTENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD - FATI BODUA SEIDU (MRS)	10
ATTORNEY-GENERAL OUTLINES KEY LEGAL CHALLENGES DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S WORKING VISIT	11
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGAL SERVICE	14
PROFILE OF HEADS OF DIVISIONS	16
PROFILE OF AGENCY HEADS	22
MINISTERIAL ADVISORY BOARD CONSTITUTED	30
LEGAL AID COMMISSION BOARD SWORN IN	31
INAUGURATION OF COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING BOARD	32
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN GHANA'S NATIONAL MECHANISM, FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UPS	33
HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE PAYS WORKING VISIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	34
INCORPORATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) PROCESSES IN GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATIONAL AGENDA: A FOCUS ON GHANA'S 24H+ ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION	35
THE REFORM OF THE LAW OF TRUSTS IN GHANA	39
KENTE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) & GHANA'S HERITAGE TEXTILES EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE SERIES, BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, ACCRA	41
LEGAL HUMOUR	43
PICTURE GALLERY	44
EDITORIAL TEAM	47

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE



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Fati Bodua Seidu (Mrs)
Chief Director & Chairperson
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

It is my privilege to introduce the inaugural E-newsletter of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.

This publication is expected to enhance internal communication and our public engagement. Our objectives are simple: to inform, connect, and highlight the collective work of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice and its Agencies.

We are pleased to feature in this edition, a historic visit by the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Professor Jane Naana Opoku - Agyemang, to the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, which re-affirms the Government's commitment to supporting the work of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice and its Agencies.

In this first edition, we focus specifically on the Legal Service and highlight the Heads of Divisions and Agencies. These entities form the operational core of our mandate. The Legal Service provides indispensable advisory and representation services to the State, while

our Agencies (the Economic and Organised Crime Office, Ghana School of Law, Office of the Registrar of Companies, Registrar-General's Department, Council for Law Reporting, Law Reform Commission, Copyright Office and the Legal Aid Commission) work to ensure that justice is accessible, commerce is regulated, and rights are protected.

Through this newsletter, we aim to foster greater cohesion among our Agencies and provide the public with a clearer window into our operations.

I commend the Editorial Board and all contributors for their efforts in bringing this edition to fruition. We trust that this newsletter will serve as a useful tool for information sharing and institutional memory. We welcome your feedback and encourage sustained engagement across all Institutions.

Fati Bodua Seidu (Mrs)
Chief Director & Chairperson
of Editorial Board

ATTORNEY-GENERAL OUTLINES KEY LEGAL CHALLENGES DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S WORKING VISIT



On 5th February 2026, the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Professor Jane Naana Opoku - Agyemang, paid a working visit to the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice at the Law House in Accra.

During the visit, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine, outlined the core responsibilities of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, its current caseload, and the pressing operational challenges it faces, while underscoring the need for sustained resourcing to effectively safeguard the legal interests of the Republic of Ghana.

He noted that, the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of

Justice provides legal advice to all State institutions, including public agencies, local government bodies, and the Presidency, and represents the Government of Ghana in arbitration proceedings.

International Arbitration Caseload

Hon. Ayine disclosed that, the Republic of Ghana is currently involved in ten international arbitration proceedings, the majority of which are claims against the State. He indicated that nine of these cases were inherited from the previous administration.

According to Hon. Ayine, the only arbitration matter filed during the current administration involves a case whose underlying events predate the Government's tenure.

"Regardless of when such matters originated, our Office takes full

responsibility for defending the Republic vigorously. The State remains our singular client,” Hon. Ayine stated.

Land Compensation Claims: A Growing Concern

Hon. Ayine drew attention to what he described as a “tsunami” of land-related litigation, particularly compensation claims against the Republic, some reportedly amounting to as much as GH¢500 billion.

He explained that, many claimants are relying on archival records to argue that the colonial administration failed to pay compensation for lands that were compulsorily acquired.

Hon. Ayine noted that these claims are increasingly being pursued through the courts and, in several instances, have succeeded, even at the Supreme Court, and could expose the State to significant financial risk.

He disclosed that the Solicitor-General has been tasked with preparing a detailed brief on judicial precedents driving this trend to inform Cabinet's consideration of appropriate policy responses.

Legislative Drafting Division Under Pressure

Hon. Ayine also highlighted the challenges facing the Legislative Drafting Division of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for drafting all bills and legislative instruments for the Government.

He noted that despite its critical role, the Legislative Drafting Division, led by the

Acting Director, Mrs. Federica Sala Bukari, is severely understaffed and overstretched. Its team is tasked with drafting every bill and legislative instrument laid before Parliament, often working long hours under challenging conditions.



Hon. Ayine announced plans to bring before Cabinet the urgent need for funding to train and retain legislative drafters. He added that, currently, only one officer is pursuing an LL.M in Legislative Drafting at the University of London.

Prosecutions and Plea Bargaining

On prosecutions, Hon. Ayine reaffirmed that this mandate remains a central function of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice. While public attention often focuses on politically sensitive cases, the majority of prosecutions involve serious criminal offences such as murder, manslaughter, armed robbery, rape, and defilement.

Data from the Economic and Organised Crime Office, particularly in relation to homicide-related offences,

underscores the scale and seriousness of these prosecutions, which are conducted daily and largely outside the public spotlight.

Plea bargaining, he explained, is considered where permitted by law and where it serves the interests of justice, conserves judicial time, and preserves prosecutorial resources. Each case is assessed on its individual merits.

No Plea Deals Under Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL)

Addressing public concerns regarding the Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL) programme, Hon. Ayine categorically denied allegations that plea deals are being offered in ORAL-related cases.

“No docket received under the ORAL framework has been compromised. No plea deal, agreement, or negotiation has been entered into with any individual whose offence falls within the scope of ORAL,” he stated, noting that



this position is corroborated by the National Intelligence Bureau.

Hon. Ayine explained that all ORAL-related prosecutions undergo thorough review. Cases with investigative gaps are referred back to

relevant agencies before prosecution proceeds.

Operational Challenges and Resource Constraints

Hon. Ayine outlined several operational challenges, including inadequate regional presence. While Ghana now has sixteen regions, the Office operates in only ten, leaving some Heads of regional offices overseeing two regions each.

He also highlighted infrastructure challenges in some regional offices and called for their renovation and redevelopment, as well as the establishment of offices in the new regions.

While acknowledging increased budgetary allocations in the current year, Hon. Ayine noted that funding constraints remain a concern. He commended the Minister for Finance for the support provided and expressed hope that actual budgetary releases would match allocations.

Improved funding, he noted, would enable the provision of laptops, vehicles, and other essential logistics to support prosecutorial work.

Strengthening Asset Recovery

Hon. Ayine further highlighted the proposed Criminal Proceedings (Confiscation) framework, which is intended to strengthen the State's ability to recover proceeds of crime through both criminal and civil confiscation mechanisms, including civil recovery based on a balance of probabilities.

“This framework will significantly strengthen asset recovery and enhance the State's ability to reclaim resources linked to criminal activity,” he stated, noting that similar measures

have been successfully implemented in jurisdictions such as South Africa.

Dr. Ayine concluded by emphasising that sustained and adequate resourcing of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice is essential for the effective administration of justice and the protection of the legal interests of the Republic of Ghana.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE LEGAL SERVICE OF GHANA



The Legal Service was established by the Legal Service Act, 1993 (PNDCL 320). The Service is governed by a Board chaired by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and includes representatives from the Supreme Court, Public Services Commission, and Ghana Bar Association, among others.

The Legal Service Board is responsible for, among others, advising the President on matters relating to the structure and administration of the Legal Service, including issues concerning the recruitment, appointment, promotion, discipline, and dismissal of its officers.

The Solicitor-General serves as the administrative head of the Legal Service, providing leadership, strategic oversight, and coordination across all divisions of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, ensuring that Government legal affairs are conducted professionally, efficiently, and in accordance with the law.

The Legal Service is a central pillar of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, providing essential legal support to the Government of Ghana. The Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice operates under the Legal Service Act, 1993 (PNDCL 320) and the Legal Service Regulations, 2014 (L. I. 2210). The Legal Service is composed of qualified legal practitioners within the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, appointed to serve the State in clearly defined roles across specialised divisions.

The Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice is organised into five core divisions, each with a distinct mandate:

1. CIVIL DIVISION: The Civil Division is headed by the Solicitor-General, Helen Akpene Awo Ziwu (Mrs.). Attorneys in the Civil Division represent the Republic of Ghana in civil matters, including negotiations, as well as the drafting and vetting of contracts and agreements involving State Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). They also represent the Government in civil litigation and arbitration involving the State, ensuring effective representation before domestic courts, as well as regional and international legal fora.

In addition, Attorneys in the Division provide legal opinions and advisory support to MDAs, ensuring that Government actions comply with applicable legal standards and safeguard public interests. They further process and settle claims on behalf of the Government of Ghana, including those involving MDAs.

2. INTERNATIONAL DIVISION: Attorneys in the International Division manage the State's international legal engagements and safeguard Ghana's legal and sovereign interests at the global level. They provide advisory services to the Government on international legal issues and support engagement with international and regional organisations, such as the United Nations and the African Union. Attorneys in the Division also represent the Republic of Ghana in regional and international litigation and arbitration. In addition, they provide legal support for treaty negotiations, and advise on international agreements and other legal instruments, and work to ensure that Ghana's interests are effectively articulated, represented and protected. Moreover, they play a key role in preparing and coordinating Ghana's reports to international and regional human rights bodies, as well as in supporting the implementation of the State's obligations under regional and international treaties and conventions.

3. ENERGY DIVISION: The Energy Division is currently headed by Mrs. Anna Pearl Akiwumi Siriboe. Attorneys in the Energy Division predominantly provide specialised legal services in relation to Ghana's energy sector, including petroleum, electricity, nuclear and renewable energy. They advise MDAs on regulatory, contractual, and policy matters within the sector, including the legal frameworks governing energy resources and infrastructure. Attorneys in the Division are also involved in the negotiation, drafting, and review of commercial agreements between the State and private or international entities within the sector. Such agreements include petroleum agreements, power purchase agreements, and agreements relating to the Petroleum Hub Development Corporation. They represent the State in energy-related disputes, including civil litigation and arbitration at both domestic and international levels, ensuring the protection of the State's strategic and commercial interests. In addition, they support sector reforms, policy development, and regulatory compliance, contributing to the effective governance and sustainable management of Ghana's energy resources. Beyond energy-related matters, Attorneys in the Division also contribute to the broader work undertaken by the Office, including matters relating to healthcare, education, human rights and security.

4. PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS DIVISION: The Public Prosecutions Division is currently headed Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa (Mrs.). Attorneys in the Public Prosecutions Division initiate and conduct criminal prosecutions on behalf of the State. They provide legal advice to the Police on criminal law and case dockets, and exercise general oversight over public prosecutors, other than State Attorneys. Attorneys in the Division also handle the criminal law aspects of constitutional litigation before the Supreme Court. In addition, they prosecute international crimes through cooperation frameworks with other jurisdictions, including through mutual legal assistance arrangements. Further, they contribute to the development of penal policy and support initiatives aimed at criminal justice reform. Again, they handle extradition requests, advise the Attorney-General on applications for presidential pardon, and provide guidance on petitions for redress.

5. LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION: The Legislative Drafting Division is currently headed by Frederica S. Bukari (Mrs.). Attorneys in the Legislative Drafting Division are

responsible for drafting legislation for MDAs, as well as reviewing, amending, and consolidating existing laws. They draft Bills based on drafting instructions from MDAs and prepare accompanying explanatory memoranda. They also draft subsidiary legislation, including Constitutional Instruments, Legislative Instruments, Executive Instruments, and Gazette Notices of a legal nature. In addition, Attorneys in the Division prepare Cabinet memoranda for the policy approval of Bills and for Bills to be laid before Parliament. Furthermore, they provide legal advice to MDAs on statutory interpretation, assist Parliament in connection with legislation, and advise Cabinet sub-committees.

PROFILE OF HEADS OF DIVISIONS



BRIEF PROFILE OF **HELEN AKPENE AWO ZIWU (MRS.), SOLICITOR GENERAL OF GHANA**

Helen Akpene Awo Ziwu (Mrs.) is the Solicitor-General of the Republic of Ghana, serving within the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.

She is a seasoned legal practitioner with nearly thirty-five (35) years of experience at the Bar, over twenty-five (25) of which have been spent in public service within the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.

Mrs. Ziwu rose through the ranks from Assistant State Attorney to Chief State Attorney, before her appointment as Solicitor-General, reflecting a distinguished and progressive career in public legal service.

Work Experience

In her role as the Solicitor-General, Mrs. Ziwu serves as the administrative head of the Legal Service, providing strategic leadership and direction across its nationwide operations. She oversees and coordinates the work of State Attorneys across all regions of Ghana, ensuring consistency, professionalism, and high standards in the delivery of legal services. As the head of the Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Ziwu also ensures the efficient management and effective performance of the Division.

Mrs. Ziwu plays a central role in coordinating civil litigation and arbitration involving the State, ensuring

effective representation of Ghana before domestic courts, as well as regional and international legal fora.

In addition, she supervises the provision of legal opinions and advisory services to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), contributing to informed policy-making and administrative decision-making.

She is also actively involved in the review, drafting, and negotiation of international agreements, treaties, and other legal instruments on behalf of the Government of Ghana, ensuring that such arrangements are legally sound, enforceable, and aligned with national interests.

Her responsibilities also extend to overseeing the preparation and coordination of Ghana's periodic reports to international and regional human rights bodies, as well as supporting the implementation of the country's obligations under international law. Through this work, Mrs. Ziwu contributes to strengthening accountability, promoting adherence to international standards, and safeguarding Ghana's legal and sovereign interests.

In addition to her core operational responsibilities, Mrs. Ziwu contributes to institutional leadership and legal policy development within the justice sector. She supports initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity and professionalism of State Attorneys, improving legal service delivery, and enhancing the overall effectiveness of public legal institutions.

With approximately ten (10) years of service as Solicitor-General, Mrs. Ziwu continues to play a vital role in advancing the rule of law, strengthening Ghana's justice system, and promoting effective, accountable, and responsive legal governance in the public sector.

In the absence of both the Attorney-General and Deputy Attorney-General, Mrs. Ziwu assumes the full functions of the Attorney-General, underscoring the importance and responsibility of her office.

Prior to her appointment as Solicitor-General, Mrs. Ziwu was seconded to the Registrar General's Department, where she was responsible for the registration and administration of patents, trademarks, industrial designs, textile designs, and businesses. During this period, she also served as a Marriage Registrar.

Earlier in her career, Mrs. Ziwu served as a Legal Officer (Divisional Officer I) with the Ghana National Fire Service.

Educational Background

Mrs. Ziwu holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from the University of Ghana and a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Intellectual Property Law, Technology and Commerce from Pierce University (now New Hampshire University).

Professional Memberships and Interests

Mrs. Ziwu is a member of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), International Bar Association (IBA), Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and Association of State Attorneys (ASA).

She loves family life and enjoys reading, browsing the internet, dancing and gardening.



BRIEF PROFILE OF

MRS. YVONNE ATAKORA OBUOBISA **DIRECTOR PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS DIVISION**

Mrs. Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa is the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) at the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, a position she has held since April, 2015. In this role, she leads and supervises the prosecution of all criminal cases nationwide, in line with the constitutional mandate of the Attorney-General to initiate and conduct prosecutions of criminal offences. Attorneys in regional offices report through their Regional Heads to her on all criminal matters.

With thirty years' standing at the Bar, Mrs. Obuobisa brings extensive expertise in criminal law and procedure, as well as international criminal law practice. Prior to her appointment as DPP, she served as Head of the International Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Justice from January 2010 to April 2015. In that capacity, she oversaw all international cooperation matters on behalf of the State, including Mutual Legal Assistance, extradition, and prisoner transfer processes.

Mrs. Obuobisa has prosecuted several high-profile and landmark cases, particularly in the areas of corruption and white-collar crime. She is widely recognised for her contributions to addressing transnational organised crime and has spoken at numerous

international fora on the challenges these crimes pose to developing countries and the responses of criminal justice systems.

She is listed as counsel before the International Criminal Court (ICC). In 2016, she served as a Government Expert under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), contributing to the assessment of the Central African Republic. She has also served as an assessor and expert for the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), and was part of the team of assessors that reviewed the Republic of Liberia's compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations in 2010.

Mrs. Obuobisa is a member of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) of the Council of Europe, where she contributes to the effective implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.



BRIEF PROFILE OF

MRS. FREDERICA S. BUKARI

ACTING DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Professional Profile

Mrs. Frederica S. Bukari is an accomplished legislative drafting expert and legal practitioner with nearly three decades of distinguished service at the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice. She currently serves as the Acting Director of the Legislative Drafting Division, where she leads the development, review, and refinement of legislation critical to national governance and public administration.

Her core expertise lies in drafting Bills and subsidiary legislation, including legislative instruments, constitutional instruments, and executive instruments. She has extensive experience in preparing explanatory memoranda, revising laws, editing legislative texts, and providing high-level legal and policy advice to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. She also plays a key role in supporting Parliament in the enactment and amendment of legislation and contributes to policy formulation through the preparation of Cabinet memoranda.

Mrs. Bukari has made significant contributions to Ghana's legal and regulatory framework, having been involved in drafting numerous landmark laws across diverse sectors. These include legislation on disability rights, intellectual property, taxation, health,

pensions, education, fisheries, and national identity systems. Notable among these are the Persons with Disability Act, National Pensions Act, Mental Health Act, National Health Insurance Act, and various intellectual property laws such as the Patents, Industrial Designs, and Trademarks Acts. In addition to her drafting responsibilities, she represents the Attorney-General on several boards, councils, and committees, contributing her legal expertise to governance and institutional development.

Education and Professional Qualifications

Mrs. Bukari holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) in Legislative Drafting from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. She also obtained a Certificate in Legislative Drafting from the Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies at the University of London.

She is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana, having been called to the Bar after completing her professional legal training at the Ghana School of Law in 1996.

Professional Memberships

- Ghana Bar Association
- Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel

Skills and Competencies

Mrs. Bukari possesses strong analytical, drafting, and advisory skills, complemented by excellent written and oral communication abilities. She is known for her initiative, attention to detail, and ability to work effectively within multidisciplinary teams.

Leadership and Service

She has demonstrated leadership across various professional and social platforms and has served on numerous boards and committees, contributing to policy development and institutional governance.

Personal Interests

Her hobbies include reading and cooking.



BRIEF PROFILE OF

MRS. ANNA PEARL AKIWUMI SIRIBOE

**CHIEF STATE ATTORNEY AND DIRECTOR
OF THE ENERGY DIVISION**

Introduction

Anna Pearl Akiwumi Siriboe (Mrs.) currently serves as the Chief State Attorney and Director of the Energy Division at the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, providing strategic leadership in the delivery of legal services within Ghana's energy sector.

Work Experience

With over 29 years of experience at the Bar, Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe has built a distinguished career in public service, with recognised expertise in energy, pensions, trade, and health law, as well as in international and domestic arbitration.

Her work reflects a longstanding commitment to advancing Ghana's economic and social development through sound legal governance.

She represents the Attorney-General in civil litigation and in high-level national and international negotiations, and plays a central role in the drafting, review, and negotiation of energy and petroleum agreements, ensuring the protection of the State's commercial and strategic interests.

As an acknowledged expert in energy law, Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe plays an active role as a member of Ghana's Maritime Technical Committee, shaping policy and

regulatory frameworks in the energy and natural resources space.

Her expertise extends to health law, where she provides legal oversight and guidance on governance matters within national health regulatory institutions.

Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe has contributed significantly to major Government initiatives and served on various national task forces, including those focused on emergency power supply and regulatory investigations. She also acts as a focal person for key international and development initiatives, such as the World Bank's Capacity Building Project. Her commitment to public service is further demonstrated through her roles on several high-level boards, including the Ghana Standards Authority, the Food and Drugs Authority, the Ghana Education Service Occupational Pension Scheme (GESOPS), the Central Tender Review Committee (CTRC), and the Allied Health Professions Council. Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe's exceptional contribution to national service has earned her national recognition, including the conferment of the Order of the Volta, in acknowledgment of her invaluable contribution to the legal team that successfully represented Ghana in the Maritime Boundary Arbitration between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Educational Background

Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Rice University, an LL.M. in International Economic Law from the University of Houston, a Professional Certificate in Law from the Ghana School of Law, and a Bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science from the University of Ghana. She also possesses specialised certifications in Energy Law, reinforcing her leadership in shaping legal frameworks within Ghana's energy sector.

Professional Memberships and Interests

Mrs. Akiwumi Siriboe is a member of the Ghana Bar Association and the African Women Lawyers Association. Beyond her professional commitments, she enjoys African and Jamaican music and dance, cooking, gardening and reading, and is actively involved in volunteering and fundraising to support child health initiatives.

PROFILE OF AGENCY HEADS



BRIEF PROFILE OF **PROF. RAYMOND AKONGBURO ATUGUBA**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND
DIRECTOR OF THE GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW.**

Professor Raymond Akongburo ATUGUBA is currently Ghana's Director of Legal Education and Director of the Ghana School of Law. He is Professor of General Jurisprudence and immediate past Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law (2019–2025), where he has taught since 2002. He was also the Consulting Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Law, University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana (2024–2026). He has been a Visiting Professor of Law and the Henry J. Steiner Visiting Professor of Human Rights at Harvard Law School (2018–2019) and a Bok Visiting International Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School (Spring 2024). He has taught over 40 related courses at different universities in Africa, Europe, the United States of America, Canada, and Australia.

His research interests are in Policy, Law and Development in the Global South; Constitutional and Administrative Law in Africa; and Transnational Perspectives on Human Rights, Law and Organising and Community Lawyering. Professor Atuguba is a graduate of the University

of Ghana and of Harvard Law School, where he obtained a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) and did doctoral studies (S.J.D). Professor Atuguba has also worked in the public sector (he was one time the Executive Secretary to the Constitution Review Commission of Ghana and later Executive Secretary to the President of Ghana); the private sector (he is founder and former Team Leader of Law and Development Associates (LADA) and Managing Partner of Atuguba and Associates); and the nonprofit sector (he is co-founder, former Executive Director and former Board Chair of the Legal Resources Centre and Board Chair of LADA Institute).

Professor Atuguba has over 100 publications, been engaged in over 100 research and advocacy projects and produced over 100 research and technical reports. In over 25 years, he has delivered more than 500 papers and presentations on all continents of the world, and been involved in the audit, review, and drafting of over 500 constitutions, policies, main legislation, strategies, regulations, guidelines,

manuals, and procedures, mainly in African countries and around the world. He has consulted for many African governments (The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, etc.); major local and international development organisations and agencies (The UN, UNDP, UN-OHCR, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODC, UNMIL, FAO, The World Bank, ILO, IOM, EU, AU, ECOWAS, USAID, DFID (UKAID), GIZ (GTZ), DANIDA,

FES, KAF, ICHRP, OXFAM, IBIS, IIED); and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) (ActionAid International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, CARE International, Plan International, Ford Foundation, OSI, OSIWA, etc).

He has also designed, led or co-led over 100 training programmes and workshops and chaired or sat on over 100 boards and committees, national and international.



BRIEF PROFILE OF

MR. RAYMOND ARCHER,
AG. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC
AND ORGANISED CRIME OFFICE

Mr. Raymond Archer is the Acting Executive Director of the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), having previously served as Deputy Executive Director/Operations.

He is a seasoned professional in intelligence, national security, risk analysis investigative journalism, and institutional governance, with over two decades of multidisciplinary practice across private and public sectors, international consultancy, executive leadership, and media practice.

Raymond possesses advanced academic and professional qualifications in intelligence, criminology, fraud examination, and organizational change, including a Dual Postgraduate Certificate in Intelligence and National Security from the University of Leicester (UK), a

Postgraduate Diploma in Leading Innovation and Change from York St. John University (UK), a Diploma in Criminology, and certification as a Certified Counter Fraud Specialist, accredited by the University of Portsmouth and the UK Counter fraud Professional Accreditation Board. He also undertook advanced training in national security and intelligence studies at the Galilee International Management Institute / Center for Strategic Studies, Israel, where he obtained Diplomas in National Security and Applications of Intelligence with specialization in intelligence operations, asymmetric warfare, counterterrorism, and strategic intelligence analysis.

He has extensive international consultancy experience, including work as an International Risk Consultant with

KPMG where he advised on country risk profiling, due diligence investigations, and corporate intelligence for multinational projects across Africa. He has also undertaken long-standing consultancy engagements with Kroll & Associates UK and other strategic advisory institutions.

In addition, he has held executive leadership positions in the private sector, including Chief Executive Officer roles in defence industry, and manufacturing enterprises, where he demonstrated capacity in organizational development, strategic management, and enterprise growth. His career in media includes service as Editor and Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of the Ghanaian Chronicle and the Enquirer, with a strong focus on investigative journalism and political reporting.

His professional development is further enriched by international fellowships and training, including the United States Department of State International Visitor Leadership Programme, the Les Aspin Center for Government Good Governance Programme, and conflict reporting training with the Reuters Foundation. He is a recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Global Gold Medal for Excellence in Journalism awarded the International Federation of Journalists, the Lorenzo Natali Prize for Excellence in Journalism (Africa), the Best West African Journalist Award by the West African Journalists Association, and the Best Investigative Journalist (Ghana) Award by the Ghana Journalists Association.



BRIEF PROFILE OF

MR EDMUND AMARKWEI FOLEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Edmund Amarkwei Foley is the Executive Director the Legal Aid Commission of Ghana. Edmund holds an LLB from the University of Ghana and an LLM in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He is a lawyer of 22 years standing, called to the Ghana Bar. Prior to joining the Commission, Edmund was the Interim Head and Deputy Executive Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), based in Banjul, The Gambia.

Before IHRDA, Edmund served as the Head of Department for Public Law and Lecturer of Jurisprudence, ECOWAS Law, Criminal Law, and Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). Edmund was also the Senior Researcher and Head of the Children's Rights Project of Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape in South Africa. He also served as a Technical

Advisor on Children at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana and Project Coordinator for the Ghana Police Accountability Project of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Africa Office, as well as a Researcher to Judge Albie Sachs at the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

Edmund had previously worked at IHRDA from 2007 to 2011 as a Legal Officer, and took the lead on the Nubian Children's case which was the first case to be decided on the merits by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Edmund has also published several articles and spoken at various forums on human rights and legal issues, as well as consulted widely for the African Union and United Nations. He is also currently an Adjunct Lecturer on the LLM Programme in International Criminal Justice at GIMPA and External Examiner for LLM Programmes at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa.



BRIEF PROFILE OF
MRS. MARGARET AWUKU-GYEKYE
EDITOR, COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING

Margaret Awuku-Gyekye (Mrs.) is the Editor of the Ghana Law Reports, a position she has held since December 2018. In this role, she provides strategic leadership, policy direction, and administrative oversight for the Council for Law Reporting, ensuring the effective execution of its mandate as the official publisher of Ghana's law reports and related legal publications.

In the course of her career as a lawyer with over three decades of diverse experience at the Bar, Mrs. Awuku-Gyekye has accumulated about twenty years of progressive expertise in law reporting within the Public Service of Ghana.

She possesses deep expertise in legal research, editorial supervision, and the analysis and reporting of judicial decisions. Mrs. Awuku-Gyekye plays a pivotal role in promoting adherence to the common law doctrine of stare decisis within Ghana's justice delivery system, through the development and enforcement of rigorous editorial standards for the preparation and publication of authoritative decisions of the Superior Courts of Ghana.

In addition to her public service, she brings substantial experience in corporate legal advisory services, compliance management, and privacy governance gained from senior positions in the telecommunications industry. In these roles, she advised on complex commercial and regulatory matters, led compliance, privacy and data

protection frameworks, and managed corporate legal risk at a strategic level.

Mrs. Awuku-Gyekye is an alumna of the University of Ghana and the Ghana School of Law. She also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Ghana Business School.

Noted for her integrity and analytical rigor, she is committed to excellence and a steadfast sense of duty. Mrs. Margaret Awuku-Gyekye brings to her role a unique blend of extensive law reporting experience and a deep understanding of Ghana's legal and regulatory landscape, and remains dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while contributing meaningfully to the continued development of Ghana's legal system.



BRIEF PROFILE OF
MRS. GRACE ISSAHAQUE
REGISTRAR GENERAL,
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Grace Ama. Issahaque is a product of the University of Ghana and the Ghana School of Law. She holds an LLM in Intellectual Property Law from Turin University (Italy), an LLM in Computer and Communication Law from the Queen Mary University of London and a Post – Graduate Diploma in International Law, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development from the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague.

As the Registrar- General of Ghana, she oversees Industrial Property Rights Protection, Marriage Registration and Administration of Estates. Under her leadership Ghana joined UPOV as a Member State and also ratified the Arusha Protocol on Plant Variety Protection for ARIPO Member states to ensure that the Protocol entered into force for Member states. Ghana also acceded to the Lisbon Agreement on the Protection of Geographical Indication and protected Kente as a Geographical Indication. She has deep knowledge and experience in Intellectual Property law, international law, Company law and Computer and Communication law. She advises government and the general public on issues on intellectual property rights, company law, Administration of Estates, Marriage Registration and other related rights.

At the National level she has served as a Board member of the Food and Drugs Authority, Member of the Appeals Tribunal for National Biosafety Authority, Focal Person for Plant Variety Protection and played a key role in the enactment of the Plant Variety Protection Act and Geographical Indication Protection among many other.

She has represented Ghana in many international fora and served in many capacities at the global level, as Chair of the Madrid Protocol Union Assembly, Chair of the Paris Union Executive Committee, Vice-Chair of the Patent Corporation Treaty, Vice-Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly . Currently she is Chair of the Haque Union Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Chair of the Standing Committee of Trademarks and Vice – Chair UPOV and Chair of The Administration Council for the Heads of IP Offices for the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO).



BRIEF PROFILE OF
MRS. MAAME SAMMA PEPRAH
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES ,
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES (ORC)

Mrs. Maame Samma Peprah is a distinguished legal and corporate governance professional with a specialized focus in restructuring and insolvency. She currently serves as the Registrar of Companies for the Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC) in Ghana and is a Member of the Governing Board of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). With over a decade of experience in legal practice, regulatory compliance, and corporate advisory, Mrs. Peprah has held senior roles leading legal and governance functions across both the public and private sectors. She has managed complex compliance frameworks and contract negotiations in the energy sector and previously specialized in commercial and corporate law at a leading law firm. She is also an adjunct lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). She brings deep expertise in corporate restructuring, insolvency, energy law and regulatory strategy. Notably, she has provided legal advisory on high-profile national projects involving infrastructure redevelopment, telecommunications agreements and energy sector refinancing.

Mrs. Peprah holds an LL.B. from KNUST, a Barrister-at-Law qualification from the Ghana School of Law and an LL.M. in Oil and Gas Law and Policy from the University of Dundee, Scotland. She was appointed Notary Public by the Supreme Court of Ghana in 2024.

As a member of the Chartered Institute of Restructuring and Insolvency Practitioners (CIRIP) and INSOL International, Mrs. Peprah is committed to promoting sound restructuring practices and strengthening Ghana's insolvency regime to support business recovery and economic resilience.



BRIEF PROFILE OF
MR. MARK ZIWU
**ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION**

Mr. Mark Ziwu is the Acting Executive Director of the Law Reform Commission, he brings a wealth of multi-disciplinary expertise spanning law, human resource management, and social sciences. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology as well as a Master of Arts in Adult Education from the University of Ghana, Legon. Further strengthening his professional credentials, he earned an LLB from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and a BL qualification from the Ghana School of Law, qualifying him as a legal practitioner in Ghana. Mr. Ziwu is also a member of the Institute of Human Resource Management Practitioners, Ghana (IHRMP).

With a solid academic foundation that began at Accra Academy, where he studied Business, alongside professional certification in RSA Stage III, Mr. Ziwu has developed a unique blend of legal, educational, and human resource competencies. His leadership at the Law Reform Commission reflects his commitment to advancing legal development and institutional reform in Ghana.



BRIEF PROFILE OF
MR. WILLIAM AKWETHEY BONSU
HEAD OF THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE

Mr. William Akwetey Bonsu is currently the Head of the Copyright Office. He had his primary education at Mensah Sarbah primary school and Albert Sam Memorial Preparatory school both in Cape Coast and middle school education at the Presbyterian Boys Boarding School (Salem), at Akropong Akwapim. He had his secondary education at Adonten Secondary School in Aburi, and continued with his sixth form education at Okuapemman Secondary School, Akropong Akwapim.

Mr. Bonsu continued with his tertiary education at the University of Ghana Legon, where he graduated in Bachelor of Arts Political Science with Sociology. Mr. Bonsu then went to the Ghana School of Law for his Professional Law (B.L.) programme. He also has Masters in Business Administration, (M. B. A.) Human Resource Management, and Master of Laws (LL.M) in International Law all from the University of Ghana, Legon.

Mr. Bonsu has a certificate in a course on Copyright Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the British Copyright Council in London, United Kingdom.

Mr. William Bonsu also has a certificate on the Patent System in Europe which was organised by the Centre for the International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI), in conjunction with University of Strasbourg in France. He also has a Certificate on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism for Intellectual Property (IP) and Technology disputes organised by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation and WIPO in Arbitration and mediation in Harare, Zimbabwe.

He has also undertaken a course on Countering Illicit Trade Expanding Trade Infrastructure Investments at the United States Patent and Trade Mark Office (U.S.P.T.O) which was held at the Global Intellectual Property Academy in Alexandria, Virginia U.S.A and another course on Copyright at the same United States Patent and Trade Mark Office (U.S.P.T.O) at the Global Intellectual Property Academy, Alexandria U.S.A. He has also undertaken a Certificate course on Arbitration and mediation at the International Law Institute (I.L.I) which was done in Co-operation with the Georgetown University, Washington D.C. U.S.A.

Mr. William Bonsu has also undertaken courses and has certificates from the I.C.C. Institute of World Business Law Accra, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) EMBH Training for Lawyers, Accra, Legal and Justice Sector Institution Training workshop on Standard Operating Procedure, Accra, International Petroleum Law Workshop, Accra, Defence Management Workshop course, at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College Accra, Commonwealth Legislative Drafting course for African Member States Accra, and Business Law Reform Programme Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General, Accra. He has also undertaken a workshop training on financial Planning and Investment, organised by FEEBA General Services Accra.

He is a member of the Ghana Bar Association and the Greater Accra Bar Association. He is also a Notary Public of Ghana and married with four (4) daughters.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY BOARD CONSTITUTED



Ministerial Advisory Board Members



Swearing in Board Members

The Ministerial Advisory Board of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice was constituted Monday 22nd December, 2025 to provide strategic policy guidance to the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.

The Board is chaired by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine. The other members are:

- Hon. Justice Srem-Sai, Deputy Attorney-General and Deputy Minister for Justice
- Mrs. Fati Bodua Seidu, Chief Director, Office of Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice (OAGMOJ)
- Ms. Alice Priscilla Chanayireh, Director, National Intelligence Bureau
- Dr. Martin Yamborigya, Head of Tax Audit – Assistant Commissioner, Large Taxpayers' office Ghana Revenue Authority
- Mr. Ahmed Musah, Private Legal Practitioner
- Ms. Rosemary B. Sahnoon, Head, Legal Division, State Interest and Governing Authority (SIGA)
- Dr. Kweku Ainuson, Head, Department of International Legal Studies, Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana, School of Law
- Mr. Obed Hoyah, General Manager Retail Business, Societe Generale Ghana Plc

The formation of the Board complies with statutory requirements and follows a directive by President John Dramani Mahama for all Ministries to establish advisory boards.

The Board will support policy coordination and enhance institutional effectiveness in the justice sector.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION BOARD SWORN IN



Legal Aid Commission Board Members

The Legal Aid Commission Board has been sworn in to oversee the delivery of legal aid services to indigent and vulnerable persons across the country.

Chaired by Justice Samuel Kwame Adibu Asiedu, with Edmund Amarkwei Foley, Stella Ohene Appiah, Florence Ayisi Quartey, Prince Boamah Abrah(PhD), Professor Raymond Akongburo Atuguba, Frieda Aniwaah Boateng, Frederick Gurah Sampson, Chief Superintendent Abdulai Amadu Alichewu and Oliver Barker-Vormawor as members, the Board was tasked with strengthening access to justice nationwide.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony the Deputy Attorney-General Dr.



Swearing in Board Members

Justice Srem-Sai highlighted key challenges facing the Commission, including funding constraints, limited awareness of its civil mandate, and a shortage of lawyers.

He urged the Board to expand its reach and adopt proactive measures to ensure equitable access to legal services for all Ghanaians.

INAUGURATION OF COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING BOARD



The Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice inaugurated the Council for Law Reporting Board on the 22nd December 2025 to strengthen the publication and management of Ghana's law reports.

The Board is chaired by Justice Gabriel Scott Pwamang (Supreme Court Judge), with membership drawn from the Bench, academia, and the legal profession.

The other members are:

- Justice Victor Ofoe, Supreme Court Judge
- Nuhela Seidu, Private Legal Practitioner
- Dr. Enam Korkor Antonio – Lecturer, Gimpa Law School
- Margaret Awuku-Gyeke, Editor of the Law Reports
- Prof. Peter Atudiwe Atupare, Dean Faculty of Law University of Ghana
- Justice Sedinam Awo Kwadam, High Court Judge
- Lom Nuku Ahijah, Lecturer, GIMPA School of Law

Speaking at the ceremony in Accra, the Deputy Attorney-General and Deputy Minister for Justice, Dr. Justice Srem-Sai, noted that the appointments were approved by President John Dramani Mahama in consultation with the Council of State, in line with constitutional requirements.

The Council is expected to enhance access to reliable legal information and support the development of jurisprudence in Ghana.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN GHANA'S NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UPS



The Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), organised a three-day capacity-building workshop from 20th to 22nd January, 2026 in Accra. The workshop aimed to strengthen Ghana's National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRF).

The workshop focused on Ghana's reporting obligations under the Convention against Torture (CAT) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The programme formed part of ongoing efforts to enhance Ghana's institutional capacity to fulfil its international human rights obligations through coordinated reporting, effective implementation of recommendations, and sustained followup.

HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE PAYS WORKING VISIT TO OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



The Head of the Civil Service of Ghana, Dr. Agyrey Darko, paid a working visit to the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 as part of his routine engagements with Chief Directors across Ministries.

The visit formed part of an ongoing institutional review and performance assessment exercise aimed at strengthening service delivery within the public sector.

During the engagement, Dr. Darko reviewed an assessment conducted for the Chief Director of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice and commended the leadership for its commitment to structured performance management and institutional reforms.

Dr. Darko also took the opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine.

INCORPORATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) PROCESSES IN GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATIONAL AGENDA: A FOCUS ON GHANA'S 24H+ ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

By Grace Issahaque (LLM) Sam Anum (MBA) & Courage Komla Besah-Adanu (Ph.D)

1. BACKGROUND ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT SYSTEMS

The Intellectual Property Right (IPR) system is an international system and one of the tools used for the economic development of a nation. The IPR system plays a vital role in the economic growth strategies of nations at all stages of their development. The IPR system helps to spur innovation and benefits users and consumers by supporting and encouraging inventions, creation of innovative, new and improved products and knowledge that improves the quality of life.

Ghana has over the years, taken steps in strengthening its IPR system to enable the country to fully utilize the system to enhance the competitiveness of businesses/companies. In this regard, Ghana for the first time since 2016, has had a national policy in place on Intellectual Property Rights known as the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy.

With respect to the strategic direction of the IPR policy, its short-term goal is to “establish a functional and sustainable intellectual property system in Ghana and in the long term, exploit Intellectual Property Rights for accelerated growth in technological and industrial development. Ghana has a clear policy direction as to how the IPR system is to be used for the economic, industrial and technological development of the country.

2. INTRODUCTION, GHANA'S 24H+ ECONOMY PROGRAM

The Government of Ghana's 24H+ Economy Programme aims to accelerate economic growth through five strategic pillars—(I) Culture, Arts & Tourism (SHOW24); (II) Manufacturing Growth (MAKE24); (III) Value-Chain Financing & Trade Facilitation (FUND24 & CONNECT24); (IV) Pharmaceutical Clusters; and (V) Cross-Programme Enablers.

At the heart of each pillar lies a critical and powerful tool: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). By adapting globally proven IPR strategies to Ghana's unique context, the 24H+ economy program can unlock domestic innovation, attract investment, and enhance our competitiveness across Africa and beyond.

1. SHOW24:

Elevating Ghanaian Creative Heritage Ghana's rich cultural assets—from Highlife music, to Hiplife and other music genres, just to mention a few—hold significant economic potential, yet less than 25% of creators formally register copyrights or trademarks. 24H+ must establish:

- National IPR (Hubs: Mainly Copyrights) Regional centres (e.g., Accra, Kumasi, Tamale) offering one-stop IPR registration, licensing, and training, modelled on Nigeria's ARISE Nigeria project which increased IPR filings by 60% in three years in the

Arts and Music industry.

- Empower Local Collective Management Organisations (CMOs): Equip Associations of musicians, filmmakers, and artisans to negotiate royalties and enforce rights. ECOWAS-supported CMOs in Senegal have boosted member incomes by 35% annually.
- Digital Rights Management Platforms: Partner with tech incubators in the Ghana Tech Hub to deploy blockchain-based tracking for digital sales, reducing piracy on platforms like YouTube and Spotify.

2. MAKE24:

Branding “Made-in-Ghana” Manufactures To transform local manufacturing—textiles, agro-processing, and light industries—into export champions, Ghana must leverage:

- Geographical Indications (GIs): By securing GIs for products that are uniquely Ghanaian—ranging from Smock, Shea Butter, Gorge to Ghana Jollof rice, Waakye, Dzomi palm oil, Bolga Hats and Baskets, Kente cloth, and Cocoa—Ghana can capture a “premium of place” just as Burkina Faso did with its Faso Dan Fani silk (a 50 percent price uplift for artisan cooperatives). Globally, France's Champagne GI contributes over €5 billion annually to the region's economy; India's Darjeeling tea GI commands a 30 percent price premium on the world market; Colombia's Coffee GI has lifted small-producer incomes by 25 percent; and Spain's Manchego cheese GI underpins a €700 million export industry.
- Closer to home, South Africa's Rooibos tea GI yielded a 300 percent price increase for smallholder growers between 2010–2020, while Ethiopia's Coffee GI boosted farmer earnings by 25 percent. By replicating these models—registering, enforcing, and marketing its signature foods, textiles, and crafts—Ghana can ensure that its cultural heritage translates directly into higher incomes and stronger rural economies.
- Design and Trademark Registries: Establish a dedicated IPR registration regime for SMEs in Ghana's industrial zones—Tema, Sekondi-Takoradi, Kumasi—so that bootstrapped manufacturers can secure and commercialize their unique designs and brand identities, commanding higher prices and ensuring supply-chain traceability. For instance, Rwanda's trademark reform initiative boosted SME registrations by 45 percent within two years; Singapore's Design Singapore Council saw design registrations more than double—fuelling a 20 percent rise in local product exports; the EU's Community Design system has enabled Italian furniture and fashion SMEs to achieve price premiums of 10–15 percent on international sales; China's accelerated design-patent framework spurred a 30 percent jump in SME filings from 2015–2020, underpinning a 25 percent export growth in consumer electronics; and Mexico's PROCEFI program increased artisan industrial-design registrations by 35 percent, opening doors to North American markets. By tailoring these models to Ghana's light-manufacturing sectors—textiles, agro-processing, homeware—24H+ can ensure home-grown innovations translate into sustainable, premium-priced exports.
- Counterfeit Task Forces: Bridge critical state agencies such as the Ghana IP Office, Ghana Standards Authority, Food and Drugs Authority and Ghana Revenue Authority to run joint enforcement sweeps, like Kenya's anti-counterfeit raids that reduced fake

pharmaceuticals sector for example by 70%.

3. FUND24 & CONNECT24:

Financing Innovation and Exports Strengthening access to capital and markets requires innovative IPR-linked mechanisms:

- **IP-Backed Loans and Tax Incentives:** Encourage the Bank of Ghana to build strong IPR infrastructure within its operations and thereby leading to the institutionalization of robust IPR regimes within the banking industry in Ghana. This will allow banks to build structures and systems that can accept patent and other IPR portfolios and certificates as collateral, mirroring South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation programme which financed ZAR 1.2 billion in IP-backed loans.
- **Patent and other IPR Box Regime:** Introduce a reduced corporate-tax rate on income derived from patents and trademarks developed in Ghana, by SMEs and other light industries, including structural changes in Universities and Research Institutions to allow them incorporate innovations and inventions as part of promotional process and packages to spur up the industrialization processes in Ghana just like Mauritius' 'IP Box' that attracted USD 200 million in investment within two years.

4. Pharmaceutical Clusters:

Localising Healthcare Solutions in Ghana. The drive to local pharmaceutical production in the country must be based on robust IPR and Regulatory framework regime. One that is deliberately structured to enhance growth and sustainability within the unique Ghanaian and African contest in the following ways:

- **Data Exclusivity Enforcement:** Utilize Ghana FDA's pilot data-protection guidelines to grant 8-year market exclusivity for locally developed generics and vaccines. This development would enhance growth in the local pharma industry just like in Egypt where such a system was successful in boosting the local API output by 300% since 2018.
- **Technology Transfer Partnerships:** With the deliberate institutionalization of IPR regimes such as the TRIPS Flexibilities and infrastructure development within the Ghanaian context, the country can Leverage the Legon Pharmaceutical Innovation Park to facilitate patent and know-how licensing between research teams and industry, to deploy a robust system that manufactures strategic medicines and vaccines. This system can be modelled on Ethiopia's Pasteur Institute partnership that cut vaccine import bills by 60%.

Pharma Patent Clearing Houses:

- In today's globalized, knowledge-driven pharmaceutical landscape, science, technology, and commerce are the cornerstones of drug discovery, development, and market success. Pharmaceutical companies and national regulators alike must therefore master the strategic management of rich information resources—most critically, patent literature. Studies show that roughly 70 percent of drug formulation insights, novel delivery mechanisms, and target-identification data found in patent documents exist nowhere else. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), some 2.5 million patent applications are filed annually—many in therapeutics and biopharma—yielding about 1.2 million new patents each year.

Leading pharmaceutical firms across the United States, Europe, and Asia now leverage this patent intelligence as a vital competitive asset: to guide R&D prioritization, navigate patent-thicket landscapes, monitor rival pipelines, identify emerging therapeutic trends, and inform licensing or M&A decisions. Here, “patent documentation” encompasses both granted drug patents and pending applications still under examination.

- Ghana can also create a national clearing house to streamline patent licensing negotiations as well as reducing transaction costs. The country can mimic the system of Brazil's (Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial) INPI clearing house that reduced licensing delays by 40% for public health entities.

5. Cross-Programme Enablers:

Building a National IPR Ecosystem. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) considerations should be central to the 24H+ economic transformation agenda. By building institutional capacity and infrastructure, this will enable the country to turn creativity and innovation into sustainable growth. A cohesive IP ecosystem will bind 24H+ together and multiply impact. Below is a concise roadmap of ten strategic actions to establish a vibrant national IPR ecosystem.

- **IPR Awareness Campaigns:** Roll out national outreach—radio in local languages, church seminars, university workshops—to achieve 80% awareness of IPR benefits within 10 years.
- **National IPR Strategy:** There must be a deliberate plan to oversee the full implementation of the country's IPR policy, enforcement, and capacity-building, as well as relevant infrastructure such that IPR Implementation Unit in Ghana may increase filings by 30%.
- **Community Land Trusts & Agricultural IPRs:** Register locally bred plant varieties (e.g., yam, cassava, rice etc) under UPOV-like standards, allowing Trusts to secure concessional financing—following Kenya's Seed-to-Market project that saw smallholder incomes rise by 25%.
- **Conclusion** For Ghana's 24H+ Programme to succeed, IPR must be more than a legal appendix—it must be a strategic driver. By localising proven IPR frameworks, Ghana can catalyse creative industries, industrialise manufacturing, finance innovation, and secure healthcare autonomy. Strategic implementation will position Ghana not just as a pioneer in West Africa, but as a beacon of African innovation and economic transformation.

Grace Issahaque (LLM)

Sam Anum (MBA)

Courage Komla Besah-Adanu (PHD)

Intellectual Property Practitioners

Ghana Industrial Property Office, Registrar General's Department

THE REFORM OF THE LAW OF TRUSTS IN GHANA

The object of the Law Reform Commission is to “promote law reform in the country”. In order to achieve this object, the Commission is required among other functions, to make practical proposals for the development, simplification and modernization of the law. The Commission is to advise the Attorney-General and Minister for justice on policies for reform.

As part of the Commission's mandate, the Law Reform Commission has embarked on research into the area of the law on Trust in order to make proposals for a reform in this area. The Commission usually requests for Position Papers from various faculties of law and engages them in inter-faculty dialogues on developing recommendations for the reform of a particular area of law. With regards to the law of Trusts, the Commission has received a Position Paper from the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) and has also engaged in a dialogue with them on the subject matter on the 21st November, 2025. The Commission is still liaising with other faculties of law for more Papers as part of its research work.

WHY DOES GHANA NEED REFORM ON THE LAW OF TRUSTS

Ghana depends largely on common law and other pieces of legislation when it comes to the law of Trust. These pieces of legislation that are referenced by the courts remain uncoded leaving key fiduciary principles fragmented. This leads to greater uncertainty and unpredictability especially for commercial and institutional bodies.

- Secondly, there is inadequate fiduciary duties and lack of tiered standards. The standard of care required by persons with fiduciary duties is the “ordinary prudent person” requirement inherited from the common law. This standard remains inadequate for managing modern trusts by trustees. A reform or codified law will impose a stricter standard requiring a higher duty of care and diligence.
- A reform of the law on Trusts could also empower citizens to hold government accountable for how it manages the country's gold, oil, and land since the Constitution vests all public lands and natural resources in the President in trust for the people of Ghana.
- Also, there must be adequate integration of customary and communal trusts. Ghana's legal system is pluralistic. Families, lineages, stools and communities still manage property through customary arrangements that look like trust. A reform of the law will provide an appropriate statutory regime for such customary



arrangements that lack mechanisms to accommodate community-based, informal but socially accepted fiduciary relationships.

- Another pressing reason for reform of the law on Trusts is to eliminate financial secrecy and align with global anti-corruption standards. Ghana's current definition of a "beneficial owner" does not explicitly include trusts. This makes trusts a potential vehicle for hiding identities and laundering money. A reform that mandates that trustees must disclose the real beneficiaries and ensuring that people cannot use trusts to anonymously control companies or move funds will ensure transparency and uncertainty.
- There is a need to build investor confidence in a new law on trusts that will create a healthy business environment. A statutory requirement for trustees to seek professional investment advice will ensure optimum asset management for beneficiaries. The new law should explicitly provide for the recognition of "general power of investment" and suitability/diversification duties similar to the UK Trustee Act, 2000.
- In conclusion, the reasons stated above are among many other reasons for which Ghana needs a reform of the law on Trusts.
- A reform of the law of trusts will ensure the modernization of Ghana's legal system by aiding to fill the gaps in the law in the fight against corruption, yield certainly especially for commercial and institutional bodies, and ensure accountability and transparency required to protect investors and maintain market integrity.
- A reform in this area of law will also strengthen fiduciary accountability from trustees and reduce fraudulent and dishonest behaviour from trustees. A reform will ensure a clear and consistent legal framework that will make the law on Trusts certain and predictable for all persons. It will ensure that a wide range of remedies are provided for beneficiaries and anyone whose rights are breached.
- Finally, a reform and codified law on Trusts in Ghana will ensure that Ghana's trust law reflects international best practices and also satisfies Ghana's local context.



KENTE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) & GHANA'S HERITAGE TEXTILES EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE SERIES, BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, ACCRA

For public education, producer readiness, stakeholder coordination, and premium market positioning

ARTICLE 1

Kente GI Explained: Why Ghana's Heritage Needs Legal Protection, Not Only Promotion

Over the decades, Ghana has promoted Kente and Smock through festivals, cultural diplomacy, tourism campaigns, fashion showcases, and national celebrations. The result is clear: the world admires these heritage textiles. Yet admiration alone does not automatically translate into durable income for weavers, strong national value capture, or reliable consumer assurance. In heritage markets, visibility can create a paradox when a product becomes famous without enforceable protection, copying increases and the original communities may benefit the least.

This is why Ghana's move to protect Kente through a Geographical Indication (GI) and to extend GI protection to other heritage textiles such as the Smock is not simply another promotional activity. It is an economic and governance strategy. A GI turns a reputation into a legally protected asset. It connects identity, place, skill, and standards into a system that rewards authenticity and protects consumers from misleading products.

From Promotion to Protection: Why the Difference Matters

Promotion is about awareness; protection is about enforceable rules. Ghana's earlier promotional efforts made Kente and Smock more visible, but when protections are weak, visibility can benefit counterfeiters and opportunistic traders more than the original producers. A GI is different because it creates a protected name and a defined standard. It allows Ghana and the legitimate producer communities to indicate as backed by law what qualifies as authentic Kente (or authentic Smock) and what does not.

In premium markets, buyers pay for trust. When the name is not protected, the market becomes crowded with look-alike products, inconsistent quality, and confusing labels. That drives prices down and erodes long-term demand. But when the name is protected and tied to standards, authenticity becomes a premium signal. The value shifts back toward the weavers and Ghana.

What a Geographical Indication Really Is (in Plain Language)

A Geographical Indication is a sign (or a logo or a symbol) used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, a reputation, or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that origin. In other words, it is not just “made in Ghana.” It is “made in a specific place, by people with recognised skills and traditions, using methods that produce a known reputation.”

A GI is therefore a bridge between culture and commerce. It protects heritage while enabling structured trade. It differs from a trademark (which is typically owned by one company) because a GI is usually a collective right connected to a place and a community of producers. It differs from copyright (which protects original creative expressions) because a GI protects the commercial use of a name connected to origin and standards.

What Kente GI Seeks to Achieve

- Benefit to weavers and Ghana: stronger value capture through premium pricing, market access, and organised supply chains.
- Consumer assurance: a clear way to identify authentic fabric and avoid misleading products.
- Quality stability: standards that protect reputation by reducing inconsistency in production and labeling.
- National branding: a credible story for cultural diplomacy that is supported by rules, not only marketing.

What Changes for the Public and Global Lovers of Kente

For consumers whether in Accra, in Africa, or in global diaspora markets, the GI should translate into clear cues: consistent labeling, an authenticity tag, defined product specifications, and a system that can be verified. For producers, it should translate into organised membership, training, inspections, and the right to use the GI only when standards are met. For government and institutions, it requires coordination: protecting the name, monitoring misuse, and supporting producers to comply.

The most important public shift is this: people should begin to ask, “Is this authentic and does my purchase benefit the real weaving communities and Ghana?” When consumers demand authenticity, the market responds.

Next in the Series

In Article 2, we move from the concept to the practice: the standards behind authentic Kente and Smock from loom to label and why standards are the currency of premium markets.

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Classic Lawyer Jokes:

1. What did the lawyer name his daughter? Sue!
2. Have you ever typed on a lawyer's computer? Everything comes out in fine print!
3. What do you call a priest who becomes a lawyer? A father-in-law!
4. A teacher asked her class:

"A man died, leaving behind 20 million dollars. One-tenth goes to his wife. One-quarter is split evenly between his two children. The rest goes to charity. What does each person get?"
One student raised his hand and answered: "A lawyer!"

5. Lawyers will wish you a happy holiday, but remind you they cannot guarantee it.
6. What does a lawyer wear to work? A law-suit!

Real-Life Exchanges in Courtrooms:

1. Lawyer: What happened then?

Witness: He told me, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

Lawyer: Did he kill you?

Witness: No.

2. Lawyer: What is your date of birth?

Witness: July 18.

Lawyer: What year?

Witness: Every year.

3. Lawyer: Do you drink when you're on duty?

Witness: I don't drink when I'm on duty, unless I come on duty drunk.

4. Lawyer: I'll show you Exhibit 3. Do you recognize that picture?

Witness: That's me.

Lawyer: Were you present when that picture was taken?

5. Lawyer: Have you lived in this town all your life?

Witness: Not yet.

6. Lawyer: You went on a rather elaborate honeymoon, didn't you?

Witness: I went to Europe, sir.

Lawyer: And you took your new wife?

7. Lawyer: You say the stairs went down to the basement?

Witness: Yes. Lawyer: And these stairs, did they also go up?

PICTURE GALLERY

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