



THE 2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN KENYA

26TH - 28TH JUNE 2023
TANGAZA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



Social Transformation
through **Access to Justice**

THEME:
**AJS AS CULTURE AND INNOVATION IN ACCELERATING
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

CONCEPT NOTE

Overview:

The National Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Alternative Justice Systems Policy (NaSCI-AJS) will convene the 2nd Annual National Conference on Alternative Justice Systems in Kenya. The conference will bring together justice actors, practitioners, judicial officers, academics, policy makers, civil society actors, development partners, and all stakeholders in the Access to Justice Ecosystem. The conference will be fulfilling one of the major objectives of the committee to rally all sectors of Kenyan social, religious, judiciary and cultural life to continuously and emphatically support the AJS mechanism and expand the pool of individuals and groups accessing justice in Kenya.

Background:

There is compelling evidence to prove that the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010 and related justice activism has significantly boosted access to justice in Kenya. The quest for justice has been characterized by increasing demand for local knowledge, de-emphasizing of legal technicalities, and the call for collaborative partnership between justice seekers and providers. The concept of justice in the Constitution has placed positive pressure on formal or state-based justice institutions both in regard to the substantive nature of justice they provide, as well as in regard to the recognition of other sites of justice provision and their relation thereto. In this regard, the CoK is very much in sync with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.3 target to ensure equal access to justice for all as well as Goal 11 of the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

It is with this background, framed by the constitutional imperative on justice, that the Judiciary, established the National Steering Committee on Implementation of Alternative Justice Systems (NaSCI- AJS), a multi-stakeholders' team, gazetted by the Honorable Chief Justice Martha Koome, with the mandate to ensure the mainstreaming and acceleration in the implementation of the Judiciary AJS Policy and providing support for AJS practitioners and mechanisms in Kenya. A foundational principle in the AJS Policy is that the conversation on access to justice in postcolonial Kenya is broad and multifaceted. It is not merely to advance provision for the alternative models for dispute resolution and accessing justice listed under Article 159(2) (c) of the Constitution, rather, it is a re-engagement with the ruminants of colonial and Eurocentric legal reasoning that the Constitution of Kenya has now reversed. The AJS policy as is the Conferences are a re-emphasis on the importance of the critical historical and contextual study of African legalities. The stand out as neither about a re-statement of reified African culture nor some sort of re-assertion of the elements, perceived or actual of customary or African law(s).

The AJS Policy asserts that in its inclusive idea of access to justice, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 envisages a sociological, situated and contextual imagination of law, legality and justice. This is a diverse landscape of everyday realities that is situated in social justice with support from a range of discourses including political theory, anthropological theory and literary criticism amongst others. This novel constitutional idea of law and justice set in a complex, plural society requires a new pedagogy of legal study and justice seeking/providing practices. Using findings from the AJS Baseline and Framework Policies as well as the justice practices of the range of actors, state and non-state, institutional and non-institutional, individual and communal, the AJS Conference is both an expansion of these explorations as well as a consensus building conversation on what it means to realize the constitutional concept of justice and operationalize the multi-door methods of accessing justice in Kenya. In this regard, AJS policy and the conference promote people-centered justice, recognizing that people approach justice actors to prevent and resolve their problems and the justice system must recognize this plurality and strengthen different actors while empowering people to access the rights and resolve their problems in ways that best suit them.

The 2nd Alternative Justice Systems National Conference has coined its theme 'AJS as Culture and Innovation in Accelerating Social Transformation through Access to Justice'. The theme appreciates the embodiment of AJS in moral economy of justice. As culture is a center and signifier of the moral economy, it appreciates that culture is a multi-functional concept with the capacity to explain identity as well as practice. This meaning departs from those

who see culture as small-scale, bounded entity, static and with self-produced meaning. Therefore, in expounding the theme, the conference is a contribution to the debate, practice and discourse of politicization of culture in the quest for justice. In so doing, this National Conference pursues to highlight initiatives aimed at building localized and people centered justice mechanisms in across all of Kenya's counties in line with fundamental rights as enshrined under the Kenyan Constitution.

Key questions that the Conference seeks to address include:

- To what extent is the nexus between justice and cultural practices impacting access to justice for the majority of the justice seekers in Kenya?
- Which sustainable Alternative Justice Mechanism's initiatives/ indigenous knowledge/strategies exist in building justice communities?
- What are the lessons and impact the AJS Policy since its inception?

The conference covers issues around (a) Existing Alternative Justice Systems models and the implications for Social Transformation; (b) Culture and Justice nexus' impact on access to justice for vulnerable populations in Kenya – rural/urban; Men/Women; Adult/Children; Elderly/Youth; and (c) Building Plural Justice Society in Kenya – method and strategies.

AXIS AND SUB-THEMES:

1. Culture as Revelation

- Exploring culture in the Context of Article 1 of Constitution of Kenya
- Culture and being and becoming Kenya
- Positionality perspectives on gender, youth and class

2. Culture as Innovation

- Exploring culture as cumulative civilization towards justice
- Indigenous/local knowledge in building a just society
- Multicultural and Plural conversations for Justice

3. Justice and Innovation

- Genealogies and Multiple Meanings of Justice
- Indigenous Knowledge perspectives on Justice
- Emerging Justice Activism in the efforts for culture, Justice and Law nexus

Format and potential speakers

The conference format will be an in-person panel discussion. The moderator(s) will introduce speakers and pose key framing questions intended to draw out the main messages expected from each contributor. There will be opportunities for facilitated exchange between the moderator(s) and speakers, and between the speakers and audience.

A planning committee will reach out to potential speakers based on the key profiles. The speakers will be selected based on the quality of their paper and how the same aligns to the conference theme. The committee will rely on the conference planning committee members, to connect with, confirm, and pre-brief speakers. Speakers will be briefed in advance on key insights and recommendations in the difference sub themes and asked to transmit specific key messages aligned with them. Every effort will be made to ensure that speakers constitute a high-level ensemble reflecting gender balance.

PROGRAMME

Day One: Sunday, 25th June, 2023

Arrival and Registration of Delegates

Day Two: Monday, 26th June, 2023

Theme 1: Culture as Revelation

Conference Facilitators:

Valery Okumu, Tangaza University College

Session 1: Welcoming Session. Session Chair: Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth, Vice Chairperson National Steering Committee on Implementation of the Alternative Justice Systems Policy (NaSCI-AJS)

0730-0900	Registration of Delegates and Entertainment
0900-0915	Benediction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Br. Jonas Yawovi Dzinekou, Director, Institute for Social Transformation, Tangaza University College,
0915-0930	Welcome Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth, Vice Chairperson NaSCI-AJS: National cultures and National Culture: A Trajectory for AJS (Culture as Cumulative Civilization & Culture as the future).
0930-0955	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi J.A, Justice of Appeal, Kisumu Law Courts & Chairperson NaSCI-AJS Key Note Address One <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Joseph Ole Lenku, Governor, County Government of Kajiado- AJS in Access to Natural Resources

Session 2: Assemblies: Practices and Alternative Justice Systems Innovations.

0955 -1030	Session Chairs <p><u>Key Note: Doctrines of AJS Interactions, Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Gathoni Njenga – Senior Project Associate, UNDP Justice (Dr.) Joseph Serگون – Judge. Kericho High Court of Kenya Mr. Sam Olando – Executive Director, Pamoja Trust Ms. Flora Bidali – Ag. Executive Director, National Legal Aid Services (NLAS) Keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comm. Gertrude Nguku- Vice Chairperson NLC Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi – Chairperson NaSCI-AJS Mr. Peter Lengurnet – Tangaza University College Ms. Mildred Arum – Programs Manager LRF Ms. Irene Cheptum- ACC Nakuru County
1030 – 1100	Health Break
1100 – 1155	County Governments: Key note II: The Mandate of County Governments and AJS (Kajiado), Ms. Saida Isak Judicial Stakeholders: Key Note II: Postulating a Less Derogatory Meaning of the Word ‘Guided’ in Section 3(2) of the Judicature Act, Dr. Moza Ally Jadeed Civil Society Organizations: Key Note II: Exploration of the Nakuru AJS Model, George Muguongo and Racheal Kagwa. Autonomous AJS Mechanisms Key Note II: Empowering Widows through Indigenous Justice Practices: Lessons from KEDRO Project in Homa Bay County, Mr. Vincent Obura State- Based non- Judicial Mechanisms: Key Note II: The Role of the Ministry of Interior in Promotion of AJS, Irene Cheptum .

1100 – 1155	Session Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comm. Gertrude Nguku, National Land Commission. • Hon. Justice (Dr.) Serگون – Judge, Kericho High Court • Mr. Sam Olando, Executive Director, Pamoja Trust. Keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Saida Isak – National Land Commission Coordinator Kajiado County • Dr. Moza Ally Jadeed – Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Nairobi (Kenya) • Mr. George Muguongo and Ms. Racheal Kagwa – Court Assistants Nakuru Law Courts • Mr. Vincent Antony Nyaranga Obura – Secretary General of Kabondo Elders Development Group • Ms. Irene Cheptum – ACC Nakuru County
1200 – 1220	Keynote Address Two Dr. Steve Ouma, Deputy Director Kenya Judiciary Academy <u>Topic: AJS as Cultural Revelation</u>
1220 – 1330	Plenary – Dr. Masha Baraza, Member NaSCI-AJS
1330 – 1430	Lunch
Session 2: Assemblies: Practices and Alternative Justice Systems Innovations.	
1430 – 1630	Youth: Session Chair: Ms. Jessica Oluoch, KELIN Key Note: <u>Who is a Youth for Justice? Mr. Sammy Githii</u> Women: Session Chair; Ms. Brenda Kiema, Disability, Inclusion Liaison officer, TUC Key Note: <u>AJS and Culture in Gender Justice: Ms. Ann Ireri, Executive Director FIDA</u>
1430 – 1630	Session Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jessica Oluoch – Program Manager, KELIN • Ms. Brenda Kiema – Disability Inclusion Liaison officer, TUC Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sammy Githii – Executive Director YADEN • Ms. Ann Ireri – Executive Director FIDA Kenya
End of Day 2	

Day Three: Tuesday, 27 th June, 2023	
Theme: AJS as Cultural Innovation	
Session 3: Opening Ceremony: Moderator: Ms. Emily Chweya, Vice chair NaSCI-AJS & Ms. Rose Wachuka MBS, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Justice	
0730-0830	Registration of Delegates and Entertainment
0830-1200	Opening Ceremony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benedictions by Chairperson Kenya National Council of Elders, Major John Seii Remarks by Vice Chancellor Designate Tangaza University, Rev. Prof Leo Remarks by the Executive Director Federation of Women Lawyers, Ms. Ann W. Ireri Remarks by the IDLO, Country Manager, Ms. Teresa Mugadza Remarks by the UNODC Representative, Ms. Charity Kagwi Remarks by the National Legal Aid Service Board Chairperson, Mr. William M. Kimanthi Remarks by Principal Judge, Hon. Justice Oscar Angote, MBS, Environment and Land Court Remarks by FAO Ambassador, Amb. Carla Mucavi Remarks by EU Ambassador, Amb. Henriette Geiger Remarks by the Chairperson NaSCI – AJS, Hon. Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi J.A Remarks by the Executive Director Kenya Judiciary Academy, Hon. Justice (Dr.) Smokin Wanjala
	OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Opening Remarks and Key Note Address by the Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Martha Koome, EGH, Chief Justice RoK
1200 -1220	Keynote Address Three Dr. Kenneth Wyne Mutuma, Senior Lecturer University of Nairobi <u>Topic: Exploring the Intersection of Culture and Justice: Addressing Inequalities in Accessing Justice for Vulnerable Populations in Kenya Through Alternative Justice Systems</u>
1220-1245	Health Break
1245 – 1330	Panel Discussion: Mr. Duncan Okello Discussants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging Utu Culture to Build a Peaceful and Cohesive Society Dr. Br. Jonas Yawovi Dzinekou Mainstreaming African Notions of Justice in the Kenyan Judicial Process. Dr. John Joseph Wamwara International Practice of AJS- Case study of Zambia Charles Dinda, Senior Legal Adviser, Danish Institute of Human Rights, Zambia Discussants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bro. Jonas Dzinekou, Director Institute of Social Transformation, Tangaza University. Charles Dinda, Senior Legal Adviser, Danish Institute of Human Rights, Zambia Dr. John Joseph Wamwara – Dean, Faculty of Law, Moi University.
1330 – 1430	Lunch
1430 – 1700	Cultural Extravaganza Performances and Food Bazaar
End of Day Three	

Day Four: Wednesday, 28 th June, 2023		
Theme: AJS as Justice Innovation		
Session 4: Moderator: Morris Kimuli, Member- NaSCI AJS		
0730-0900	Arrival	
0900-0910	Recap by Morris Kimuli, Member- NaSCI AJS	
0910-0930	Keynote Address Four: Mr. Nicholas Cheruiyot <i>Topic: The State of Alternative Justice System and its Implication on Social Transformation in Kenya</i>	
Session 5: Moderator: Justice Florence Macharia, Judge of the High Court and Member NaSCI-AJS		
0930-1030	Panel 1: Synthesis and Assembly Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none">County Governments – Ms. Gathoni NjengaJudicial Actor- Justice (Dr.) SerгонCivil Society Organizations- Mr. Sam OlandoAutonomous AJS mechanisms -Isaiah BiwottState Based non-Judicial AJS mechanisms- Ms. Irene CheptumYouth- Ms. Jessica OluochWomen- Ms. Brenda Kiema	Panel Discussions Day 1 Synthesis and Assembly Reporting
1030-1100	Health Break	
Session 6: Moderator: Justice Florence Macharia, Judge of the High Court and Member NaSCI-AJS		
1100-1200	Panel 2: Synthesis and Assembly Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none">County Governments – Ms. Gathoni NjengaJudicial Actor- Justice (Dr.) SerгонCivil Society Organizations- Mr. Sam OlandoAutonomous AJS mechanisms -Isaiah BiwottState Based non-Judicial AJS mechanisms- Ms. Irene CheptumYouth- Ms. Jessica OluochWomen- Ms. Brenda Kiema	Panel Discussions Day 1 Synthesis and Assembly Reporting
Session 7: Session Chair: Dr. Annette Mbogoh- Executive Director, Kituo Cha Sheria		
1200 – 1300	<u>Parallel Session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Autonomous AJS Mechanisms- Mr. Tim MwachigiThird Party AJS Mechanisms- Ms. Julie MathekaCourt Annexed AJS Mechanisms- Hon. Joan Irura	Parallel Session Patterns of Thinking Moderator: Jemimah Aluda NaSCI AJS
1300 – 1400	Lunch	
1400 – 1500	Presentations and Interactive Plenary: Session Chair- Dr. Annette Mbogoh	
Session 8: Moderator: Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth Vice Chairperson NaSCI-AJS		
1500 – 1600	OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remarks by Executive Director ICJ Kenya, Ms. Elsie Sainna.Remarks by the Dean, School of Art and Social Sciences Dr. Beatrice ChuruRemarks by the Presiding Judge Milimani Law Courts Hon. Justice Eric OgollaRemarks by the NaSCI-AJS Chairperson, Hon. Justice (Prof.) Joel. Ngugi JARemarks by the Deputy Chief Justice, Lady Justice Philomena Mwili EGH	
CLOSURE AND DEPARTURE		



HON. JUSTICE MARTHA K. KOOME, EGH
Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya

Chief Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH, assumed office on 21st May 2021 as the 15th Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya and 3rd President of the Supreme Court of Kenya. She is the first woman to hold the office of Chief Justice since the Kenyan Judiciary was established more than a century ago.

Prior to her appointment, the Chief Justice served as a senior Judge of Appeal. During her tenure as an Appellate Judge, she oversaw the Criminal Division. She also chaired the Committee which developed the Court of Appeal Practice Directions in Civil and Criminal Appeals introducing novel case management strategies that have championed excellence at the Court. She also chaired the Committee that developed the Court of Appeal Registry Manual that standardized registry operations enhancing customer experience and streamlining records management at the Court.

During her term at the Court of Appeal, she was elected President of the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) in 2019 and served as an official of East Africa Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA).

Chief Justice Koome joined the Judiciary in 2003 as a High Court Judge where she served until 2011. In that period, she was engaged in leadership and administrative roles within the High Court as the Resident Judge of the High Court in Nakuru and Kitale as well as the Head of the Land and Environment Division of the High Court at Nairobi, as it was then referred.

Upon her admission to the roll of advocates in 1987, the Chief Justice served as a legal practitioner for fifteen years curving out a niche in conveyancing, commercial law, civil litigation, criminal litigation, and family law.

She has also been actively engaged in multiple community service projects and promoted children and family matters through volunteer and pro bono services. Chief Justice Koome's milestones include being a Council Member of the Law Society of Kenya between 1994 and 1996. She was involved in the formation of the East African Law Society in 1995 and served as the inaugural Treasurer. While at the East African Law Society, Justice Koome participated in negotiations towards the enactment of the East African Community Treaty and institutions of the Community, including, the East African Court of Justice.

In 1997 she was elected Chairperson of the Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya Chapter (FIDA Kenya) and served in that position for two consecutive terms. In 2005 she was appointed member of the African Union Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In the same year she led the Kenyan delegation to Beijing during the major review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Chief Justice Koome is celebrated as a revolutionary jurist who participated in the law review process which gave rise to the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. In 2020, the United Nations recognised Justice Koome as an eminent Human and Children's rights defender following years of dedicated work in pursuit of the rights of women and children. Notably, she chaired the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) Committee that reviewed the Children's Act and established Court User Committees focused on child justice. In appreciation of her decades' long pioneering work on advocacy and advancement of the rights of children and the marginalised, Justice Koome was voted runner-up for the United Nations Person of The Year (2020).

Chief Justice Koome holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Nairobi, a Post-graduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of London.



H.E JOSEPH JAMA OLE LENKU
Governor of Kajiado County

H.E Joseph Jama Ole Lenku is Governor of Kajiado County, serving his second term. (2017-todate) Now 52 years old, and a father of four, Governor Lenku served as Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government (2013-2015) before being elected Governor.

Born in remote Lenkisim, Oloitokitok, he celebrates his Birthday on Mashujaa Day. He went to school by the grace of God. Due to a myriad of problems he changed Primary Schools three times after being enrolled at Lenkisim Primary Schools. Other primary schools he attended were; Ilbissil, Nkama and Loitokitok DEB.

He passed well and was admitted to Nakuru High School for his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE).

After High School, he was admitted to Kenyatta University but opted to study Hotel Management at Kenya Utalii College. He then proceeded to the University of Nairobi where he studied for a Bachelor of Commerce degree and majored in Marketing. He also did his Master of Business Administration at the University of Nairobi.

Before his tenure at the Interior Ministry, he had a rich experience in the Hospitality Industry. After Utalii College, he worked at the prestigious Serena Hotels both in Kenya and Tanzania between (1996-2003) and at the David Livingstone Safari Resort (2004-2005)

He joined Kenya Utalii College in 2005 as General Manager until his appointment as Interior Cabinet Secretary.

As Governor, H.E Ole Lenku has demonstrated a serious commitment to Land Reforms in the County. As a Spokesman of the Maa Nation, he has been keen to protect indigenous people's land rights as well as promote investments in the Land Sector from investors.

Kajiado offers land for expansion from the Capital City coming with it both blessings and challenges on land use and management.



HON. JUSTICE SMOKIN C. WANJALA; PhD, SCJ, CBS:
Judge Of The Supreme Court Of Kenya And
Director, Kenya Judiciary Academy

JUSTICE WANJALA is a Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya having been appointed in 2011. Between 2011 and 2016, he was a member of the Judicial Service Commission (representing the Supreme Court) and Chairman of the Commission's Human Resources and Administration Committee. The Hon. Judge is the Judiciary Representative to the Council of Legal Education (CLE) having been appointed as such in 2020. He is the current Director, Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA). Justice Wanjala has also served as a member of other critical Committees of the Judiciary, including but not limited to, the Judiciary Standing Committee on Elections (JCE) and the Judiciary Committee on Performance Management and Measurement Understanding (PMMU).

Justice Wanjala is a holder of a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons.) from the University of Nairobi, a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law, a Master of Laws (LL.M) from Columbia University, New York, and a Doctorate in Law (PhD) from the University of Ghent, Belgium.

Before his appointment to the Supreme Court of Kenya, Justice Wanjala served as a Law Lecturer and later, Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi for nineteen (19) years (1986-2004). While still lecturing at the University of Nairobi, he served as the **Joint Secretary to the Commission on Illegally and Irregularly Acquired Public Land** (the Ndung'u Commission) in 2003. He is credited with having overseen the compilation and writing of what has become popularly known as the **Ndung'u Report**. Justice Wanjala was the first **Chairman of the Public Complaints Committee on the Environment (PCC)** which is one of the Compliance Committees of the National Environment and Management Authority-NEMA (2002-2004).

He was appointed **Assistant Director of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC)** in October 2004, where he served in that capacity until 2009.

He has many publications to his credit including books and articles in the fields of Law, Human Rights and Governance. He has published locally and internationally. Apart from his accomplishments in academia as a Law Teacher and Author, Justice Wanjala has participated in major research projects leading to the compilation and production of Seminal Reports.

Justice Wanjala is one of the four founder members of the **Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION)** where they pioneered Civic Education in the Country. He is a member of the **International Commission of Jurists, ICJ-Kenya Chapter** and the **Kenya National Academy of Sciences**. He has recently delivered lectures at the **International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)** during the Institution's Summer Lecture Series. He is a member of the Advisory Board of **Columbia Global Centres - Nairobi, Kenya**; which is one of the nine World-Wide Regional hubs established by Columbia University to enhance research and collaboration for the benefit of humanity.

In 2008, Justice Wanjala became a subject of Biographical Record in **Marquis "Who is Who" in the World, 25th Edition**. Inclusion in this Biography is limited to individuals who have contributed significantly to the betterment of society.

In 2012, Justice Wanjala received the Presidential Award of the **Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear (CBS) [First Class]**, the 4th Highest Civilian Award in Kenya, in recognition of his distinguished service rendered to the Nation.



JUSTICE PROF JOEL NGUGI, JA
Judge, Court of Appeal

JUSTICE (PROF.) JOEL NGUGI is a Judge of Appeal in Kenya. He also presently serves as the Chair of the *National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Alternative Justice Systems Policy*. Justice (Prof.) Ngugi is a former High Court Judge and Head of Judiciary Transformation Secretariat and former Director of the Kenya Judiciary Academy in 2012 – 2016 – a time of rapid growth at the KJA.

Justice (Prof.) Ngugi has served in many major Committees and Taskforces in the Judiciary of Kenya. They include Committees or Taskforces that have generated major judicial policies or guidelines – including the Court-Annexed Mediation Pilot; Sentencing Guidelines; Bail & Bond Policy Guidelines; Active Case Management Guidelines; and the AJS Policy.

As a judge, he has won a number of prestigious awards including the Jurist of the Year Award (JOYA) in 2022 and Legal Tech Judge of the Year in 2022 and 2023.

Prior to joining the Judiciary, Justice (Prof.) Ngugi was an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Washington (Seattle, Washington) where he won several teaching awards including two awards as the Professor of the Year in 2005 and 2011. At the University of Washington, he was also the Chair of the University-wide African Studies Program.

Justice (Prof.) Ngugi is widely published and has made more than one hundred scholarly and professional presentations at various conferences, colloquia and professional workshops and academic gatherings including at Harvard University; Michigan State University; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Cornell Law School; the University of Arizona School of Law; Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Canada and University of Washington School of Public Health; and Makerere University.

Justice (Prof.) Ngugi is licensed in and has practiced law in Kenya and Massachusetts, US. **He obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from the University of Nairobi in 1996; Post-graduate Diploma in Legal Education from Kenya School of Law; and his Masters in Law and Doctoral degrees in Law from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1998 and 2002 respectively.** His doctoral dissertation won the Laylin Prize in International Law at Harvard Law School in 2002.



DR. STEVE OUMA

DR. STEVE OUMA is a teacher, author, lawyer, one-time poet and cosmopolitan. His area of research interest is the dynamics that define the exercise of delegated sovereignty under Article 1(3) of the Constitution, the democratic credentials of judicial power and the role of the Judiciary in reinforcing Rule of Law. He has authored several texts, including, "A Commentary on the Civil Procedure Act" and numerous academic articles. He has taught Civil Procedure, Evidence, Constitutional Law, Jurisprudence and International Law. He is an alumnus of many schools but most worthy of mention here is St. Peter's Boys Boarding Primary School, Mumias (Bootcamp Saints). His academic background includes LLB Hons (Nairobi). He is presently the Head of Policy and Research at the Kenya Judiciary Academy.



DR. STEVE OUMA AKOTH

Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth is a Kenyan scholar, advisor and activist in the field of human rights and social anthropology with over 20 years working in diverse international, regional and national fora. He is a former ACLS scholar. He grew up in Korogocho slums of Eastern Nairobi and was educated at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya and The University of the Western Cape South Africa where he obtained his PH.D. The PHD is part of his longer intellectual project on the social life of human rights where amongst other subjects he has undertaken studies on justice systems amongst the Luo.

He was the Executive Director of Pamoja Trust (www.pamojatrust.org) between 2010 and 2019 and currently serves as faculty member at the Institute of Social Transformation at the Tangaza University College and Adjunct lecturer at the Department of Applied economic at the Kenyatta University. He serves as the chair of the advisory Board to the Next Generation Doctoral Program of the Social Sciences Research Council, Boards of Malaika Foundation and the Pamoja Trust. His areas of ongoing research touch on culture and the constitution, Multiple Justice Systems, and minoritarian urban modernity. Dr. Akoth is currently the Vice Chair of the Judiciary's National Steering Committee On the Implementation of the Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Policy.



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