



**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**  
School of Law

# Newsletter

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Welcome to this issue of the Makerere University School of Law quarterly newsletter. In this issue we share highlights of events and activities in the School from January to April 2022.

We appreciate our staff and students for the commendable

work and contributions that enable us to produce this newsletter. We also would like to send our sincere appreciation to all our partners and we hope to continue working with you in the future. Enjoy reading our newsletter.

*Editorial Team*

## The School of Law: Milestones, 1968 – 2022

Makerere University is celebrating 100 years since it opened its doors as a humble technical school in 1922. The University has grown to become one of the oldest and prestigious universities in Africa. The theme of the centennial celebrations is *'Leveraging 100 Years of Excellence in Building a Transformed Society'*.

As a constituent of Makerere University, the School of Law looks

back on its history as well during this centennial year. The School of Law (SoL), Makerere University is the oldest institution offering degree awarding legal education in Uganda. SoL has evolved from Department of Law in the Faculty of Social Sciences, becoming the Faculty of Law in 1970 and School of Law in 2011. The growth of the School of Law is characterized by several milestones.

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MAKERERE UNIVERSITY





School of Law Staff & Retired Chief Justice Bart Katureebe cutting cake to mark 50 years of the School in 2018

- 1968** Establishment of the Department of Law at Makerere University, which was an opportunity for grooming indigenous lawyers.
- 1970** The Department of Law upgraded to a fully-fledged Faculty. This marked the consolidation of the institution.
- 1971** Formation of Makerere Law Society, a student's representative body.
- 1972** Publication of the *Makerere Law Journal*, a students' journal, which is an outlet for student publications.
- 1974** The first time for the Faculty to register a First Class LL. B Degree, and this was a positive reflection on teaching quality.
- 1975** The Faculty of Law moved to its own premises, which enhanced its profile and presence.
- 1976** There was an administrative edict requiring full time teaching which resulted into serious brain-drain of the Faculty.
- 1978** LL.M program introduced. This created more postgraduate study opportunities for the Faculty.
- 1981** Legal Practice was permitted for Law Lecturers. This resulted into more flexibility and led to reduced brain drain

- 1990** Introduction of cost sharing. The book bank was establishment leading to increased access to reading materials.
- 1992** The evening programmes were introduced leading to an increase in student numbers and more financial resources.
- 1993** Formation of linkages with the University of Florida. This was an opportunity for student / staff exchange.
- 1994** The Human Rights and Peace Centre was established, which saw the introduction of human rights outreach programs in addition to teaching programmes.

The East-African Journal of Peace and Human Rights (EAJPHR) was launched.



LL.B Graduands at a graduation ceremony

For the first time, the Faculty won the All Africa Human Rights Moot Court Competition. This led to an improvement on the public

image of the Faculty, both internationally and at home.

The Odoki Report on Legal Education was published. It resulted into new/liberalized admission requirements and a broader curriculum.

The four-year Bachelor of Laws program was introduced.

- 1997** The semester system was introduced. There was an expansion of course offerings for students.

Curriculum review and development led to more flexibility. Greater demands on the Faculty.

New Lecture auditorium opened.

The Faculty of Law won the All-Africa Human Rights Moot Competition for the second time.

- 1999** The first Faculty Strategic plan was published. This was an opportunity for better planning and strategic thinking.

The LL. D Program was introduced. It offered faculty members an opportunity to study from home.

The Faculty got into collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

- 2001** The Refugee Law Project (RLP) was established as an outreach programme of the Faculty.

Post-Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration was introduced.

The Faculty got into collaboration with the University of Warwick.

The Faculty won the All-Africa Human Rights Moot Court Competition for the third time.

**2002** The Sexual Harassment Policy was adopted. The Faculty once again became a trailblazer for Makerere University and other Institutions in Uganda, e.g. The Law Development Centre.

**2004** The first female Dean, Dr. Sylvia Tamale was elected. She became a role model for young female students and a sign of increased gender sensitivity at the Faculty.

**2006** The First LL. D degree was awarded to Professor Ben K. Twinomugisha.

**2006** The Gender, Law & Sexuality Research Project was launched.

**2011** The Faculty of Law transformed into the School of Law.

Centre for Environmental Law is established.

**2012** The Public Interest Law Clinic was launched, becoming the first of its kind at a University in Uganda.

**2013** School of Law wins the third regional Child Rights moots competition.

**2016** Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPI) is established.

PILAC is accredited by Uganda Law Council as a legal aid service provider

**2018** School of Law celebrates 50 years

**2021** Construction of the New School of Law Building commences.

Makerere Law Society celebrates 50 years

**2022** First Lady and Minister of Education, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni lays foundation stone of New School of Law Building.

First Female (Caroline Adoch) awarded LL. D of Makerere University.



Dr. Caroline Adoch

## All England Law Reports (1936 – 2020) Donation to School of Law by S&L Advocates

S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates) donated a full set of All England Law Reports (1936-2020) to the School of Law (SoL), Makerere University. The reports were handed over at a colourful ceremony held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to celebrate 40years since S&L Advocates was established. Mr. Barnabas Tumusingize (Managing Partner, S&L Advocates) handed over the donation to Prof. Christopher Mbazira (Principal, School of Law) who was accompanied by a delegation of students led by Mr. Percy Mpindi (President, Makerere Law Society).

In his remarks, Mr. Barnabas Tumusingize (Managing Partner, S&L Advocates), welcomed the SoL delegation to the S&L Chambers and thanked them for accepting the invitation. He thanked the SoL for the nurturing during their time as students and appreciated that many of the advocates at the chambers were alumni of Makerere University SoL, 'It is my belief that the School has changed, but we have fond memories of our stay at Makerere. I completed my studies in 1988 and those were hard times but we received knowledge', Mr. Tumusingize said. He further thanked SoL for continuing to pass out students that they employ and or host for clerkship during their training.

Speaking to the students, Mr. Tumusingize encouraged them to work hard, be patient and avoid instant gratification. He advised that excellence is about hard work, patience and serious effort. 'Don't look at senior counsels and think that their achievements are going to come to you soon; invest time, be trustworthy and integrity must be maintained towards clients and colleagues' Mr. Tumusingize further advised. He recognized the forward thinking by the founders of S&L Advocates, Mr. Paulo Sebalu and Mr. Godfrey Serunkuuma Lule who established the chambers in 1980



Principal SoL receiving the All England Law Reports donation from S&L Advocates



Mr. Tumusingize, Managing Partner, S&L Advocates

and set a strong foundation which has enabled the firm to grow from strength to strength 42 years since its establishment.

Receiving the donation, Prof. Christopher Mbazira thanked S&L for the donation which will greatly support teaching and learning. He expressed his pleasure and that of SoL to join S&L Advocates at this celebration. He commended Mr. Tumusingize and S&L for the support to SoL and proposals on how to improve given to the School. 'As an institution Makerere University has been eager to seek out alumni, know what they are doing and see how to collaborate going forward', he said. He explained that it is symbolic that

Makerere University is celebrating 100 years this year, SoL celebrated 50 years in 2019 and S&L Advocates is celebrating 40 years. Prof. Mbazira congratulated S&L Advocates noting that it is no mean achievement for a firm in the global south especially Africa, where most institutions are wound up with the retirement or demise of their founders.

He noted that 'In many instances, big multinational law firms engage in franchise like practice conscripting national law firms with talent to become their concierge, yet S&L has proven that it is possible for talented lawyers in global south to build a practice that competes with that of international firms establishing networks and partnerships as equals'. Prof. Mbazira further said 'S&L has made a name for their ethical legal practice and professionalism exhibited in their work and service, proving that it is possible to be successful while practicing ethically'. I do envy the young lawyers who intern or undertake their clerkship and associates who start their practice at S&L which gives them a good foundation he noted.

Sharing his experience when he meets senior lawyers, Prof. Mbazira said 'some thank us for the work of holding the school together, commending the innovations and offering suggestions on what can be improved however others question

the quality of legal education offered referencing some of the students/lawyers they interact with'. The Principal suggested that the quality of any industry is a reflection of how much the industry has invested in training young people aspiring to join the industry. He emphasized that it is pertinent that practicing lawyers and law schools work together to improve the legal industry. It is our hope that the move by S&L to support Makerere University. SoL is only the beginning for further collaboration between academia and legal practice. The SoL will reach out more to alumni and advocates for collaboration.

In his closing remarks, Mr. James Mukasa Sebugenyi (Senior Partner, S&L Advocates) said 'if you are not a good example, you are a horrible warning and work for a cause not applause'. Mr. Mukasa explained that he hopes that in giving this donation S&L serves as a good example encouraging the students to always give back and always challenge themselves to serve as good examples.

The celebration was concluded by a cocktail and dinner.

## Professor Sylvia Tamale Retires

Prof. Sylvia Tamale retired from Makerere University Service in April 2022 after a long service of 37 years having joined the then Faculty of Law as a Teaching Assistant in September 1985. Professor Sylvia Tamale holds a PhD from the University of Minnesota, U.S.A; Master of Laws from the Harvard Law School, U.S.A and Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University. She was the first female Dean of the Faculty of Law (2004 - 2008) at Makerere University; and the first female Professor to give a Professorial Inaugural Lecture (2016) at Makerere University. Professor Tamale is an internationally recognized



Prof. Christopher Mbazira thanking S&L Advocates for the donation

leading scholar and has received several awards including African Studies Association of International Visitors and the Fulbright McArthur Scholarship. She is a unique voice around African culture, sexuality, the law and human rights. We talked to her and share the interview below:

### **Q: Who is Prof. Sylvia Tamale?**

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**A:** *Sylvia is a regular girl who works hard and plays hard. She is passionate about gender justice and fostering an inclusive society. She attended Budo Junior School for primary and Gayaza High School for secondary school.*

### **Q: When did you decide to study law and what was your inspiration?**

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**A:** *I actually wanted to study journalism but in 1982 there was no such course in the prospectus of the only university in the country – Makerere. So, for me, law was the next best programme; and I enjoyed it.*

### **Q: Share your experience teaching at SoL.**

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**A:** *I joined in September 1985 as a Teaching Assistant. This was a few months after completing the LL. B degree, which means that I was teaching students who were one year behind me. So, I was thrown in at the deep end of my academic career. Those were very difficult times with massive migration of professionals from the country. The “brain drain” was a real threat to higher education. Starting my career in such difficult circumstances really helped me hone my skills quickly; I couldn’t afford to scramble and tumble.*

### **Q: Achievements while at the SoL and Makerere University**

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**A:** *Oh, Makerere has enriched me beyond measure. It afforded me opportunities for postgraduate studies, research, publication, networking,*



Prof. Sylvia Tamale

*travel and many other things. But most of all, it offered me the platform to shift the consciousness of young minds to become critical thinkers who question assumptions and push boundaries. It is really sad that, sixty years after flag independence, Uganda’s education system largely continues to act as a vehicle for colonial indoctrination and to promote rote learning.*

### **Q: Looking back on your experience working at Makerere:**

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**A:** *(i) What was your best experience(s) and why? Interacting with my students. We challenged each other and had lively discussions that ignited our minds. I always looked forward to my classes and will miss that a lot.*

*(ii) What was your top challenge(s) and why? When I was first hired (and for a long time thereafter), females were a minority both within the student community and certainly on the faculty. It was important for me to break the gender stereotypes and rise high. Juggling the work-life-parenting balance as an academic was probably the biggest challenge I faced. Having a supportive partner is extremely important in this regard.*

### **Q: We hear a lot about the low/poor quality of lawyers produced by universities in Uganda, what is your comment about this? If true, what can be done to improve situation?**

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**A:** *I’ve already commented on the need to overhaul Uganda’s education system right from the elementary level. The university lies at the apex of a system that, in my view, promotes paradigms that serve foreign interests, using disabling pedagogies to teach detached and largely irrelevant curricula. The problem lies with the foundations of the education system and can only partly be solved at the university level. Despite all the challenges, many students still shine through the murky waters of Uganda’s education system.*

### **Q: Your parting words to:**

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**A:** *Faculty: I’m just a phone call away! Students: Be curious, and always look beyond the black letter of the law.*

## 2022 Phillip Jessup International Moot Competition National Rounds hosted by SoL

The Makerere University School of Law (SoL) successfully hosted the 2022 Phillip Jessup International Moot Competition National Rounds for Uganda. The event was held at Makerere University Campus on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Four (4) teams participated in the national rounds including Makerere University (Team J561), Uganda Christian University, Mukono (Team J184), Justice Defenders Uganda (Team J294) and Kampala International University (Team J636).

Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from roughly 700 law schools in 100 countries and jurisdictions. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One team is allowed to participate from every eligible school. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case.

The national rounds were a simulation of a case before the International Court of Justice titled '*Special Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Antara (Applicant) and the Velan Kingdom of Ravaria (Respondent) to Submit to the International Court of Justice the differences between the parties concerning the Suthan Referendum*'. The issues under review were Digital Rights, International Human Rights, and Cyber Law specifically for the Suthan Referendum.

Uganda Christian University (Team J185) emerged winners and Makerere University (Team J561) were first runners-up after a long day of face-off among the



Law students ready for Moot

four (4) teams represented at the competition. The two teams will represent Uganda at the next level of competition i.e. White and Case International Rounds.

Benson Mayanja of Makerere University was awarded the Best Oralist Award. The ILSA-Jessup Community of Uganda commended the participating teams for the stellar performance throughout the competition and special recognition was made toward the Justice Defenders Team who made their submissions from Luzira Prison.

The event was supported by the International Law Students Association (ILSA) and Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), Makerere University.



**...Benson Mayanja of Makerere University was awarded the Best Oralist Award.**

## The Makerere Law Society: Our Vision 50 Years On

*Written by: MLS Cabinet-2022*

The Makerere Law Society, established in 1971, is Makerere University's oldest student association. As such, the prestige of our Society is rooted in the traditions and legacies created by those who came before us and passed on this baton.

After celebrating our golden jubilee in 2021 through a series of events organized by the able stewardship of the MLS President-Emeritus, *H.E Grace Waiswa Nsaawa* and his formidable Cabinet, the Society finds itself at the dawn of a new era. Interestingly, this new age that we are stepping into coincides with Makerere University's centenary celebrations. As such, fifty years on, we aim to put ourselves at the heart of student programmes and activities at the University, not only to lead and provide the standard for others to follow but also to connect with other colleges and expand the law practically to other areas taught in these colleges like health, technology and agriculture.

This is through a project called the **External Correspondence Initiative**

(ECI). The ECI is also intended to create long-lasting partnerships between the Makerere Law Society, its affiliates such as the Makerere Moot Society and the Makerere Law Journal, and other law societies across Africa and around the world, as well as other organisations that can provide opportunities for law students in the different spheres they are interested in.

We understand how vital it is for us to do so because we live in a multi-faceted world, with areas overlapping into other areas. The law is also expanding into new areas, both within the traditional areas that are taught at the School of Law such as commercial law and international law, but also in areas that have sprung up due to the situation we are living in in this post-COVID 19 world. As a result, the world is changing at speeds we have to keep up with—and we have to adapt. It is not enough to create legal professionals that only compete locally and be a big fish in a small pond. We have to create a generation of lawyers that can expand legal research and litigation on a global scale. This is the only way we can create a country that is self-sufficient and at par with the rest of the world. These partnerships we are creating are aimed not only at making the future generation of lawyers that leaves the Makerere School of Law pace-setters with the rest of the world in the emerging global trends, but also front-runners that can shape the future.

Fifty years on, the Makerere Law Society is also looking at creating a more holistic environment for learning and exploring other activities. The MLS would particularly like to thank the school administration for securing the funds to construct the new School of Law building that will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, library and even (perhaps what is most exciting to majority of the MLS members), a Moot Court room that could change the way we compete in Moot



Makerere Law Society Cabinet - 2022

competitions nationally and globally.

However, we recognize a cancer that has particularly grown following the economic bite of COVID-19 and the subsequent inflation levels rocking our country—the issue of tuition that threatens the education of many promising lawyers that are taking their education at this prestigious school. It has been a painful sight to watch some of our friends that we shared dreams with as we joined the School of Law drop out due to lack of tuition funds. We would, in this regard like to specially thank **Dr. Busingye Kabumba**, for his brainchild, flagship project and act of humility and generosity—the **Makerere Law Scholarship Fund**—that is raising money for law students with tuition challenges. As the Makerere Law Society, it is our dream to have a “security of tenure” for every student that studies law in this mighty school. As such, we are going to work towards this dream by setting up structures that can ensure that tuition is not an issue for those who cannot afford them. We are aware that the strength of our unity lies in the weakness of our divisions and are glad that we have a Society that is united and is prioritizing this as a major issue that has to be solved in the years to come.

Finally, the Makerere Law Society, fifty years on, is looking at changing the landscape of how we learn the law. Emerging data from eminent researchers shows that GenZ, the generation currently at the University, suffers from the most mental health issues. The data also shows that GenZ is the most creative generation. We are ready to combat the rising issues of mental health so as to create a more holistic learning environment that can enable this current crop of brilliant legal minds and the ones that come after us to create new inroads in the law, keep up with the rest of the world and define the future as leaders in all aspects of life that they may walk into.

Fifty years on, the Makerere Law Society is one whose baton we have been entrusted. We shall run our lap, diligently, swiftly and with a focus set on creating legal professions that dominate all spheres of life that they walk into. Fifty years on, we shall hand the baton to a new generation of lawyers. They shall be full of dreams and vigour, just like us, with an eye to changing the world, just like us. Fifty years on, we aim to be the generation that put in place structures to enable them chase their dreams and showed them that it was all possible. That is our vision.

## Benson C. Mayanja: A Profile

**B**enson C. Mayanja is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Bachelor of Laws student at Makerere University, School of Law. He has won awards as best orator at various moot competitions where he has represented Makerere University; most recently 2022 Phillip Jessup International Moot Competition National Rounds. We talked to him about his inspiration and future plans.

### Q: Introduce yourself

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**A:** My name is Benson C. Mayanja. I am the last of six children to Eng. Bbaale Benon and I am currently in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of study at Makerere University, School of Law. I serve as the Ugandan Ambassador to BaseLine Law International, President of the National Bwera-Ntare Fraternity, President of the Western Uganda Debate Society, Justice of the Makerere University Guild Tribunal and the Rt. Hon. Speaker Emeritus of the Makerere Law Society.

### Q: Share your life before joining School of Law, Makerere University

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**A:** That's a broad question. However, I could start with my academic background; I went to Mbarara Preparatory School for my primary education and served as Head prefect 2011. I then joined Ntare School for all my six years of High School and served as head Prefect in 2017. I believe my greatest honor at the time was winning various debate Championships for the School under the patronage of Mr. Eric Batura. That was really a special year for me.

### Q: What was the inspiration to study law, was it your first choice programme during application to join University?

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**A:** Yes, it was my first choice. At the



Benson C. Mayanja

start of my Senior Five at Ntare School, I was convinced that I had only one choice; Law School. I used to intimate that irrespective of where I did my Law degree, I was that I my destiny was engraved in the Law profession.

My inspiration to study law stems from a diversity of experiences. Notably is the insatiable pursuit of justice through leadership positions. Leadership presented conflict and conflict required recourse to established rules to ensure amicable resolution. Throughout my childhood, I was at the center of conflict resolution as a student leader. I grew the desire and ambition to get better at conflict resolution by arguing for and against my friends on what is right, fair and just.

This fell in tandem with the manner in which famous lawyers used the law as a tool to achieve justice. That too, became my goal; to wield the art of advocacy and brandish it to make the world a better place.

### Q: Experience at Makerere and School of Law, how to survive the experience?

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**A:** I joined Makerere School of Law in August 2018. My life has never been

the same ever since then. It has been an exhilarating experience with one outstanding challenge; achieving the perfect balance between academic excellence and a healthy social life.

*While at Law School, I believe I have engaged in more co-curricular activities than I have in academics. I quickly became passionate about Uni-Debate, Moot, Leadership, Sports and fraternizing with new persons. In each of these fields, I strived to thrive. This ultimately took a toll on my life and academics. However, this introduced me to the art of what is now coined as "firefighting." It is not something to be proud of but it provides a pragmatic solution to multitasking my responsibilities.*

Law School is a paradox. It is very tough yet very easy. It is tough for the reason that it is very demanding yet very easy for the essence that the principles of law are not alien to reason. It is like the jealous girlfriend that demands all the attention amid a midlife crisis. Balancing between academics and your other life is the greatest challenge at Law School. Huge Law reports, Multiple Cases, New jurisprudence, Missing Marks juxtaposed with the need to meet up with friends, do Moots, watch a movie etc. That is the real challenge,

So, how do you survive? 3 things: Identify your Law School Dream; Choose fidelity to your schedule; and Find a support system. Knowing your dream enables you to purpose your goals and objectives without peer pressure. It guides the creation of a suitable schedule aligned with your Law school goals and faithfulness to that schedule steers you through the course. Finally, the support system helps to keep you in sync with your goals as it constantly recalibrates you onto the right track.

### Q: You have been awarded as best orator at various moot competitions, share insight on how you achieve this?

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**A:** Indeed, I have ranked among the



Top Oralists at all the 7 Moots I have done since Year One; ranking Overall Best in 4 of them. That is something I am grateful for to all my Teammates, Coaches and friends who supported me achieve this milestone. Thank you! There are quite a number of tips I would like to share but I will share just 3 salient ones

Intensive Preparation is the ultimate task. You have to read extensively to appreciate both the moot problem as well as the supporting authority. Knowledge of the case, the authorities both for your case and your adversary is an art I have come to love while representing the Respondent. It gives you the opportunity to particularize your submission. Guiding the judges to exact cases relied on by the opponents, citing the page numbers, paragraph designations, judges and exact statements off-head comes at a heavy price. Intensive preparation, is that is the price.

I aim at making the submission as conversational as possible. This helps reduce the anxiety and provide a serene environment to be able to speak to the judges. When you treat the submission as a conversation, it enables you to avoid cognitive dissonance because then you can guide and be guided by the judges without fear of concessions. It also creates the impression of mastery. You are able to take the audience through a tour of your case with composure and poise.

Needless to mention is the element of Experience. Experience is an invaluable asset in the arsenal of a great mooter. With the more Moot Court practice you do, you learn the implication of certain Panel questions, know when to make strategic concessions. More importantly, experience will teach you how to deal and rise up from losses, for you will have a couple before you can truly rise.

### **Q: What is your drive in participating in the moots?**

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**A:** My goal is to traverse the terrain of the legal profession in all its

aspects; legal writing, litigation and adjudication. Moot Court facilitates this goal by providing prior exposure and preparation. While researching, preparing written submissions and arguing in pseudo court sessions, you acquire training in these various aspects. This training is sufficient to prepare you for the field of practice. In what I could summarize as the Mottos of my former and current institutions of learning, I am Preparing for the Future and Bettering My Best.

### **Q: Any words of advice to students**

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**A:** Children intending to study Law - Start Now. There are a number of things I wish I had started earlier than I did. Identify your passion, train yourself in reading oratory and writing skills. This will set you on course to improve the skill over time and enable you become the best at the trade at a young age. It is never too soon to start envisioning yourself as the best. Find a suitable mentor/role model. The right mentors will provide you with relevant guidance and direction that is important in keeping you focused on your ultimate goal and objective.

**A:** Peers (already in Law School) - Know your Law School Goal. Many of us at Law School are like lost sheep unaware of what our Law School goal is. You try so hard to live someone else's Law School dream oblivious of their background and objectives. If you came to law School to get a First Class degree, go for it; burn the midnight oil. If you came to Law School to establish a brand name for a particular activity, go for it; put in the effort. If you came to law school to facilitate a job promotion or build social capital; go for it.

Write your story. Do not allow yourself to be engrossed in your friends' dreams for an entire 4 years only to realize you didn't even want that kind of life. This in no way means that you shouldn't aim to excel in your academics; you might do this course for the rest of your life. I would advise you to find your niche and be the best at it. Be you and do not settle for less. Once you find something

you are good at, pursue it passionately and zealously. Law School is a chapter in our life story for which we must write meaningful and beautiful stories.

Obviously, remember to stay alive. Take care of yourself every once in a while. This course can kill you.

### **Q: Any parting words?**

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**A:** Be a dreamer. I came to Law School with an insatiable dream. I believed that I would not leave this School the same person I joined it nor the same institution I found it. I am humbled by the fact that both dreams are achieved. You must dream and dream big to achieve big.

I would like to appreciate the current Law School administration under Prof. Mbazira Christopher and student community under President Percy Mpindi for embracing the Moot Firm Project and The External Correspondence Initiative. These were products of the dream which I believe will be game changers in the quality of law students at Makerere University School of Law for years to come.

I look forward to the years when we shall reminiscence and be proud of our Law School story; when we shall raise a glass and toast to what will soon come to be known as our beautiful humble beginnings.



**... With the more Moot Court practice you do, you learn the implication of certain Panel questions, know when to make strategic concessions.**

## School of Law Orients Fresh Men & Women

The School of Law organized a freshers' orientation meeting on Wednesday 2nd February, 2022 to create a sense of belonging among the new students at the School.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ronald Naluwairo, the Deputy Principal, School of Law, welcomed the fresh men and women to the school. "We are here to inspire you and give you guidance on the basics and key things to excel in your academic career", he said. Dr. Naluwairo introduced to students the rigorous nature of the Bachelors of Law Programme, and encouraged them to have competence as a minimum requirement for the programme. The Deputy Principal also promised students a session where the School Registrar will introduce the rules and regulations governing the programme in detail. He called upon the fresh men and women to always consult the registrars in instances where the rules seemed unclear.

In his remarks, Prof. Mbazira congratulated the students upon passing the pre-entry exams and joining the group of special people with special alumni. "So many people are interested in doing this course, and so when one passes the pre-entry exam, it gives us the confidence that you will pass through the course" he said. Prof. Mbazira introduced to students a magazine produced during the School of Law at 50 Years of existence celebrations in 2018, with information on the history of the school, some of the people that have gone through the school and the various things done.

"I want to state that you have started a process of transformation from students to lawyers and this will enable you join the noble legal profession. Traditionally, we have three professions, that's law,



Prof. Sylvia Tamale (left), Dr. Naluwairo Ronald, Deputy Principal SoL and Prof. Christopher Mbazira, Principal SoL

medicine and religion. By joining the noble legal profession, you are bound by professional ethics and the code of conduct that governs members of that profession" said Prof. Mbazira.

He also urged students to be honest, smart, hardworking as well as give back to the community as an obligation that comes with being a member of the noble profession. "The nature of the programme is rigorous, it requires commitment, focus and it is the application of approaches used to pass S.6 exams."

Prof. Mbazira emphasised the need for students to read extensively as a requirement by the profession, "You



Prof. Christopher Mbazira, Principal SoL

can't do a case unless you read, you can't provide legal advice unless you read. Lawyers do a lot of constant reading, but one important thing is that once lawyers graduate, you can't get another solid four years of reading so the four years is a golden chance for you to read.

"You may not realize that during the four years of reading the knowledge you acquire is going to help you at a certain stage. It may not help you to pass exams but helps to shape you as a lawyer, it helps to give you knowledge that you will later grow on; to represent clients, provide legal advice, to be a legislator and so forth" he added.

The Principal urged the new students to take advantage of the fact that, Makerere has the best faculty, prominent legal academics with experience both within and outside Uganda and the best law library in the country. "The law profession is diverse, I know what most of you have is that a lawyer is someone who goes to court or seats as a judge, but you are going to discover that the legal profession is so rich that graduates of this school have done so many things including: legal practitioners, judges and magistrates, judicature, state attorneys in various capacities, lawyers of the state, prosecuting cases, giving legal advice and guiding approaches in the legislative processes, providing legal service

to corporate entities, private companies, public companies, some working as company secretaries, public interest litigation among others. The legal profession is a profession that enables you to work anywhere, lawyers can work in a hospital because hospitals give legal advise, they have corporate matters that require lawyers to advice on” elaborated the Principal.

Prof. Mbazira concluded by warning students against becoming victims of self-destructive behaviour. “Not everybody who attends this orientation attends the graduation ceremony due to both natural and man-made causes. Students tend to block their opportunities. I, the Deputy Principal and Heads of Department have an open door policy, and so does the Students leadership, don’t hesitate to contact us”.

Students were also availed the various IT student support portals for IT-related assistance.

A team of staff from the Counseling and Guidance Centre led by the Manager Mr. Henry Nsubuga oriented the students on the need for both psychological and mental health while in school. “We are here today but we don’t know what might befall us, tragedy can befall us at any time that’s why the university provides counseling and guidance services. Students should avoid postponing seeking help for whatever issues they may have.”

The Makerere Law Society (MLS) President, Mr. Mpindi Percy welcomed the new students. He noted that the society was formed in 1971 to represent students interests, and unveiled the first ever students’ orientation handbook by the Law Society. The Handbook documents various experiences of current students and alumni of the school. He concluded by encouraging students to always reach out to MLS for assistance.

In her remarks on sexual



Mr. Percy Mpindi, Chairperson, Makerere Law Society

harassment, Prof Sylvia Tamale defined the vice as unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or unwanted physical, verbal or nonverbal conduct. “Sexual harassment isn’t rape like most people think, no!”

She added that Makerere University has zero-tolerance for sexual harassment. “Sexual harassment is prohibited for both on and off-campus settings for Students, desk staff, administrative staff, support staff, contractors, visitors and researchers” she explained.

According to Prof. Tamale, beyond rules and policies, African people are guided by one important concept, ‘ubuntu – buntubulamu’. She added that African people share a value which speaks to the maxim ‘I am because we are’ which means that you should treat the other the way you would like to be treated (with

passion). “African people knew the value before the whites brought the bible.”

In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Uganda Law Society (ULS) Mr. Moses Okwalinga shared that the legal profession is a lifetime commitment. “You remain an advocate/lawyer for life. What you have started is not just a career but a lifetime experience which you will pursue even after retirement.”

He urged students to be mindful of the friends they choose since they have an impact on their lives. He asked them to define their values and avoid bad company. “When you hang out with a group, their perception is your perception. This course gives you so much confidence but what you do with what you learn is very important. Remember that you came here alone. How you use what you learn is very key; the bad name will follow you all through” he said.

Prof. Ronald Mayambala, from the Department of Environmental Law urged students to honor the timetable, attend class, and avoid things that will put them in trouble either by bad company or wrong association. “Excessive politics may not be compatible with your studies, becoming religious fanatics is not good. Always balance.”



Fresh women and men at orientation

# NETPIL and UCLF Training: Litigating Torture

The School of Law through Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL) collaborated with the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (UCLF) to host a training titled 'Litigating Torture: What a practitioner should know'. The training was a blended event held virtually and physically at Africana Hotel, Kampala on the 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The training was intended to equip lawyers with the capacity and skill set required to enable them adequately prepare and litigate against acts of torture as a human rights violation, using the existing legal framework as part of the lawyers continuing professional development.

The facilitators of the training were from School of Law, Security Agencies (Uganda Police Force, Internal Security Organisation), Uganda Human Rights Commission, UCLF as well as senior practicing Advocates. The following Issues were highlighted by the various trainers.

- It's advisable that advocates make provisions for psycho-



social support for the victims for better mental health.

- Absence of witness protection law in Uganda has made potential witnesses reluctant to testify in cases leading to failure of cases or delays.
- Insufficient medical reports produced as evidence which affects evidence and therefore proving cases.
- Absence of standards has shown inconsistency in determining awards given to victims of torture who won cases in courts. The case of Hon. Zaake was highlighted compared to awards of other victims.

- It was advised that awards of reparation to torture should be set high in order to deter others.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Zahara Nampewo – Ag. Director of the Human Rights and Peace Centre encouraged participants to reflect on torture. She stressed that, 'if we don't condemn torture then we are condoning torture'. Dr. Nampewo highlighted the importance of partnerships and networks while working on torture noting that everyone has something to contribute. She added that change might be difficult for individuals but easier in groups. 'This training is a step in the right direction and I congratulate you all on completing this training. This is only the beginning and there is more work to be done' Dr. Nampewo added.

## DAY ONE



**Dr. Daniel Ruhweza**  
The Legal Framework- Understanding manifestations and meaning of torture



**Mr. Eron Kiiza**  
Civil and Criminal aspects of litigating against torture



**AIGP Asan Kasingye**  
The role of law enforcement agencies in entire jigsaw of torture

## DAY TWO



**Mr. Jude Byamukama**  
Judicial Approach- progressive, consistent, or Hold back ?



**Lt. Col. Charles Oluka**  
Director General-ISO  
The role of security agencies in entire enigma of torture and it's eradication.



**Ms. Mariam Wangadya**  
The role of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in investigating and compensating torture victims and the role of legal practitioners in seeking justice for victims before the Commission.

## News Briefs



Sabiti Edwin (right) and Nakimbugwe Kevin (centre) emerged as best oralists at the All Africa Internal Moot held at Makerere University School of Law on the 10th April 2022. Edwin and Kevin will represent Makerere University at the All Africa Moot Competitions to be held in Cairo, Egypt later this year.



Dr. Winnie Tarinyeba was appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of DFCU Bank Group Uganda Limited. Dr. Tarinyeba is an Associate Professor at Makerere University School of Law in the Department of Commercial Law. Congratulations!



The Makerere University Law Society held their Sports Gala at Makerere University Main Sports Ground on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This year's sports gala was held in tribute of Rt. Hon. Speaker Jacob L'Okori Oulanyah and Joanita Sylvia Nalule.



Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) hosted their 7th Clinical Legal Education (CLE) Moot held on the 7th April 2022 in the Makerere University School of Law Auditorium. The moot was presided over by Justice Musa Ssekaana (middle), Justice Stephen Mubiru (left) and Her Worship Gladys Nakibuule.



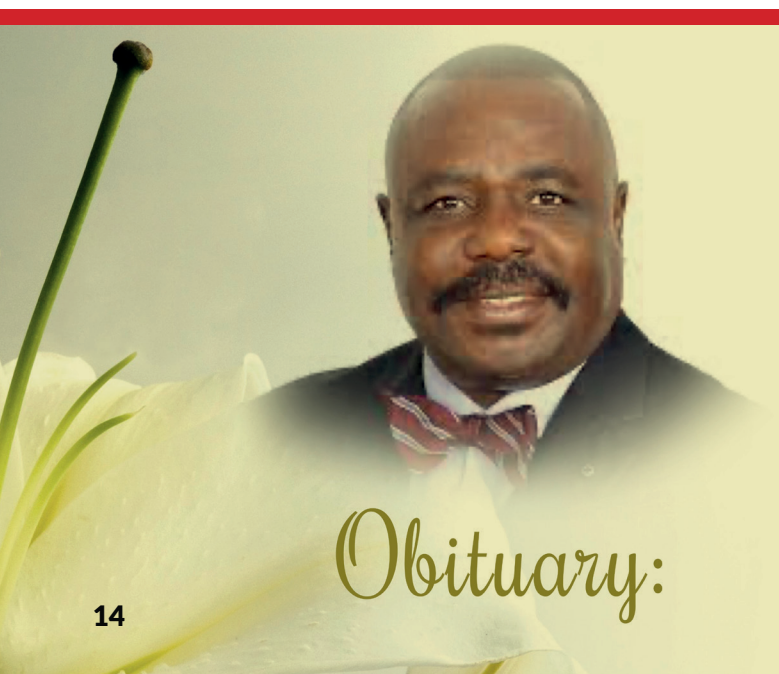
The School of Law hosted Prof. Sylvia Tamale for a question and answer session to inspire staff and students in their careers. At the event she said that in choosing her career, her inspiration was to learn all sorts of stereotypes especially the racial stereotype. Prof. Tamale urged faculty to always be prepared since it's respectful to the audience adding that students will always detect unprepared lecturers, there are very few people who can speak without preparing. "My worst nightmare was coming to class and on asking students, who had read the case instead they stared at me. I've learnt to be patient during my academic journey, students can teach u patience", she said



Nsaawa Waiswa Grace (center), ex-President Makerere Law Society and 4<sup>th</sup> year LL. B presented about air quality and equity at the US Embassy, American Center, Kampala. "I emphasised the need for youth participation towards the prevention of air pollution in Uganda and I was humbled by the presence of my classmates and friends from the School of Law in the audience." he said.



The Refugee Law Project (RLP) said farewell to their outgoing Director, Dr. Chris Dolan. Dr. Dolan served as Director for 16 years. Staff commended him for his leadership, mentorship and humility while at RLP. His leadership has ensured growth to greater heights of RLP.



## Obituary:

The School of Law, Makerere University community received with deep sorrow the news of the demise of **Rt. Hon. Speaker Jacob L'Okori Oulanyah**. Rt. Hon. Oulanyah is an alumnus of the School of Law, he was admitted in 1991 to study for a Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) and graduated in 1994. During his time at Makerere University, he served as President-Makerere Law Society; he was a member of the Guild Representative Council (G.R.C) where he also served as Speaker of the University Students' Guild. He is remembered as an excellent orator and firebrand who was committed to upholding students' rights. In 1995, he attended the Law Development Centre (LDC), where he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice. Following his graduation from the LDC, he worked as a lecturer at the Centre where he nurtured a generation of young lawyers. His service to the nation as Member of Parliament, Speaker of Parliament was a representation of his alma mater with distinction. May his soul rest in eternal peace.