

The Newsletter

Ghana School of Law SRC



Special Feature:

New Year's Edition

TOP OUTLIST:

Address from Gertrude Emefa Donkor

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Akwaaba Night

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Interview with Christ Agyakwa Agyir

New Year's Edition

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- **Nana Barima Yaw Kodie Oppong**

Director of Legal Education
and the Director of the
Ghana school of Law



- **Juliet Adu-Adjei (Mrs.)**

Registrar of the Ghana School of Law



- **Marian Atta-Boahene**

Deputy Registrar of the Ghana
School of Law

A professional portrait of Gertrude Emefa Donkor, a woman with long, straight black hair, wearing a light grey button-down shirt. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light grey color.

A ADDRESS

FROM

● **Gertrude Emefa Donkor**

President,
Ghana School of Law-SRC.

The Executive Council of the SRC of Ghana School of Law is elated to welcome its members to the New Year, 2024. It's been 4(four) phenomenal months since the induction into office of the 61st Emefa-led administration.

I am pleased to reflect on some of our collective achievements and accomplishments within this period.

For the First time in the history of the Ghana School of Law, the SRC has successfully onboarded about 87% of its members onto an advanced law tech site, to help students access law cases, notes, and other relevant academic materials at no cost to students. The feedback we received from the general student body on this project have been very encouraging.

The SRC has also taken active steps to institutionalize an Endowment Fund, The Onua Do Scholarship Fund, aimed at assisting students who are genuinely in need of funds to pay Academic fees. For starters, we aim at channelling approximately GHc300,000.00 towards the Onua Do Endowment Fund, which will be accessible to students this year, 2024. This robust Fund will also serve as a savings hub for the SRC, to encourage successive administrations develop the attitude of creating reserves. The accumulated reserves could be used for major developmental project in the future.

About a month ago, leadership of the SRC hosted students from the National Black Law Students' Association (NBLSA), USA. Together, we discussed matters of mutual benefit, particularly the possibility of sending a delegation of students every year from Ghana to the USA, for the annual NBLSA Convention, and vice versa. It's exciting to note that, we have followed through with our plans and preparations are ongoing to send an SRC delegation to the USA. NBLSA has also formally launched the SRC as its Ghana Chapter. The SRC further collaborated with members of the NBLSA to donate food items to displaced flood victims in the Volta Region. This we did in

the spirit of volunteerism and community service.

As the mouthpiece of the student body, the SRC has been consistently engaging Management on matters of students' concern. Key among these are;

1. Delay in release of remarking results
2. The School's policy on attaining separate pass marks for Legal Accountancy and Law Practice Management.
3. Regulation 32 of L.I 2355 (Amended), which provides that a candidate who fails half or more of the total number of subjects offered in an Academic year shall be deemed to have failed the whole examination in that Academic year.

We wish to assure the student body that the SRC remains unwavering in its commitment to relentlessly advocate for students' interests.

I use this opportunity to wish our colleagues who are preparing to take the supplementary papers the very best. We pray for favourable outcomes in respect of both the remarking and supplementary results.

To our fresh men and women, we welcome you warmly to the institution that takes you to the bar. This is just the beginning of an incredible journey. The road ahead may be arduous, but remember why you chose to pursue Law in the first place. Stay focused, persevere through challenges, and never lose sight of your dream.

To my fellow Part II students, I wish you the best as we journey towards the 61st Call this year.

As I draw the curtains in, I am led to remind all to be kind to everyone, it is a long haul and we need each other.

May the good God, in whom we trust and who has brought us this far, lead us to a glorious end.

God bless!

Gertrude Emefa Donkor,
President, Ghana School of Law-SRC.

THE EDITOR'S NOTE

It still feels like yesterday when I first arrived at the Ghana School of Law with no clue what to expect, how to study and what lay ahead. It was the guidance of senior colleagues and amazing lecturers that led me through my first year. Now, I find myself in the last half of my legal journey also having no idea what lies ahead.

It is for this reason that The New Year's Edition of our newsletter is important to me. I know students have fears concerning what the future holds and so this issue is specially designed to address those fears and to help steer students through these uncharted waters. You will find advice from awardees and lawyers called to the bar last year.

Esteemed senior lecturer, Mr. Kpobi, also shares with us his journey as a lawyer and useful advice that can help students.

It is my hope and goal that by the time you are done with this newsletter, you know what to expect in the coming months and how to prepare towards that. I also hope you leave thoroughly encouraged and entertained.

I cannot end my note without thanking everyone who made a submission and all those who availed themselves to share with us. I am also most grateful to my excellent team who worked tirelessly with me to bring this vision to life.

Enjoy!

Ewurama Mongson
Editor-in-Chief





B EHIND THE LECTURER

● **UPCLOSE with
Mr. Kpobi**

Senior Lecturer at The Ghana School of Law

Introduction and Personal Journey:

Q: Thank you, sir, for joining us today. We're honored to have Mr. Kpobi, our esteemed Criminal Procedure lecturer, with us. To kick things off, could you please share a bit more about yourself?

A: Certainly. I'm 64 years old, called to the bar in 1988. I began my career as an assistant solicitor at the Kumasi Municipal Assembly from 1988 to 1990. Subsequently, I moved to the Attorney General's office in 1990, working my way up to the position of Chief State Attorney. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to work in various locations, including Ho, Kumasi, Sekondi, Sunyani, and Accra. I eventually retired from the Attorney-General's office in 2020.

Q: How long have you been lecturing at the Ghana School of Law, and could you share how it started for you?

A: I've been lecturing since the creation of the satellite campuses. I was a pioneering lecturer at the Kumasi campus. Later, I moved to Accra, taking over from Justice Ambadu, a long-serving lecturer with 40 years of service.

Q: We would like to delve deeper into Mr. Kpobi before becoming a lecturer. What inspired you to choose law, particularly criminal law?

A: A senior at Keta Secondary School played a huge role in influencing my decision to pursue law. He emphasized that aiming for law was a worthwhile ambition and a profession that required serious studies. He told me that what was the point of my learning if it was not to read law. In our day only a few students made it to Legon to read law; about 100 so it was a major source of motivation to study.

Q: Fresh out of Law School, what were your aspirations?

A: My primary goal was to work. While at the Kumasi Municipal Assembly, I joined five colleagues in applying for positions at the Office of the Attorney General. There was no clear plan but to work.

Q: Did you always know that you wanted to become a lecturer?

A: No, it wasn't a planned career path. However, I found myself lecturing on numerous occasions at the police academy and even teaching maritime law to vessel operators when I was in Sekondi.

Law Student Experiences and Advice:

Q: Could you share a memorable experience from your time as a law student that has significantly influenced your teaching approach?

A: Certainly. One notable experience was during Mr. Da Rocha's classes on civil procedure and conveyancing. He placed a strong emphasis on the practical aspects rather than focusing solely on theory. Da Rocha inundated us with court processes, and this emphasis on the practical side significantly shaped my approach to teaching, making it more centered around the practical aspects and not just theory.

Q: What advice would you offer to current law students to maximize their academic journey and prepare for a successful career in law?

A: One common mistake students make is approaching the course with the faculty approach to learning. In the past, we had one lecturer handling teaching, question setting, and marking. That structure provided certain advantages. However, the current landscape is

different. It's crucial to take yours seriously right from day one.

Evolution of the Legal Profession:

Q: How has the legal profession evolved since you started practicing, and how do you incorporate those changes into your practice and lecturing?

A: Over the years, one major transformative factor has been technology. The legal profession, like many others, has adapted to new technological advancements, affecting various aspects of legal practice. Additionally, there are now more opportunities for higher learning, such as pursuing an LLM in renowned local institutions. This has become particularly significant as it enables lawyers in Ghana to meet the basic requirements that many international organizations demand before working with them. In my practice and lecturing, I actively incorporate these changes by staying updated on technological tools and applications relevant to the legal field. Moreover, I encourage students to explore opportunities for advanced studies, emphasizing the importance of having Ghanaians take up roles in international organizations especially the international courts.

Work-Life Balance:

Q: In promoting work-life balance, could you share some personal habits or strategies you've found effective in maintaining a healthy equilibrium between your professional and personal life?

A: Absolutely, achieving a work-life balance is a perpetual challenge. Certain aspects of life are constant, and one cannot evade them. Family is one, and there are unavoidable socio-cultural engagements like funerals and weddings. Life's pressures will undoubtedly arise, and our communal nature often necessitates attention beyond our legal work. However, it's essential to consistently allocate time for your legal work. Law is a profession that never truly ends; it

extends into your personal space. Every serious lawyer must have a library at home, reflecting the ongoing need for reading and reference. Fortunately, technology has made this more convenient, allowing us to seamlessly integrate legal work into our homes. While life's demands may be constant, effective time management and technological tools can facilitate a smoother relationship between work and personal life.

Effective Teaching and Learning:

Q: As a lecturer, what teaching methods have you found most effective in engaging students and simplifying complex legal concepts?

A: I believe in breaking down my lectures to the understanding of the weakest student. It's my duty to ensure everyone comprehends the material, with the goal of helping everyone pass. My teaching approach is grounded, using the welfare principle and focusing on the best interests of the students. I also structure my lectures to prepare students for real-world legal practice.

Q: How do you stay updated with the latest developments in the law, and how do you integrate this ongoing learning into your lectures and practice?

A: I keep myself informed through law hubs like judylegal, dennislaw, and textbooks. Being a bastion in your field is crucial; you may not keep up with every development, but staying up-to-date in your area of practice is essential.

Q: Reflecting on your career, were there any unexpected challenges you faced as a lawyer/lecturer?

A: Indeed, there were unforeseen challenges. For instance, in Sekondi, my premises were invaded, with the invaders stealing nothing but leaving behind a disturbing message; stabbing my picture. In Kumasi, I faced threats to my life.

Life doesn't always go as planned, and I've learned the importance of contentment, doing one's best, and not stressing over unnecessary matters like competition. As a lawyer you are bound to meet these challenges.

Q: Can you share a moment in your teaching career when you felt particularly proud of your students' accomplishments?

A: The pioneering class in Kumasi faced apprehensions being away from the main center in Accra. It was the first time all lecturers were teaching. I felt fulfilled when every student passed criminal procedure. Later, hearing that students in Accra were clamoring for my handouts indicated a genuine appreciation for the notes, and that was a gratifying moment.

Q: Transitioning from student to lecturer, what aspects of your student experience have you incorporated into your teaching style to connect better with your students?

A: Recognizing the value of diverse backgrounds, I learned from my student experience. Meeting people from various sectors, such as the judiciary, military, civil servants, and ministers, has enriched my understanding of the subject as a teacher. I continue to learn from my students, creating a dynamic and mutually beneficial teaching environment.

Dispelling Misconceptions:

Q: In your view, what are some common misconceptions that students may have about the life of a lawyer, and how would you dispel them?

A: One common misconception is that working hard may be perceived as an exaggeration, but it's not. Working hard is the grundnorm, and while technology has made law practice easier, it still demands a lot of sacrifice. It's essential to understand that your work ethic should be consistent across various tasks. Your work

ethic is seen by all. Working at the Office of the Attorney-General for example, you are paid at the end of the month whether or not you win your cases. However, your hard work will be seen by all.

Another misconception is associating success solely with financial gain. Some endeavors that lead to success may not initially appear lucrative. Money should not be the sole motivator; instead, focus on the value and impact of your work. In the legal profession, your character is tested, and your dedication is reflected in your outcomes.

Furthermore, the perception that long hours are not necessary can be misguided. The rigorous schedule of lectures from 7 am to 8 pm prepares you for the law firm environment. As a lawyer, you must wake up early, prepare, attend court sessions, meet clients, and engage in drafting processes and researching cases. Embracing hard work is essential for personal and professional growth.

Inspiring Passion for Criminal Law:

Q: How do you inspire students to be passionate about criminal law and understand its real-world implications beyond the classroom?

A: Making criminal law easily understandable is crucial in sparking students' interest. It's a fact that criminal law may not be as financially lucrative as other practice areas, and this can deter some from choosing it. However, I emphasize the social obligation we have as legal professionals. Practicing criminal law is not just about financial gain; it's about ensuring that even criminals have legal representation, supporting the state in prosecuting offenders, and contributing to the academic understanding of criminal law. By highlighting these aspects, I aim to instill a sense of purpose and responsibility in students, inspiring them to see the broader societal impact of criminal law beyond monetary considerations.

Q: Reflecting on your journey, is there any piece of advice you wish you had received when you were a law student or starting your career?

A: Personally, I have no regrets in my journey. However, for upcoming lawyers, I would advise considering further studies, such as LLM programs offered by local universities. Additionally, exploring opportunities to work with international organizations can be valuable for broadening one's perspective and enhancing professional growth.

Thank you for your time **Mr. Kpobi** and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



ORIENTATION

Early in the morning of 3rd November, 2023, the streets of Makola in Accra were spangled with the iconic black and white. The ancient yet un-diminished and enviable Ghana School of Law was welcoming its new entrants. The sharply dressed budding lawyers were reporting for their orientation in readiness for starting their two-year journey to the Ghana Bar. They earned this. After rigorous preparation sessions, sleepless nights and long hours of cramming, they were among the 964 to pass the entrance examination to this prestigious sui generis institution.

The Director of the Ghana School of Law, Yaw Opong, the Registrar, Juliet Adu-Adjei and other senior management staff took turns to address the new students on what it meant to be a student of the Ghana School of Law. The highlight of these addresses was when Mrs. Adu-Adjei admonished freshers on the dress code for lectures and official events at the school.

The Registrar had some junior management staff of the school dress in what would pass for unprescribed attire and had them parade before students to show what is not expected of them. Other management and lecturers also addressed students. For most students, they found the orientation indispensable as the nuances of the dress code and penalty for flouting same was news to them. Some of them expressed their sentiments to the Editorial board:

Kabu Nartey – UPSA Campus, Group A Class Rep

“The orientation served as a good brief for the dos and don’ts of the Ghana School of Law. I do not regret participating in it at all. The management and lecturers took time out

of their busy schedules to properly brief us on all that to expect as members of the school. It was a red letter day, being the first event we attended as students and the feeling when we saw colleagues who made it as well will linger in our hearts forever.”

Siwaah Attafuah – UPSA Campus, Group A

“For me, I appreciated the briefs given by the subject lecturers as that was a good opportunity to know what to expect even before introductory lectures. It was also an exhilarating feeling as this was one of the chances that we could all gather as a groups before being separated into our separate and smaller groups.”

The orientation programme left no student out. On Monday, November 6, 2023, the school held another memorable event for the Kumasi Campus. It was an event just like had taken place in Accra three days earlier with students learning about the dress code and consequences for flouting same, which is having their name recorded in the book of shame. Colleagues from Kumasi also shared their takeaways from the orientation.

Wilfred Akwasi Mensah – Kumasi Campus, Group A Class Rep

“The orientation painted reality to us and made us know how enormous the task ahead was. The Registrar of the school was at her usual best at ensuring that students dress in accordance with the standards of the school. The entire programme and words of advice from the lecturers were helpful to hit the ground running.”

A photograph of three students smiling and posing for a photo. A woman on the left is wearing a brown dress and glasses. A woman in the middle is wearing a patterned dress. A man on the right is wearing a patterned shirt and shorts, holding a phone. They are standing in front of a backdrop with the word 'BIENVENIDO' written in large, stylized letters. The backdrop also features colorful geometric patterns.

BIENVENIDO

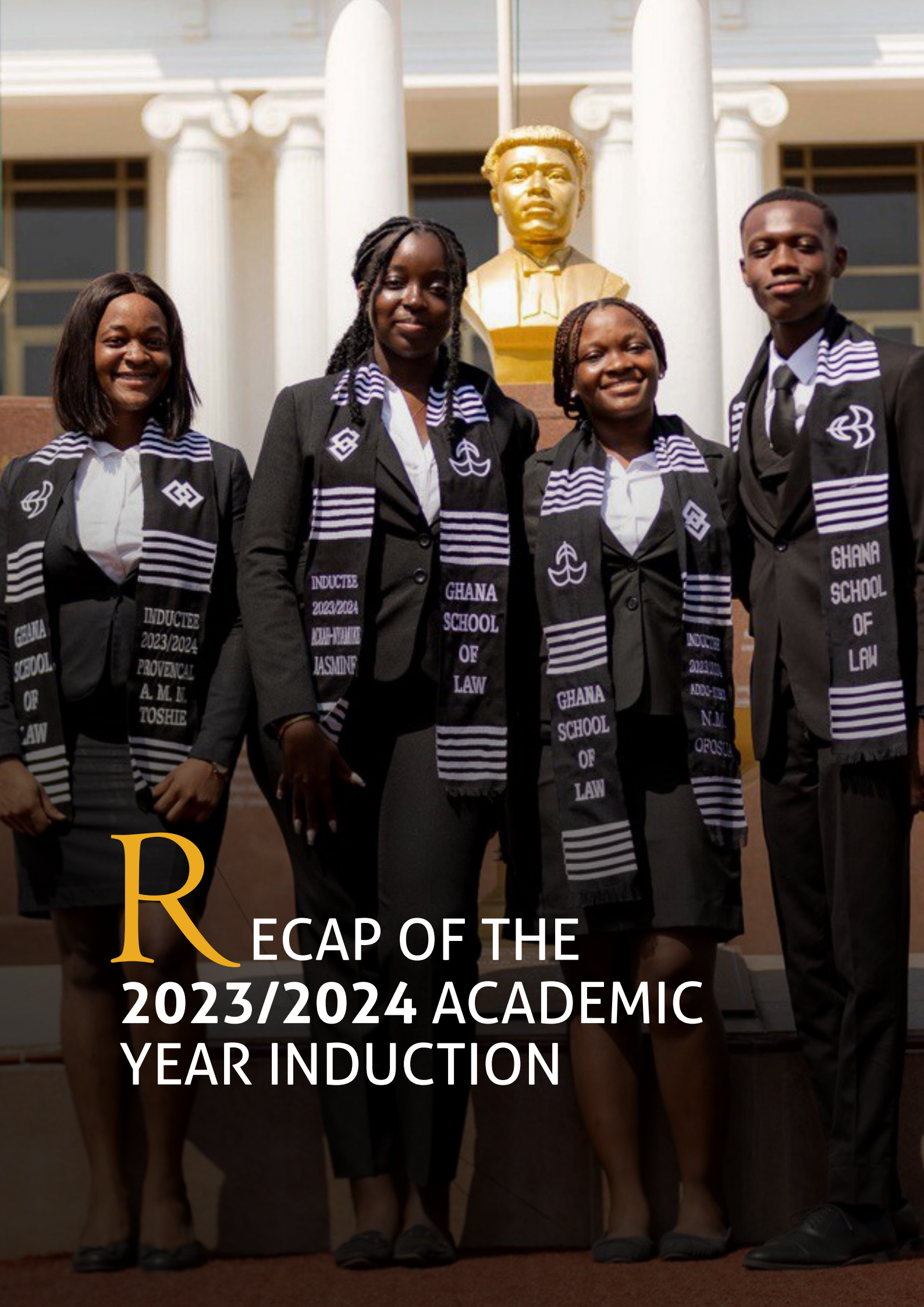
BIENVENIDO

AKWAABA NIGHT

**Enter Appearance!
Order! Bienvenido!**

The Akwaaba Night was truly a night to remember. The SRC welcomed freshers with a night of drinks, fun and comradery. Continuing students were definitely not left out of the fun as the entire school came together, mingled and made memories.

It was a great way to usher the student body into the new academic year. After all, all work and no play make Jack a dull boy.



RECAP OF THE
2023/2024 ACADEMIC
YEAR INDUCTION

INDUCTEE
2023/2024
PROVENCAL
A. M. K.
TOSHIE

INDUCTEE
2023/2024
ADAM-YEAMATE
JASMINE

GHANA
SCHOOL
OF
LAW

GHANA
SCHOOL
OF
LAW

INDUCTEE
2023/2024
ADDU-YEAMATE
N.M.
OPOSOLO

GHANA
SCHOOL
OF
LAW

After the orientation program of new entrants of the Ghana School of Law for the 2023/2024 academic year, their induction ceremony took place on January 10th, 2024 on the Accra Main Campus and on 12th January, 2024 at the Kumasi Campus.

During the ceremony, students were made to sign the induction book signifying that they have been duly inducted as students of the Ghana School of Law.

The invited special guests at the Accra induction ceremony included Ghana's Speaker of Parliament who was in the person of Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, the National Bar President, H/L Justice A. Asuamah Oppong, a Representative of the General Legal Council and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, who could not attend the ceremony in-person and was represented by the Solicitor-General and the Director of the Ghana School of Law in the person of Barima Yaw Kodie Oppong

After Mr. Yusif Osman ushered all the attendees into the ceremony with an opening prayer, the Director of the Ghana School of Law, in his welcome address, welcomed all students, staff of the Ghana School of Law and the invited guests to the program. In his welcome address the Director also made an appeal to the Speaker of Parliament, who was present at the ceremony, to add his voice to the school's advocacy directed at the government mainly for more resources to upgrade the school's infrastructure and other needs.

Guest speakers emphasized the importance of ethics as a lawyer.

After the speaker's speech, student were asked by the Master of Ceremony (MC) to put on their stole as they were about to be inducted. After they put on their stole, all the persons who were in attendance were led by Ms. Loretta Larbi to sing the National Anthem. Students swore the oath of induction led by H/L Justice A. Asuamah Oppong.

After the swearing of the oath of induction, the Director of the Ghana School of Law oversaw the

presentation of awards to be presented to the 2023 Enrollment Awardees.

Ms. Mary Yaa Abrefi – UPSA Group A

“Generally speaking, the entire program was eye opening, I learnt from every part of it but my highlight is the opportunity to not only see the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin Sumana personally but to sit and listen to his speech on legal ethics. As a take home, ethics goes beyond the legal fraternity. We must uphold ethics wherever we find ourselves. Humbly submitted. Thank you.”

Siwaah Nana Yaa Attafuah – UPSA Group A

“Speaking for myself and most students, the Induction ceremony was a very memorable day. It was a day of reflection where we appreciated how far we had come and all the challenges we faced to reach this point. I am proud of us, and it is our wish that just as we were all inducted, we all shall exit in like manner in 2025. The topic on ethics was a very necessary one and we will endeavor to live by it.”

At the induction ceremony held at the Kumasi campus, the President of the Ashanti Regional Bar, Mr. Kwame Owusu Sekyere, gave very brief remarks. Mr. Sekyere advised that students, in addition to honing their legal knowledge and skills, should embrace legal ethics.

The guest speaker, His Lordship Samuel Obeng-Diawuo, Appeal Court Judge in his speech stated: “there are a lot of petitions against lawyers these days at the General Legal Council. Legal Ethics is not an event or a mere course taught once in the law school. It is a continuous and recurring process throughout the legal practice.”

Wilfred Akwasi Mensah (Class Rep of Kumasi Campus Group A, part I) on the ceremony;

“The program met the general expectations despite the late start. All in all, the program was a success.”

Students' Corner



Students' Corner Part 1



Ephraim Kwablah Tetteh
(Part 1, UPSA Campus Group C)

Preparation towards the Ghana School of Law (GSL)

entrance exam was

very hectic, to say the least, but was definitely worth it. I would always reminisce the moment I got to know I had passed the GSL entrance exam. The very instant the results were released a surreal

cloak of anxiety engulfed me in a split moment so much so that hindered me from locating my index number on the pass list. A congratulatory message from a friend allayed all my fears. No amount of happiness surpasses that which I felt upon realizing I was finally only two years away from fulfilling my dream of becoming a lawyer.

The admission process at the GSL is detailed but it ensures quality control and due diligence. However, in my humble opinion, allowing students upload documents online could make things easier.

My highlight for the first term was the Orientation – I got to fraternize with my colleagues. I also enjoyed the 2023 Akwaaba Night, dubbed ‘Bienvenido’. I would commend the GSL–SRC for organizing such a memorable event.

The bee in every LLB student’s hive is “Entrance Exams”. I was no exception. I intended to hit the books and buckle down immediately but I had underestimated the effect of accumulated fatigue. Pressure mounted as date neared. In the heat of the moment, I helplessly surrendered to God, my mantra, “Romans 4:18–22 NLT”. Thursday, height of tension! Saturated, unable to retain anymore, tempted to stop and dance my heart out; how could I? The day of reckoning was imminent.

D–day came, desperate prayers said amidst repeating Romans 4:18–22. I planned and answered the questions as best as I could. Words cannot describe my despair when someone mentioned detinue afterwards – it featured not in my answer. I determined to continue trusting God. The wait grew painful. Results released at last. Praise God, I was in!

During orientation, a judge was quoted “You came because you deserved to. You’ll leave because you deserve to”. I prayed, “I came



because of grace, I’ll leave because of grace”.

Naomi Simpson
(Part 1, Greenhill Campus Group A)



The famous Entrance Exam is a critical component and indisputably the most dreadful hurdle of the Ghana School of Law application process. For me, it represented the culmination of days and nights studying test-taking strategies and reviewing content areas for the six courses. Aside drawing inspiration ‘from whence my help cometh’, I grew inevitably reliant on support from my peers and mentor to fussily navigate the preparation process. I joined a vibrant study group and an online tutorial organized by Justice Dr. Ernest Owusu Dapaa which provided the opportunities for collaboration and shared learning experience, empowering me for the ultimate task. Thankfully and gracefully my efforts paid off and I made it to GSL, Whew! I must say that the admission process was cumbersome and exacting, even more so since I had to obtain certain documents on short notice. That notwithstanding, I worked onerously to meet all the deadlines for the submission of documents.

My first few weeks was both challenging and



rewarding. It was a time of intense learning and growth as I delved into the complexities of procedural law.

Overall, the first term of law school was a formative experience that laid the foundation for nurturing professional legal potentials. It was a time of growth, challenge and discovery as I immerse myself in the study of the law.



Edzesim .M. Shiangar
(Part 1, UPSA Campus Group B)

Students' Corner Part 2



Kuukua Yorke
(Part 2, Greenhill Campus Group A)

Part 1 was very exciting because I had a very interesting class. I got to meet people from all walks of life;

both young and old. I was quite prepared for Part 1 because I was privy to information from my friends who were in Part 2

at the time I joined the Ghana School of Law. My exam preparation was not exactly smooth because I fell seriously ill a month prior to the exam. This affected my study time leading to the final exams because it took a while for me to recover. It was a very intense period because psychologically I felt I was not prepared due to the time I spent at the hospital. However, I was able to catch up on all the lost time, I managed to sail through with the help of colleagues in my study group and my seniors who provided the requisite information to tackle the exams. The tip I would give to the new entrants is to hit the ground running with the studies. It is very helpful to begin revising early into the academic year and attempt to answer a lot of past questions. You also need God on your side so you must also pray a lot. Do not hesitate to ask for help because you may never know who has covered what you have not.

Gaining admission to the Law School is exciting. Nonetheless, like most endeavours in life, one needs a strategy to overcome the challenges that are inherent in Law School, particularly in Part 1. My observations and interactions with colleagues and lecturers have equipped me with some lessons which I believe will help every new entrant to navigate Part 1 of the Professional Law Course:

1. Attend lectures: The Ghana School of Law offers experienced professionals as lecturers and attending lectures for insights into subject areas, question responses, and examinable areas is crucial to your success in the Professional Law Course.
2. Follow the instructions of lecturers.
3. Make time for personal studies.
4. Follow the Study Manual and other approved materials.
5. Join a study group: Regular meetings of



a serious study group are highly beneficial and advisable for discussing courses and resolving past questions.

6. Familiarise yourself with past questions.



Kwaku Agyemang Duah
(Part 2, Greenhill Campus Group A)

At first, Part 1 seemed overwhelming. Before my enrollment, I had not envisaged attending classes on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7 am to 8 pm with only an hour's break within those 13 hours. The volume of knowledge and material presented was so extensive that my non-lecture days appeared insufficient for catching up.

I was however able to adjust to the extent that balancing my academics with my bid for the SRC vice president became possible. This could only happen with the help of my study partners and senior mentors, who instilled discipline and consistency in my studies, coupled with the grace of God. Revising with past questions was also helpful.

I end my submission by sharing a secret with new entrants from Ecclesiastes 1:9. It reads, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." Part 1 exams may evoke a great deal of fear, but rest assured that it is



indeed passable!

Joshua Safo
(Part 2, Kumasi Campus Group A)





**David-Kratos
Ampofo**

(Part 2, Main Campus
Group A)

Last year was a real eye-opener. Life at the Ghana School of Law is like stepping into a whole new world – and trust me, no

amount of advice or rumors can prep you for the wild ride. They say the struggle to be a lawyer is a personal one, and boy, they're not kidding.

Think about it the struggle is one everyone faces: entrance exam stress-heads worrying about getting that golden ticket, Part One folks nervously eyeing Part Two like it's a dragon they've got to slay, and Part Two gang wrestling with the weight of making it out of law school alive. It's a crazy race, and let's face it, just making it through the doors, moving on to Part

Two, or getting that call to the bar deserves a high-five.

Now, this year is our Esquire Year – me and my colleagues. We're buzzing with excitement, riding the waves of hope, and yes, there's a lot of anxiety in there too. We're knee-deep in lecture notes, trying not to drown in the endless sea of law student life, throwing a bit of social life in there, and now juggling the added chaos the new internship program taking up whatever free time we could muster.

But despite the mayhem, I'm genuinely excited about this year. The grind, the late-night struggles, the coffee-fueled study sessions – it's all part of the story. The tale of law students like us, at this very stage, is all about resilience and tenacity, and that's what makes it exciting.

So, here's a big shout-out to everyone making their mark at the Ghana School of Law – kudos to you! Here's to an epic New Year filled with triumphs, late-night study adventures, and maybe a few more cups of coffee. Cheers to the chaos, the grind, and the adventure ahead!

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark grey suit jacket over a white dress shirt, stands in a studio setting. He is holding a large, white, textured, knitted hat in front of him. The background is a mottled green and blue wall. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the texture of the hat.

RISING STAR

● **INTERVIEW** with
Jojo Bentsi-Enchill

Q: Hi Jojo. We are grateful to have you with us today. Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

A: Hi Editorial. It's a pleasure to be here. Well for starters, my name is Jojo Konki Sapara Bentsi-Enchill. I was called to the Bar last year and I'm currently doing my pupillage. I love to read and write, watch movies, play video games and listen to music.

Q: Congratulations on your call last year. How has the experience after the call been so far?

A: Thank you very much. So far, it's been great; simply wonderful. At times, it feels very surreal and I'd need to remind myself that I'm here in the present – I'm actually a lawyer now.

Q: We would love to know how the days leading up to the call must have felt like and how it was seeing your name on the final list?

A: As much as I had faith that I was going to see my name on that list, the days leading up to the call were full of mixed feelings. Before the list came out, I was just anxious and restless, thinking about when the results are finally going to be released. All that changed when the final list came out. I was so excited and couldn't wait for the Call to happen.

Q: Let's backtrack a bit to when you first came to the Ghana School of Law. What was that like?

A: It was quite challenging, looking at the amount of work you had to put in. When I first saw the academic timetable, I couldn't believe it. But it was also quite exciting knowing that I had reached a new stage in my training to be a lawyer and that I was one step closer to fulfilling my dream.

Q: Do you have any tips that might be helpful to students who have just started their journey in GSL?

A: One thing I found helpful in Part 1 of the GSL is doing your best to avoid the work piling up. Try and study or read something every day. Don't let it pile up or else you'll be overwhelmed. Secondly, a good study group helps. Join a study group or make friends with people you can study with. It really makes things easier.

Q: As students we're always told about the "horrors" of Part 1 but could you tell us a bit about your experience in Part 2?

A: Well Part 2 is definitely easier because now you have fewer courses to study for and a bit more time on your hands. In theory, your workload should reduce then. But personally, I found myself putting in more effort than I did in Part 1, if not the same. I think the reason for that is you realize you're at the final lap and you can't afford to slack, so you give it your best. All in all, Part 2 was exciting and I think I enjoyed it better than Part 1.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who finds themselves in this part of their journey?

A: So just like I said earlier, you're almost at the end of the road. Don't slow down. Learn like crazy. Ask for help when needed and definitely pray.

Q: A lot of students know you for your summarized notes which help explain very complex topics. Could you tell us the inspiration behind those notes?

A: I'm glad my notes have been helpful. It actually goes back to my LLB days where getting into law school, you have no idea what's going on, even after doing the assigned readings and everything. In most cases, all the information was scattered all over, which made my studying

difficult. So, I resolved to create something of my own, something simple which at its core, would help you to understand the fundamentals without necessarily having to “chew and pour” the information.

Q: Now that we’ve delved into the past, let’s press forward to the future. What are your hopes and aspirations in the coming future?

A: I’m simply hoping to be the best version of myself that I can be, and to make an impact wherever I find myself.

Q: As we round up, we would love to know what you hope students take away from your experience in GSL?

A: Just know that it’s possible – you’ve come this far and you can definitely make it. Believe in yourself and your dreams and work hard. It’s worth it in the end.

Thank you very much for your time, Jojo and we wish you all the best in the next steps of your legal journey.

A Visit to Her Ladyship Justice Torkonoo

The Executive Council accompanied by the Speaker of Congress, Chief Justice, Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff paid a working visit to Her Ladyship Justice Torkonoo, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana.





2 023 BEST STUDENT COMPANY & COMMERCIAL PRACTICE

● INTERVIEW with Joel Telfer

Q: At what point did you realize you could be the best student in Company & Commercial Practice and did you deliberately plan towards achieving this feat?

A: I'll be brutally honest with you. At no point did I deliberately plan to win an award. My goal was to give every course my best and then leave the

rest to God. So, to answer plainly, I only realized I could be the best student at the point I was announced as winner.

Q: What was your study strategy in Parts I and II?

A: I relied heavily on picking up important information on how to approach the courses and the exams from class. My study group, 'On God', was also very pivotal. So, I would say a combination of attending class, going for study group meetings and focusing on how to answer questions helped me a great deal.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced as a student of the Ghana School of Law?

A: I think the law school can be very tasking. Accounting frustrated me a few times. But what God cannot do does not exist. All in all, it was a 10/10 experience and every part of the journey was absolutely worth it.

Q: What was your experience with the PLC internship program?

A: I learnt a great deal during my internship. My part two internship exposed me so much to the real world of practice. I was lucky enough to work under a boss who gave me a nice perspective into the life of a practitioner. Those few weeks undoubtedly left an indelible mark on me.

Q: How different or similar was your part one internship experience from that of part two?

A: I did Legal Department in Part 1 and Firm in part 2. So obviously two very different experiences. They were both very helpful to me I must say. I enjoyed both thoroughly.

Q: How did you usually spend your leisure time at the Ghana School of Law?

A: I believe the life of the law is in enjoyment. Let me end this here.

Q: How did it feel when you finally realized you had passed the PLC exams and were

getting called to the Bar?

A: Overwhelmed really. I had wanted this for a while. So, I was just thankful to see the manifestation of God's glory. Being a lawyer in Ghana is a lot of hard work for most. For me it was all down to grace. So, I was filled with gratitude to God.

Q: How did you prepare for the exit interview and is there any piece of advice you would want to share with the prospective candidates?

A: Dress appropriately. Make sure you are conversant with your logbook. Be confident! Keep your head up, you'll be fine.

Q: How do you describe your journey so far as freshly minted lawyer? Is there anything you have learnt or any remarkable feat chalked that you are very proud of in practice so far?

A: There's still so much to learn. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to wake up every day knowing I would go to bed a better lawyer. Meeting experienced seniors, diverse clients, various aspects of the practice, they all have added significant color to my journey and I'm thankful for that.

Q: Any word of advice or information you would like to share with the current crop of students at the Ghana School of Law?

A: You have done a great job in getting into the Ghana School of Law. Most of your friends and colleagues have already started calling you lawyer or counsel. Now make sure you do whatever you can to earn that title legitimately. Everything is possible. Remember why you are there in the first place. I can't wait to see you take your place at the bar!! Best wishes.

Thank you for joining us and we wish you all the best in your legal journey.



2023 BEST STUDENT: FAMILY LAW & PRACTICE

- **INTERVIEW with
Christ Agyakwa Agyir**

Q: At what point did you realize you could be the best student in Family Law & Practice and did you deliberately plan towards achieving this feat?

A: I realized I could get the award for best student in family law on the day our raw scores were released. The results were sent as a text message, and my score for family law was quite high. I didn't plan for it; I wasn't studying for it. Anybody who knows me knows that I was doing a fifty plus one agenda; I just came to the school to be called to the bar. But for that paper, I did my best. The score was high, but it is not something that I deliberately planned for.

Q: What was your study strategy in part one and two?

A: What I used to do was to start making notes from the beginning of the academic year. For every course, I would write down everything into a book, for each topic, and about three weeks to the exams I would focus on solving a lot of past questions. I also participated in group studies with my colleagues to appreciate the understanding of others. It really helped.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced as a student of the Ghana School of Law?

A: I think the most challenging aspect of Law School was trying to figure out my way around the academic load. It is quite demanding, and if you are not careful, you become a book worm without a social life. More so, considering the load of work that had to be done, I had to put other things on hold.

Q: What was your experience with PLC internship programme?

A: I had an excellent experience with the internship programme. I had a plan and knew what I was looking for; I went to places that could provide me with that experience. For example,

for part one, I wanted an experience in corporate and commercial practice, and for that reason, I did my internship at B&P Associates. It was great. It gave me insight into whatever happens in a corporate setting. The firm involves you in every work and project. For part two, I interned at the court with one of the Judges at the Court of Appeal. She assigned me to legal research work and drafting of legal opinions. She took her time to explain things for better understanding. She exposed me to the court experience; I had a good balance of both experiences: corporate experience for part one and court experience for part two.

Q: How different or similar was your part one internship experience from part two?

A: With the firm experience in part one, you advised clients and carried out legal research in the context of lawyer-client relationship. For the court in part two, you had to think like a judge. You had to consider people's argument, find a common ground, figure out which one was more convincing and the skill to apply cases and write judgments.

Q: How did you usually spend your leisure time at the Ghana School of Law?

A: I used to visit the gym, sleep or hang out with friends. I also used to play with the band, Adaha Band, on weekends.

Q: How did it feel when you finally realized you had passed the PLC exams and were getting called to the Bar?

A: Passing the exam and being called to the Bar is the most exciting feeling that you could ever have as a law student. I felt a load had been lifted, considering the work load a law student has to deal with. It was the best feeling I had in a long time.

Q: How did you prepare for the exit interview, and is there any piece of advice you would want to share with prospective candidates?

A: For the exit interview, the most important thing is for you to know whatever thing you have written in your log book. I think one thing they look out for is to know if the student actually did the internship and did not copy someone's log book. So, most of the questions will be based on the internship experience. They can open to a random page in your log book and ask you about something you have written. For those who intern in the courts, the panellists are likely to ask you to move a motion. It is something that they often do. It is also important to know how to address the charges. Also take your advocacy lectures seriously because that's where you will learn how to move motions.

Q: How do you describe your journey, so far, as a freshly minted lawyer? Is there anything you have learnt or any remarkable feet chalked that you are very proud of in practice?

A: My journey, so far, has been great and I believe it is because of the kind of environment I work in and how well they care about the development

of young lawyers. One thing I have learnt, a little over two months of being a lawyer, is that, the kind of lawyer you want to be is dependent on the kind of firm you work in and the senior you work with. It is very important to know the firm you are going into; make sure you are comfortable with the work they do and the people you will work with. The most important thing is to get a good senior and learn from that person.

Q: Any word of advice or information you would like to share with the current crop of students at the Ghana School of Law?

A: I think this is probably advice every law student has heard before, but the point is, this law school is not difficult, however if you are not careful, it will be difficult for you. You can't do it alone, even if you survived LLB as a sole learner. This is the practical aspect of everything and therefore you need people's opinion and understanding to put things in context and so it is best to learn with others, make your notes, brief your cases, verify information in the notes and ask questions for clarity.

Thank you very much for your time, Christ and we wish you all the best in your practice.

Empowering Communities: NBLSA and GSL's impactful donation in Mepe, Ghana

As part of their visit to the Republic of Ghana, the National Black Law Students' Association in collaboration with the Executive Council of the GSL and the Volunteering Committee visited the people of Mepe to make a donation of some relief items including boxes of rice, oil and tomato paste. The team was received by Member of Parliament for North Tongu Constituency, Hon. Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa, North Tongu chiefs and members of the Accountability Elders Council



NBLSA warmly welcomed by Director of Legal Education and SRC Executive Council

The National Black Law Students' Association were welcomed by the Director of Legal Education, Barima Yaw Kodie Oppong and the Executive council of the SRC.

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