

# The Newsletter

Ghana School of Law SRC

## Third Edition



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Gertrude Emefa Donkor

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Justice Kyei-Baffour

Interview with  
Esinam Kporku

Interview with  
2023 Sarbah Awardee

Tips for Job Applicants

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RAM STUDIOS

# Aaddress

Gertrude Emefa Donkor

President  
Ghana School of Law

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**G**reetings esteemed law students,  
All too soon, we are gradually approaching the end of the 2023/2024 Academic year, with Part II students looking forward to the 61st Call, while the Part I students await their transition to Part II. The Good Book tells us that

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within us, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

### **Philippians 1:6**

It's always a privilege and an honor to address the student body through any available medium and I often use such an opportunity to highlight some work done by the SRC thus far, as well as keep the student body informed on relevant matters.

Kindly permit me to run you through some of the efforts of the SRC that have yielded positive results, ensuring that some concerns of students are met.

### **Timely Release of Remarking Results**

It's a known fact the issue of timely release of remarking results has been a major concern to the student body every year. It is particularly frustrating and worrying when students who have applied for remarking, especially those who need to pass just one paper to get to Part II, are unsure of what their fate is until the results are released. Mostly, affected students are not sure whether to remain in Part I or move to Part II, with hope that the outcome of the remarking would produce positive results. Now, if you decide to remain in Part I for the time being while awaiting the results, colleagues in Part II would have made progress with studies, and in the event you're moved to Part II after remarking, it will take a lot of effort to catch up.

As I indicated, this situation has been a major concern for students over the years.

In 2022 for example, remarking results were released in March 2022, when the 2nd term had run deep.

Having this at the back of our minds, we paid a visit to the Chief Justice in early January and among other matters petitioned Her Ladyship to intervene for the results to be released earlier than the previous years.

Thankfully, remarking results for 2023/2024 Academic year were released in February 2023, one full month earlier than was done the previous year. This, definitely relieved affected students of the frustration and mental torture of having to wait for a month more. Colleagues, it's easy for unaffected students to undermine this effort, but surely, it brought relief to affected students.

### **Refund of School Cloth and Jacket Fund**

Dear Colleagues, it will interest you to know that this is not the first time students paid for jackets and cloths but received neither the items nor the funds collected for the purpose. Those of our colleagues who have been students before 2022 will attest to this fact. In our time however, we managed to get Management to agree to offset the unpaid fees or refund the monies as the case may be, to affected students. I am particularly satisfied knowing that money taken for the items will not go unaccounted for.

### **Judylegal**

The decision to contract with Judylegal was a call from many students who earnestly desired the service. Successful subscribers are currently subscribed to the Premium service of Judylegal, which ideally costs Ghs 300 per month per student. Again, those who have subscribed and are benefiting from the premium service continually express their gratitude.

### **Onuado Scholarship Fund**

This year, the SRC took a decision to expand the scholarship scheme having recognized the financial challenges some of our colleagues are encountering. The previous administration allocated about Ghs 86000 towards scholarships. My administration has however made provision of Ghs 152,000 towards scholarship which is almost a 100% increment. Infact, we are expecting an additional Ghs 100,000 to add up to the existing provision. This we are doing for the welfare of the student body.

## Introduction of WiFi to GIMPA Campus

My administration, having acknowledged the need for all students to have access to free internet connectivity, engaged Management and other stakeholders on the matter. As a result, our colleagues on GIMPA campus now have access to free wifi. Our challenge is with the Main Campus as there is no existing infrastructure the SRC could leverage on to make internet available to students. Management has however agreed to set up an infrastructure for the purpose. This we have been told, will take time. We are also aware of the unstable nature of the internet connectivity at Kumasi, and we are in talks with the coordinator to resolve same.

## Activities/Engagements in the Pipeline

•First Aid Care Center

•Truncation of the Internship II

•Proposal for postponement of Practical Moot exams

This said, I must state that I am not unaware of the challenges we have faced as an administration. Admittedly, a couple of activities have not happened as planned.

I want to assure you that we are taking steps to address the issues at hand. We are committed to ensuring transparency and open communication with all students.

Remember that the law is a powerful tool for change, and it is up to each of you to wield it responsibly and ethically. Embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and challenge yourself, for it is through dedication and hard work that you will truly make a difference in the world.

Thank you for the support as always.

**Gertrude Emefa Donkor**



# Editor's Note

Ewurama Mongson  
Editor-in-Chief

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Just recently, we published the New Year's Edition of our newsletter and so soon, it's time for the Third Edition and we are gearing towards examinations to complete the academic year. Naturally, as students, there is some agitation surrounding the upcoming exam and this newsletter is, once again, here to help. Again, with the call on the horizon, Part II and Post Call students may be feeling jittery about what the future holds. This newsletter hopes to help in that regard as well.

You will find an insightful interview with Justice Kyei-Baffour where he shares a bit about his personal life while also sharing invaluable tips for both the exams and life after school. Don't hesitate to draw inspiration from his personal journey and determined resolve as you embark on your own journey.

We also interviewed our rising star, Esinam Kporku, who dazzled in her outstanding submissions before the Supreme Court which attracted praise from the Chief Justice and earned her media attention. She shares with us some steps she took in order to make the feat and some tips for new lawyers to be able to emulate same. It is my hope that as you read this, it inspires and pushes you to dare for more even as you make it to the much sought-after bar.

We finally had the chance to sit with 2023 Sarbah Awardee, Ebenezer Adai Osei, nicknamed Selfie, where we gleaned from

him practical tips for those vying for a similar award or simply hoping to have remarkable grades. We didn't stop there but featured awardees of specific courses including Conveyancing, LPM and Accounting, and Advocacy in the hopes that their answers will direct students not just in their studies but in how they answer questions in these courses.

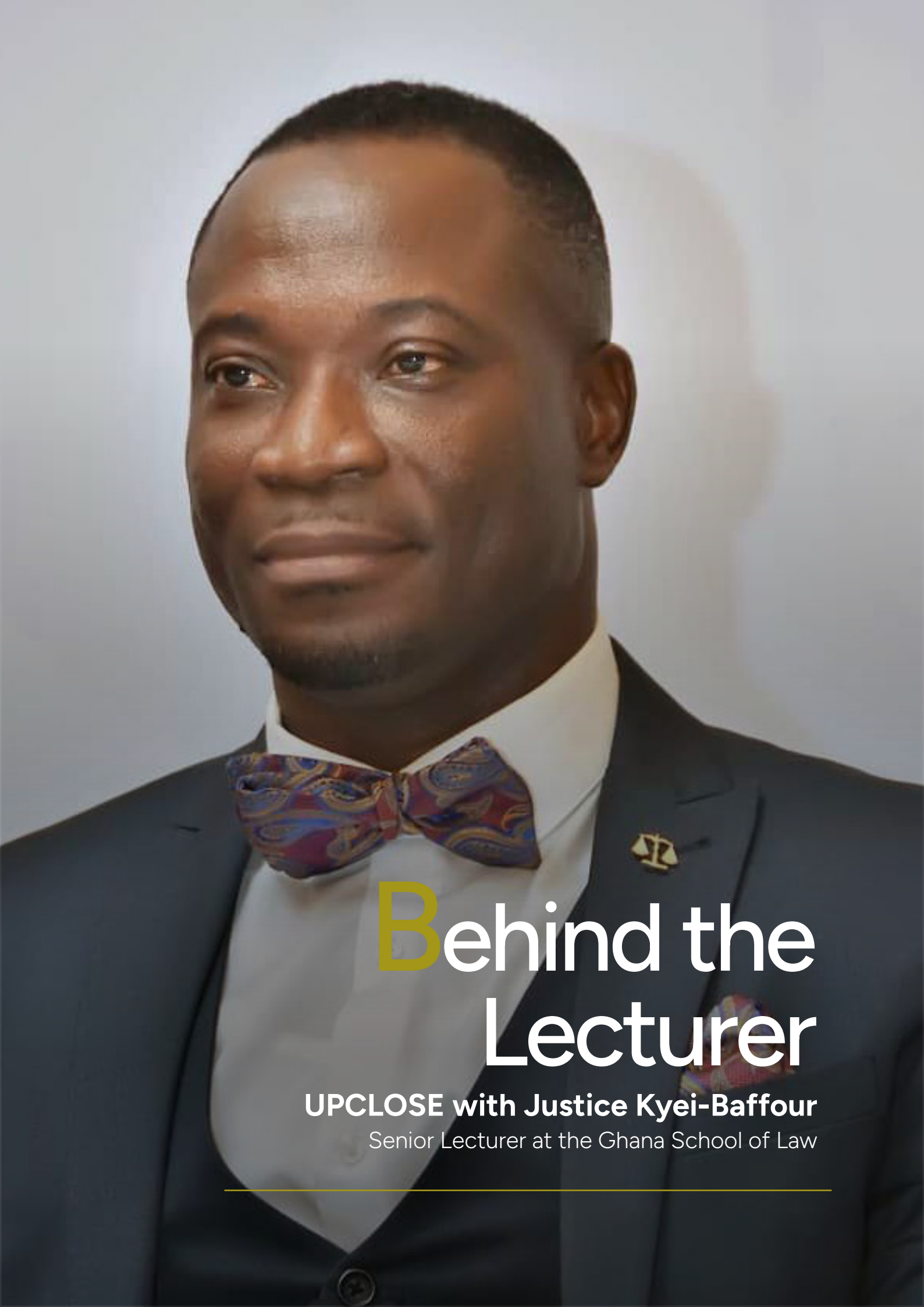
Not to keep everything academic, we share with you the latest in election news and the anticipated SRC Week celebration.

We love to hear perspectives from students and in this edition, we feature not just submissions from Part 1 and 2 but from the Post Call class as well, where the Best Graduating Student from the Gambia Law School shares her experience studying law in another jurisdiction and in Ghana.

We also have some surprises for readers that I will leave you to discover.

It is my hope that you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter and that it arms you with information relevant to your academics and your future endeavours.

I am most grateful to my team who availed themselves to work diligently on this edition in spite of the rigorous academic workload. I also extend my profound gratitude to the executive council led by the President, Gertrude Emefa Donkor, for all the support in making this issue possible.



# Behind the Lecturer

**UPCLOSE with Justice Kyei-Baffour**  
Senior Lecturer at the Ghana School of Law

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## Personal Background and Early Education

**Q: We have come to know you as our esteemed lecturer and a judge, but we'd like to delve deeper into who you are as a person. Could you share some insights into your personal background and interests?**

I appreciate the opportunity to share insights into my personal journey. Married for 21 years and blessed with a daughter currently studying at GIMPA Law Faculty. I come from a family of three boys, with my formative years rooted in Kumasi. I did the O and A Level system called the JSS, which was an experimental system under Chairman Rawlings. I did my O levels at the Armed Forces Junior Secondary College and my A Levels at Accra Academy. From there I went on to the University of Ghana where I graduated in 1997 instead of 1996 due to the lecturer's strike. Then I came to the Ghana School of Law.

Upon completing my legal studies, I was admitted to the bar in 1999. Initially, I practiced law in Kumasi at O and A Law Consult with Mr. Michael Owusu, who is now in charge of the Kumasi Campus of the Ghana School of Law, before briefly venturing abroad until my return to Ghana in 2005. I continued my legal career as a State Attorney at the Attorney General's office where I was posted to Sunyani before transitioning to the role of Head of Litigation at AB and David Law in Accra. I resigned and took up the role of company secretary. Throughout this journey, my lifelong aspiration to become a judge remained steadfast. Around 2010, my dream was realized, marking a significant milestone in my professional trajectory. Since then, I've had the privilege of serving on the Court of Appeal, beginning in 2019. It has indeed been a remarkable journey filled with challenges and triumphs.

**Q: Can you share with us your early educational experiences and how they shaped your journey?**

In my formative years, I resided with my grandmother in a humble village near Kumasi. The educational environment was challenging, devoid of basic amenities such as electricity and running water. Aside a lack of these amenities there was further a lack of teachers but all that did not deter me. I attended Odara Barracks school. I went on to Armed Forces Junior Secondary College where I noticed my deficiency but I strived to make up for it. Remarkably, I emerged within the top ten students out of a cohort of 120, a testament to my resolute commitment to academic achievement.

During this period, I found solace and inspiration in my spiritual pursuits within the Church of Pentecost, immersing myself in scripture and prayer. I participated in various Bible quizzes and activities which helped to improve my academic abilities. I kept to myself and read the bible very well. I found a lot of comfort in the Bible. This spiritual foundation has remained an enduring influence, shaping my character and fortifying my resolve throughout my journey.

**Q: Reflecting on your time as a law student, could you walk us through your journey and pivotal moments that influenced your career path?**

Embarking on the path of legal education was a formidable endeavor, characterized by intense competition and rigorous academic standards. At the University of Ghana, Legon, which was the only law faculty at the time, admission was fiercely competitive, with stringent prerequisites. Out of over 10000 applicants, only about 80 were selected. Then a baptism of fire after our first year exam to justify our inclusion where further cuts were made. Our lecturers gave us a solid foundation.

Despite these challenges, my tenure as a law student involved participating in other



non-academic stuff such as law week and moot courts and was marked by pivotal moments of growth and achievement. Notably, in 1999, alongside my esteemed colleague Mr. Yeboah, I had the privilege of representing West Africa in a prestigious legal competition where we emerged third, a milestone that underscored the culmination of our dedication and scholarly endeavors.

**Q: We'd love to hear about your legal journey, from your student days to your current position. What significant milestones or experiences stand out to you?**

Throughout my legal journey, I encountered both challenges and pivotal moments that shaped my trajectory. Initially, the transition from student to practitioner was daunting, particularly navigating pupillage without financial support. However, perseverance propelled me forward.

Transitioning from the rigors of practice to the judiciary was a defining moment in my career.

Beginning at the circuit court level, I diligently adjudicated cases ranging from robbery, fraud, possession of weapons, rioting etc. We had about eight Circuit courts in the country at the time which meant that I had a boatload of cases to render decisions on. My diligent effort was recognized and I was elevated to the High Court in 3 years. I was at the Tema High Court and then transferred to the Accra High Court. My court was a commercial court that also handled General Jurisdiction cases. This meant the workload was twice as much as that of other High Courts.

My tenure at the High Court, particularly in Tema and Accra, presented me with high-profile cases that tested my resolve. Despite the demanding nature of the profession, I relished being in control of my court and delivering justice.

Elevating to the Court of Appeal, albeit as the youngest judge, underscored the meritocratic nature of our judiciary. Age was never a deterrent; performance and

dedication were paramount. One must do their best and give off their best wherever they find themselves. As I continue to serve, I remain committed to upholding the integrity of the judiciary and delivering justice impartially.

**Q: As a lecturer, what inspired you to begin teaching? Can you elaborate on your journey into academia?**

My foray into academia was inspired by a natural inclination towards pedagogy, nurtured through my experiences within the legal fraternity. As a judge, the inherent engagement with legal principles and the exposition of the law to practitioners instilled in me a profound appreciation for the art of teaching.

Commencing as a lecturer whilst at the High Court in Central University and KAAF University, I taught criminal law and jurisprudence, sharing insights gleaned from my experiences in the legal profession.

However, the demands of being a trial judge led me to temporarily suspend my academic pursuits in 2017. It wasn't until 2020 that I resumed teaching at GSL GIMPA Campus where I was tasked with teaching the Law of Interpretation, driven by a profound belief that teaching and judging are symbiotic endeavors. In 2022, I transitioned to the main campus, further solidifying my commitment to legal education.

Teaching, for me, is not merely a profession but a calling deeply rooted in the tradition of legal scholarship. Drawing inspiration from luminaries such as Justice Sam Badu SC and Justice AA Foster CA, who enriched my own legal education, I am privileged to pass on their wisdom to future generations of legal minds.

Moreover, the tradition of judges engaging in teaching during summer vacations, exemplified by figures like Scalia and Barack teaching at prestigious institutions like Yale, Harvard, and Stanford, underscores the intrinsic connection between the bench and the academy. It is within this tradition

that GSL, situated right behind the court, enables judges to seamlessly blend teaching with judicial duties, fostering a unique environment where students benefit from practical insights alongside theoretical knowledge.

As a law teacher, I endeavor to honor the legacy of those who came before me while blazing new trails in the pursuit of justice and scholarly excellence.

**Q: What has been the most rewarding aspect of your experience as a lecturer, and what challenges have you encountered?**

Teaching has been akin to a flowing stream, a constant source of rejuvenation and growth. By imparting knowledge, I find myself continually learning and evolving. Guiding students toward academic excellence brings immense satisfaction, knowing that I am shaping future leaders in the legal profession.

As a lecturer, one of the most rewarding aspects is guiding students towards the right way of studying, knowing that I am shaping future legal professionals. Witnessing the growth of students, with the hope that they will eventually take over as judges and lawyers, brings immense joy. Whether they offer their services in Ghana or beyond, the classroom serves as a nurturing ground for future leaders of the legal profession.

In terms of challenges, it was initially difficult lecturing from Monday through to Friday, balancing that with my judicial responsibilities. On Fridays alone, I would have about 6 hours of lectures. However, I have adapted to the new system of lecturing from Monday to Thursday.

Despite the challenges, the joy of the classroom far outweighs any obstacles encountered along the way.

**Q: Could you share what led you to pursue a career as a Judge? What**

**motivated you to transition into the role as a young lawyer?**

I have always said this for which I have received some criticism but to be a judge is more than just a profession; it is a calling akin to that of a priest. One must possess a deep-seated burden for justice and righteousness to prevail. I firmly believe that justice is the and righteousness are two sides of the same coin, and as judges, we are entrusted with the solemn responsibility of upholding it. It is, in essence, an exercise in carrying out some of the functions of God, the ultimate judge before whom we will all one day stand.

I was not motivated by money. My journey into the judiciary began by choice, starting from a circuit court instead of a high court. I was not driven by monetary gain otherwise, I could have potentially earned more as a lawyer. However, the sense of fulfillment I derive from serving as a judge surpasses any material rewards. I have never regretted taking this path, as I harbor a burning desire to see justice served, even in the face of adversity.

Even when unwell, I am compelled to ensure that my cases move forward. As a judge, my heart aches when there are a backlog of cases awaiting determination. When encountering new judges, I am eager to share my experiences, for the judiciary is a place of service and profound impact. I firmly believe that justice will flow like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, animating my journey as a judge.

**Q: Balancing your role as a Justice of the Court of Appeal with lecturing must be demanding. How do you manage this balancing act, and what insights can you share with us?**

Balancing the responsibilities of a Justice of the Court of Appeal with lecturing requires meticulous time management and a commitment to excellence. The workload within the Court of Appeal is not as tasking as that of the Circuit Court and the High

Court, however, the work demands rigorous research and quality judgments. Effective teamwork and human management skills are essential for success since we are three judges. Every stage of the journey, whether in the courtroom or classroom, is embraced as a privilege which I relish, reinforcing the importance of dedication and appreciation for the legal profession.

**Q: What advice would you offer to students as they prepare for exams, drawing from your own experiences?**

As students prepare for exams, I urge them not to succumb to fear or panic. Take your time, devote ample hours to studying, and collaborate with peers to shore up any deficiencies in learning. As a team, solve past questions. Remember, success is within reach with diligent effort and effective time management. Even in the face of internship, you can still prevail. It's important to recognize the value of effective time management. In our time, we had five days of school, but now you have four, leaving you with a day to spare. Even at my level, I often have to curtail my nights to accommodate my responsibilities. There's never enough time for everyone, so it's crucial to make time. Even after work, take the time to rest and then dedicate yourself to learning. Smart planning and effective time management are key. By strategizing your time wisely, you can navigate the demands of exams and internships successfully.

**Q: With the bar call on the horizon, what advice would you give to those about to embark on their professional careers?**

The journey to becoming a legal professional is arduous, filled with challenges and waiting periods. Take each step one at a time. Approach each day with determination, knowing that perseverance and patience are key to success. While monetary rewards are important, prioritize learning and gaining experience, as they are the true currency of the legal profession. Enjoy every moment because you will never get it back. Remember, every step forward is a step toward refinement and growth. The journey

of a thousand miles begins with the first footstep.

**Q: What advice do you have for early-career professionals in navigating the legal landscape and establishing themselves in the field?**

Early-career professionals should align their career paths with their interests and aspirations. Whether in private practice, government service, or the judiciary, seek opportunities that fascinate and inspire growth. Remember, the journey may be daunting, but with dedication and perseverance, success will follow. Embrace each challenge as an opportunity for learning and advancement.

## Work-Life Balance and Personal Wellness

**Q: Achieving a harmonious work-life balance is often challenging, especially in demanding professions like law. Could you share insights into your routine and how you maintain this equilibrium?**

In the pursuit of a fulfilling life, it's imperative to explore every facet beyond the confines of professional endeavors. I prioritize carving out time for family, relaxation, and personal enjoyment. Maintaining physical well-being is essential, so I dedicate time to activities like going to the gym, jogging, and going on walks to stay fit. Nurturing the spirit is equally vital, hence my commitment to serving in the church and making time for spiritual reflection.

Striking a balance extends beyond routine activities; it encompasses indulging in life's pleasures and exploring new experiences. I enjoy traveling and sightseeing, as it offers respite from the mundane and broadens my perspective. Immersing myself in various forms of music, including country, jazz, and highlife, adds vibrancy to my life. Alan



Jackson remains one of my favorite country artists, and I embrace his fashion style, often sporting a cowboy hat outside the professional settings.

I also enjoy fashion. Fashion isn't just about attire; it's a reflection of personal style and identity. I believe in living life to the fullest, savoring its sweetness despite its challenges. With each breath, I endeavor to embrace life's joys and experiences, cherishing every moment and cultivating a harmonious balance between professional responsibilities and personal fulfillment.

**Q: How have your Christian values influenced your career decisions and approach to your work?**

My Christian values serve as the guiding light in both my career decisions and approach to work. As I delve deeper into the teachings of the Bible, I better understand the Law. Scriptures such as Exodus 18:21 and 2 Chronicles 19:5 provide clear criteria for the qualities of a judge – able men, men who fear God, and men of truth.

Just as the Latimer and Bangalore principles outline ethical standards in the legal profession, I believe these principles find their roots in the Bible. For me, there is no separation between faith and work; rather, they are intertwined aspects of life's journey. I firmly believe that God assigns a purpose to each individual, and for me, being a judge is a manifestation of that destiny.

In the courtroom, my Christian values shape my demeanor and approach. I see myself as a guardian of justice, akin to a vigilant guard dog that must bark at the intrusion of injustice. Through my faith, I have learned to overcome fears and stand firm in upholding the principles of truth and righteousness.

Thus, crossing paths with me in court means encountering unwavering resolve and commitment to justice.

**Q: Considering the impact of personal beliefs on judicial decisions in light of American-Realism, do you believe your Christian values have influenced your judgments as a Justice?**

While my Christian values deeply inform my worldview and approach to life, I firmly believe in upholding the rule of law in judicial decisions. Christian principles such as integrity, service to humanity, justice, and mercy are indeed intertwined with legal principles, creating a moral foundation that guides my actions.

However, as a Justice, it is paramount to adhere strictly to the law and legal precedent in rendering judgments. Ghana does not have ecclesiastical courts, and thus, decisions must be based on legal statutes and precedents rather than personal religious beliefs.

While my Christian values undoubtedly shape my character and perspective, they are applied within the framework of legal principles. Ultimately, my duty as a Justice is to interpret and apply the law impartially, ensuring justice is served without bias or personal agenda.

**Q: What do you believe are the keys to a successful career on the Bench, and how have you applied these principles in your own journey?**

The keys to a successful career on the Bench are deeply rooted in a genuine passion for true justice and an unwavering commitment to its principles. It pains me to witness backlogs of cases and instances where justice remains elusive. To excel in this role, one must continually strive for excellence in judgment, ensuring that each decision is grounded in sound legal reasoning and evidential support.

Competence is crucial; every judgment rendered must withstand the test of scrutiny and appeal. After all, as judges, we are not

only tasked with dispensing justice but also being mindful of the repercussions of our decisions. Honesty is the bedrock of judicial integrity, ensuring transparency and trust in the legal system.

Every judgment rendered carries a profound sense of accountability, as we, too, are subject to judgment. In the face of challenges and pressures, whether overt or subtle, courage becomes indispensable. Resisting external influences and maintaining independence are essential, particularly in a legal landscape where integrity can be tested.

As judges, we must dispense justice without fear or favor, upholding the rule of law above personal biases or external pressures. Asserting control over the courtroom and maintaining impartiality are critical in ensuring the integrity of the judicial process.

Throughout my own journey, I have endeavored to embody these principles, ensuring that justice is not just a concept but a lived reality in every case. By upholding these values steadfastly, I strive to contribute to a judiciary that stands as a beacon of fairness, accountability, and integrity

**Q: Maintaining personal well-being amidst long hours and high stress is crucial. How do you ensure you stay healthy and rejuvenated?**

Ensuring personal well-being is paramount, especially in demanding roles that involve long hours and high stress. I prioritize self-care by carving out time for rest and relaxation. Engaging in regular exercise and sports activities such as running, walking, and weightlifting not only rejuvenates the body but also enhances mental clarity and psychological wellbeing and resilience.

Maintaining a healthy diet is equally important, as it fuels the body and provides the necessary nutrients to cope with the demands of a rigorous schedule. Investing in my physical well-being not only fosters self-confidence but also positively impacts

my personal life, enabling me to navigate challenges with greater ease and vitality. The spirit must accompany the body and so if God has set a number of years before you but you do not care for your body, you cannot live out those set number of years.

## Reflection and Future Aspirations

**Q: If you could revisit any aspect of your legal journey, is there anything you would change? If so, what and why?**

In hindsight, I harbor no regrets nor the desire to alter any aspect of my journey. Every twist and turn, every victory and challenge, has contributed to shaping my path and purpose. There was a time when the cocaine saga; where cocaine confiscated from the time of first testing to the time of its arrival becomes another whitish substance. It might have left me questioning, but now I see it as divine providence at work.

After seizing the substance, some police officers would go through the backdoor and sell it, making a profit while we sell the youth a hope of doom. I made sure to clog that hole by a second testing of the cocaine in court.

Through that trial, I was tasked with combating a societal scourge, rescuing young men and teenagers. It was an opportunity to turn adversity into a platform for positive change, much like the biblical Mordecai, who uncovered a plot to assassinate the king. Just as Mordecai's actions saved lives, I see myself as a guardian of Ghana, standing against the forces that seek to harm our youth and communities.

Even those who once accused me have witnessed the impact of my efforts, I have saved some of their children. Every case, whether perceived as favorable or challenging, has played a role in fulfilling the destiny that God has ordained for me. I cherish each moment, recognizing that every trial has been a stepping stone toward

a greater calling.

**Q: Do you have any future ambitions in your career that you'd like to share with us?**

At this juncture in my career, I find fulfillment in the present moment, cherishing each day as it comes. I am convinced that I am fulfilling the calling over my life. The future, I believe, rests in the hands of the Divine. I derive immense satisfaction from my role as a presiding judge on the Court of Appeal; it is a position that resonates deeply with me.

Looking ahead, I am drawn to the idea of being a teaching judge, imparting knowledge and guidance to aspiring legal minds. It is in the simplicity of these aspirations that I find true contentment. By focusing on the present and relishing the joys of each day, I have found fulfillment in my journey thus far.

**Q: Given the opportunity, what aspects of our legal system would you like to change, and what improvements would you propose?**

In assessing our legal system, I envision a future where Ghana stands on par with developed countries such as England, Canada, and the USA in terms of legal philosophy and jurisprudence. It is my fervent desire to see us make significant strides, reducing our reliance on foreign cases and principles.

To achieve this, we must focus on developing our indigenous legal framework, nurturing it to maturity so that we are not bound by the precedents of others. For instance, I wish to see us have our own perpetuity rule and the gradual obsolescence of statutes of general application. Instead, we should strive to enact laws tailored to our unique societal needs and values.

By fostering a legal system that is truly reflective of our national identity and

aspirations, we can pave the way for a more just and equitable society, where our laws are not merely borrowed but crafted with the wisdom and foresight that comes from within.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the current state of legal education, and how do you envision it could be enhanced or reformed?**

The current state of legal education evokes strong emotions, and I believe that reform is imperative, starting from the very roots of the system. In my era, admission to law school at Legon was highly selective, with only the brightest minds securing a place. However, the landscape has shifted, and today, individuals with lower academic performance like aggregate 14 and 15 can gain entry, diluting the quality of legal education.

One of the glaring issues is the commercialization of legal education, where access is often determined by financial means rather than merit. This has led to a weakening of the foundational knowledge imparted to students, evident in the quality of script we mark where even the English is deficient and the depth of understanding in various subjects is lacking.

To address these challenges, we must consider comprehensive reforms. One potential model is to emulate the American system, where students pursue a Juris Doctor (JD) degree before taking the bar exam. Alternatively, accrediting schools and implementing independent examinations could help maintain rigorous standards.

Ultimately, those responsible for legal education must engage in critical dialogue and brainstorming to devise effective solutions. However, it is paramount that any reforms prioritize the preservation of quality, ensuring that future generations of legal professionals receive the robust education they deserve.



## Final Words.

As we conclude our conversation, I am reminded of the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, 'Whatever, your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better.'

It is my earnest desire to see you all called to the bar and to witness the success of every aspiring lawyer, but let us remember that achievement is the fruit of dedication and sacrifice. Embrace the journey with patience

and diligence, knowing that each step brings you closer to your goals. Bid your time and find joy in waiting.

As you embark on your career, continue to sharpen your skills and find joy in your work. May we all aspire to uphold the legacy of those who came before us and pave the way for future generations of legal professionals. I am honored to be involved in producing the best lawyers for the next generation that are not inferior to their predecessors or lawyers from other jurisdictions.



# Rising Star

INTERVIEW with Esinam Kporku  
Associate Lawyer, ECAM Law Consult

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**Q: We would like to know you better. Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

**A:** My name is Esinam Kporoku. I am an associate lawyer at ECAM Law Consult. I am a wife, a mother of three (3) lovely children and co-founder of Titan Insurance Brokers Ltd. I hold First Class Honours degrees from both the University of Ghana Business School in BSC Administration and the GIMPA Law Faculty in Bachelor of Laws (LLB) respectively. I am also an associate member of the Chartered Insurers Institute, UK (ACII). I acquired my secondary education at Aburi Girls' Secondary School. I must add also that I am a proud product of the Kabore School Complex at Ho in the Volta Region.

**Q: When did you decide to be a lawyer and what inspired that decision?**

**A:** A career in law has always been my aspiration. I have been a natural advocate right from childhood and in fact close friends and family members would attest to this. Also, the opportunity to serve others, particularly those who are underrepresented or marginalized, has consistently brought me a deep sense of fulfillment. This passion is reflected in my commitment to pro bono work, which I prioritize as much as paid legal services.

**Q: How long have you been at the bar?**

**A:** I was called to the Bar in 2022, specifically on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and I am currently in my second year at the Bar.

**Q: What are some strategies you use to make sure you are always on top of your game as a lawyer?**

**A:** I GO PREPARED... Thorough preparation through research is more than just a strategy for me; it is a core principle. I strive to never be caught unprepared, ensuring meticulous preparation for every situation. This approach

has consistently proven successful.

**Q: You recently rose to fame due to the brilliance you exhibited during your first appearance at the Supreme Court. Could you walk us through how all that came about?**

**A:** The case was a brief handed to me by my senior, Seth Oware Gyapong Esq., who could not hold the brief of the substantive lawyer Nana Obiri Boahen Esq. on the said day as he had another equally pressing engagement. I was therefore instructed to hold the brief for the day. It first appeared intimidating, considering the public interest the subject matter of the suit generated and it being my very first appearance at the apex court.

The business for the day was for judgment and ordinarily on a day like that, all a lawyer has to do is to announce herself, then the court delivers the judgment. This case, however, took an unexpected twist and that became my most significant test at the bar yet. The Bench intimated that the Bench previously constituted had some justices going on retirement hence the need to reconstitute the bench to hear the matter afresh.

This meant that the lawyer for the Plaintiff, which happened to be me, had to address the Bench afresh as to why the Plaintiff initiated the action. Thankfully, I had conducted extensive research in the relevant area of law to apprise myself of the facts of the case and the relevant authorities to rely on.

On the said day the questioning came from all angles, including the Lady Chief Justice herself. Ultimately, it was my comprehensive preparation that earned me the Bench's kind words and admiration and I do not take that lightly.

**Q: Can you recall what was going through your mind and emotions when you had to speak for the first time before the apex court of the Land?**

**A:** I must confess I was very tense and nervous, especially before my case was called. I want to use this opportunity to



thank Her Ladyship the Chief Justice and the entire Bench that day for their welcoming disposition. It greatly helped me to quickly (while on my feet) overcome all my inhibitions. I just told myself 'I CAN DO THIS' and, in the end, I thank God I was able to discharge myself creditably.

I also want to thank the Managing Partner, Mr. Haruna Maamah and the seniors at ECAM Law Consult for giving me opportunities to hold their briefs in court. These opportunities have helped me hone and sharpen my advocacy skills and I greatly appreciate same.

**Q: You intimated that you were nervous. How did you handle it ?**

**A:** Yes, and especially immediately before my case was called. I was, however, thrilled by the practice at the Supreme court as this was my first time appearing there and so I keenly observed how the lawyers conducted themselves in the cases heard before mine was called. Even though the new developments of the day initially caused me some unease, it was a fleeting feeling especially because the Chief Justice and the justices of the Supreme Court were very welcoming. I promptly relied upon my preparedness as a source of inner strength and confidence.

**Q: You received high praise from the Chief Justice in open court. How did it feel and what was your takeaway from that event?**

**A:** The feeling of receiving such recognition has been and continues to be truly gratifying. Honestly, I never anticipated such kind words from the bench of the apex court of the Republic! Their praise is very humbling, as I am aware that such high commendation from the apex court bestowed upon a young lawyer is a rare occurrence. The key takeaway for me is the undeniable truth: that preparation truly does pay off!

**Q: Lets us come to your experience as a student at the Ghana School of Law. How did you approach studies and examinations?**

**A:** Balancing the demanding roles of wife, mother, and law student required immense dedication. My strategy for exams and studies was to pay rapt attention in class and research into the course content ahead of the session. Revision with my study group mates also proved very worthwhile. In fact, I was pregnant every year through Law School (laughs) and being pregnant with my youngest child during the most intensive period of preparation for my final exams was no mean task. I actually wrote a deferral letter after I delivered two weeks to the final exams.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the Registrar of the school of law, Mrs. Juliet Adu-Adjei. She sat me down and spoke to me like a real mother. In the end her motivation and sincere concern made me withdraw the deferral letter. After each paper Auntie Julie would call to check up on me and to motivate me for the rest of the papers. God bless her. I am eternally grateful for the thoughtful support of my study group and family especially my ever-supportive husband who made this seemingly insurmountable task manageable. Francis Boye Esq. and Adobea Adow Esq. are also worthy of mention. Despite juggling these motherhood responsibilities and attending lectures, the challenges ultimately proved worthwhile. In the end I thank God it all worked together for my good.

**Q: Was there any subject you really enjoyed during your time at GSL and why?**

**A:** I thoroughly enjoyed all the subjects, but Conveyancing and Drafting as well as Company and Commercial Practice stood out for me. Those areas of law have always been of immense interest to me. The course structure provided an in-depth understanding of the disciplines and thus further whipped my interest. That said, I wish

to thank all the lecturers in the Ghana School of Law for their role in what I am today.

**Q: In your estimation was there any event or series of events at the Ghana School of Law that helped you in your practice especially with your 1st appearance at the Supreme Court?**

**A:** I honestly cannot point to one or two events; I will say the whole show. The course structure at the Ghana School of Law has been so meticulously put together such that subjecting yourself to all the disciplines therein would churn you out to be an excellent lawyer. The moot sessions during advocacy tutorials have also been very helpful at the Bar. In fact, the course structure at the Ghana School of Law provides the legal knowledge and procedure to argue out a case and the advocacy skills to communicate same to the Bench.

**Q: If you could go back in time to say anything to yourself when you were a student at the Ghana School of Law, what would it be?**

**A:** If I could go back in time to my law school days, I would say to myself, "be encouraged Esinam, all the efforts you are putting in would definitely pay off some day at the Bar!"

**Q: What are your plans as pertains to your legal career?**

**A:** As a relatively new lawyer at the Bar, my primary focus remains continuous learning and upholding the highest standards of professionalism in all my endeavors. I am taking things one day at a time while focusing

on personal growth and development. That said, the dream is to be a household name in Ghana as far as excellence in justice delivery is concerned. Whether I attain that at the Bar or the Bench, only God knows.

**Q: How do you spend your leisure time and is it any different from how you spent your free time as a student?**

**A:** Family is my top priority in my free time. After all, family is our ultimate source of support and joy. When I am not with my loved ones, I dedicate time to legal activities such as legal research and staying abreast with current legal developments. I think as a lawyer in practice, I get to read the law in a more relaxed environment without the pressure of an impending examination which phenomenon I seldom had as a student.

**Q: What advice would you give to any new lawyer fresh out of law school?**

**A:** PREPARATION PAYS! Remain focused on the objectives of pursuing the law and avail yourself to learning from your seniors at the Bar. Always look out for new opportunities for personal growth and development. Never shirk away from new challenges thrown to you by seniors as these create the opportunity to learn whether by way of excelling or making mistakes. This is what separates a good lawyer from a regular lawyer.

Thank you for your time, Mrs. Kporoku. We appreciate the insights shared and are truly inspired.

# Becoming a Lawyer in **Two** **Jurisdictions**

with **Keren Naa Aiyakor Lamptey**  
Post Call Class  
Best Student, Gambia Law School



I would say my experience at the Gambia Law School came with mixed feelings. The thought of leaving Ghana to an entirely new jurisdiction seemed like a difficult feat. I however, drew inspiration from colleagues and friends who attended the Gambia Law School. Their success made me also believe that it was an attainable goal.

It was an avenue to meet people from different countries like the Gambia and Cameroon. I also had the opportunity to learn the legal system and culture in Gambia.

The tough part of it was learning the legal system of Gambia right from the very beginning but I pulled through.

The professional education at the Gambia Law School is not very different from the experience at the Ghana School of Law. In fact, there are lot of similarities with the Constitution and statutes like the Evidence Act of both jurisdictions. The slight difference

is that legal education at the Ghana School of Law is more technical than that of the Gambia Law School. There are also more authorities, case law and precedents because of the history and law practice in Ghana as compared to Gambia.

Honestly, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be awarded the best student in the Gambia Law School by the end of the program. I got to the school very unprepared because I had made plans to attend the Ghana School of Law. I took the counsel of my dad to make the best of the opportunity presented to me. I dedicated myself to the course and gave it my all with the best of my ability. I also was not hesitant to reach out to my colleagues from Gambia who were familiar with the legal system whenever I ran into a challenge with my studies. I would summarize my submission by saying that it was God, consistency and hard work that got me this far.



# Student's Corner





## **Ephraim Kwablah Tetteh**

Part 1, UPSA Campus, Group C

The Internship at the firm has been stressful and very helpful at the same time. I was able to assist the lawyers at the firm with research and I had the opportunity to accompany them to the Courts which has helped me understand what is being taught during lectures better.

However, it is my humble suggestion that the breaks in between terms be extended to accommodate the internship programme to prevent students having to combine the internship with school hours which limits the time for studies.



## **Kwaku Anno-Kumi**

Part 2, Main Campus, Group A

The internship at the Court Complex has been very educative. I got the opportunity to see lawyers display all the rules of Evidence and Civil Procedure I learnt in part 1 in real time. It also gave me some cues for Advocacy and Ethics during trial when lawyers had to conduct evidence-in-chief and cross-examine witnesses. It is, however, my humble opinion that the relevant authorities reconsider the current scheduling to ensure students take maximum advantage of this programme.

Kwaku Anno-Kumi



## David-Kratos Ampofo

Part 2 Main Campus Group A

Navigating the compulsory internship alongside schooling has proven to be the most arduous aspect of my legal education journey.

Part 1 and 2 felt worlds apart, making mastering Part 2 courses a daunting reality. I vividly recall spending days in the library from Wednesday to Sunday during Part 1; nowadays, personal study time is a luxury. Nonetheless, I am resolute in maximizing this situation.

The internship offers early exposure to legal practice, not only academically but also in navigating relationships with colleagues, peers, and seniors. The experience of being at the bottom of the food chain fuels my Gen Z impatience, motivating me to strive for the top.

The program's implementation, despite student grievances, underscores a broader issue of neglected advocacy. Our concerns often fall on deaf ears, as we favour superficial attributes over essential leadership qualities when choosing our representatives. In choosing leaders, we prioritize representatives based on who can buy us breakfast, organize social events, or bring in star tutors(which are all very important), rather than assessing their problem-solving abilities. This misplaced focus leaves students feeling neglected and their genuine issues unresolved.

Nonetheless, embracing the internship's lessons, despite our inability to effect immediate change in this regard, remains paramount. It's imperative that we make full use of the program whilst averting our minds to a much needed change in voting philosophy.



# 2023 Mensah Sarbah Awardee

INTERVIEW with  
Ebenezer Addai Osei  
Pupil, Sarpong & Associates

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**Q: Thank you for agreeing to this interview, Ebenezer. Could you tell us a bit more about yourself?**

**A:** "I am Ebenezer Addai Osei. I am popularly known as "Selfie". I am from Jachie, Ashanti Region but was born and grew up at Dormaa-Ahenkro. I had my basic education at the St. John's International School, Dormaa-Ahenkro and proceeded to Prempeh College. From there, I had my LL.B at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and proceeded to the Ghana School of Law, Makola. I am currently called to the Bar, and I am a pupil at Sarpong & Associates, Kumasi."

**Q: How would you describe yourself?**

**A:** I am friendly. Love to read and learn each day.

**Q: Can you tell us where the nickname "Selfie" comes from?**

**A:** The nickname is actually "Selfie King" which has been shortened to "Selfie". I had this back in first year at Prempeh College. My colleagues organized a class award after one vacation. And I happened to win the best selfie taken during the vacation. From that day, everyone has been calling me Selfie.

**Q: Every lawyer has had a long educational journey. What has been your educational journey ever since you decided to pursue law?**

**A:** As it stands, I only have an LL.B Degree from KNUST and a Qualifying Certificate from the Ghana School of Law. I think that these are the minimum I have had so far. Though I have come a long way I will not, at this time, describe the process so far as a long educational journey. Of course, if one looks at the years involved and how laborious it has been to achieve these feats, one is tempted to say that the educational journey has been a long one. I remain a young folk

who have by the Grace of God managed to make the most out of the few opportunities I have been privileged to have in my relatively young life. To me, I have just begun what could potentially become 'a long educational journey'.

**Q: What would you say is the key to excelling in GSL?**

**A:** Composure, dedication, hard work and learning from your colleagues.

**Q: What has been your motivation to become a lawyer?**

**A:** "I never had any motivation to become a lawyer. I have stated on countless occasions that I never anticipated ever becoming a lawyer. I rather wanted to be an Economist. However, the mastermind of my journey to becoming a lawyer is my elder sister – Agnes Dufie Addai – to whom I owe so much gratitude. She introduced me to the study of law and since then, everything has been at the direction of God."

**Q: What was your strategy in studying for the professional exams in part one and two?**

**A:** "In Part One, we only attended lectures on Mondays and Tuesdays. Fridays were for tutorials. I made sure I utilized my Wednesdays and Thursdays because there was so much to do within such a limited time. Weekends were for group discussions. Now, having considered the workload for the courses in Part One, I practically had to read and learn something however small each day. It was a gradual process which had a cumulative effect. One thing that helped me was knowing when to stay away from my phone and social media.

For Part Two, the situation was not different substantially except that there were times complacency would set in. But I had to quickly deal with it and focus. Because we only read 4 courses in part two, one was tempted to

believe that it was easier especially having passed all the 6 courses in part one.

My study strategy was simple. I studied in blocks. I had a 4-hour block study period. Each day, I did three blocks. And that means I studied at most 12 Hours each day. This is how I executed it.

Every day, I planned the night before on the courses I would study and which specific topics to read. I marked the portions of the books and arranged them on my study table.

I hid my phone! Here, I put my phone out of sight and out of reach. That way, I would not get up to reach it. Most of the times, my phone was on DND mode or Silent or Switched off.

I gave myself rewards for studying.

I had set standards for myself.

Why I did that was to maximize productivity whilst minimizing breaks and to create free time to engage in other activities anytime I was not studying."

**Q: How did you approach exam questions?**

**A:** Personally, I do not study with past questions. I never made a conscious effort to consider them on my own. I rather enjoyed studying the substantive topics. I only considered past questions when I was referred to them by my friends or study group. Whilst considering past questions is good for preparation of the exams, over reliance on it can cause a great harm where the Independent Examinations Committee decides to change the manner of examining students. When that happens, it is the substantive law alone that can save you."

**Q: Did you plan to win the Sarbah award or you least expected it?**

**A:** "I never planned to win a prize. In my mind, I knew that out of the thousands of students at the law school, at the end of the day, only a few, not even up to 15 people would be

fortunate to win a prize. The goal ultimately was to get called to the Bar. Any coincidental achievement would be a bonus. But I never planned and organized myself to win any prize.

With the expectation of winning any prize, it was still in doubt because even though I knew my marks were good at the end of the period, I felt there were other people with equally good marks. And at that point, I had still closed my mind on any possibility of winning any prize notwithstanding some discussions I had with some of my friends in my circle."

**Q: How did you spend your leisure time as a student of the Ghana School of Law?**

**A:** "I spent time with my friends. Most often, I would play puzzles, darts, jenga and listen to music."

**Q: What kind of internship experience did you have, and are there lessons from the experience that you would like to share?**

**A:** "I had a great one. I love to learn, and I was fortunate to be placed at where I needed to be at the right time. My supervisors were great teachers and selfless. I have realised one thing – where you intern can have a huge impact on your legal career."

**Q: How did you feel when you saw your name on the call list?**

**A:** "For me, I had a normal feeling. Because the fact that your name is on the call list is still not a guarantee that you will get called to the Bar. It happens most of the time. So, I was patiently waiting to actually get called to the Bar first. And it was at that point that I felt good and proud of myself for getting called to the Bar."

**Q: What has been your experience so far, as a young lawyer and what would be your advice to law students?**

**A:** "I am still learning as a young lawyer. To every law student out there, the only way not to feel guilty everyday as a law student is to read every day. Do the best you can. You can achieve whatever you put your mind to."

Thank you for your time, Selfie and we wish you all the best in your practice.

# On Your Way Out

Tips for Job Applicants

As the Call to the Bar looms, so too do applications for pupillage and thereafter professional working life. In light of this, the Editorial Board spoke to distinguished practitioners from different jurisdictions to glean from them the best way for students to navigate this stage.

First, we had the privilege of speaking to **Adelaide Benneh Prempeh**, the Managing Partner at **B&P ASSOCIATES, Lawyers and Consultants** and lecturer in Advocacy and Ethics at the Ghana School of Law.

## Common mistakes students make during applications

A lack of research and failure to use available resources in preparation are unfortunate but common mistakes. Firms have a wealth of information on their websites and directories like Chambers & Partners that can help you tailor your application to the firm's specific needs. Avoid using generalities to describe why you want to join a particular firm, as it can make your application less competitive. Take advantage of the information available and strive to make your application the best it can be.

## Spelling mistakes in your application are non-negotiable.

Make sure to read and reread your application to avoid spelling mistakes. These may seem like small details, but they can make the

difference between standing out for the right or wrong reasons.



• **Adelaide Benneh Prempeh**  
Managing Partner, B&P ASSOCIATES  
Lawyers and Consultants



## What law firms look out for in Cover Letters and CVs for pupillage applications

Law firms are looking for unique candidates who bring a diverse set of skills and experiences to the table. Don't limit yourself to legal experiences - your non-legal experiences can be just as valuable.

Secondary jobs in non-legal fields and volunteering experiences can provide transferable skills that are relevant at the Bar. When putting together your pupillage application, consider including these experiences and highlighting the skills you have gained.

Uniqueness is key. Don't discount good experience on your CV just because it's non-legal. Embrace your diverse experiences and showcase how they make you a well-rounded candidate.

## What Firms/ Chambers expect from applicants during interviews

Firms and chambers are looking for the best candidates during interviews. Four key considerations to bear in mind:

Be prepared for the interview. Before the interview date, make sure you review everything you wrote to that specific firm in your application, including your CV. Ensure you can justify every aspect of your application, so you don't make the mistake of pulling a blank when asked about what you wrote. Be precise and confident when speaking to your experiences, without waffling and going off track.

Practice, Practice, Practice! Specific practice is the key to getting used to the interview environment and the inevitable nerves. Once you do mock interviews with friends and family, you will naturally, feel more relaxed at the actual interview. The right body language,

for example, matters at an interview as one has to come across as confident. A mock interview is a good opportunity to pick out stylistic and posture problems and resolve them before the real interview. This will give you a real shot at coming across as persuasive and impactful on the big day.

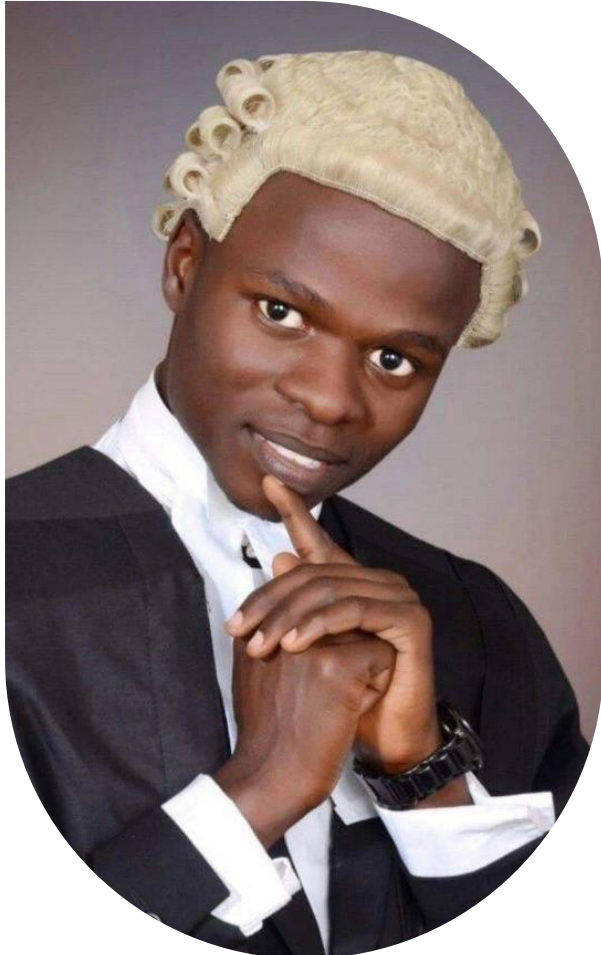
Be yourself. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to this journey, so sell your unique strengths and life experiences during your interview. The best lawyers are those who are themselves, as advocates, in discussion, or negotiation. Don't be afraid to bring yourself to the table because each candidate has a unique part of themselves that makes them a good candidate, and a good lawyer.

Answer the questions you are asked directly. Don't try to second guess what you think the interviewer wants to hear. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so. At the interview stage, most firms/chambers are interested in how candidates think, not just whether a specific answer is right or wrong. Always attempt the question if you can and justify it in as logical a manner as possible, demonstrating your analytical skills.

In summary, there's no strict formula to adhere to. The key is to be prepared, practice, be yourself, and answer questions directly. Show the interviewer what you can bring to the table if invited and then leave the decision-making to them, knowing that you have given it your all.

Good Luck

Next, we interacted with **Olamiji Martins Esq**, the **Chief Legal Risk Adviser, Marvic Alpha LP in Nigeria**. He specialises in Tax Law, Admiralty Law, Sports Law, Canonical Law, amongst others.



•**Olamiji Martins**

Chief Legal Adviser, Marvic Alpha LP, Nigeria

**Common mistakes people make when applying for a job in the legal field**

**Putting the wrong job role on your CV:**

When applying for a role as a litigation lawyer, your CV need not contain anything concerning corporate or commercial practice. If applying for a corporate or commercial role, on the other hand, experience in litigation is an added advantage. However, the reverse is detrimental. Generally, you're expected to put forward your experience in the corporate circuit; thus, putting a round peg in the round hole. One of the most important things to put on your CV is experiences that are linked to the particular job being applied for.

**Study the law firm you wish to work with:** You must know the areas of practice of your desired firm, their strengths and weaknesses, desires and reasons for hiring you as a lawyer. This information makes it easier to work with the firm, considering its philosophy.

**Spell out your strength:** Don't just mention your strength in passing; place the much-needed emphasis on it. There are many competitors on the market, who may also be looking forward to working with your dream firm. Getting that job is not about your LLB or BL qualification, but about the value you will add, especially being a 'new wig'. State your desire to learn at the feet of experts and to add value to the law firm.

**Dos and Don'ts at Interviews**

**It is important to be confident:** Carry the interviewers along your interview journey. Maintain a proper posture and talk with boldness and authority. Having an idea about every question thrown at you is a *sine qua non*; answer questions with facts, vigour, and if possible, with decided cases too.

**Blend your knowledge with the philosophy of the firm:** This would show your interviewers that you are willing to integrate faster into the tenet and fabric of the firm. It is important to create a relationship with your interviewers.

**Blend in the legal culture of the law firm:** Show that you have an adaptability culture,

while still maintaining value and adding your bit.

**Do not be evasive:** All questions posed to you must be answered fully, and to the best of your knowledge and ability. Do not lie. Do not create a non-existent work experience. Of course, you'll be exposed sooner or later, especially when follow-up questions are asked. Where you lack experience, boldly assert this and that you're willing to learn, and to add value to the firm with your acquired knowledge.

## How to make your application stand out when applying for a job at a firm or legal department and what employers look out for on your CV

**Sincerity:** It is a quite notorious fact that most freshly minted lawyers have little or no practical experience especially as laws are being amended on a constant basis due to the evolving nature of the world. Again, it is important to state your openness to learning.

**Relevant information:** Incorporate into your CV the grades you got in school, any relevant extra-curricular activities, participation in moot and or mock trials, and other competitions. State the areas of law which are of deep interest to you. Add papers, thesis, publications in journals, and any related articles stating your eagerness to learn more cannot be over-emphasised.

**No lies:** Again, do not lie on your CV. If you get the job through unorthodox means, you will definitely be exposed. For instance, certain aspects of law like Maritime Law cannot be learnt on the job. Lying about experience in such an area may lead to dire consequences if asked to handle a brief.

## To add on and summarize:

Use a formal, readable font in your CV and Cover Letter.

Where applications documents are soft copies, they should be saved as PDFs to avoid unintended edits.

It is always helpful to save the document with your full name so it can easily be identified before it is opened. For example, "John Doe Curriculum Vitae" as opposed to simply "CV".

Keep a formal tone in your applications

Know the content of your application extempore.

Do not fabricate experience in your applications.

Go over your application to ensure it is free of grammatical errors. The devil is in the detail!

Be confident in your interviews and attempt as many questions as you are able to.

**All the best as you get out there and take the Legal world by storm.**





# 2023 Best Student: Conveyancing & Drafting

INTERVIEW with Sandra Esi Amamoo  
Pupil, Gharthey & Gharthey

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**Q:** Hello Sandra. Thank you for joining us today. Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

**A:** My name is Sandra Esi Amamoo. I was called to the Bar in 2023 and I am currently doing my pupillage at Gharthey & Gharthey. I love watching movies and having good conversations.

**Q:** Every lawyer has had a long educational journey. What has been your educational journey since deciding to pursue law?

**A:** Well, I had wanted to study Law for my first degree, but I was unable to meet the cut-off point so I read Political Science with Linguistics for my first degree. After my National Service, I applied for the Post First Degree Law at GIMPA in 2018 and got admitted. In 2021, I wrote the Ghana School of Law Entrance Exams which I passed and got accepted into Ghana School Law, and now here we are.

**Q:** What motivated you to become a lawyer?

**A:** Apart from it being a distinguished profession, I realised that law affects all aspects of life, including our interactions with people, organisations, and the state. My ability to enjoy the diversity of practice areas and career opportunities is therefore enhanced by my legal career. Additionally, it is common knowledge that the legal profession has great financial rewards when pursued excellently.

**Q:** What was your strategy for studying for the professional exams while at the Ghana School of Law?

**A:** For studying strategies, I read notes from class, solved past questions as well as tutorial questions and I engaged in a number of group discussions. Most importantly,

I certainly relied on God to give me the strength to excel.

**Q:** How did you approach exam questions for Conveyancing and Drafting?

**A:** For this course, the aim was to attempt four (4) questions no matter what and also work within the allocated time. I made sure I was entering the exam hall prepared so I did not have to spend too much time pondering over how to answer any of the questions. For me spending too much time to ponder over the answer because of uncertainty meant having less time to finally put my thoughts together and write my answers down on paper. This is not to say that one should not read and understand the questions thoroughly. Also, I wrote down the checklist or ingredients that needed to feature in the instrument to be drafted. This was to serve as a guide, so I do not leave any crucial detail out. Most importantly, I made sure to read the instructions carefully.

**Q:** Had you planned to win the best student in Conveyancing and Drafting?

**A:** I didn't plan to win this award. In fact, I got to know on the day of the Call. It was a pleasant surprise, and I must say I am grateful to God for that.

**Q:** How did you spend your leisure time as a student at the Ghana School of Law?

**A:** In my leisure time, I watched a lot of movies or spent time chatting with my family and friends. It helped take away the stress and anxiety that came with the course.

**Q:** What kind of internship experience did you have, and are there lessons from the experience that you would like to share?

I was fortunate to have both the court and firm experience and they were all good. I learnt a lot from the Presiding Judge I interned with, my seniors and my colleagues. The internship gave me a fair idea of what to expect when I start practicing as a lawyer and how diligent I needed to be. I would say that no one is above correction or learning. Just be ready to learn and be diligent with your work.

**Q: How did you feel when you saw your name on the call list?**

**A:** I was super excited because it had been one very long and nerve-racking journey. I was so thankful to God. I still am thankful to Him.

**Q: What has been your experience so far, as a young lawyer and what would be your advice to law students?**

**A:** As a young lawyer, it has been an

exhilarating learning experience. I have learnt to be more diligent and apply myself to various tasks that are assigned to me.

My little advice to law students is that God can help anyone with this legal journey so allow Him to help you. Give attention to your books, practice, practice, and practice again even when you are sure you know. That is the only way you will build perfection. Consult friends, don't go through this journey alone. Solve questions, don't take any question or course for granted. Don't let fear get the better of you. You will be fine at the end of the day.

Thank you, Sandra for your time today and all the best with future endeavors.



**Scholarships, Study  
Abroad & Law School;  
Get To Know IBS**



# Your Dream Law School Awaits

For many final year Law students, the Call to the Bar is a milestone event that commemorates years of hard work. Yet, it is also a time fraught with anxiety that requires one to ponder the next step in their academic or professional journey – viable options may include a legal training contract with a law firm in London, beginning an internship, further studies for an LLM abroad or writing the New York Bar exam. Helping Law students with these important decisions is the Canadian firm – IBS.

Founded by Shamima Nyamekye, who is a serial entrepreneur, three-time certified career coach and professional admissions consultant, **IBS Career-Education Corp.**, is a full-service consulting company that provides professional development support and admissions counselling to students and young professionals who are keen on landing their dream jobs and schools abroad.

Leveraging on the expertise of experienced consultants, IBS has attained and maintained a 98% Success Rate for 3 years. Now in their fourth year of business, the company has worked with over [2000 clients](#), many of whom landed jobs at companies like Mercedes Benz and schools like Cornell and George Washington University. The company's expertise in graduate admissions varies greatly, spanning an impressive range of industries including Law, Engineering, Health, Mathematics, Environmental Science, Physics, MBAs, among others.

Specifically, where the Law is concerned, IBS has assisted 100s of students apply to both JD (Juris Doctor) and LLM programs across the UK, USA, and Canada at institutions like Warwick, Nottingham, Syracuse, America University in Washington, Queens University and the Law School at Georgia State University. For students looking to study

LLMs abroad, the company offers guidance across some key aspects of the process including:

- Researching and finding potential schools to apply to. This is done with each student's unique profile in mind to provide tailored options.
- Crafting a narrative that becomes an applicant's story, IBS helps students who are interested in law school to reflectively think on their goals and aspirations in line with law school.
- Finding funding opportunities like scholarships and fellowships, a scholarship is typically one of the most difficult aspects of making law school applications. IBS helps students maximize their potential to land huge offers ranging from \$25,000 to \$70,000 in cumulative funding offers.
- Writing compelling essays that convert your interests into outstanding acceptances. A good law school personal statement reads like a love letter to your desired school. Using your carefully crafted narrative, IBS presents you as impressively as possible on paper. An admissions committee can't help but be convinced of your competence.

After 4 years, a 98% success rate and thousands of success stories, your study abroad law school dreams are on the other side of IBS Consulting's expertise.


To stay in touch and follow their work, find their social media handles below:

Instagram [@ibsconsulting](#)

Twitter [\\_IBSConsulting](#)

Website [www.consultwithibs.com](http://www.consultwithibs.com)





**2023** Best  
Student: LPM &  
Legal Accounting  
Student

Sandra Sylvia Adu-Ampako

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**Q: Hello Sandra. Thank you for your time today. Could you tell us a bit about yourself?**

**A:** I'm Sandra Sylvia Adu-Ampako; a self-motivated and goal-oriented person, who's passionate about the things she loves and does. I'm a lawyer by profession, and I don't have a preference when it comes to litigation and being a corporate lawyer.

**Q: What inspired you to become a lawyer?**

**A:** Growing up, I really admired the legal profession; it was the only profession I had a dream to join. I could say that I was born with an inherent passion for law.

**Q: Can you give us a background to your legal educational journey?**

**A:** My legal education journey was quite a straightforward one. For my Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB), I went to GIMPA as an evening student right after my National Service in 2018, and emerged as Valedictorian. After the entrance exams in 2021, I was part of the 499 students who were fortunate to gain admission into the Professional Law School in 2022. Then in October 2023, I was called to the Bar, by the grace of God.

**Q: What was your study strategy for LPM and Legal Accountancy?**

**A:** As the saying goes, "*Repetition is the parent of retention*". I found time to read the same things more than once, aside making my personal notes. The more I read, the more it got retained. It was the same for other courses. With legal accountancy, solving questions frequently helped to increase my speed and accuracy, aside understanding the demands of the question.

**Q: Can you tell us the secret to answering questions in this course?**

**A:** Knowing the kind of answer a question demands is the biggest secret. That is what I did. I tried to analyse and figure out what the questions demanded and did my best to provide them accordingly.

**Q: Did you specifically plan to win the best student for this module?**

**A:** Not at all. It came as a surprise. Law school is very stressful and so to plan to be the best student would take a lot from you. I just had to put in my best.

**Q: What did you usually do at your leisure time when you were at the Ghana School of Law?**

**A:** I don't think I had enough time to call the extra '*leisure*'. I used to study and read almost all the time. If I had any leisure time, I used it to plan other activities I had in mind.

**Q: How was your internship experience like and what were the valuable lessons you took from it?**

**A:** I found Part 2 internship more useful, and my understanding in a lot of things was enhanced. This is so because I did my Part 1 internship in a legal department and Part 2, in court. I understood Criminal Procedure better after the Part 2 internship. A lot of things became more practical to me. As a lesson, I believe the current internship system the school has in place now will help students to better understand the courses, though I do not lose sight of the stressful part of it.

**Q: How did you feel when you were finally got called to the Bar?**

**A:** That joy cannot be explained. We all know how demanding the course is. It felt like a burden had been lifted because the journey was not an easy one.

**Q: Could you say whether receiving that award has benefited/ impacted-**

**ed your career as a lawyer and how?**

**A:** That would be quite difficult to answer because if I must be honest, there's no relationship between the award and what I'm doing now. I work at the legal department of GNPC, and what we do is industry specific. I hope you get my point.

**Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring lawyers, especially females, and how to demystify Legal Accountancy?**

**A:** I believe holding on to certain things brings success. I'll name my best 5 elements: God, determination, passion, hard work, and self-discipline. With these, one is bound to succeed. This is not the

first time we have heard this, and it really works. Also, never hesitate to ask for help when you need it. The fact that you're better than someone in something also means that someone is better than you in other things. Sharing knowledge is very important, not just in academics but in other fields of endeavour. We have seen a lot of female achievers who serve as an inspiration. We should focus on joining that community for the younger ones to look up to us, too.

Thank you, Sandra, for your time and encouraging words. We wish you all the best with your legal journey.





2023 Best  
Student:  
Advocacy & Legal  
Ethics

Godson Bonney  
Pupil, Obeng Manu Law Firm

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**Q:** Hello Godson, we are very grateful that you accepted our request for an interview. Kindly tell us a bit about yourself.

**A:** I am happy to be here. My name is Godson Bonney, I can now say that I am a lawyer. I practise with the Obeng Manu Law Firm in Kumasi. I am a Christian and an old student of Ofori Panin Senior High School and KNUST where I had two of my degrees before getting into the Ghana School of Law.

**Q:** As lawyers regard themselves as learned, it is assumed that every lawyer has had a long educational journey. What was your educational journey?

**A:** As I said, I had my secondary school education at Ofori Panin Senior High School, and then I got admitted to Tech for Political Science. After my first degree at KNUST, I proceeded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for my National Service. I subsequently applied to Tech again to read law. So, both my degrees, that's my first degree and my second degree are from Tech.

**Q:** What motivated you to become a lawyer?

**A:** I think a lot of people have definite motivations to become lawyers, but I really did not have one in the beginning, to be honest. A silly reason I assign to my pursuit of law was that while in school for my first degree, I used to see the law students in black and white and wanted to do same. Basically, I thought the practice of the law was beautiful and wanted to embody that beauty.

I think the motivation was eventually developed. I went to court one time and I observed my current senior, who was in his first year then, and how he was going about his arguments, and thought that I would like to be just like him. So, while there was no particular motivation in the beginning, I developed it along the journey.

**Q:** What was your strategy in studying for the professional exams in Parts One and Two, did they differ in any way?

**A:** My strategy for studies did not change. I had a two-pronged strategy. The first strategy was God. I made sure I submitted everything I did to God and while this may sound superficial, it is my whole truth. I never thought myself too smart as to not need God.

The second was the use of group meetings. Fortunately, all my group members from the faculty, numbering six, were successful in the Entrance Exams so we were able to maintain the core of our group even though some of us went to Accra. Our sessions were intensive and we kept one another accountable and on our toes. Thus, while lectures were a great help, group studies were incredibly beneficial to me.

**Q:** Did you plan to win the best student in the Advocacy and Legal Ethics course or did it come as a surprise to you?

**A:** No, not at all. I did not even know I had won. The Call to the Bar brochure was not sufficient to reach the row I was seated on and internet service was poor that day. It was only after several friends texted congratulatory messages to me that I realised that I had won the best student for Advocacy and Legal Ethics. It is not something that had even crossed my mind at all.

Funnily, as a backstory, I actually wrote in my prayer requests and declared to myself that I was going to win an award. I took a screenshot of this and put it down. So, when the award finally came, it was a confirmation of what God had told me.

**Q:** That is very interesting. Did you approach the course in any different way, both in terms of its study and the examinations?

**A:** I did not have any particular way of going about the course. I relied heavily on God and my group meetings. While I made my own

notes, which you may have come across, the contents of these notes were primarily information I came into contact with at one group meeting or the other.

**Q: It sounds like your studies were very intense. Did you have any time for leisure?**

**A:** I have this understanding that it doesn't have to always be about the law. I have to have some other place to blow off some steam. As I am not one for outings like parties and the like, I play video games a lot. I don't play with my video games at all. It was not uncommon for me to turn on my PlayStation and play FIFA, God of War or any of these shooting games after class even when class closed very late.

**Q: What kind of internship experience did you have, are there lessons from the experience that you would like to share?**

**A:** My internship was chiefly at Obeng Manu Law Firm. I did not have a full court internship so I cannot speak to that, but I thoroughly enjoyed my internship. I was exposed to different types of lawyers and observed their character in play as well as proceedings in Court which breathed life into the theory we had learnt. My senior was very particular about teaching which was very beneficial, and we also had the opportunity to travel for cases. The internship had its own challenges though as not being able to tackle some of the assignments exposed gaps in my knowledge. But overall, I loved it so much that I continued to go when school reopened.

**Q: How did you feel when you saw your name on the call list? Was there excitement and shock or were you expecting it anyway?**

**A:** As a backstory, I had a bit of anxiety about the Part 1 exams as I was uncertain I would be

successful in all the papers, particularly ADR. However, whereas I was happy I was going to be a lawyer, there was not much excitement when the Part II results were released. The excitement eventually came when I was on a conference call with Ebenezer Oddai Osei (the eventual Mensah Sarbah Award winner) and another friend of mine named Boamah when we realised our marks put us in contention for some awards. So, while the release of the call list did not cause much excitement, the prospect of the squad from KNUST sweeping the awards certainly did.

**Q: What has been your experience, so far, as a young lawyer and what would be your advice to law students?**

In my experience, the difference between law school and practice is vast. It is only during practice that you actually start learning the law. Personally, I struggled in the beginning with feelings of not belonging but with the help of my senior, I have adjusted. So, you have to appreciate that you do not know much and be open to learning.

**Q: Finally, do you feel an added responsibility to be a more ethical lawyer, having won the best student in the Advocacy and Legal Ethics course?**

**A:** First, I'm a Christian. I don't think as a Christian, you should be okay doing anything that is unethical. You would realise from the rules that most of the things which are deemed unethical are morally wrong. So, with or without the award, I think my Christian background will still compel me to be a very ethical lawyer.

Thank you very much Godson, I am certain we will bear witness to your exploits in the future.



# Election Fever Boils Up – All or Nothing

Students across all campuses of the Ghana School of Law came together in camaraderie as the second term came to a close for the Easter holidays. In togetherness, all classes made merry and shared food, drinks and enjoyed indoor games to break the regular sobriety that has become synonymous with the school. Perhaps, as they did, they knew in their hearts that it would probably be the last they displayed white colours. As the third term approaches, it comes with the usual political fever that the SRC general elections bring. There is no power-sharing arrangement, it is a business of all or nothing.

Squads, brethren, old friends from the same faculty and new relationships formed here at the Ghana School of Law will soon be divided along political lines. Loyalties will be tested and broken, sometimes forever.

For the University of Ghana alumni, the battle lines are drawn, you are either team Kabu Nartey or team Daniel Otting Awuah. Mr. Nartey serves as the Class Representative of the UPSA Group A class and has used his service to attract a sizable following for himself as he bids for the high office of the Presidency. Polls conducted have placed him among the top runners for the office.

Yet, Mr. Awuah is no underdog. He has his own following after serving as the SRC President of the University of Ghana in 2017/2018. His presence in the presidential race will divide the biggest constituency of voters; the University of Ghana alumni, leaving both candidates racing to capture

voters from other faculties.

However, it won't be easy getting those voters as GIMPA is itself the grounds for another home battle. Fatah Mahama, challenges Ephraim Tetteh for the votes of GIMPA alumni. Mr. Mahama began his campaign early and has commanded a cult following as a result making him a frontrunner but Tetteh's campaign has faced team Fatah squarely with both candidates holding Accounting Classes on Sundays at 3pm.

It is too early to call which of the four candidates will pull ahead but one thing is clear, whoever conquers the other faculties not represented in the presidential race is likely to carry the day.

For the General Secretary position, Siawaah Attafuaah, though one of the leading candidates, faces stiff opposition from her GIMPA rival Clement Baffuor Gyawu who seeks to do one over the ladies as Kezia Owusu also laces her boots to run for the office of chief scribe.

In a twist of events, Osafo Marfo, previously rumored to be running for Kumasi Vice President declared his intent to run for Organizing Secretary instead.

On the various campuses, the competition is looking equally fierce with some names having sprung up so far. The UPSA Campus sees Witness Avutor and Samuel Gyekye-Fosu going head-to-head, splitting the Group A votes, leaving Group B and C to be scrambled for as the spoils of war. Meanwhile,



on the Kumasi campus, the race for the vice presidency is shaping up to be a two-horse race comprising Enam Avemegah and Collins Osei Agyeman. Rumours swirl on the Greenhill Campus, on its part, that Maxwell Miller, Richmond Tsatsu and Inusah Shirazu will feature on the ballot.

The constant among these uncertainties is one; the third term promises a thrilling experience for the politically savvy, their supporters and their sympathisers.



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# Sportsfest News

Ready, set, goal!

It was full of life, ecstasy and excitement as students gathered to celebrate Ghana's Independence Day. It began with a welcome address from the Vice President of the GSL-SRC Kumasi Campus, Danielle Ellemawusi Danso, who welcomed all attendees to the program, promising that the event would be a great spectacle. It turned out to be nothing short of what the Vice President promised.

The main event, a football game between

GSL Team Accra and GSL Team Kumasi saw the GSL Team Accra walk away with a 4-1 victory. The winning team was presented a glittering trophy and medals by the GSL SRC Vice President for the Kumasi Campus and ably assisted by the GSL SRC Vice President for the UPSA Campus, Sarah Manaa Ansah. Also in attendance were Benjamin Agyeman Duah, GSL-SRC Vice President for Greenhill Campus and Maamah Amin Oteng, SRC Organizing Secretary.

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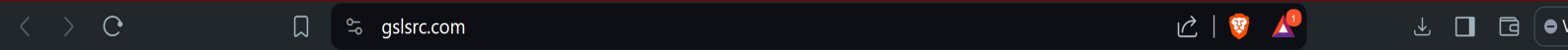
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