



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION



KIGALI INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

Efficiency in Disputes Resolution

# ICCA-KIAC CONFERENCE

5 JUNE 2025 | KIGALI, RWANDA

*“AFRICA & INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION:  
UNTOLD STORIES”*

## **ICCA-KIAC CONFERENCE JUNE 2025**

The Conference will feature discussions and workshops at which the theory and practice of international arbitration is explored at the highest level. We expect the Conference and related events to attract global attention from the legal profession and industry, and to receive extensive coverage in the specialist press and wider media.

This is a must-attend event for the business community, policy and decision makers on ADR and legal professionals interested in current legal frameworks, debates and developments in international arbitration in Rwanda, Africa and beyond.

The ICCA-KIAC Conference is a one-day event taking place on Thursday, 5 June 2025, followed by Young ICCA workshop on Friday 6 June, with additional side-events taking place on 4 to 6 June

### **KEY TOPICS INCLUDE**

- 1. Legal Reform and Arbitration in Africa: Untold stories**
- 2. New Untold stories in Dispute Resolution in Africa: The next Chapter**
- 3. African Dispute Resolution in 2035 and Beyond: From Fiction to Reality**

## **ABOUT KIAC**

Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) is the premier arbitral institution in Rwanda, established in 2010 and officially launched in 2012 as an autonomous and non-profit making institution mandated to provide institutional infrastructure for administering Arbitration, Mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Services. The establishment of KIAC was an initiative of Rwanda's Private Sector, which met the political support of the Government of Rwanda given the Centre's contribution to the Government of Rwanda's investment and business climate reforms.

## **ABOUT ICCA**

The International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation established in 1961 devoted to promoting and improving the practice of international arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution. ICCA activities include convening congresses and conferences, publishing key dispute resolution text, conducting and sponsoring dispute resolution research and outreach projects, and promoting the harmonization of arbitration and conciliation rules, laws, procedures and standards.

## ABOUT THE HOST COUNTRY

Rwanda is a country known for its breathtaking scenery, often referred to as the land of a thousand hills. The International Congress and Convention Association ranks Rwanda as the second most popular country, and Kigali as the second most popular city in Africa for hosting international conferences and events (2023). Rwanda's popularity as a preferred MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destination streams from its simplified visa process that allows nationals of every country in the world to get a visa on arrival in addition to its easy accessibility, due to the multitude of flight options offering connectivity to Kigali and the rest of Africa. Furthermore, the presence of the range of world-class MICE venues continues to enhance Rwanda as a top MICE destination.

## ABOUT ICCA-KIAC CONFERENCE

ICCA-KIAC Conference themed **"AFRICA & INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: UNTOLD STORIES"** on 5th June followed by the Young ICCA workshop on the 6th June 2025 at the Kigali Convention Centre/Kigali-Rwanda. The Conference is jointly organized by KIAC and the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). This will see the gathering of around 400 preeminent Arbitration and ADR Practitioners, Governments' representatives, Judges, Local and International Business Community, Lawyers, Academics and other professionals from across the World.

The 2025 ICCA-KIAC Conference will convene experts from Africa and the world at large to address current topics in arbitration from the perspective of Africa, other regions, and globally, with the aim to shed light on new ideas and previously unshared stories

## WELCOME MESSAGES



**Mr. Victor Mugabe**  
KIAC Secretary General

“We are thrilled to welcome arbitration practitioners from across the world to the joint ICCA-KIAC Conference in June 2025 taking place in Rwanda, one of the most arbitration friendly jurisdictions in the world. We hope to have everyone on board to explore avenues for bettering international arbitration on the African continent and beyond.”



**Mr. Stanimir Alexandrov**  
ICCA President.

“It is with great pleasure that we invite the international arbitration community to attend this joint ICCA-KIAC conference in 2025. ICCA is confident that it will be a great opportunity for practitioners to discuss recent trends and best practices, both within the African landscape and in the global arena.” Mr. Stanimir Alexandrov, ICCA President.

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



Meg KINNEAR

### **Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution**

Meg Kinnear brings unparalleled expertise and experience in investor-State, trade and commercial disputes, having led the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) from 2009-2024, and the Trade Law Bureau of Canada from 1999-2009. Over her more than 40 year career, she has been involved in complex, high-stakes litigation and arbitration involving diverse sectors such as transportation, natural resources, manufacturing, oil and gas, mining, aviation, and construction.



Thierry NGOGA GAKUBA

Ngoga Thierry is a Partner at Legal Line Partners & specializes in arbitration, commercial litigation, risk & compliances with focus being Construction & Engineering, Finance and Banking, Shareholdings, Investment, Manufacturing & Joint Venture for the past 20 years He is a Court member of ICC International Court of Arbitration.

(Mandate 2021-2027) and Chair of the ICC Africa Commission. He seats in Advisory Council of School of International Arbitration- QUEEN MARY University of London. A Board member of AFAA and member of IBA-ARF's advisory Board. He regularly consults internationally for a variety of arbitral institutions across the globe. He served earlier as first Registrar for Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) and CEO of Rwanda Bar Association.

Thierry acted as counsel in complex Litigation & have been appointed as Expert, co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator and chairman in CIMAC-Casablanca, KIAC, ICC International Court of Arbitration and Ad hoc arbitration under Rwandan, English, Nigeria, Morocco, Zambia and Swiss Law with seat in Kigali, Casablanca, Nigeria, London and Paris.

He is visiting lecturer at ILPD-Rwanda and trainer for IBA-BIC Globalization training series to lawyers in Africa, Latino America, Asia and Pacific (focus on policy reform in Arbitration and trade in legal services).

Thierry was identified as a "Future Leader" of arbitration by Who's Who Legal (2017,2019 and 2021); Recently, Thierry was recognized in Africa's 20 Arbitration Powerlist 2022 by Africa Arbitration Academy.



John OHAGA

### **Managing Partner - TripleOKlaw**

John Ohaga is the Managing Partner in the law firm of TripleOKlaw LLP. He holds an LLM in International Dispute Resolution from Queen Mary University of London. He is a Senior Counsel and a Chartered Arbitrator

## MASTER OF CEREMONY



**Ms. MACKLINE INGABIRE**  
KIAC Board Member

MACKLINE INGABIRE is a lawyer by profession, currently working as a Senior State Attorney in Rwanda's Ministry of Justice/ Office of the Attorney General. She holds a diploma in Legal Practice from Rwanda's Institute of Legal Practice and Development and is a member of Rwanda Bar Association (RBA). Mackline is also a holder of a Masters of Laws degree (LLM) in Criminal Justice from the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and a Bachelor's degree in Law (LLB) from the National University of Rwanda. With experience of more than ten (10) years in the legal field, has participated in several negotiations and provided legal advice on a number of crosscutting issues including but not limited to ICT Investment, Trade, Construction, Procurement, Corporate governance, finance, dispute resolution in extractive industries (oil, gas and mining), regional integration to mention but a few. Language and skills: Fluent in English and Kinyarwanda, working knowledge of French. Excellent legal drafting and negotiation skills, and great team work spirit.

She is part of the national team negotiating the AFCFTA investment protocol and implementation of the AFCFTA; Part of the team negotiating the tripartite (EAC, SADC and COMESA) legal instruments on transport. She represents the Attorney General/ Ministry of Justice in the Dispute Settlement Body of the AFCFTA. She is also a Member of the national committee on Bilateral Investment Treaties; Technical person (senior Officials) assigned to the EAC Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs. Mackline serves on the Board of Directors of the Kigali Arbitration Centre Board of directors since 2021 to date

# DETAILED CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Wednesday 4th June 2025

15:00 - 18:00  
 Delegates' Badges collection  
**Venue: Kigali Convention Centre**

## Thursday 5th June 2025

08:25 - 08:55  
 08:55 - 09:00  
 09:00 - 09:30  
 Registration  
 Delegates get fully seated  
 Opening Ceremony

**Speakers:**

- Victor Mugabe, KIAC Secretary General
- Stanimir Alexandrov, ICCA President
- Lise Bosman, ICCA Executive Director
- Meg Kinneer, Programme Co-chair
- Thierry Ngoga, Programme Co-chair
- John Ohaga, Programme Co-chair

### Chief Guest:

- Rt. Hon. Domitilla Mukantaganzwa, Chief Justice of the Republic of Rwanda

## 09:30 - 09:35 Group Photo

09:35 - 10:00: Opening Keynote

### Speaker:

- Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda

## 10:00 - 11:30 - Panel 1: Legal Reform and Arbitration in Africa: Untold Stories

The panel discusses the lessons learned from the recent reform experiences on the African continent. What have been the historical obstacles to development of arbitration in Africa? How are countries addressing some of these obstacles through legal reforms? What are the untold stories around legal reform processes? How effective has law reform been? Are arbitration specialists and users benefitting? Are African practitioners ready? What other issues have been or need to be addressed?

### Moderator:

- Prof. Mohamed Abdel Wahab

### Speakers:

- Nakasamba Banda
- Madeleine Kimei
- Dr. Abayomi Okubote
- Naomi Tarawali

## 11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

## 12:00 - 12:45 - Interview with Andrew Dabalen: Africa's Economic Path: Untold Stories of Challenges & Prospects

An in-depth interview with the World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa on global and African economic prospects, critically covering challenges and opportunities for commerce, trade and investment in the region.

### Speaker:

- Andrew Dabalen, Chief Economist, Africa, World Bank

### Interviewer:

- Dyalá Jiménez

**12:45 - 14:00 Lunch****14:00 - 15:15 - Panel 2: New Untold Stories in Dispute Resolution in Africa: The Next Chapter**

African economies are evolving, giving rise to new sectors while strengthening traditional ones. Panelists will discuss key trends in dispute settlement, examining how legal frameworks and institutions are adapting to address issues arising from these emerging and expanding industries.

**Moderator:**

- Makane Moïse Mbengue

**Speakers:**

- Andrea Bianchi
- Ziad Obeid
- Mercy Okiro
- Nania Owusu-Ankomah Sackey
- Gadi Taj Ndahumba

**15:15 - 15:45 Coffee Break****15:45 - 17:00 - Panel 3: African Dispute Resolution in 2035 and Beyond: From Fiction to Reality**

Practitioners take us from the Untold Stories of past and present to Future Stories about African arbitral practice, examining factors such as technology, culture, law and legal Instruments, people and, sectors and industries.

**Moderator:**

- Isaiah Bozimo

**Speakers:**

- Sylvie Bebohi Ebongo
- Jackwell Feris
- Balla Galma Godana
- Won Kidane

**17:00 - 17:15 - Untold Histories: Launch of ICCA's Historical Database of African Dispute Resolution**

ICCA celebrates the launch of its "Historical Database of African Dispute Resolution" – an online, searchable database of inter-State, investor-State and commercial arbitrations and conciliations involving African parties and interests from the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods. Join us for a preview of this unique resource for scholars, practitioners and policy-makers, intended to stimulate research and discussion on the engagement of African actors and African issues in international law.

**17:15 - 17:45 - Closing remarks by Olufunke Adekoya SAN****Speaker:**

- Olufunke Adekoya SAN, International Arbitrator

**18:00 - 19:30 Evening Cocktail Reception**



**CHIEF GUEST**

**Rt. Hon. Domitilla MUKANTAGANZWA**

*The Chief Justice of Rwanda*

Rt. Hon. MUKANTAGANZWA Domitilla has been serving as the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Rwanda and President of the High Council of the Judiciary since December 3, 2024 to date.

She is a Law Graduate from the former National University of Rwanda (currently the University of Rwanda). She further holds a Master's Degree in Peace Studies and International Relations from Hekima University College, Kenya and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD)-Rwanda.

She started her public career in the Ministry of Local Government in 1987 as the Assistante Bourgmestre of Commune Nyarugenge in the Capital City of Kigali and later as the Legal Officer in charge of legislation and civil litigation in the Ministry for Agriculture and animal resources.

From July 1994, she held various positions respectively in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MINITRASO) as Director General; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as National Project Officer in Charge of Unaccompanied Children Department; Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission as Commissioner; Executive Secretary of National Service of Gacaca Courts and Chairperson of Rwanda Law Reform Commission.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Hon. Dr Emmanuel UGIRASHEBUJA**  
Minister of Justice / Attorney General of  
Rwanda

Emmanuel Ugirashebuja is the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda. He is a former President of the East African Court of Justice. He is a Dean Emeritus of the National University of Rwanda, Faculty of Law and has given lectures on diverse subjects of law to various well-renowned Universities worldwide. He was educated and has practiced in the major legal systems, namely, common law and civil law systems. In addition, he has been bestowed confidence by his peers by being elected to different judicial and legal bodies, notably; the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, supported by the UNEP and IUCN; He is also a member of the Governing Board of the International Association of Law Schools.

He was Awarded a Lifetime Appointment as a Distinguished Fellow & Eminent Jurist at Jindal Global Law School, OP, Jindal Global University India as “exemplar jurist and contribution of law and Justice which have transcended geographical boundaries and jurisdictional limitation”; the 2019 Bright International- Jurist-in Residence University of Hawai’i School of Law. Dr. Ugirashebuja holds a PhD and LLM awarded by the University of Edinburgh and a Bachelor’s Degree awarded by the National University of Rwanda (Currently, University of Rwanda).



**Andrew Dabalen**  
Chief Economist, Africa, World Bank

Andrew Dabalen is the World Bank’s Africa Region Chief Economist since July 1, 2022. The Chief Economist is responsible for providing guidance on strategic priorities and the technical quality of economic analysis in the region, as well as for developing major regional economic studies, among other roles.

He has held various positions including Senior Economist in the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia Region, Lead Economist and Practice Manager for Poverty and Equity in Africa and most recently, Practice Manager for Poverty and Equity in the South Asia Region. His research and scholarly publications focused on poverty and social impact analysis, inequality of opportunity, program evaluation, risk and vulnerability, labor markets, and conflict and welfare outcomes. He has co-authored regional reports on equality of opportunity for children in Africa, vulnerability and resilience in the Sahel, and poverty in a rising Africa.

A Kenyan national, Dabalen holds a master’s degree in International Development from University of California - Davis, and a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from University of California - Berkeley.



**Olufunke Adekoya SAN**  
Independent Arbitrator

Olufunke Adekoya is an independent arbitrator, having retired as Head of the Disputes Practice Group at AELEX, a Lagos, Nigeria based law firm. She is regularly appointed as an arbitrator in commercial and investment related disputes in the energy and construction sectors. She is a Fellow and Chartered Arbitrator of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and sits on the Court of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. She is listed on the panel of arbitrators of the Kigali International Arbitration Centre, SIAC, ICSID and CIETAC amongst others. She is also a member of the African Users Council of the London Court of International Arbitration and Arbitral Women.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Abayomi Okubote (FCIArb)**  
African Arbitration Academy

Dr. Abayomi has garnered more than 15 years of experience in dispute resolution and commercial practice. He was part of the teams that represented multinational and domestic corporations in high-profile commercial disputes and has advised government agencies on several cutting-edge projects in Africa.

Abayomi has been engaged as counsel in several international arbitrations and appointed arbitrator in several domestic and international arbitrations in African countries. He was featured in the Legal 500 Africa Arbitration Powerlist 2021 as “one of the thought leaders of arbitration in Africa” and listed in leading directories, including Who’s Who Legal Arbitration (Partners). He recently won the Lexology Client Choice Awards 2024 (Nigeria, Arbitration).

He is an Adjunct Professor at Algoma University in Canada, Councilor in the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) African Users Council, Member of the Toronto Commercial Arbitration Society, and Court Member of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre.



**Madeline Kimei**  
IRESOLVE – Tanzania

Madeline has over 15 years’ experience in domestic and international dispute resolution, having acted for private entities in numerous complex, high-value disputes. Ms Kimei’s arbitration experience includes all the established arbitral rules, including those of the ICC, LCIA, KIAC, CRCICA, UNCITRAL, TIArb and the 1990 EDF. Her experience covers a broad range of commercial sectors, including mining, sale of goods, insurance, real estate development, banking and financial, construction, telecoms and tax-related disputes. She has participated as counsel or tribunal secretary in numerous commercial arbitrations under institutional arbitration rules, as well as in ad hoc proceedings, and has also represented clients in arbitration-related proceedings before the Tanzanian courts. Her work also involves ADR/ODR advisory and training



**Nakasamba Banda Chanda (FCI Arb)**  
Legal Practitioner

Nakasamba is a Legal Practitioner of over 10 years, and a Partner at A.M.W & Co. Legal, a top-tier law firm based in Lusaka, Zambia. She is a commercial transaction lawyer with a wholistic perspective and well-rounded view of commercial transactions given her wealth of experience in matters relating to Regulatory Compliance, Competition Law, Tax Law, ESG, Sustainable, Corporate and Project Financing, Corporate Insolvency and Alternative Dispute Resolution. She advises both local and international clients on various requirements necessary for investing and doing business in Zambia. She has been lead-advisor in some of Zambia's notable project, commercial transactions and mergers and acquisitions.

As an ADR practitioner, she is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb) with focus in arbitration, mediation and adjudication. She is the current Chairperson of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Zambian Branch and Secretary General of the Lusaka International Arbitration Centre. In the last ten (10 years) she has acted as legal representative in numerous arbitration, and adjudication disputes, and has acted as sole/joint arbitrator and mediator between parties.

Nakasamba also sits on the Board of the Kigali International Arbitration Centre, an organization established by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda in collaboration with the Private Sector Federation to support economic operators resolve commercial disputes; is one of the inaugural steering committee members of the Young- AFSA (Arbitration Foundation for Southern Africa) ; is a member of; Young ICCA, IBA's Arbitration Committee, Arb-40 and the SADC-LA division of AFSA working towards the standardization of arbitration practice in Southern Africa.



**Naomi Tarawali**  
Partner at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Naomi Tarawali is a Partner at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in London. Her practice focuses on international dispute resolution. She has represented corporates and high net worth individuals in commercial arbitration, investor-state arbitration and international litigation proceedings, as well as in mediation and ADR processes.



**Balla Galma Godana**

Legal Counsel & Representative at PCA in  
the Republic of Mauritius.

Ms. Balla Galma Godana is a Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), and the PCA Representative in the Republic of Mauritius.

As PCA Legal Counsel, Ms. Godana acts as registrar and tribunal secretary in contract, investment, and state-state arbitrations. She also assists the Secretary-General of the PCA in appointing authority matters under the PCA Rules, UNCITRAL Rules, and other procedural rules.

As PCA Representative, Ms. Godana is tasked with leading the implementation of the host country agreement between the PCA and the Republic of Mauritius.



**Jackwell Feris**

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc

Jackwell is expert South African lawyer with extensive experience in public law in South Africa, public international law and international investment law with a particular focus on substantive matters in the energy, industrials, resources and infrastructure sectors in Africa.

He provides expert risk advisory services on, amongst others, transactions (Investment Agreement, PPPs etc.) with states or state-owned entities. He has acted as counsel for both state parties and commercial/investor parties in several complex disputes in different forums (mediations, arbitration etc.), courts, tribunals in several jurisdictions in Africa, including a treaty-based Tribunal in Africa.





**Dr. Sylvie Bebohi Ebongo**  
HBE AVOCATS

Dr Sylvie BEBOHI EBONGO is a qualified Lawyer in Paris - France and Cameroon Bars. She is the Co-founder and Partner of HBE AVOCATS FRANCE and Founder and Managing Partner of Cab Bebohi Ebongo/HBE AVOCATS CAMEROUN, a “boutique” specialized in business law. Her thesis on enforcement of arbitral awards was awarded the best thesis in business and community law of the OHADA regional school in 2015. She sits as Arbitrator in institutional and ad hoc arbitrations.

She is a member of the ICSID Panel of arbitrators <https://icsid.worldbank.org/about/arbitrators-conciliators/database-of-icsid-panels> and listed on several other panels of Arbitrators (CCJA-OHADA, CRCICA, CAMCO, SHAC, CACI, AFSA, CMAG, CIETAC) and is very active in the arbitration community where she holds various roles in international dispute resolution organizations and associations: She is Member of the International Court of arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce and Member Ex-officio of the ICC ADR and Arbitration Commission for Cameroon, AfAA Board Member, APAA, AfricArb, ERA ASC, IBA Africa Network, CGA ASC, RAI, Arbitral Women, Mute off Thursdays).

She also acts as Counsel and advises institutional, private, and corporate clients in a variety of sectors (Construction, Projects, Infrastructure, Banking and Finance, Energy and Mining, International Contracts, Private Equity) both in Africa (OHADA in particular) and in the West part of the world. She regularly speaks, teaches, and provides training in Arbitration and ADR. She also publishes articles and provide translation services in the field and is fluent in French and English.



**Won Kidane**  
Villanova University

Won L. Kidane is a professor of law at the Villanova University School of Law and a partner at the DC based boutique international arbitration law firm, ALG,LLP. Professor Kidane is the author and co-author of five major books, and more than 40 law review articles and book chapters. His most recent renowned work is The Culture of International Arbitration (Oxford University Press, 2017), and his most recent publication is a comprehensive appraisal of Africa’s International Investment Law Regimes (Oxford University Press, 2024).

Professor Kidane has for over two decades represented African states, their agencies and instrumentalities in major state-to-state, investor-state and commercial arbitration. Before joining the legal academy, he practiced law in Washington with Hunton and Williams and Piper Rudnick (DLA). He currently teaches international arbitration and comparative law and runs Villanova’s South Africa Program in the spring semester. He obtained his SJD from Georgetown, JD with honors from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, LLM, University of Georgia and LLB, Addis Ababa



**Ziad Obeid**

Managing Partner at Obeid & Partners

Ziad Obeid, Managing Partner at Obeid & Partners (Dubai, Paris, Beirut), is a dual-qualified dispute resolution lawyer with a civil engineering background and extensive cross-border experience gained through legal practice throughout the Middle East and Europe.

Experienced both as a counsel and arbitrator in multifaceted international commercial and investment arbitrations, Ziad has accumulated expertise across a wide range of industries and sectors. With his dual-disciplinary background, Ziad has notable expertise in international construction claims and arbitrations involving high-value, technically complex civil engineering, infrastructure and building projects, as well as disputes arising from contracts in the oil and gas and nuclear industries.

Prior to his joining Obeid Law Firm, Ziad practiced for a number of years in the leading international arbitration practice of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, based in Paris and thereafter in Dubai. At Freshfields, Ziad worked as part of teams advising on multi-million-

dollar cases brought under the ICSID Convention, the UNCITRAL, LCIA and ICC rules across the construction, oil and gas, power generation and telecoms sectors. Before entering legal practice, Ziad worked for a major international construction company in France as a consulting engineer on various projects in Europe.

Ziad graduated from the University of London, Queen Mary (Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration with a focus on construction and energy disputes), the Université Paris II-Assas (Masters of Civil Law) and from the Lebanese University (Bachelor of Law and Masters of Lebanese Law). He also holds a Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an executive education diploma from Harvard Law School.



**Mercy Okiro**

Arbitrator, Construction Adjudicator and  
Mediator

Mercy Okiro brings over a decade of post-admission experience to her practice. She has acted as sole arbitrator, mediator, and construction adjudicator in disputes in various industries. Mercy is on the panel of Neutrals of various institutions locally and regionally. She was feted in 2019 as the “The Young African Arbitration Practitioner of the year 2019”, was listed as one of Africa’s Most Promising Young Arbitrators 2020, 2021 and 2022 by the Association of Young Arbitrators, named as 2nd runner ADR Practitioner of the Year in 2021 by the Law Society of Kenya, Nairobi Branch. She was awarded the Jury’s Award in 2023 for her contributions to ADR by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Kenya.

Mercy is an active member of the arbitration community and sits on the IBA 40 Arbitration Committee, the Council of the Association of Young Arbitrators, is an Advisory Board member of the Lagos Court of Arbitration (Young Arbitrators Network) and a Steering Committee Member of the Equality for Representation in Arbitration, Africa.

She was an ICC YAAF Representative for Africa and MENA, sat on the Steering Committee of the Young Members Group of CI Arb London, and was the founding Chair of the Young Members Group of CI Arb Kenya. She also served as an Ambassador for the Alliance for Equality in Dispute Resolution, Arbitrator Intelligence and Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers (REAL).

Mercy’s academic background includes a Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Laws degree in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration from the Queen Mary University of London.

**Nania Owusu-Ankomah Sackey**

Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah

Nania is a litigation and arbitration practitioner and a Partner at Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah, a first-tier law firm in Ghana. She regularly advises and represents clients in a range of high value litigation and arbitration disputes and is particularly noted for her innovative approach to solving complex legal issues. She also sits as an Arbitrator and is on the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators.

She is a Court member of the LCIA and President of the LCIA African Users’ Council. She is also Chair of the Ghana Chapter of CI Arb and a member of the English Commercial Bar (COMBAR) Africa Committee. Nania is an Associate Member of 3 Verulam Buildings, a leading barristers’ chambers in London. She is a lecturer in Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Ghana School of Law and is on the editorial board of Arbitration International journal, published by Oxford University Press. She is called to the bar in England and Wales and in Ghana.

**Gadi Taj Ndahumba**

Head of Power Sector at the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF)

Gadi Taj Ndahumba is the Head of Power Sector at the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF). He is responsible for the coordination and implementation of ALSF's transactional support to numerous African governments and utilities for the development, procurement and financing of power sector infrastructure projects. The power sector portfolio currently represents a third of ALSF's projects and spans across the African continent where its aim to help tackle the energy deficit through conventional and innovative technologies.

Prior to joining the ALSF, Mr. Ndahumba was a financial services lawyer at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, a top-tier Canadian law firm, where he worked on project finance transactions in the energy and infrastructure sectors. During his time at McCarthy, he advised several leading renewable energy companies which were paving the way toward wind energy as the Canadian electricity market began to diversify its energy sources.

Mr. Ndahumba is a member of the Province of Québec Bar. He holds a Double Degree of Civil Law (B.C.L.) and Common Law (LL.B.) from McGill University, a Bachelor's degree in political science (international relations) from Université of Québec in Montréal and a certificate in international liberal studies from the University of Waseda in Tokyo. Mr. Ndahumba has also successfully passed all three level exams of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification.

**Andrea Bianchi**

Professor of International Law

Andrea Bianchi is Full Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva since 2002. Previously, full professor at the Catholic University in Milan; associate professor at the University of Parma, and professorial lecturer at the Johns Hopkins SAIS Bologna Centre.

Andrea Bianchi has been a Visiting Professor at King's College London, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; the University of Vienna Faculty of Law, the Catholic University in Milan and the University of Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He has consulted for States and private parties in international investment arbitration, for international organizations on matters related to security and human rights; and for multinational corporations on business and human rights issues.

In 2014 he appeared as adviser before the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber in the Al-Dulimi case. Between 2010 and 2014 he served as a designated member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Terrorism. He co-chaired the working group on the use of force that led to the Leiden Policy Recommendations on Counterterrorism and International Law (2010). In 2001 he was among the founders of the European Society of International Law in which Executive Council he sat until 2010.

## MODERATORS



**Makane Moïse Mbengue**  
University of Geneva

Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and Director of the Department of International Law and International Organization. He is also an Affiliate Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law).

Since 2017, he is the President of the African Society of International Law (AfSIL). He is an Associate Member of the Institut de droit international. He has acted and acts as expert for the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) among others. He also acts as a Professor for courses in International Law organized by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Prof. Mbengue acts as counsel in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular, before the International Court of Justice and in investment cases) and as advisor for governments. He is involved in the negotiations of several International Investment Agreements in Africa. He is the author of several publications in the field of international law.



**Prof. Mohamed Abdel Wahab**  
Cairo University and Zulficar & Partners  
Law Firm

Mohamed Abdel Wahab is a Professor of International Arbitration, Private International Law and English Contract Law, Cairo University; Founding Partner and Head of International Arbitration, Construction and Energy Groups at Zulficar & Partners Law Firm (Egypt); Member of the Governing Board (ICCA); and Dean of the Africa Arbitration Academy. He has served as 'Arbitrator', 'Legal Expert' and 'Counsel' in more than 255 cases, involving parties from the Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

He received the LAW Magazine 2017 Best Legal Practitioner Award, the 2018 ASA International Arbitration Advocacy Prize, the 2019 AYA Hall-of-Fame African Arbitrator Award, the 2020 and 2021 Client Choice International Award. He is listed in Who's Who Global Elite Thought Leaders: International Arbitration; selected among the Legal500 Africa Powerlist and the AYA's Africa's Top 30 Powerlist. He is the coeditor (with Prof Maxi Scherer and Ms. Niuscha Bassiri) of "International Arbitration and the COVID-19 Revolution" (2020); co-editor (with Prof Ethan Katsh and Mr. Daniel Rainey) of "Online Dispute Resolution: Theory and Practice" (2021).



**Isaiah Bozimo, SAN**  
Broderick Bozimo & Company

Isaiah Bozimo, SAN, is a Partner at Broderick Bozimo & Company and a former Attorney-General of Delta State. He represents governments, corporations, and individuals in commercial disputes, focusing on arbitration and commercial litigation. As Attorney-General, he introduced significant legal reforms, including the Delta State Arbitration Law 2022.

He is a Vice President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, a Chartered Arbitrator, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He serves on arbitration panels worldwide and writes and speaks on dispute resolution across Africa.



**Dyalá Jiménez**  
DJ Arbitraje

Dyalá is a Costa Rican national, member of the Governing Board of ICCA. She is on the ICSID panel of arbitrators and conciliators for Costa Rica and on the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS). She is past member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration (2021-2024).

Ms. Jiménez is the author of numerous publications and has taught in universities in Costa Rica and Chile, where she lived and worked for almost 10 years (2004-2013). Dyalá served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica (2018-2020).

## SIDE EVENTS

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### 3rd June 2025:

- **08:00 – 17:00:** ICDR Arbitrator forum: “Navigating complex case management practical skills. Global insights, professional growth” - Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)

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### 4th June 2025

- **8:30 – 10:00:** Women’s Networking Breakfast – Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)

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### 5th June 2025

- **11:00-12:30 :** Inclusion fund meeting- Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)

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### 6th June 2025

- **9:00 – 13:00:** Young ICCA Skills Training Workshop on the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards
  - **10:00 -12:00:** ICCA - KIAC Workshop: “The First Case Management Meeting and Drafting of Procedural Order #1” - KIAC Office
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The ICDR administers arbitration and mediation proceedings globally under internationally recognized rules including the ICDR International Arbitration and Mediation Rules. The ICDR maintains a global panel of experienced arbitrators and mediators with multilingual capabilities and expertise across various sectors.

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#### ADDRESS

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GENI & KEBE is a full-service commercial law firm founded in 1912, making it the oldest in Senegal. It operates across 13 Sub-Saharan African countries through affiliate offices, offering a wide range of legal services. Recognized for its high-quality advice and cross-border capabilities, the firm blends local expertise with international experience. Its lawyers are qualified in various jurisdictions including the UK, USA, and France, and are members of the Senegalese

Bar and international legal associations. It is affiliated with DLA Piper Africa, an alliance of independent law firms working together in association with DLA Piper.

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**Doyin Rhodes-Vivour & Co**  
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Doyin Rhodes-Vivour & Co. (DRV & Co.), one of the leading Law firms in Nigeria was established in 1997, in collaboration in collaboration with the law firm of A.M.O Akande established in 1967. The firm offers specialized and high-quality legal services across key sectors, upholding the highest ethical standards. Its founding consultant Chief Olalekan Akande is an alumnus of the London School of Economics and member of Gray's Inn, and its founding partner, Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes-Vivour SAN is an alumnus of the University of Lagos and King's College London,

University of London. She is a renowned arbitration expert with over four decades' experience in Legal Practice. Mrs. Rhodes-Vivour, SAN is listed in Expert Guides as one of the world's leading experts in Commercial Arbitration and the Global Arbitration Review (GAR) International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitration.

### **Practice Areas**

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- Real Property Transactions
- Telecommunications
- Travel and Tourism
- Wills/Estate Planning

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The professionalism of the team, innovative problem-solving skills, commitment to the job, have earned the Firm several awards and accolades from well renowned ranking firms such as Chambers & Partners, Legal 500 and IFLR as well as both national and international clients. Our band 1 ranking with Chambers & Partners (from the years 2012 to 2025) as well as our proficiency in the languages of English and French makes us one of the best legal partners in Rwanda.

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Nestled in the heart of Kigali, MRB Attorneys brings together legal minds shaped by decades of practice, policy, and purpose. Established in 2013 through a merger of seasoned lawyers from some of Rwanda's most respected law firms, including Kigali Allied Advocates, Fountain Law Chambers, MK Law Office, and Prolex Advocates, MRB Attorneys has grown into one of the largest and most dynamic law firms in the country. With

a team of over fifteen skilled lawyers and a dedicated support staff, MRB Attorneys serves abroad and diverse client base, ranging from banks and corporates to government entities and international organizations. The firm's partners possess extensive experience across litigation, corporate advisory, academia, and cross-border consultancy. They have served in various capacities including state attorneys, legal reform advisors, policy consultants, and corporate counsel in both local and international contexts. While widely recognized for its expertise in Corporate & Commercial Law, Banking & Investment, and Alternative Dispute Resolution, MRB Attorneys also provides services in policy development, legal audits, due diligence, and specialized legal drafting across sectors such as energy, construction, and telecommunications.

**Practice Areas**

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- Banking and Investment
- Corporate & Commercial
- Policy & Legislative Drafting
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- Legal drafting

**For more information:**

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Rukangira Law Chambers (RLC) is a leading Rwandan full-service law firm with nearly 30 years of experience offering legal solutions across diverse sectors. Known for integrity and innovation, RLC specializes in litigation, arbitration, commercial law, intellectual property, tax, and real estate. It supports investors with services like company registration and IP protection. With a skilled team and regional reach across East, West, and Central Africa, RLC is committed to excellence, client satisfaction, and standing out among Rwanda's elite law firms.

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### Address:

We are located in the heart of Kigali City along Justice Avenue, Camp Kigali Road, KN 75St N O 16,

Web: [www.rukangiralawchambers.org](http://www.rukangiralawchambers.org);

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The Rwanda Bar Association (RBA) is a Legal Professional Organization that was created by an Act of Parliament in 1997 (Law N° 03/97) as amended by Law No 83/2013 of 11/09/2013 establishing the Bar Association in Rwanda, determining its Organization and Functioning. The Bar membership is made of practicing advocates and interns who aspire to be fully enrolled after 1 year of internship. Having started with 37 advocates, after twenty-eight years, the Bar's current membership exceeds 1600. Since its establishment to date, the Bar has been one of key contributors to promotion of the rule of law in Rwanda.

### **Services**

The Rwanda Bar Association provides legal information to the general public; handles complaints between advocates and the public; Provides legal, advice, orientation, mediation, and legal assistance & representation to indigent and vulnerable people free of charge.

The Rwanda Bar Association provides different services to its membership including Training Programmes for Advocates; CAPA (Certificat d'Aptitude a la Profession d'Avocat) Certification; Providing To whom it may concern document / Recommendation letters and Professional Cards.free of charge.

As Every application for an Annual practice authorization must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has secured at least two Credits (or 30 hours) of CLE during the previous year, the Bar Association provides continuous legal education to members according to the current year's calendar.

For a sustainable response to the increasing problems related to advocates' health insurance, the Council of the Rwanda Bar Association established a health insurance scheme funded and managed by the Bar Association. Rwanda Bar Insurance scheme provides medical services to its members and their families in different medical facilities and Pharmacies all around the country.

### **Address**

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Nassar Law Office founded in 1855 by Ahmed Nassar, is one of Egypt's oldest and most respected law firms, rooted in four generations of legal professionals. Evolving from a local practice into a full-service international business law firm, it offers expertise in corporate law, dispute resolution, international trade, project development, real estate, and construction. Known for its deep community engagement and legal foresight. The firm delivers innovative, client-focused solutions backed by a strong research unit and regional insight across diverse sectors.

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Incorporated in 1963, I&M Bank (Rwanda) Plc is the oldest financial institution in Rwanda and has grown to become one of the leading banks in the country. With a robust national presence, the Bank offers a comprehensive range of financial products and services tailored to personal, business, institutional, and corporate clients.

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minded professional firms and persons in the market to meet and, in most cases, exceed the expectations of clients.

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