



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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We are pleased to announce the release of the 6th Monthly Issue of the Council of Legal Education (CLE) Newsletter. This edition offers a summary of the various activities conducted by CLE throughout the month of February.

Within this issue, we delve into the historical background of the Council of Legal Education, tracing its establishment in 1960 and the subsequent separation from the Kenya School of Law. As G.K. Chesterton wisely noted, *“The disadvantage of men not knowing the past is that they do not know the present.”* Acknowledging this history is essential for understanding the current landscape of legal education and training.

Furthermore, we highlight CLE’s significant improvements in Performance Contracting and present an outline of key initiatives done that align with our core mandate. We also examine the impact of Human Resource (HR) policies on the future trajectory of the legal profession in Kenya. To cap it off, we feature a thought-provoking poem from one of our own.

We wish you an enjoyable reading experience!





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History of CLE

The history of Legal Education dates back to 1960, when the British government appointed a committee, chaired by Lord Denning, to review and make recommendations on how to strengthen members of local bars in Africa who had obtained legal qualifications in Britain. The Committee concluded the task in 1961 and recommended that those trained in Britain should have additional local training in Africa. The report underlined the need for legal training to focus on practical experience, local context, and procedures. This informed the establishment of schools of law in Africa.

In Kenya, this development saw the establishment of the Kenya School of Law. At the same time, the Advocates Ordinance of 1961 led to the establishment of the Council of Legal Education with a mandate to vet those who would be admitted as Advocates in Kenya. However, the Council was placed under the Attorney General and, therefore, had limited independence in decision-making. The 1990s witnessed several efforts to address the challenge of legal education. First, in 1995, the government established the Justice Akiwumi Task Force to streamline the management of the Kenya School of Law and the provision of legal education.



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The Committee recommended the re-establishment of the Council of Legal Education, which would also have the Kenya School of Law as an agent to provide legal education. Secondly, in 1998, Justice Richard Kwach chaired a committee that also examined broader matters of the administration of justice.

Intertwining the Council of Legal Education and the Kenya School of Law remained problematic. In 2004, another task force chaired by Professor Githu Muigai was established and mandated to recommend an institutional design for the provision of legal education.

The team recommended the establishment of both the Kenya School of Law and the Council of Legal Education as separate bodies. In 2012, these were established under separate laws – the Legal Education Act, Act Number 27 of 2012; and the Kenya School of Law Act, Act No. 26 of 2012.

There have been several recommendations in the past on how to improve legal education, but their implementation has not registered adequate success. Stakeholders continually demand improvement in the regulatory environment and enforcement, administration of examinations, and increased engagement between CLE and relevant institutions.



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Inspection of Legal Education Providers



Strathmore University School of Law



Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee of the Council, SLSC Secretariat & Strathmore School of Law Faculty during inspection on 14th February 2025

The Strathmore University School of Law applied for renewal of license as a Legal Education Provider for the Master of Laws (LLM) Program in October 2024 in view that the license lapsed on 19th September 2024.

In line with the Council of Legal Education’s mandate of regulating legal education and training offered by Legal Education Providers in Kenya as well as Licencing and Supervision of legal education providers, the Council conducts inspections of Legal Education Providers prior to issuing or renewing licenses to various legal education programmes.

The Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance had earlier conducted an on-site audit of the programme on 29th November 2024 where it was found that the institution was in compliance with the substance of the quality standards prescribed by the Council. The institution was inspected by the Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee of the Council on 14th February 2025.

This February, Council conducted two (2) inspections of Master of Laws Programmes at Strathmore Law School and Kenyatta University School of Law.



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Kenyatta University School of Law



Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee of the Council, SLSC Secretariat & Kenyatta School of Law Faculty during inspection

Kenyatta University School of Law applied for licensing of the proposed Master of Laws (LL.M) on 30th October 2023.

Following a preliminary review of the application, the curriculum for the proposed LL.M programme was subjected to independent peer review and the report forwarded to the institution.



The Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance (SLSC) conducted an on-site Audit of the Programme on 27th December 2024 and recommended the programme for inspection by Council, subject to some conditions to be met by the institution.

The Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee of the Council and SLSC secretariat carried out inspection of Kenyatta University School of Law Master of Laws (LLM) Programme on 3rd February 2025 with the view to determine whether the legal education programme should be licensed.



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CLE Shines ! Performance Contract Evaluation - By Morris Gitonga

The evaluation process was launched in December 2024 by Mr. Eliud Owalo, Deputy Chief of Staff for Performance and Delivery Management. Evaluation for CLE was conducted on 14th January 2025.



Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, AG. CEO (far right) and HoDs during the performance contract evaluation proceedings

At the beginning of FY 2023/24, the Council signed a Performance Contract with the Attorney General according to the 20th cycle performance contract guidelines. During the cycle, the Council committed through the Contract to implement several transformative programs and key activities aligned with its Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

CLE was evaluated by a team led by Mr. Vincent Sutei Deputy Director of Performance Management in the Public Service Performance Management Unit.

The programs are aimed at enhancing the quality of legal education and training and in line with the key Government Policy blueprints, including Kenya Vision 2030, the fourth Medium Term Plan, and the Bottom-up Transformation Agenda (BETA).



A section of HoDs during the Performance Contract Evaluation Process





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cont.



Mr. Vincent Sutel, Deputy Director of Performance Management(left) assesses the evidence presented by Mr. Duncan Wanyama, Head of Corporate Communication CLE (center),

Heads of Directorates, Divisions, and chairpersons of relevant committees presented evidence to the team and it was thoroughly scrutinized. The PC was based on six core categories: financial stewardship, service delivery, core mandates, implementation of presidential directives, affirmative action in procurement, and cross-cutting issues.

CLE attained a composite score of 2.974 **“Very Good”** which was a remarkable improvement from 3.196 **“Good”** recorded in the previous Financial year (2022/2023).

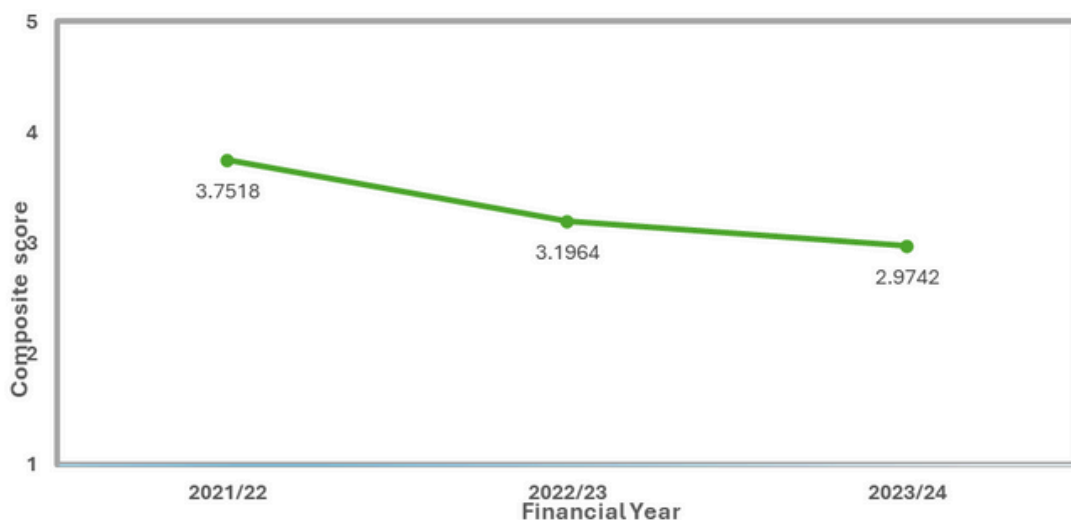


Figure 1: Council of Legal Education Performance Contract Score Trend
Figure 1 demonstrates CLE Performance Contract analysis for the last three years. The best-desired score is 1 ranked “Excellent” while the worst score is 5 ranked “Poor”.



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Meeting of the National Council on the Administration of Justice



Ms. Jennifer Gititi, Ag. CEO CLE



CLE is a member of the National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ). The NCAJ is an umbrella body that brings together justice sector actors to ensure an efficient, effective and consultative approach to administration of justice.

The meeting fostered discussions around performance tracking and monitoring of the Administration of Justice programmes in Kenya, strengthening the fight against corruption, review of the Sexual Offences Act 2006 and Emerging issues on the Administration of Justice at the Grassroots through CUCs.



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Corporate Social Responsibility - Olympic Primary School, St. Mary's Karen Primary School, and Prisons

In a commendable effort to support education and rehabilitation, CLE donated stationery, furniture, fittings, and electronic equipment to St. Mary's Karen Primary School, Olympic Primary School in Kibera, and the Kenya Prisons Service.

This initiative is part of the CLE's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which aligns with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal of assets in Public entities.

CLE hopes that the donations will provide learners with the necessary tools and materials to enhance their educational experience.



Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Ag. CEO- CLE donating to St. Mary's Karen

During the handover, the Acting CEO of the Council, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, encouraged students to remain focused on their academic goals and consider pursuing a career in law. She emphasized the importance of education as a pathway to personal and professional growth.



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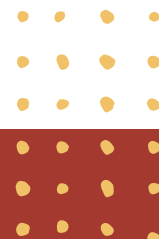
Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Ag. CEO- CLE donating to Kenya Prisons Services



Members of staff from CLE

In addition to supporting primary schools, CLE also donated items to the Kenya Prisons Service to aid in adult learning programs. These resources are intended to assist inmates in studying various courses offered within the correctional facilities, promoting rehabilitation and skill development.

This initiative underscores the CLE’s commitment to fostering education and supporting communities in need while also encouraging learners to pursue a legal career.





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Briefing of the 2025/2026 ATP Candidates

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan

In the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, the Council committed to holding quarterly and bi-annual engagements with ATP candidates. In addition, the 2024/2025 Performance Contracting (PC) targets require the Council to engage ATP candidates every quarter.

In fulfillment of these commitments, the Council honoured an invitation by its key stakeholder, the Kenya School of Law, on the 30th of January 2025, to meet and engage with the candidates joining the school for the academic year 2025/2026. The engagement was part of the Kenya School of Law's induction of the fresh ATP cohort, joining the programme this year.

This year's engagement was dubbed "*The 2025/2026 Students' Briefing*". The Kenya School of Law, which hosted the engagement in Mutula Hall, was led by the Director, Dr. Henry Mutai, the Deputy Director, Ms. Ann Konuche and a team of heads of Departments and sections, which included both the members of the faculty and the administration.

This briefing provided CLE with an opportunity to share our expectations with the candidates and the role of CLE in the administration of the Bar Examination.



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Ag. Secretary/CEO, Council of legal Education, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri and Dr. Henry Mutai, Director, Kenya School of Law and other guests

Key Note Speakers

Among the notable speakers invited, were a former student and members of the governing Council namely:

- Joshua Okayo-2024 President of the Student Governing Council.
- Brian Nyakundi-2024 member of the Student Governing Council.
- Joseph Gichuka-member of the 2024 ATP class.

Summary of the Topical Issues Addressed

In general, the induction addressed the following broad topics:

- Student's Expectations from the School and Council.
- Students' Academic Performance.
- Important Policies and Regulations.

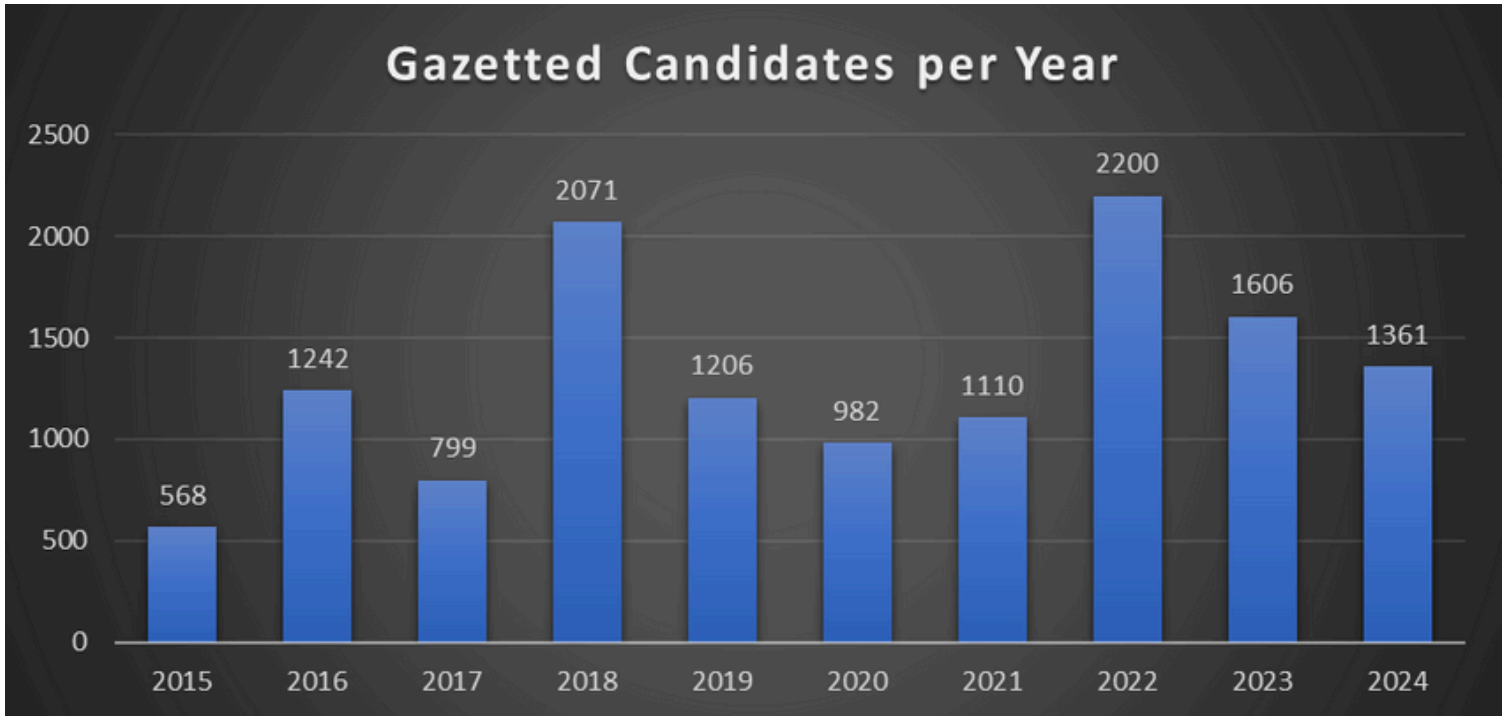
While giving his maiden speech, the Director of Kenya School of Law emphasized to the candidates the importance of serious work from the start.



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Gazetted Candidates per Year



Graphical presentation of the number of candidates gazette per year, since 2015.

Since its inception in 2015, CLE has gazetted a total of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Six (13, 476) candidates who have now joined the Bar.





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Refreshing Moments - By Peter Kipyegon, Manager Examination

Before the curious eyes;
Rose a presenter,
Made way to the dais.
Brief and candid, it was.
Yes, the presentation; magnificent!
Captivated minds and ears,
Left many gaped.



For the 2025 ATP cohort,
It was momentarily sublime!
Never has it ever happened;
The way it did:
Various and uncommon participants,
Lots of witty remarks and counsel,
The laughter that filled the room.



In a yester year,
The president;
With a coterie of comrades;
Stood in great confidence...
And grandeur,
Smiling with similes all his time,
Pushing yonder the breadth and length,
Of his scholastic experience;
Nor apolitical?
Sending congregants into paroxysms of giggles.
As if to seek,
Converts and admirers-
Among the new entrants.





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With his strides,
Came the waves of extolment,
The thunderous claps,
As he walked down the aisle,
Waving back in disbelief!



In the spur of the moment,
And the rising crescendo,
The chiming clock, ticked-
tik-tok; tik-tok
In perfect onomatopoeia;
For in it;
Was an aura of anticipation.

Which climaxed with Council's polymath-
The CEO!

The power of points.
The mesmerizing presentation-
The surprise of many,
ATP passes,
Invigorating and sparkling!
For the de-colonized minds,
Dispelling the myth-
Of
Career sepulture, whitened.





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How Human Resource (HR) Policies are Shaping the Future of the Legal Profession in Kenya - by Matthew Ndolo

Kenya's legal education and training landscape is rapidly evolving, and the Council of Legal Education (CLE) plays a crucial role in preparing legal professionals for the challenges ahead.

But what's role of HR ensuring quality legal education and training in Kenya? The answer lies in its Human Resources (HR) policies. These policies are about building a dynamic and forward-thinking institution that can shape the future of legal professionals in Kenya.

Strategic Hires for a Tech-Driven Future

In January 2025, CLE welcomed new talent to its Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) Division. Recognizing the increasing importance of technology in the legal field, HR strategically focused on recruiting individuals who could drive innovation and efficiency within CLE's operations.

Ensuring Standards and Compliance in a Dynamic Legal Education and Training Landscape.

In the same month, CLE also welcomed new staff to its Standards, Licensing, Supervision, and Compliance Directorate. This strategic addition reflects HR's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of legal education and practice in Kenya. With a focus on recruiting individuals with expertise in regulatory frameworks and compliance.

By investing in comprehensive onboarding, CLE ensured that these new hires were not only qualified but also fully integrated into CLE's vision and mission.



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Recognizing the Human Element



CLE staff members celebrating their birthday

HR at CLE is about more than just strategic hiring. It is also about fostering a culture of recognition and appreciation. The January birthday celebrations, a HR-led initiative, exemplify this commitment. As one January-born staff member put it, *"When you feel valued, you go the extra mile not because you have to, but because you want to."*

This simple act of recognition highlights the importance of valuing employees as individuals, boosting motivation and engagement.

A Resilient and Forward-Thinking Legal Education and Training Ecosystem

By strategically integrating expertise in ICT, standards, licensing, supervision, and compliance, and fostering a culture of appreciation, HR at CLE is doing more than just elevating institutional performance. It's strengthening the entire legal education and training ecosystem in Kenya.

As CLE continues to shape the next generation of legal professionals, HR will remain a critical pillar, ensuring that the institution remains adaptive, resilient and forward-thinking.






Connect with Us

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