



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



JULY  
ISSUE

## INSIDE THE ISSUE

April 2025 ATP examination cycle

Negotiation of CLE performance contract FY  
2025/2026

Partnership and Collaboration Enhancement

Annual Planning Meeting

Reflecting on the Strategic Plan Journey

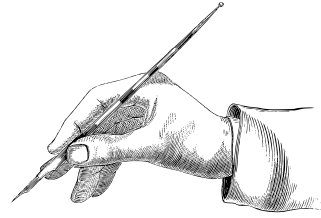




# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

## JULY 2025 ISSUE



The 11th Issue of the CLE Monthly Newsletter!

In this edition, we look at the April 2025 ATP examination cycle, highlighting the successful administration of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP). We also provide our readers with a snapshot of the negotiation of the CLE Performance Contract for the Financial Year 2025/2026. The performance contract outlines CLE's strategic deliverables aligned with its mandate and national development priorities. This process reaffirmed CLE's commitment to values like efficiency, accountability, and continuous improvement in the discharge of its mandate in Kenya.

As has been the norm in our previous editions of this Newsletter, through poetry, we contrast the ideal of Eden, a peaceful, natural paradise, with the stressful reality of modern academic life. The poem reflects on how young people, instead of enjoying freedom, spend their adolescence overwhelmed by classroom learning and exam pressure. The imagery of colored exam papers and silent exam halls highlight the anxiety and intensity of the education system. The poem also touches on the scrutiny faced by teachers, who are burdened with high expectations. Ultimately, it questions whether it is possible to return to a simpler, more fulfilling existence as was the case in older times.

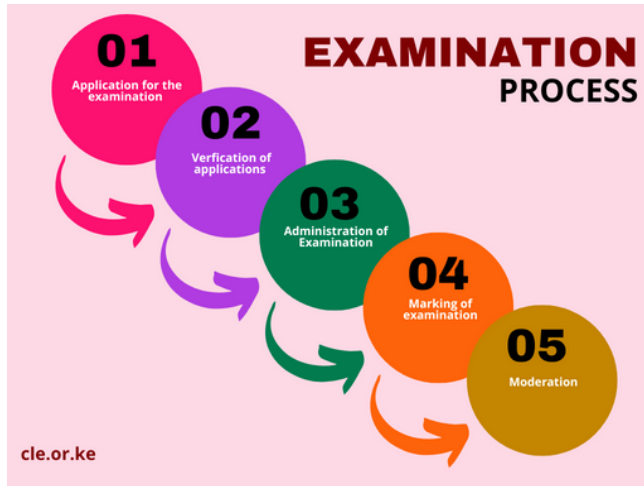
Wishing you an insightful read!

# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

## APRIL 2025 ATP EXAMINATION CYCLE

By Peter Kipyegon



The April 2025 ATP examination cycle officially concluded following the release of the remark examination results on Wednesday, 16th July 2025. As is customary, the Council released a brief communicate informing candidates and the public that the results were now accessible through individual candidate portals.

### Remark Examination Report

Candidates who submitted units for remarking received their updated scores in the form of a Remark Examination Report. This report displays scores exclusively for the units that were re-marked during the cycle. Access to the report is provided via a link in each candidate's online portal.

### Why Remark?

Remarking of examination is the process by which examination paper(s) are re-evaluated after the official results have been released.

This typically happens when a candidate believes there may have been an error or oversight in the marking of their script. Remarking, therefore, provides transparency and helps uphold fairness, especially in high-stakes examinations such as the ATP examination. However, candidates need to understand that scores can change in either direction, given that the process entails a fresh marking exercise.

### High-Stakes Examination

A high-stakes examination is a test or assessment that carries significant consequences for the candidate's future. Success or failure in such an exam can directly affect major life opportunities such as:

- Professional certification or licensing.
- Graduation or academic progression
- Admission to advanced programmes or institutions
- Eligibility for employment.

### Characteristics of High-Stakes Examinations

- ✦ **Consequential:** The results can determine whether a candidate can enter or continue in a profession (e.g., ATP exam for aspiring advocates).
- ✦ **Standardized and Regulated:** These examinations often follow strict guidelines and procedures to ensure fairness and consistency.
- ✦ **Limited Attempts:** Candidates may only have a few opportunities to pass, hence increasing the pressure.
- ✦ **Formal Appeal/Remarking Process:** Due to the stakes involved, systems like remarking are in place to allow for review and accountability.



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

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Examples:

- ATP Examination (for legal practice certification)
- KCSE/KCPE in Kenya (for educational advancement)
- SATs, GRE, or LSAT (for academic admissions)
- Medical Licensing Examination.

Because of their impact, high-stakes exams are designed to be rigorous and are typically administered under secure and proctored conditions.

## Key Features of Remarking

- Initiated by the Candidate: A candidate must formally apply for remarking, usually within a specific window period after results are released.
- Reassessment of the Script: The original script is reviewed afresh by a different examiner or a designated panel to ensure that all answers were marked correctly and that marks were recorded properly.

- Remarking has three possible outcomes:

a. Increased Final Unit Score – If errors are found that affected the candidate's score, and the corrected mark is higher.

b. Reduced Final Unit Score – If over-marking is identified, the corrected score may be lower.

c. No Change in Score – If no marking errors are found, the original score is upheld.

- Final and Binding: The outcome of the remarking process is considered final and cannot be appealed further.

## Milestone in Council's Annual Workplan

The release of the results is a great milestone for the Council, which now paves the way for the preparation towards the forthcoming November 2025 examination cycle. In line with the Council's standard examination schedule, the ATP examinations are held from the second Thursday of April and November each year. Accordingly, the upcoming examination will commence on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 until 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Candidates are encouraged to begin their preparations early and stay updated with official notices from the Council.







# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

## BACK TO EDEN? BY PETER KIPYEGON

Do we go back to Eden?  
And enjoy the paradise-  
The lush and vibrant haven,  
With abundant fruit trees,  
Sparkling rivers,  
And majestic creatures.

Do we go back to Eden?  
But How?  
Now, going back not!  
In our teenage,  
Our lives are spent in class!  
Always bombarded;  
By abstractions-  
And we endure;  
For it is promised-

And finally;  
Tightly sealed envelopes;  
Are slit open,  
Spreading the papers:  
Some blue,  
Others crimson red!

Silence deafens the halls!  
The pens in hand,  
Screech the colour of the paper,  
Producing a collage of a zebra!  
Only known,  
To the teacher,  
Whose time and energy,  
Are under the microscope,  
With monumental expectations!

Then-  
Do we go back to Eden?  
Or learn to face the wind,  
With our eyes open,  
And in the thick of things,  
Sing our favourite tunes,  
For me:  
It's Safari ya Samburu!



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

## NEGOTIATION OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE) PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR FY 2025/2026

By Morris Gitonga



Officers from the Office of the Attorney General and Mr. Morris Gitonga (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Head of Planning, CLE pose for a group photo during negotiations

In accordance with the Performance Contracting Guidelines for the Financial Year 2025/2026 issued by the Government of Kenya, the CLE has finalized the development of its draft Performance Contract (PC) for the period. On 25th July 2025, CLE successfully undertook the negotiation of its FY 2025/2026 Performance Contract with the parent Ministry, the Office of the Attorney General. The negotiation session was convened at Machakos University and was marked by constructive engagement and alignment with Government priorities.

The FY 2025/2026 Performance Contract marks a critical milestone as it coincides with the third year of implementation of the CLE's Strategic Plan for 2023–2027.

Building upon the achievements and lessons captured in the Year Two Implementation Report, which has been submitted to the Council, the new Performance Contract reflects a strong alignment with CLE's Strategic Objectives, the Annual Work Plan, and the approved budget for the financial year.

Key performance targets and deliverables outlined in the performance contract are derived from year three priorities of the Strategic Plan.

Subsequent to the successful negotiation with the Parent Ministry, CLE is now scheduled to engage with the Public Service Performance Management Unit in August 2025 for the vetting and validation of the negotiated performance contract. Upon successful vetting, the formal signing and implementation rollout will follow in line with the established Government protocols.

The Council remains committed to delivering on its mandate through performance-based management and institutional accountability, in line with National Development Goals and the aspirations of Kenya Vision 2030.



Mr. Morris Gitonga, head of Planning at CLE (left) receiving the negotiations clearance letter from Mr. Charles Nderitu, Director CPMMU, Officer of the Attorney General.



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

## TOWARDS PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS ENHANCEMENT

By Morris Gitonga



Ms. Jeniifer Gitiri, Ag. CEO (centre), Ms. Annah Konuche ( Director Standards, Licencing, Supervsion and Compliance with representatives from LawAfrica

CLE, under the leadership of our CEO, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, had the pleasure of hosting the LawAfrica team, led by their CEO, Mr. Maxwell Wahome, on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. LawAfrica is a division of Longhorn Publishers, a leading regional publishing authority dedicated to legal and paralegal publishing. The publisher has honed its expertise over the past 15 years.

The meeting centered on exploring areas of mutual interest in legal education training, including collaboration in the upcoming Future of Legal Education Conference. Strengthening partnerships and fostering strategic collaborations remain central to our agenda as we advance the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2023–2027.

## ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING TO ALIGN FY 2025/2026 PRIORITIES

By Morris Gitonga



Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Ag. CEO at CLE with members of Management

CLE successfully convened its Annual Planning Meeting from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The forum, which brought together Senior Management consisting of Heads of Directorates and Divisions, serves as a key institutional event marking the start of a new Financial Year. This year's meeting was particularly significant, considering that it is the second annual planning meeting under the current Strategic Plan (2023/24 – 2027/28).

The objective of the meeting was to reflect on institutional achievements and challenges over the previous Financial Year, and to lay a strong foundation for the effective execution of programmes and activities in the FY 2025/2026. The planning session also provided an opportunity to assess the alignment of operational outputs with the broader strategic objectives of the Council.





# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

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The following key planning and operational documents were developed in the retreat:

- Annual Budget Estimates FY 2025/2026
- Annual Work Plan for FY 2025/2026
- Annual Procurement Plan FY 2025/2026
- Draft Performance Contract FY 2025/2026
- Individual Performance Targets for Heads of Divisions and Directorates for FY 2025/2026
- Review of Risk Registers

Additionally, the team undertook a comprehensive review of progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan over the past two Financial Years. This review provided the opportunity for the identification of areas requiring acceleration, course correction, or realignment with evolving issues in the legal education and training.

The timely development and dissemination of these planning tools will greatly enhance operational efficiency, as they enable staff at all levels to align their individual annual work targets with organizational priorities and the Performance Contract obligations. Furthermore, the planning retreat fostered greater interdepartmental collaboration, ensuring a unified and coherent approach to service delivery and execution of policy in the new Financial Year. CLE remains committed to promoting a results-based management culture and enhancing accountability and service delivery across all its functional areas.

## REFLECTING ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN JOURNEY – ARE WE ON TRACK?

By Morris Gitonga



Prof. Collins Odote, CLE Chairman  
(centre), Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Ag. CEO and  
Members of the Council and CLE staff

CLE officially launched its Third Strategic Plan (2023–2027) in April 2024. The overarching goal of the Strategic Plan is to transform legal education and training in Kenya, with the vision of nurturing innovative legal professionals equipped to drive meaningful societal transformation.

As of 30th June 2025, CLE had completed two years of implementation of the Strategic Plan. During this period, notable strides were made towards the attainment of key strategic objectives. However, the CLE also encountered a number of operational and systemic challenges that adversely affected the pace of implementation.







# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

July 2025 Issue

cont.

In July 2025, CLE undertook a comprehensive two-years implementation review, aimed at taking stock of progress made, identifying key achievements, interrogating challenges encountered, drawing lessons from, and proposing actionable strategies to fast-track targets that are still lagging behind.

The evaluation revealed that, as of the end of the second implementation year, the average achievement rate stood at 41%. Notably, three out of the four Key Result Areas (KRAs) recorded performance levels below the overall average. This underscored the need for targeted interventions to enhance the effectiveness of execution.

The Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report was formally discussed by CLE Management and presented to the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The Council acknowledged the achievements realized thus far and took note of the implementation bottlenecks experienced by the Secretariat. In response, the Council has prioritized a set of corrective and accelerative measures, geared towards unlocking pending activities and enhancing delivery of the remaining targets within the period of the Strategic Plan implementation.

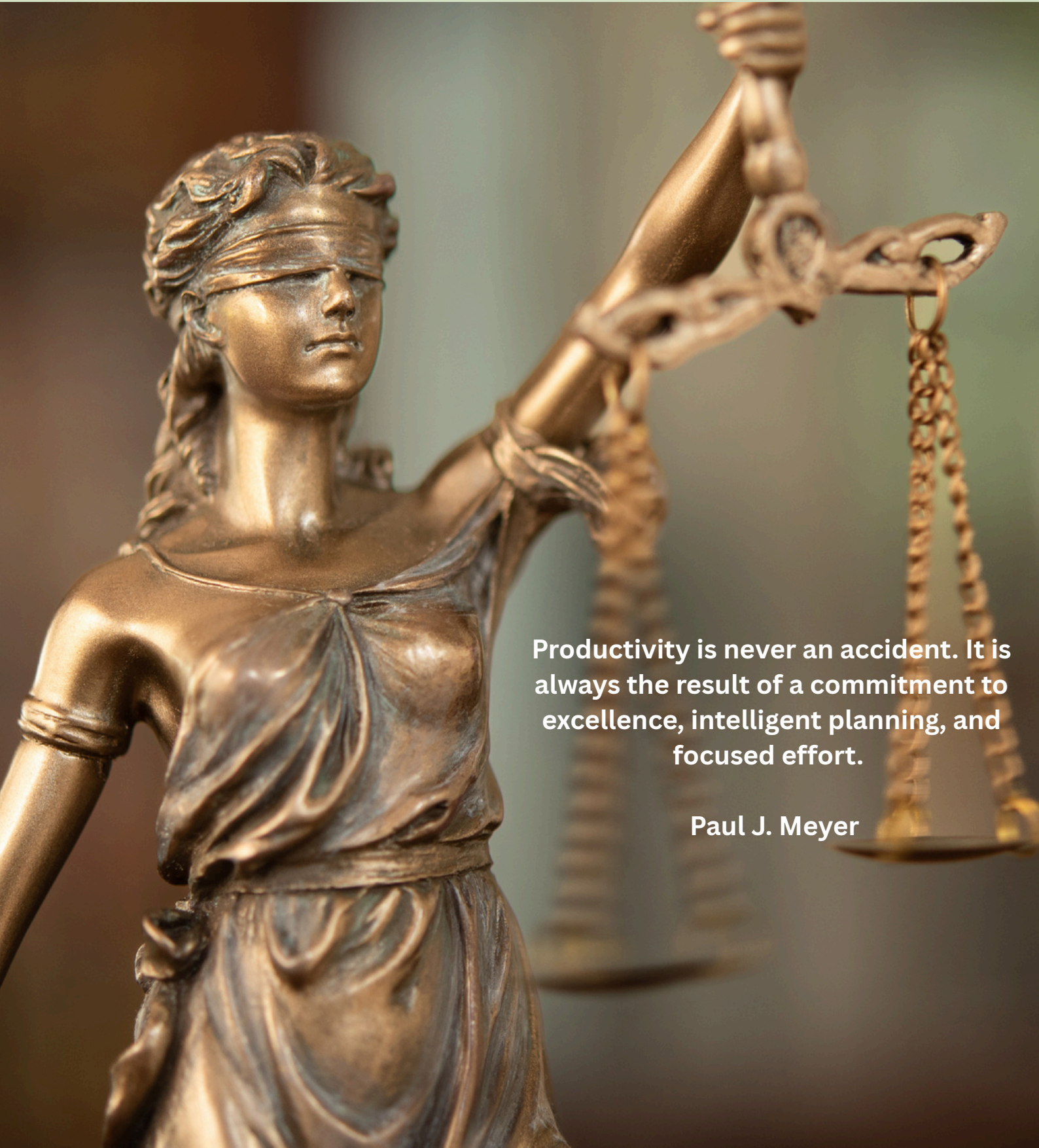
CLE remains committed to transparent performance monitoring, collaborative implementation, and strategic resource deployment to ensure the successful realization of its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan goals.





# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

*July 2025 Issue*



**Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.**

**Paul J. Meyer**





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

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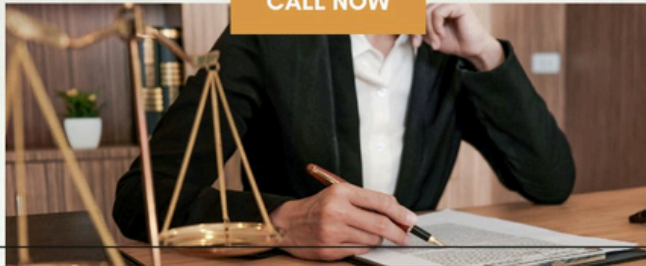
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