



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

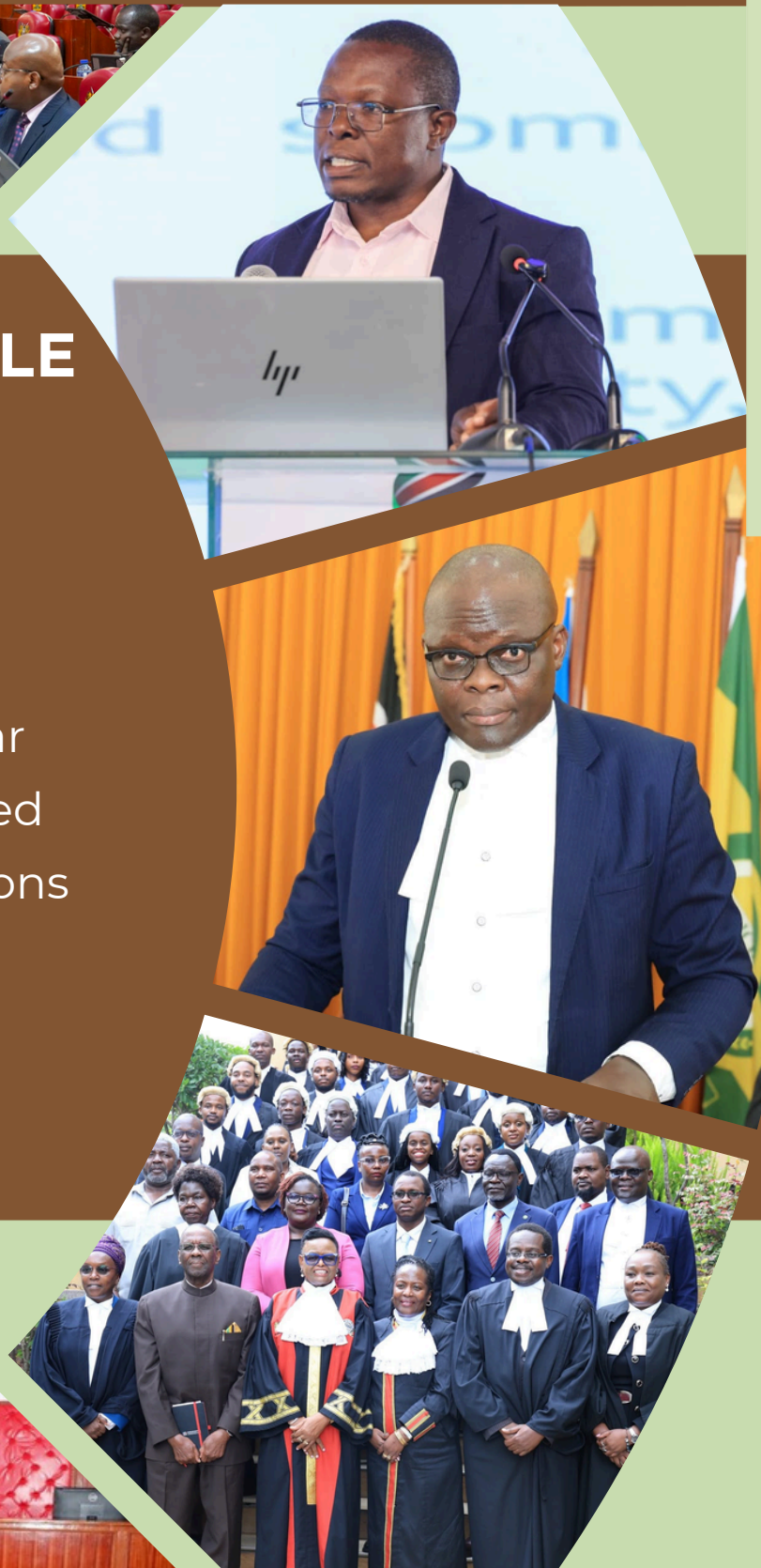
NEWSLETTER

21ST EDITION

A publication of CLE
May 2026

Features:

1. Admission to the Bar
2. Moot Court Explained
3. Audits and Inspections
4. CLE in the Media
5. Mental Wellbeing
6. HRIS-Ke Rollout





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

EDITORS NOTE

21ST EDITION

The pursuit of excellence in legal education requires continuous oversight, innovation, and collaboration. As the regulator of legal education and training in Kenya, the Council of Legal Education remains committed to ensuring that institutions, programmes, and processes meet the standards necessary to produce competent and ethical legal professionals.

This edition captures some of the Council's key activities in advancing that mandate. From inspections and quality assurance audits of institutions seeking to offer legal education programmes, to engagements with Parliament, government agencies, the media, and justice sector stakeholders, these initiatives reflect our commitment to accountability, quality, and continuous improvement.

We also celebrate important milestones within the legal profession, including the admission of new advocates to the Bar, while highlighting initiatives such as the Bar Examination Loan, which continues to create opportunities for aspiring advocates. In addition, we share insights on national values, mental wellbeing, and the pathway to becoming an advocate—topics that underscore the broader role of legal education in shaping responsible professionals and citizens.

As we move forward, the Council remains focused on strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and promoting a legal education system that responds effectively to the evolving needs of society and the justice sector.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in advancing quality legal education and training in Kenya.

Happy reading.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE INSPECTS AFRICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE), through its Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing (QCL) Committee, conducted an on-site inspection at the Africa Nazarene University (ANU) School of Law as part of the University's application to renew its licence to offer the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Programme.

Led by QCL Committee Chairperson Mr. George Nyakundi, Committee Member Ms. Aisha Abdallah, CLE CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali and officers from the Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance, the inspection assessed compliance with the Legal Education Act and the Legal Education (Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2016.

The team reviewed key areas including governance, curriculum delivery, staffing, research, library resources, infrastructure, student support services and quality assurance systems.

The exercise underscores CLE's commitment to maintaining high standards of legal education and ensuring institutions continue to deliver quality legal training in Kenya.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

ANU SCHOOL OF LAW INSPECTION PHOTO GALLERY





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE PARTICIPATES IN LAUNCH OF 2025/26 PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON NATIONAL VALUES

By Josphat Waithaka

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) participated in the briefing and launch of the 2025/26 Annual President’s Report on National Values and Principles of Governance held at KICD.

CLE was represented by Mr. Josphat Waithaka, Chairperson of the National Cohesion and Values Committee, and Ms. Caroline Njeru, Secretary. The forum brought together public institutions to prepare for the 13th Annual President’s Report on measures taken and progress achieved in promoting national values and principles of governance.

The engagement reaffirmed CLE’s commitment to integrating national values and principles of governance in the execution of its mandate to regulate legal education and administer the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) examination.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

UNDERSTANDING NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

By Corporate Communication

National Values and Principles of Governance are the guiding ideals that shape leadership, public service, and governance in Kenya. They are enshrined in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya and are binding on all State organs, State officers, public officers, and institutions whenever they apply or interpret the law, make policy decisions, or deliver public services.

At the Council of Legal Education, National Values and Principles of Governance underpin the regulation and supervision of legal education, accreditation and quality assurance processes, administration of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) examination, and engagement with stakeholders. By upholding these values, the Council contributes to the advancement of constitutionalism, accountability, and excellence in legal education and training. The values include;



Patriotism



National Unity



Sharing & Devolution of Power



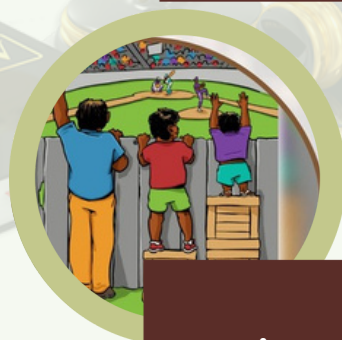
The Rule of Law



Democracy & Participation of the People



Human Dignity



Equity



Social Justice



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

UNDERSTANDING NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE



The infographic consists of a 3x3 grid of circular icons, each with a corresponding label in a dark brown box below it. The icons are: 1. Inclusion: A group of diverse people, including a woman in a wheelchair and a man with a cane. 2. Equality: A scale of justice with the word 'EQUALITY' in large letters, and 'RIGHTS' and 'FAIR' in smaller circles. 3. Human Rights: A word cloud featuring 'freedom', 'international', 'human', 'rights', and 'community'. 4. Non-discrimination: A word cloud with 'stop discrimination' repeated in various colors and sizes. 5. Protection of the Marginalized: An illustration of a man in a red shirt offering a bottle of water to a man sitting on the ground. 6. Good Governance: A circular diagram with 'Good Governance' in the center, surrounded by terms like 'Accountable', 'Transparent', 'Responsive', 'Participatory', and 'Inclusive'. 7. Integrity: Three wooden blocks stacked on top of each other, labeled 'Integrity', 'Honesty', and 'Ethics'. 8. Transparency & Accountability: A hand pointing at a digital interface with the word 'TRANSPARENCY' and various icons. 9. Sustainable Development: A globe with people and trees, representing sustainable development.

Inclusiveness

Equality

Human Rights

Non-discrimination

Protection of the Marginalized

Good Governance

Integrity

Transparency & Accountability

Sustainable Development

These values promote ethical leadership, foster public trust, and ensure that institutions serve the public fairly and effectively. Public institutions are required to mainstream these principles in their operations and report on the progress made in implementing them.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

WAKILI, TWENDE TULIPE BEL: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

By Corporate Communication

Since its establishment in 2019, the Bar Examination Loan (BEL) has enabled 2,148 Advocates Training Programme (ATP) candidates to sit for the Bar Examination by easing the financial burden associated with examination fees.

For many beneficiaries, BEL represented more than a loan—it was an opportunity. Behind every application is a story of sacrifice, resilience, determination, and the pursuit of a legal career. The facility has helped aspiring advocates overcome financial challenges and take a critical step toward joining the legal profession.

To ensure that future candidates continue to benefit from this support, the Council of Legal Education encourages all BEL beneficiaries to honour their repayment obligations. Every repayment contributes to the sustainability of the fund and creates opportunities for other deserving candidates to access the same support.

When you repay BEL, another dream lives on.

Beneficiaries can conveniently repay their loans through various channels, including the USSD Code *642#, the HELB Mobile App, the Loanee Self-Service Portal, and the Employers Portal. Advocates in the diaspora can also make repayments through Wave, WorldRemit, or direct bank deposits.

Together, we can sustain the Bar Examination Loan and support the next generation of legal professionals.

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

The Bar Exam Loan [BEL] is available for the Advocate Training Program Examination Registration fees only. It earns an interest rate of 4% per annum and matures 1.5 years after disbursement.

BEL Repayment

1. Repay BEL using USSD Code *642#, HELB Mobile App, Loanee Self-Serve Portal, and
2. Employers Portal for those being deducted through payroll deductions.
3. For Kenyans in diaspora, repay through Sendwave, World Remit and/or Bank deposit.
4. Completion of Loan Repayment
5. Upon completion of loan repayment, clearance is done by HELB.

For inquiries and repayment support:

1. HELB Portal: www.helb.co.ke
2. Call: 0711052000
3. Email: support@cle.or.ke
4. Visit: www.cle.or.ke
5. Email: contactcentre@helb.co.ke

BAR EXAMINATION LOAN REPAYMENT

EMPOWERING DREAMS
© www.helb.co.ke | Advocates Training Programme May 2019 | W412
 ☎ +254 190 2000 | ✉ contactcentre@helb.co.ke | #HELBSAVE





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

WELCOMING 166 NEW ADVOCATES TO THE BAR

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE) joined the Judiciary and other stakeholders in celebrating the admission of 166 Advocates to the Bar during a ceremony presided over by Chief Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH.

CLE was represented by Dr. Felix Odhiambo, Director of Examinations, who attended the occasion marking the successful transition of the new advocates into the legal profession.

The admission ceremony signifies the culmination of years of academic study, professional training, and assessment, and marks the beginning of a new chapter in the service of justice and the rule of law.

The Council of Legal Education congratulates the 166 newly admitted Advocates of the High Court of Kenya and wishes them success as they embark on their legal careers and contribute to the administration of justice.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE ASSESSES KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S READINESS TO OFFER LEGAL EDUCATION

By Corporate Communication

The Council of Legal Education (CLE), through its Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing (QCL) Committee, conducted an on-site inspection at the proposed Kenya Methodist University School of Law to assess the institution's compliance with the Legal Education (Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2016.

The inspection was led by QCL Committee Chairperson Mr. George Nyakundi, Committee Member Mr. Oscar Eredi, OGW, CLE CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali, and officers from the Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance. The exercise focused on key areas including curriculum design, infrastructure, governance, library resources, legal education standards, and the University's overall preparedness to offer legal education programmes in accordance with the Legal Education Act, Cap. 16B and the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Regulations.

The University was represented by Rev. Prof. John Kobia, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Eliab S. Some, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Finance; Dr. Evans Murithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Student Affairs and Advancement; among other officials.

The inspection forms part of CLE's ongoing efforts to ensure institutions seeking to offer legal education programmes meet the required standards for quality legal education and training in Kenya.





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KEMU SCHOOL OF LAW INSPECTION PHOTO GALLERY

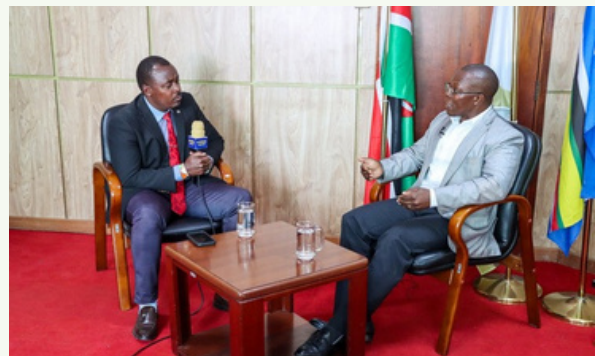




COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE ENGAGES MEDIA ON THE STATE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN KENYA

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE) CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, hosted Mr. Stanley Bore of KASS TV for a discussion on the state of legal education and training in Kenya.

The engagement provided an opportunity to highlight CLE's mandate in regulating legal education and training, safeguarding quality standards, and overseeing the administration of professional legal training in the country.

The discussion forms part of CLE's ongoing commitment to stakeholder engagement and public awareness of its role under the Legal Education Act, Cap. 16B. Through such engagements, the Council continues to foster informed public discourse on legal education and its contribution to the administration of justice.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Prioritizing Mental Wellbeing in the Legal Profession

By Corporate Communication

The legal profession is rewarding, but it can also be demanding. Long working hours, tight deadlines, high-stakes decisions, and the responsibility of serving clients can place significant pressure on legal professionals. Recognizing the importance of mental wellbeing is essential to maintaining both personal health and professional effectiveness.

To promote a healthier and more resilient legal community, legal professionals are encouraged to:



Prioritize Rest and Recovery

Regular breaks, adequate sleep, and time to recharge help prevent burnout and improve productivity.



Speak Up and Seek Support

Seeking help is a sign of strength. Colleagues, mentors, friends, counsellors, and mental health professionals can provide valuable support during challenging times.



Maintain a Healthy Work-Life Balance

Setting clear boundaries between work and personal life creates space for family, recreation, exercise, and overall wellbeing.



Manage Stress in Healthy Ways

Exercise, mindfulness, prayer, journaling, and other positive coping mechanisms can help manage stress and promote emotional resilience.



A healthy legal professional is better equipped to serve clients, uphold justice, and contribute meaningfully to society. By prioritizing mental wellbeing, members of the legal profession can build sustainable and fulfilling careers while maintaining their overall quality of life.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE ADVANCES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH HRIS-KE ROLLOUT

By Matthew Ndolo

The Council of Legal Education (CLE), led by CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali, held a meeting with representatives from the State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development to discuss the onboarding and implementation of the Human Resource Information System Kenya (HRIS-Ke).

The engagement focused on preparations for the rollout of the system within CLE, in line with the Government's agenda to digitize and centralize human resource management across the public sector.

The adoption of HRIS-Ke is expected to enhance efficiency, accountability, data management, and service delivery in human resource operations. The initiative also supports the broader public sector reform agenda aimed at strengthening governance and operational effectiveness.

CLE remains committed to leveraging technology to improve institutional performance and ensure full compliance with the HRIS-Ke framework.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE INSPECTS RONGO UNIVERSITY'S PROPOSED LL.B PROGRAMME

By Corporate Communication

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) conducted an on-site inspection of Rongo University following the institution's application to offer the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) programme.



The inspection was led by Mr. George Nyakundi, Chairperson of the Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing (QCL) Committee, alongside Mr. Oscar Eredi, OGW, Mr. Samson Alosa, Council Member, CLE CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali, and officers from the Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance.

The exercise assessed the University's compliance with the Legal Education (Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2016, focusing on curriculum, governance, infrastructure, staffing, library resources, moot court facilities, financial sustainability, and institutional readiness to offer legal education and training. Rongo University was represented by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Samuel Gudu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning) Prof. Daniel Tarus, and other university officials.

The inspection forms part of CLE's mandate to regulate legal education and ensure institutions seeking to offer law programmes meet the required standards for quality legal education and training in Kenya.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE APPEARS BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE) appeared before Parliament’s Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) during presentations on the proposed 2026/27 Financial Year budget by the Office of the Attorney-General and Department of Justice, alongside State Corporations under the State Law Office.

CLE was represented by Dr. Felix Odhiambo, Director of Examinations, and Mr. Duncan Nalwenge, Assistant Director, Finance and Accounts, on behalf of the CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali. The delegation was led by Solicitor-General Hon. Shadrack Mose.

The engagement provided an opportunity for CLE to outline its strategic priorities, resource requirements, and ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality of legal education and the administration of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) examinations.

Through such engagements, CLE continues to advocate for the resources necessary to effectively discharge its mandate and uphold standards in legal education and training in Kenya.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE PARTICIPATES IN INAUGURAL JUDGES' BOOK FAIR 2026

By Corporate Communication

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) is participating in the Inaugural Judges' Book Fair 2026 taking place at the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), Sanaa Hall, Nairobi.

CLE was represented by Dr. Felix Odhiambo, Director of Examinations. The event has brought together members of the Judiciary, justice sector stakeholders, universities, publishers, students, and members of the public to celebrate legal scholarship and published judicial works.

The Book Fair provides a platform for knowledge sharing, intellectual engagement, and the promotion of legal literature, while highlighting the important role of research and scholarship in advancing the administration of justice.

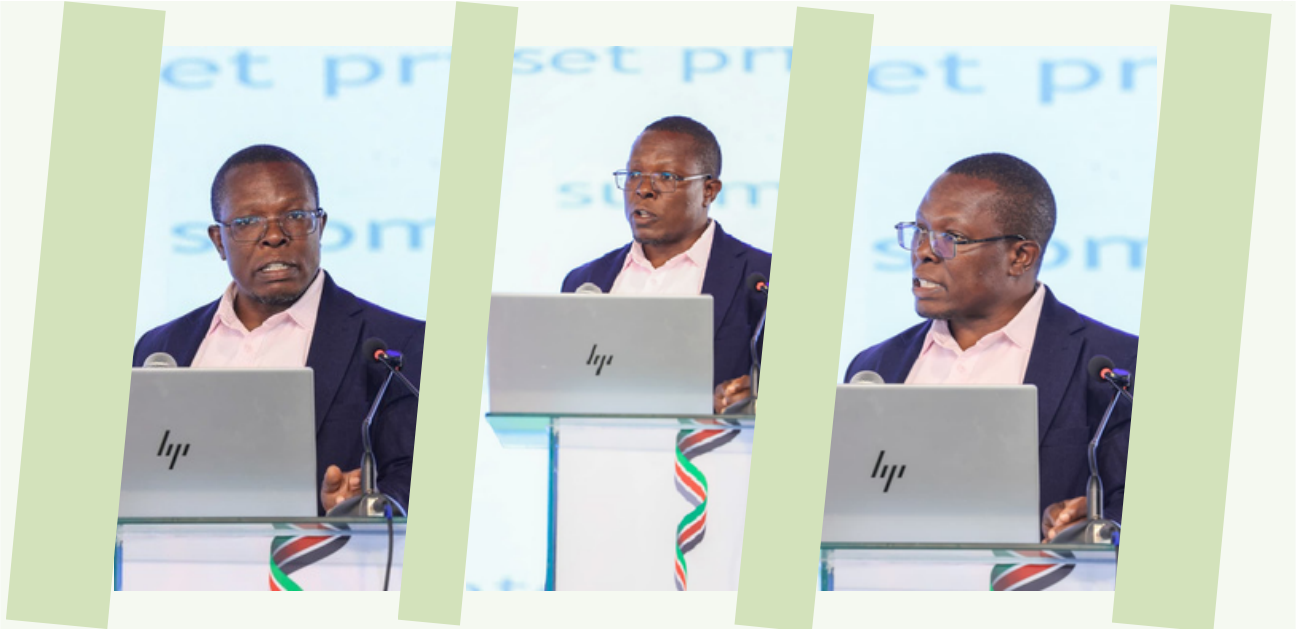
CLE's participation underscores its commitment to promoting excellence in legal education, professional development, and the advancement of legal knowledge in the advancement of legal knowledge in Kenya.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE SHOWCASES REGULATORY MILESTONES AT THE 3RD ANNUAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES (RAAS) CONFERENCE

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE) participated in the 3rd Annual Regulatory Authorities and Agencies (RAAs) Conference 2026 held at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Kitui County.

CLE CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali delivered a presentation highlighting the Council's key regulatory achievements during the 2023/2024 Financial Year. Among the milestones outlined were the development and launch of the CLE Strategic Plan 2023–2027, strengthened accreditation compliance among law schools, enhanced inspection and quality assurance frameworks, improved annual reporting mechanisms, and more predictable ATP candidate gazette ment timelines.

Prof. Mwimali also highlighted improvements in the release of ATP examination results and the successful hosting of CLE's inaugural Conference on the Future of Legal Education and Training in Kenya in December 2025.

The conference brings together Regulatory Authorities and Agencies to share experiences, strengthen accountability, promote evidence-based regulation, and enhance public service delivery.

CLE remains committed to advancing responsive regulation, accountability, and quality assurance in legal education and training in Kenya.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE AUDITS KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

By Corporate Communication

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) conducted a quality assurance audit at the Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) School of Law, Nairobi Campus, as part of the University's application process to establish a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) programme. The audit was led by Ms. Annah Konuche, Director, Mr. Moses Muchiri, Deputy Director, and officers from the Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance.



The exercise assessed the University's institutional readiness, curriculum quality, strategic planning, staffing capacity, moot court facilities, library resources, mode of instruction, and compliance with the Legal Education Act, Cap 16B, and accreditation requirements.

KeMU was represented by Vice-Chancellor Rev. Prof. John Kobia Ataya, alongside members of the University Governance, Management Board, Senate, and other stakeholders.

The audit forms part of CLE's mandate to ensure institutions offering legal education and training in Kenya meet the standards required to deliver quality legal education.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO BECOMING AN ADVOCATE IN KENYA

By Hannah Weru

Becoming an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya involves a structured pathway designed to prepare legal professionals for practice.

STEP 1		OBTAIN AN ACCREDITED LL.B DEGREE	Pursue and obtain an accredited Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from a recognized university in Kenya or an institution approved by the Council of Legal Education (CLE).	
STEP 2		MEET ATP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	Meet the admission requirements and apply for the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) at the Kenya School of Law.	
STEP 3		COMPLETE ATP & EXAMINATIONS	Undertake the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) at the Kenya School of Law and sit for the ATP examinations administered by the Council of Legal Education (CLE).	
STEP 4		UNDERTAKE PUPILLAGE	Upon successful completion of ATP, undertake six (6) months of pupillage under the supervision of a qualified and approved advocate.	
STEP 5		ADMISSION TO THE ROLL OF ADVOCATES	Upon successful completion of all requirements, petition the High Court for admission to the Roll of Advocates and be admitted to the Bar by the Hon. Chief Justice.	



THE ROLE OF CLE

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) plays a vital role in:

 Regulating legal education	 Administering ATP examinations	 Ensuring quality standards in legal training	 Upholding ethics and professional excellence
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Throughout this journey, CLE plays a vital role in regulating legal education, administering ATP examinations, and ensuring quality standards in legal training.

The legal profession is more than a career it is a commitment to justice, integrity, and service to society.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CHIEF GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGIST, DR. JOHANSEN ODUOR, ADMITTED TO THE BAR

By Peter Kipyegon

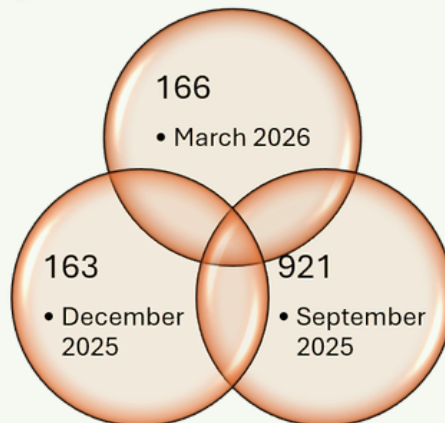
On the morning of Monday, 25th May 2026, at the stroke of ten o'clock, a solemn yet magnificent scene unfolded within the hallowed precincts of the Supreme Court of Kenya. One after another, in graceful rhythm and quiet anticipation, a total of one hundred and sixty-six lawyers rose to their feet at the gentle but commanding voice of the Honourable Chief Justice as she called them to the Bar.

For the newly admitted advocates, it was more than a ceremonial rite; it was the triumphant beginning of a lifelong journey in the noble service of justice. Years of sacrifice, discipline and unwavering determination had finally culminated in that defining moment beneath the grandeur of the nation's apex court.

Among the notable admittees was Johansen Oduor, a distinguished medical doctor and the current Chief Government Pathologist. At fifty-two years of age, Dr. Oduor embraced the occasion with visible pride and humility, describing his admission as an opportunity to bridge the worlds of Law and Medicine — two disciplines united by their common pursuit of truth, justice and service to humanity.

A total of 1,250 candidates were admitted during the 2025/2026 financial year, with admissions distributed as follows: 921 in September 2025, 163 in December 2025, and 166 in March 2026.

At a glance...



Dr. Johansen Oduor, the Chief Government Pathologist during the Admission Ceremony held on 25th May 2026. Council of Legal Education is proud of his achievement.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE STRENGTHENS GOVERNANCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING

By Corporate Communication



The Council of Legal Education (CLE) held a Finance, Human Resource and Administration Committee Retreat from 25–29 May 2026 aimed at strengthening institutional governance, financial oversight, and strategic management.

A key highlight of the retreat was a specialized "Finance for Non-Finance Leaders" training facilitated by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK). The programme equipped Council Members and senior management with practical skills in public finance management, financial statement interpretation, budgeting, risk management, and financial oversight.

The retreat also provided a platform to review key institutional policies and initiatives, including the Strategic Plan implementation status, Bar Examination Loan framework, communication strategy, risk management framework, human resource policies, and asset management.

The engagement reaffirmed CLE's commitment to sound governance, accountability, and effective stewardship of public resources in support of its mandate to regulate legal education and training in Kenya.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE CEO PROF. JACK MWIMALI FEATURED ON THE NAIROBIAN NEWSPAPER

May 22, 2026 - May 28, 2026 The Nairobiian

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ON THE CARPET

Jack Mwimali: Lawyers must be competent and ever ethical

The journey to becoming an advocate in Kenya is a tough one. It begins with excelling in KCSE to earning a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) before enrolling for the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) at the Kenya School of Law where the final hurdle, the bar exam, has increasingly become a stumbling block for many. Prof. Jack Mwimali, Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Legal Education (CLE), the body mandated to regulate legal training and administer bar examinations, sheds light on the challenges, and reforms shaping Kenya's legal education system in an interview with MIKE KIHAKI.

Critics argue that CLE is either letting in unqualified lawyers or unfairly failing deserving students. Really?

That is the paradox we live with, you're damned if you do, damned if you don't. On one hand, people say we are admitting lawyers who are not competent. On the other, they say we are too harsh.

Our mandate is clear: to regulate legal education and ensure quality. We don't set out to fail students. In fact, as a former lecturer, I can tell you it is easier and more satisfying to mark a well-answered script than to struggle through poor responses.

But we must also be honest to the public. The legal profession demands competence, integrity, and skill. We cannot compromise on that.

Please walk us through how the bar exams are set and marked.

We have put in place a very robust and transparent system. Each paper is set by a panel of about six experts, including judges, practicing advocates, prosecutors, and academics.

After setting, the papers are moderated before selection. This ensures quality and eliminates bias. During marking, we use a conveyor belt system each marker handles a specific question rather than the entire script. This minimises the risk of bias or undue influence.

The process is traceable from start to finish. Even as CEO, I cannot alter marks. That integrity is critical.

Is the bar exam too rigid? Should a student who passes eight out of nine units still fail entirely?

That is a policy question we continue to reflect on. But currently, the

requirement is clear: you must pass all units.

The legal profession does not operate in silos. A lawyer must be competent across all core areas. If you lack competence in one critical area, it could have serious consequences in practice.

That said, we are open to reviewing the structure to ensure it remains fair and relevant.

What about the structure of assessment? Is emphasis too much on final exams?

That is another area under review. Currently, at the Kenya School of Law, continuous assessment, oral exams and projects account for 40 per cent, while the final exam accounts for 60 per cent.

We are asking whether this ratio is appropriate, especially with the shift towards Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET).

Law is not just about writing exams. It is about communication, argumentation, and practical skills. We are considering whether to increase the weight of continuous assessment to better reflect these competencies.

Some critics say the system is a form of gatekeeping that limits entry into the profession. Is this fair criticism?

We regulate and maintain stand-

ards. Every profession has thresholds. For law, the stakes are particularly high because lawyers deal with justice, rights, and public trust.

We must ensure that those admitted to the bar are competent and ethical. That is our responsibility to society.

There are also concerns about "half-baked" graduates entering the market. How do you reconcile that with low bar pass rates?

That is precisely why the Advocates Training Programme and the bar exam exist: to ensure quality. But we must also recognise that training a lawyer is a collective responsibility. Universities, Kenya School of Law, the Law Society of Kenya, and practicing advocates all play a role.

Mentorship is especially critical. Classroom learning alone cannot produce a complete lawyer. Exposure to real practice, ethical dilemmas, and professional expectations is essential.

Gender trends show more

women are passing and being admitted. What does this shift imply?

This development reflects broader changes in access to education and opportunities. However, we must also ensure that we do not leave the boy child behind. The goal is equity and balance.

What reforms can students expect in the near future?

We are actively engaging stakeholders to reimagine legal education. This includes reviewing assessment methods, strengthening collaboration with universities, and enhancing mentorship and practical training.

We recently convened a conference on the future of legal education with support from partners like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explore these issues.

Our goal is to produce lawyers who are not only knowledgeable but also ethical, competent, and responsive to societal needs.

How does CLE engage with stakeholders?

We actively engage stakeholders through structured and inclusive platforms aimed at enhancing transparency, trust and continuous improvement in the administration of the ATP Examination.

CLE regularly conducts candidate engagement forums, both physical and virtual, to provide clarity on examination processes, address concerns and

“ CLE convenes targeted technical stakeholder engagements with key actors in the examination ecosystem, to strengthen alignment, reinforce quality assurance standards and address emerging issues...
”

Jack Mwimali, CEO, Council of Legal Education

promote timely, accurate information sharing.

In addition, CLE convenes targeted technical stakeholder engagements with key actors in the examination ecosystem, including the Kenya School of Law, examiners, setters, and markers, bringing them together to strengthen alignment, reinforce quality assurance standards and address emerging issues in legal education and assessment.

Through these deliberate engagements, CLE ensures that its processes remain participatory, responsive and firmly grounded in the principles of transparency and accountability.

How does CLE ease financial barriers facing students?

The Council, in collaboration with the Higher Education Loans Board, facilitates access to the Bar Examination Loan to ease the financial burden associated with the ATP examination fees. Through this, CLE ensures that financial constraints do not hinder eligible candidates from sitting for their bar examination. To date, over 2,000 candidates have benefitted from the Bar Examination Loan, underscoring its impact in expanding access to the legal profession.

What would you say to students who feel discouraged by the system?

I understand their frustration. I have been there myself. Failure is not the end. It is part of the journey. Even in practice, you will not win every case.

What matters is resilience, self-reflection, and continuous improvement. We are here not to block you, but to ensure that when you finally enter the profession, you are truly ready.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

UNDERSTANDING MOOT COURTS AND WHY CLE INSPECTS THEM



A moot court is a simulated courtroom where law students practice legal research, written submissions, oral arguments, and advocacy skills.

Key Features

- Judge's bench
- Counsel tables
- Witness stand
- Public gallery
- Legal research materials
- Written submissions (memorials)
- Oral arguments
- Audio-visual facilities

Why CLE Inspects Moot Courts

CLE assesses moot court facilities during audits and accreditation inspections to ensure law schools provide adequate practical legal training, advocacy experience, and the resources required to meet legal education standards.

Why Moot Courts Matter

- Build advocacy skills
- Improve legal research and writing
- Enhance public speaking and confidence
- Develop critical thinking
- Prepare students for legal practice
-

Moot courts help bridge the gap between classroom learning and professional legal practice.





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

The Call to the Bar By Peter Kipyegon

Beneath the flag and solemn gaze,
A milestone crowns long years and days.
In halls where justice finds its voice,
New advocates stand and rejoice.

Through countless books and midnight light,
They learned to guard the rule of right.
With steady minds and hearts sincere,
They reach the moment they hold dear.
The Chief Justice, with measured word,
Confirms the calling long pursued.

A sacred oath, a solemn pledge,
Marks their arrival at the profession's edge.
Not merely titles they receive,
But duties they must now believe:
To serve with honor, truth and care,
And keep the scales of justice fair.

For law is more than statutes read,
It answers hope, protects the weak,
And gives a voice to those in need,
Through every argument they speak.

So let 26th of May will be proudly known,
A harvest from the seeds once sown.
May wisdom guide each case they see,
And justice be their legacy.

As names are entered on the Roll,
A greater purpose crowns the goal:
To uphold the law with dignity,
And avoid miscarriage of justice!





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