



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

A publication of CLE

March 2026

19TH EDITION



Features:

- The CLE Explainer
- Stakeholder Engagements
- The CLE Bulletin
- Law Schools Audits & Inspections
- The Bar Examination Loan (BEL)





REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Editor's Note

Upholding Excellence

Strengthening Quality Legal Education and Training in Kenya

19TH EDITION

Welcome to the March 2026 Edition of the CLE Newsletter.

This edition highlights CLE's continued efforts to strengthen quality assurance, institutional oversight and stakeholder engagement in legal education and training in Kenya.

Throughout the month, the CLE conducted audits and inspections, engaged key stakeholders, and advanced initiatives that reinforce its regulatory mandate and commitment to excellence.

The stories featured in this issue reflect the breadth of the Council's work from safeguarding standards in legal training institutions to promoting collaboration, awareness, and public confidence in the legal education system.

As we continue to respond to the evolving needs of legal education, CLE remains committed to ensuring that the institutions under its oversight uphold the standards necessary to train competent, ethical, and impactful legal professionals.

We thank you for taking the time to engage with this edition and invite you to follow CLE's ongoing work in shaping legal education and training in Kenya.

Enjoy the read.



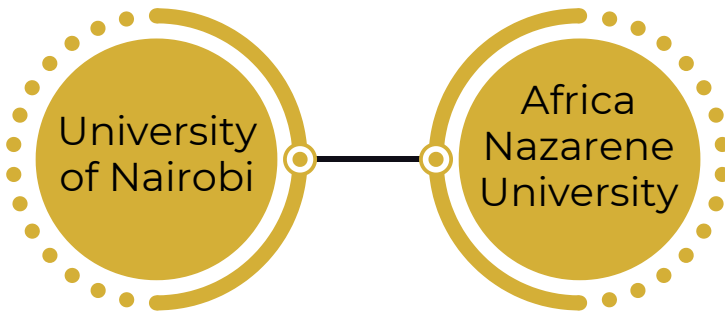
COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

THE CLE EXPLAINER

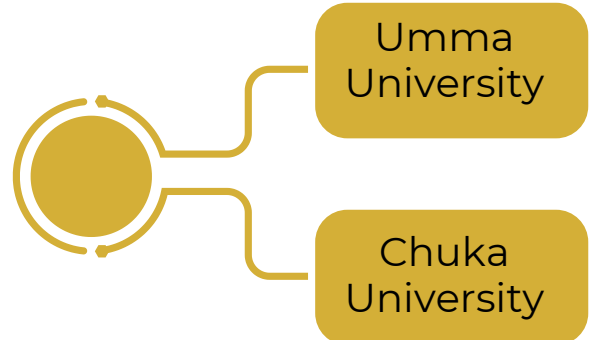
What it takes for a Law School to be Accredited in Kenya

By Moses Muchiri

Audits Done in March 2026



Inspections Done in March 2026



The Council of Legal Education (Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations 2016 (under revision), have established rigorous quality standards that legal education providers must meet to obtain and maintain their licence from the Council of Legal Education (Council).

These standards place Kenya among jurisdictions with robust and widely recognized regulatory frameworks for legal education, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and South Africa.

This explainer highlights the key standards that law schools in Kenya are required to comply with in order to be recognized and obtain accreditation by the Council.

The Core Requirements for accreditation by CLE



EYES ON THE MANDATE

CLE Inspects Chuka University School of Law



CLE and Chuka University teams at the Vice-Chancellor's Office after the inspection

The Council of Legal Education conducted an inspection of Chuka University School of Law following the expiry of the institution's training licence for the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) programme.

The exercise followed an earlier audit conducted in February 2026 as part of CLE's mandate to ensure compliance with the standards governing legal education and training in Kenya.

Led by Mr. George Nyakundi, Chairperson of the Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee, the delegation assessed key areas including strategic planning, curriculum delivery, admissions, class size, staffing, library services, training facilities, moot court, and the ongoing construction of the School of Law complex.

“Law schools must train professionals who are equipped to meet the current needs of the legal market.”

The visit also provided an opportunity for the Council to engage with the University on its progress in strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing the quality of legal training. The inspection reflects CLE's continued commitment to upholding quality, compliance, and excellence in legal education and training in Kenya.



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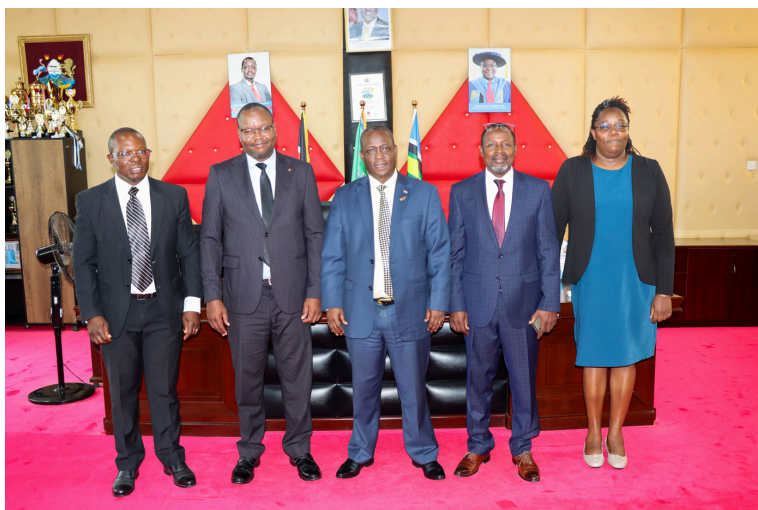
Chuka University Inspection Gallery



From left Mr. George Nyakundi, Council member, Prof. Jack Mwimali, CLE, CEO and Mr. Oscar Eredi, OGW, Council member during the inspection



Prof. Henry Mutembei M'ikiugu, Chuka University Vice Chancellor giving his remarks during the inspection.



From left Prof. Jack Mwimali, Mr. Oscar Eredi, OGW, Mr. George Nyakundi, Prof. Henry Mutembei M'ikiugu and Ms. Annah Konuche during the inspection



CLE and Chuka University Teams during the inspection meeting



A section of Chuka University Library



Chuka University Moot Court

EYES ON THE MANDATE

CLE Inspects Umma University School of Law



CLE and Umma University Teams after the inspection

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) today conducted an inspection at Umma University School of Law and Shari'a following the expiry of the institution's training licence and in consideration of the renewal of the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) and Shari'a programmes.

The exercise follows an audit conducted in January 2026 as part of the Council's mandate to ensure compliance with standards governing legal education and training in Kenya.

Led by Mr. George Nyakundi, Chairperson of the Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing Committee, the inspection focused on key areas including;

- Strategic planning
- Financial commitment
- Curriculum development
- Admission requirements
- Staffing
- Research
- Library services.

The team also toured the institution's training facilities, library resources, and moot court to assess compliance with prescribed standards.

During the visit, Umma University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Halima Saado Abdillahi and Dr. Hawa Omar, Registrar (Academic and Student Affairs), reaffirmed the University's commitment to advancing academic programmes that serve society and the legal profession. The Council remains committed to upholding quality, compliance, and excellence in legal education and training across the country.

“Quality legal education shapes competent legal professionals.”



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Umma University Inspection Highlights



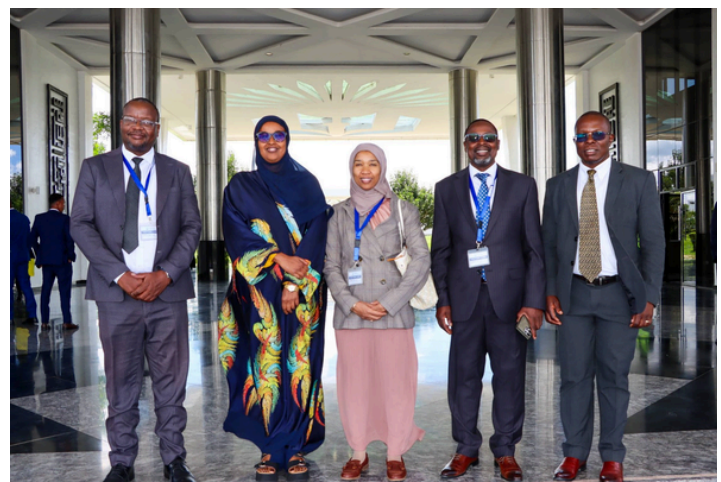
Mr. George Nyakundi, Chairperson of the Quality Assurance, Compliance and Licensing (QCL) Committee.



Dr. Halima Saado Abdillahi, Umma University Vice Chancellor



CLE Council Members and Staff members during the inspection



From left Mr. Oscar Eredi, OGW, Dr. Halima Saado Abdillahi, Ms. Aisha Abdallah, Mr. George Nyakundi and Prof. Jack Mwimali after the inspection



CLE & Umma University Team members during the inspection meeting



CLE Council members taking a facility tour at Umma University

AUDIT TIME!

Council of Legal Education Conducts an Audit at The University of Nairobi



CLE and UON Teams after the audit

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) conducted an audit at the University of Nairobi School of Law following the expiry of its Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) training licence. The exercise was carried out in line with CLE's statutory mandate to regulate legal education and training, including licensing, supervision, and quality assurance of legal education providers in Kenya.

The University of Nairobi was represented by Prof. Winifred Kamau, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr. Bett Jackson Kiprotich, and other members of the University's leadership and faculty. The audit focused on key areas including admission requirements, CBET preparedness, curriculum implementation, staffing, infrastructure, library resources, and overall compliance with CLE standards.

Speaking during the exercise, Prof. Mwimali reaffirmed CLE's commitment to upholding quality legal education in Kenya, noting that regular audits are essential in ensuring institutions continue to meet the standards required to train competent legal professionals.

“ CLE remains committed to setting standards in legal education and training ”



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Snapshots from UoN Audit



CLE Team during a courtesy visit to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Ayub Gitau



CLE CEO, Professor Jack Mwimali, Prof. Winifred Kamau, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Ms Anna Konuche and Dr. Bett Jackson Kiprotich



UoN Moot court



Mr Moses Muchiri, Deputy Director, Standards & Licensing inspecting the library resources at UoN



CLE & UoN Team members during the audit meeting



CLE Team taking a facility tour at UoN

AUDIT TIME!

CLE Conducts an Audit at The Africa Nazarene University



CLE and ANU Team after the audit

The Council of Legal Education conducted an audit at the Africa Nazarene University (ANU) School of Law following the institution's application for renewal of its training licence to continue offering the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) programme. The exercise was undertaken in line with CLE's statutory mandate to license and supervise legal education providers in Kenya.

The audit team, drawn from the Directorate of Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance, was led by Mr. Moses Muchiri and Mr. Stephen Kariuki. The audit focused on key areas including the ANU Strategic Plan, curriculum development, financial sustainability, admission requirements, research and publications, library resources, staffing, and infrastructure.

The exercise was attended by the University's leadership, including Prof. Corlis McGee, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Rhonda Slingerland, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance); Prof. Simon Obwatho, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & Student Affairs); Prof. Loise Musikali, Dean, School of Law; and Mr. Julian Njiriri, Chairperson, School of Law. CLE remains committed to upholding the highest standards of legal education and training in Kenya.



ANU School of Law students making a Moot Court presentation during the audit.

“ Practical legal training prepares students for legal practice. ”

Snapshots from ANU Audit



From left, Prof. Loise Musikali, Dean, School of Law, Prof. Corlis McGee, Vice Chancellor and Moses Muchiri, Deputy Director Standards and Licensing



From left Celia Makena, Stephen Kariuki, Prof. Loise Musikali, Prof. Corlis McGee and Moses Muchiri



CLE Team auditing ANU online classes



CLE & ANU Teams during the audit



ANU Law students making a Moot Court presentation



CLE Team members taking a facility tour at ANU

CLE BULLETIN

CLE Staff Participate in Tree Planting Exercise in Kajiado County

CLE staff members took part in a tree planting exercise at Kona Baridi, Kajiado County, in support of the Presidential Directive on the National Tree Growing Initiative. The exercise forms part of national efforts aimed at increasing tree cover, restoring ecosystems, and promoting environmental sustainability. By participating in this initiative, CLE reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future for Kenya.



CLE staff members during the tree planting exercise

CLE BULLETIN

CLE CEO Attends Launch of Zetech University School of Law

CLE Secretary/CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali attended the official launch of the Zetech University School of Law and the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Programme at Zetech University, Technology Park – Mang'u Campus.

The launch follows an audit and inspection conducted by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) in line with its statutory mandate under the Legal Education Act, and marks a key milestone following the University's accreditation by both CLE and the Commission for University Education (CUE) to offer the LL.B degree.

The event brought together members of the legal fraternity, academia, and students, and was graced by Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola, who emphasized the need for lawyers to be equipped with skills that matter.



CLE CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali speaking during the launch



CLE CEO planting a memorial tree at Zetech Law School



Invited guests during the launch of Zetech Law School

CLE BULLETIN

CLE CEO Mentors Students at St. Joseph's Boys National School, Kitale



CLE CEO alongside Mr. Cosmas Nabungolo, Chief Principal of St. Joseph's Boys National School, Kitale, during the career fair.

CLE Secretary/CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali attended a Thanksgiving and Career Day at his former school, St. Joseph's Boys National School, Kitale, where he engaged students in a career mentorship session.

Drawing from his journey as an alumnus, Prof. Mwimali shared insights on legal education pathways, professional growth, and the importance of discipline, integrity, and excellence in shaping a successful career.

He also recognized outstanding performance among students and teachers, commending their dedication to academic excellence.

The visit reflects CLE's continued commitment to stakeholder engagement and to inspiring the next generation of legal professionals through greater awareness of legal education and training pathways in Kenya.



St Josephs Boy making a presentation during the career fair

“Mentorship shapes the next generation of ethical and competent legal professionals.”



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

CLE Meets KNEC on Legal Education Standards



From left Mr. Andrew Otieno, Director, KNEC, Dr. David Njengere, MBS, KNEC CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, CLE CEO, Ms. Annah Konuche, Director and Mr. Moses Muchiri.

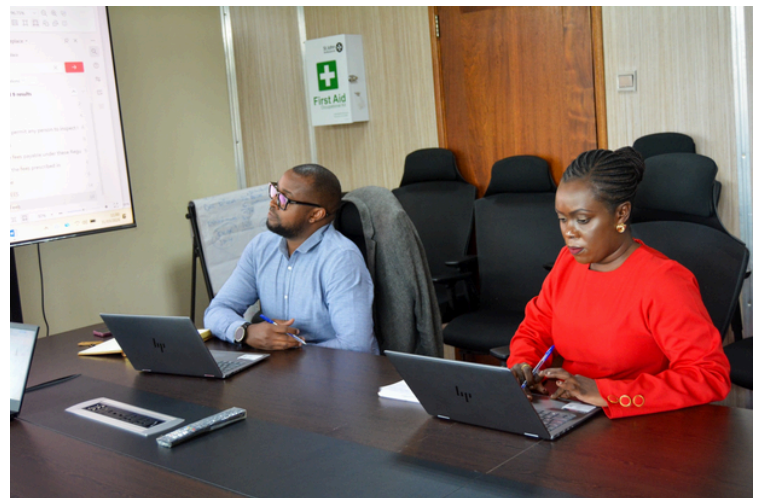
CLE Secretary/CEO Prof. Jack Mwimali met with KNEC CEO Dr. David Njengere, MBS, to discuss high school qualifications, foreign certificates, and related regulatory processes.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both institutions to strengthening the quality of legal education and training in Kenya.

CLE Holds Consultative Meeting on Paralegal Education

The Council of Legal Education held a consultative meeting to review the draft paralegal regulations and curriculum.

The engagement brought together representatives from CLE and the Paralegal Society of Kenya marking an important step towards strengthening the framework for paralegal education and practice in Kenya.



Ms. Victoria Wahu, Legal Services Division and Mr. Stephen Kariuki from DSLSC during the engagement

CLE Engages KISE on Inclusive Legal Education



The Council of Legal Education visited the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) to discuss measures aimed at enhancing access to legal education and training for students with special needs.

The engagement focused on inclusive assessment, accessible learning resources, and strengthening collaboration towards a more inclusive legal education environment in Kenya.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Rising to the Bar

by Peter Kipyegon

The 19th of March 2026 will remain etched in the minds of many for years to come. And for what reason? The answer is obvious going by the Council's calendar. March, marking the end of the third quarter, signals a significant moment when the Council officially gazettes all compliant ATP candidates.

The March announcement was no exception. A total of 168 candidates earned their place on the Kenya Gazette, Vol. CXXVII-No. 266 of 2026, a milestone that reflects not only their academic achievement but also their discipline, resilience and commitment to meet the rigorous requirements of the ATP programme. For the would-be-advocates, the day was filled with excitement, pride and a deep sense of accomplishment.

The ATP Compliance Criteria

The ATP curriculum comprises three mandatory components;

Successful Completion
of the ATP Coursework
at KSL (Oral & Project)

Pass in CLE written
Examination

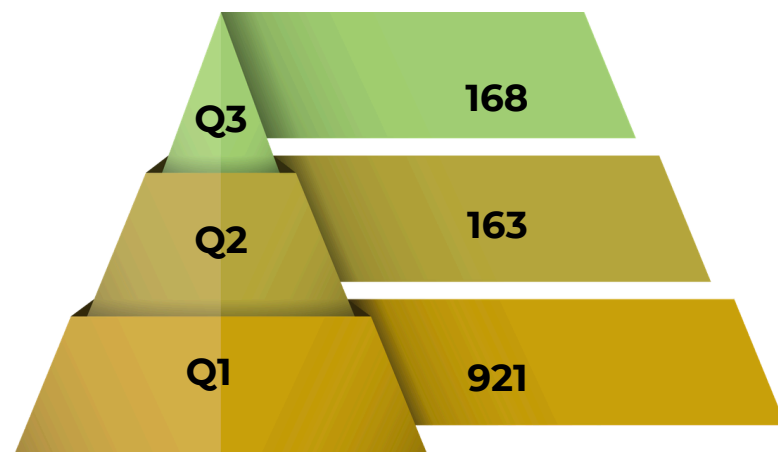
Successful Pupillage
Programme

The Importance of Gazettement

Gazettement is more than just a formal listing—it is a powerful recognition of merit and readiness. It signifies that candidates have successfully met the standards set by the Council and are now prepared to take the next steps in their professional journeys.

It is, without doubt, a defining moment that crowns months—if not years, of hard work. However, gazettement by Council does not confer eligibility for admission to the Roll of Advocates. Candidates must still fulfill the statutory requirements before they can legally practice law in Kenya.

Council, as an examination body, gazettes all compliant ATP candidates every quarter. With the 2025/2026 FY drawing closer to the end, Council has been able to gazette a total of 1252 Compliant candidates, which is a testament to both the robustness of the programme and the dedication by the candidates.





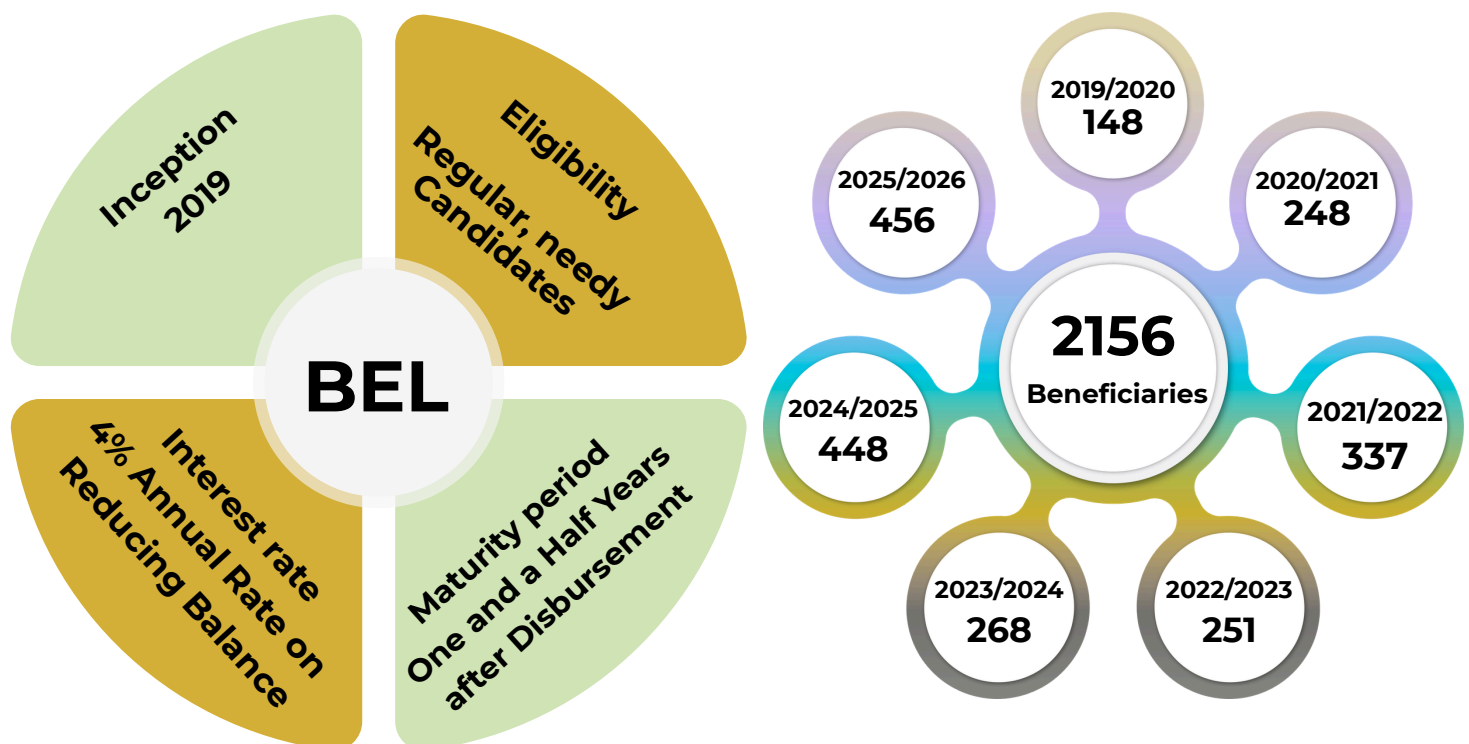
COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Sustaining Legal Careers: HELB and the Bar Examination Loan by Peter Kipyegon

For many law graduates, the period between graduation and passing the bar exam can be financially challenging. Beyond the general living expenses—such as food, travel and medication—bills can quickly pile up!

To assist candidates facing these financial hurdles, the Council established a fund in 2019 specifically for needy applicants registering for the ATP examination, the Bar Examination Loan (BEL)

Facts about the Bar Examination Loan



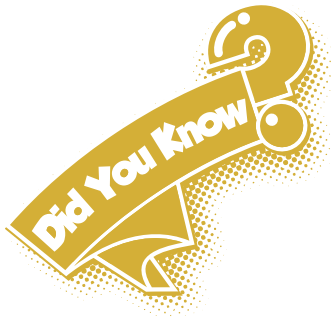
Management and Loan Recovery

Council incorporated HELB as the BEL fund administrator through an MOU. The MOU establishes a joint CLE/HELB Technical Working Committee that steers that runs the affairs of the fund on a day to day basis.

- Fund Management**-HELB oversees the disbursement of funds to eligible candidates efficiently and transparently.
- Loan Recovery** – HELB enforces repayment to ensure sustainability of the fund.
- Continuity** – Recovering loans allows the fund to continually support new candidates, creating a revolving financial resource rather than a one-off payout.

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Sustaining Legal Careers: HELB and the Bar Examination Loan by Peter Kipyegon cont'd



- BEL is a revolving loan fund, meaning recovered funds are reused to support new candidates.
- Timely repayment contributes to the long-term sustainability of legal education financing in Kenya.

HELB implements a graduated repayment system, where repayment amounts are linked to the borrower's income. For formal sector employees, repayment is often deducted directly from salaries through PAYE (Pay As You Earn) to ensure compliance.

HELB maintains a centralized database of borrowers with contact details, employment status, and repayment history. Regular follow-ups are done via emails, phone calls, and SMS reminders.

For borrowers who fail to repay or evade repayment, HELB may take legal action, including:

- Court proceedings to recover the debt.
- Reporting defaulters to CRB, which can affect access to loans, credit, or financial services

Borrowers who repay on time may receive benefits such as:

- Certificates of good repayment for future financial credibility.
- Reduced interest rates or eligibility for additional HELB programs.

HELB conducts loan awareness campaigns for students and graduates, emphasizing the importance of timely repayment and its role in sustaining the fund for future students.



BEL Technical Working Group during a retreat to review the Bar Examination Loan programme.



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

A CALL FOR FEEDBACK

LEGAL EDUCATION ACT (Cap. 16B)

1. **LEGAL EDUCATION (ADVOCATES TRAINING PROGRAMME) REGULATIONS, 2025**
2. **LEGAL EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE) REGULATIONS, 2025**

Send your feedback to legal_regulations@cle.or.ke



www.cle.or.ke



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info@cle.or.ke

The Council of Legal Education invites stakeholders to submit comments and feedback on two sets of proposed regulations developed pursuant to the Legal Education Act (Cap. 16B). The draft regulations aim to strengthen Kenya's legal education and training framework by enhancing standards for professional training, accreditation, and quality assurance.

The proposed regulations include:

1. **Legal Education (Advocates Training Programme) Regulations, 2025**
2. **Legal Education (Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2025**

These draft regulations have been published on the CLE website to facilitate stakeholder review and encourage broad participation in shaping the future of legal education in Kenya. CLE is seeking input from key stakeholders, including legal practitioners, law students, training institutions, universities, professional bodies, and members of the public.

Stakeholder engagement is an essential part of developing effective regulatory frameworks. Through this consultation process, CLE aims to ensure that the proposed regulations reflect practical realities, uphold high standards of legal training, and support the continued development of a competent and ethical legal profession in Kenya.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the draft regulations and submit their written comments and feedback through email to legal_regulations@cle.or.ke.

CLE values stakeholder input and believes that collaborative engagement will help strengthen the regulatory framework governing legal education and professional training in the country.

To read the regulations, scan the QR codes below



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE in the Media

The Council of Legal Education was featured in different media houses in March



CLE CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, addressing KNA during the launch of Zetech Law School



CLE CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, addressing Chuka University Radio during Chuka University Inspection

citizen.digital/article/zetech-university-launches-law-school-llb-programme-n379045

ids CLE | Staff Portal BD WhatsApp Inquiries...



Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Legal Education, Prof. Jack Mwimali, said the institution had undergone the required accreditation process before being approved to offer the programme.

"The Council of Legal Education undertook a rigorous evaluation process that assessed the curriculum, faculty capacity, infrastructure and learning resources. The university met the standards required to offer the programme," he said.

CLE CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, quoted by Citizen Digital after the launch of Zetech Law School



NAIROBILEO.CO.KE
Gov't Issues Update on Registration for April Advocates' Training Programme Exam

CLE featured on Nairobi Leo website

standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001543111/lenaola-raises-concern-over-mismatch-in-cbc-univer

ads CLE | Staff Portal BD

HOME COUNTIES POLITICS BUSINESS WORLD HEALTH SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT FACT CHECK ENVIRONMENT

Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Legal Education, Prof Jack Mwimali, said the accreditation of the Bachelor of Laws programme reflects the university's readiness to meet the required standards.

"The legal profession demands discipline, ethical conduct, and dedication to the rule of law. Students must take their training seriously as they prepare to serve society," he said.

CLE CEO, Prof. Jack Mwimali, quoted by the Standard Digital after the launch of Zetech Law School



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

The Equinox Within

By Peter Kipyegon

March—
We came,
Bathed in thy rich...
Refreshing air.

Wandering down memory lane,
March,
The third month in our calendar,
So christened,
After the mighty Roman god of war.

The ancient Latin name—Martius—
Once stood proudly first,
Ushered the year,
And leading time's great march,
Heralding both battle,
And the awakening of spring.

But time reshaped the order—
With a stroke of reform,
The order was rearranged;
And March, though unbroken,
Moved gently aside—
Now placed third,
After January and February.

Janus,
The two-faced guardian of thresholds,
Claimed Martius' place,
Standing watch
At the year's new dawn.

The position changed,
But the spirit did not.
Strength lingers, still.

Across the globe, it is felt:
In the Northern Hemisphere,
March ushers spring's first breath;
Around the 20th or 21st,
The equinox arrives—
Day and night in perfect balance,
Announcing awakening in the north
And gentle descent in the south.

At Council,
It marks the march toward a new epoch
—
A season both novel and demanding,
Born of long preparation,
Moments of haste,
And quiet resilience.
March stands as harbinger—
Of the April ATP examination cycle,
To which Council warmly welcomes all.



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CONTACT US:



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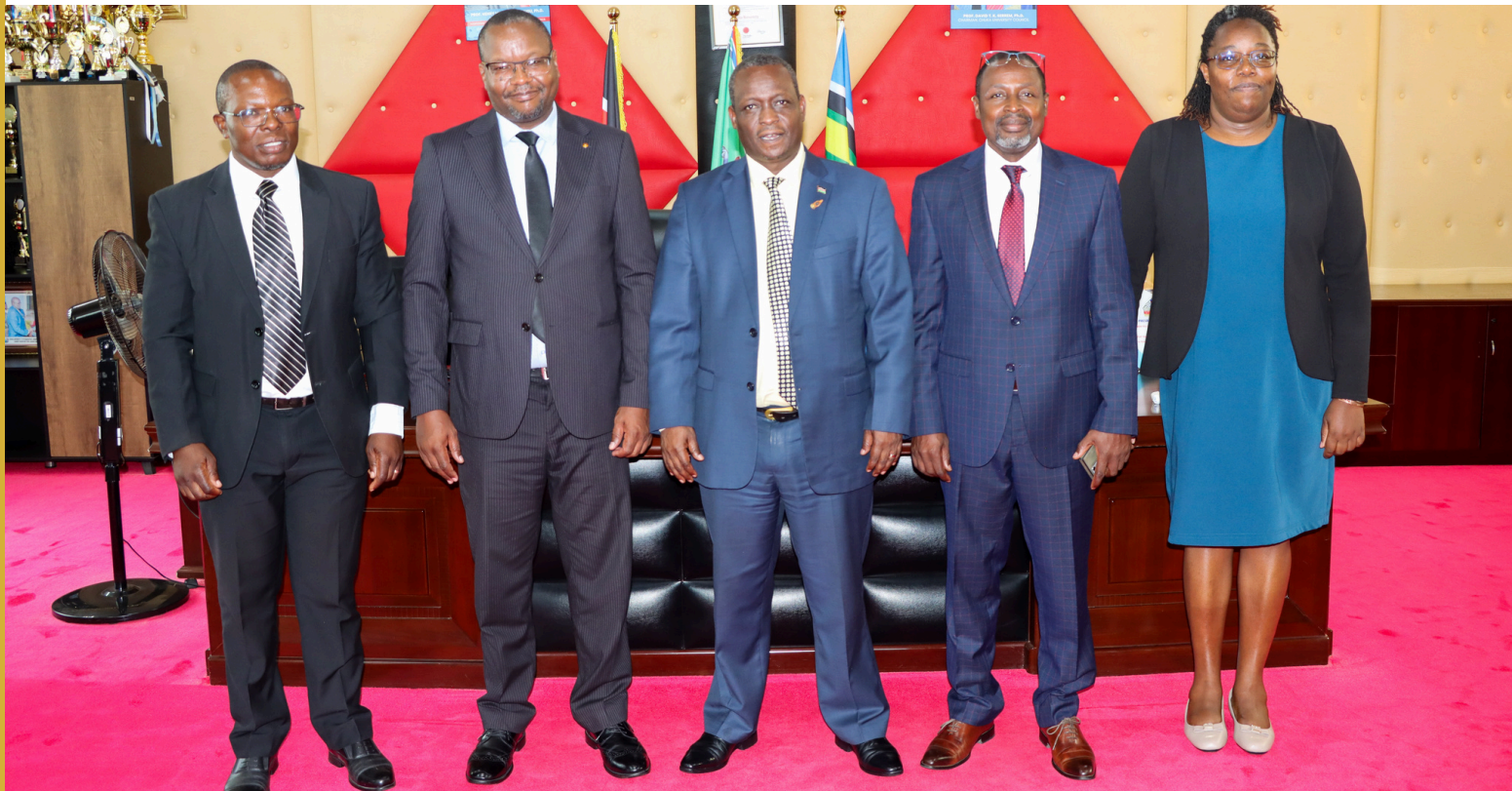
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