



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION HANDS OVER THE DRAFT LEGAL EDUCATION (LICENSING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE) REGULATIONS, 2026, AND ADVOCATES TRAINING PROGRAMME REGULATIONS, 2026 TO THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) has today handed over the draft Legal Education (Licensing and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2026, and the Legal Education (Advocates Training Programme) Regulations, 2026 to Hon. Dorcas Oduor, SC, EBS, OGW, Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya, at the Office of the Attorney General, State Law Office, Nairobi.

The two Draft Regulations were developed pursuant to section 46 of the Legal Education Act, Cap. 16B, to operationalise and give effect to the various provisions of the Act and strengthen the regulatory framework governing legal education and training in Kenya.

Prof. Collins Odote, Chairperson of the Council of Legal Education, led CLE Council members in presenting the draft Regulations, accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Jack Mwimali, and CLE staff members.

1. Legal Education (Licensing and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2026

These regulations represent a comprehensive framework designed to enhance quality standards in legal education and training, streamline licensing and accreditation processes, and align legal education with professional demands and international best practices.

These specific proposed Regulations will enable CLE to effectively undertake and discharge its statutory mandate of regulating legal education and training in Kenya, in particular:

- i. It will provide a substantive procedural framework for the licensing and accreditation of legal education providers in Kenya.
- ii. It will define the quality standards that are to be satisfied by the legal education providers in Kenya for purposes of licensing, accreditation and quality assurance.
- iii. It will establish the procedures for supervision and monitoring compliance with licensing requirements, including renewal, suspension and termination of licenses granted to legal education providers, among others.

2. The Legal Education (Advocates Training Programme) Regulations, 2026

These regulations aim to establish a comprehensive framework for the accreditation, management, quality assurance, and administration of the Advocates Training Programme, as well as the assessment and training of trainee advocates.

These draft proposed Regulations seek to:

- i. Regulate the conduct of the Advocates Training Programme;
- ii. Prescribe procedures for accrediting ATP Service Providers;





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- iii. Set quality standards that the Accredited ATP Service Providers must maintain to be accredited as Advocate Training Programme Centres;
- iv. Establish procedures for monitoring, suspending and closing non-compliant providers;

Stakeholder engagement

CLE conducted extensive stakeholder engagement on both Regulations. Legal Education Appeals Tribunal (LEAT), Commission for University Education (CUE), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation, Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC), Kenya School of Law, Universities, professional bodies, students and members of the public were invited to submit written comments on the draft Regulations. CLE also conducted both virtual and physical stakeholder engagement sessions. These engagements were undertaken in accordance with the constitutional principles of public participation and involvement of the people in policymaking under Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

The development of the Draft Regulations forms part of the ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening the legal education and training sector. The Working/Implementing Committee on Legal Education Sector Reforms, chaired by Ms. Christine Agimba, SC, was constituted following a consultative meeting convened by the Hon. Attorney General on 28 August 2024. In its Report, the Working Committee recommended, among other measures, that CLE prescribe admission requirements for the Advocates Training Programme and establish a framework for the licensing and quality assurance of legal education providers. The Draft Regulations give effect to these recommendations by providing the necessary regulatory framework for these areas.

The Draft Regulations will now proceed for review by the Office of the Attorney General and thereafter be processed under the Statutory Instruments Act, Cap. 2A, including consideration by the National Assembly, before gazettment.

CLE appreciates the valuable contributions of all stakeholders who participated in the development of the two regulations. The input received during the consultation process has been instrumental in shaping the drafts handed over today. CLE remains grateful for the continued engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders in the legal education and training sector.

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Thank you

