HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

In addressing issues linked to education and training for a competent legal profession in Kenya, both the pre and post-colonial governments have undertaken various initiatives and set up several commissions of inquiry to formulate appropriate policy. These include the establishment of The Kenya School of Law following recommendations by the Denning Committee (1962) to provide vocational legal training. In an attempt to streamline and re-organise the Kenya School of Law in the 1990s the Akiwumi Committee (1995) on the Status and Management of the Kenya School of Law was appointed. In 1998 the Kwach Committee on the Administration of Justice was similarly appointed to look into wider issues pertaining to the administration of justice.

The recommendations of the Akiwumi Report culminated in the re-establishment of the Council of Legal Education under the Council of Legal Education Act, Cap 16A of the Laws of Kenya (now repealed). Although the Council of Legal Education was bestowed with legal personality, the Kenya School of Law was made its operational agent under the Act, thereby making the Council ineffectual. The operations of both the Council of Legal Education and the Kenya School of Law was thus intertwined and confused.

To address the problems and confusion created by the Akiwumi Report, the Muigai-Ministerial Committee on the Development of a Policy and Legal Framework for Legal Education and Training in Kenya (2005) was appointed. The Muigai Committee undertook a comprehensive re-evaluation of legal education and training in Kenya and made recommendations to redesign and re-establish all legal institutions implementing legal policy in Kenya including the Council of Legal Education and the Kenya School of Law. The impetus for these recommendations was to institutionalize international best practice and segregate institutions carrying out regulatory cum supervisory functions from those carrying out training functions. In essence, policy formulation and oversight within the context of legal education was separated from policy consumption at the training level.

The Muigai Report was officially launched by the then Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs, the Hon. Ms. Martha Karua, EGH, MP on 18th January, 2006.
As part of the implementation of the Muigai Report, two Bills were prepared to re-establish the Kenya School of Law and Council of Legal Education as separate legal entities. The bills culminated in the enactment of the Kenya School of Law Act No.26 of 2012 and Legal Education Act No.27 of 2012.
Council of Legal Education became operational in September 2012 but officially separated from the Kenya School of Law in January, 2014 and moved to its new premises in Karen Office Park along Langata Road.

Council of Legal Education is a globally competitive and transformative legal education and training Institution in Kenya. CLE is firmly committed in ensuring quality legal education and training through licensing and supervision of legal education providers Administration of the Advocates Training Program examination and advising the Government on legal education. Council of Legal Education upholds on the following core values; Excellence; Integrity and accountability; Professionalism; Customer focus; Ethical; Inclusiveness; Inclusiveness and Respect for all in the discharge of its mandate. The Council of Legal Education is located along Lang'ata Road Karen in the Office Park buildings at Karen, Nairobi, Kenya.

Core Mandate

The Council of Legal Education is a state corporation established by the Legal Education Act, 2012. Its mandate is to:
- Regulate, Supervise and License Legal Education Programmes and Legal Education Providers in Kenya.
- Additionally, it administers the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) examination and advises the government on matters of legal education and training.

As currently constituted, CLE has been in existence since 2014, when it formally separated from the Kenya School of Law after enactment of the Legal Education Act 2012 and the Kenya School of Law Act in 2012.

Vision

Globally competitive and transformative legal education and training in Kenya

The Council of Legal Education
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Council of Legal Education

Mission
To assure quality legal education and training through licensing and supervision of legal education providers; Administration of the Advocates Training Programme examination and advising the
Government on legal education

Core values
CLE is committed to the following Core Values

Excellence
Continuous growth by embracing excellent performance

Professionalism
Uphold utmost professionalism in discharging its mandate

Integrity and accountability
Adherence to moral principles and be accountable at all times

Customer focus
Meet and exceed customer expectations

Ethical
Ethical in decision-making

Inclusiveness
Take into account views of stakeholders in decisionmaking

Respect
Respect for all in the discharge of our mandate

Institutions offering law in Kenya
1. Strathmore University
2. Mount Kenya University
3. Egerton University
4. Kabarak University
5. Africa Nazarene University
6. Chuka university
7. Moi University
8. University of Nairobi
9. Umma University
10. Kisii University of Embu
11. University of Embu
12. Daystar University
13. Kenya Institute of Management
14. Catholic University of Eastern Africa
15. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology
16. Kenya School of Law
17. Maseno University
18. Kenyatta University
19. Riara University

Council of Legal Education Stakeholders
- The Law Society of Kenya (LSK)
- The Kenya Law Reform Commission(KLRC)
- The Higher Education Loans Board(HELB)
- The Judiciary/NCAJ
- The Commission of University Education(CUE)
- National Legal Aid Services (NLAS)
- The Office of the Attorney General & Department of Justice
- The Kenya National Qualifications Authority(KNQA)
- The United Nations Development Programme in Kenya(UNDP)
- Legal Resources Foundation
- LawAfrica
- Ombudsman
- Hon. Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi Chair, NSCAJS
- International Development Law Organisation(IDLO)
- National Council for Law Reporting (NCLR)
- Kituo Cha Sheria

Admission requirements into the Advocates Training Programme
A person shall be admitted to the school if;
a. Having passed relevant examination of any recognised university, University College or other Institution prescribed by the Council, holds or becomes eligible for conferment of the Bachelor of laws (LLB) degree of that university, university college or institution; or
b. Having passed the relevant examinations of a university, university college or other institution-
   i. Attained a minimum entry requirement for admission to a university in Kenya; and
   ii. Obtained a minimum grade B (plain) in English language or Kiswahili and a mean Grade of C+ (C Plus in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education or its equivalent, and
   iii. Has sat and passed pre-Bar) examination set by the school.

Admission Requirements in the Para-Legal Programme
1. Must have a mean grade of C (C plain) in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) (or equivalent examination) and a minimum grade C+ (C plus) in English
2. At least one principal pass at the Kenya Advanced Certificate (KACE) Examinations
3. A distinction or credit pass in the Certificate in Law course conducted at the Kenya School of Law (2000-2003) or any other Certificate or diploma in a relevant field