

Shava, Margaret Wambui Ngugi (Kenya)

[original: English]

Curriculum vitae

Bio data summary

<i>Education</i>	MA (Democratic Studies); LLB (Hons); Dip Law (KSL); Certified Public Secretary; Certified Mediator
<i>Experience</i>	27 years
<i>Nationality</i>	Kenyan
<i>Languages</i>	English, Kiswahili, French, local languages

Key experience

- An experienced, high-level manager having worked in Legal practice, private sector, the United Nations, International NGO and Government sectors.
- Significant budget responsibility with fundraising and programme management skills.
- Board Level responsibility for Budget, Finance and Administration, Audit, Risk and Governance.

Currently serving on Boards/Committees of

- TOTAL Kenya PLC (international oil marketing company)
- The International Criminal Court
- Jockey Club of Kenya (equine regulatory authority)
- Family real estate and commercial agricultural enterprises
- Church advisory committee

Key skills and competencies

- Management
- Commercial Law
- Corporate Governance
- Mediation
- Strategic Planning
- Communication

Recent experience

January 2015 – present

Law Firm Proprietor

Focussing on Commercial and Conveyancing Law, with expertise in the Mining, Extractives, Oil and Gas sector; Competition Law; and Estate planning. Legal advisor in equine, aeronautical and environmental matters.

September 2013 – present

Independent Consultant

Member of the Committee on Budget and Finance; and Chair of the Audit Committee of the International Criminal Court at The Hague. Duties focus on providing expert advice on budget in the range of 145 million Euros, to the Assembly of States Parties.

Expert Adviser to Humanitarian Dialogue, a Swiss-based mediation organisation.

Member of the Group of Experts engaged in February 2017 by UN Women, Colombia, to advise on the implementation of the Integrated Transitional Justice System, with a focus on Women and minorities. Participated in high level meetings and produced recommendations impacting upon the process.

Appointed by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to the Eminent Persons Observer Group for the 2015 Elections in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Various speaking and Research engagements. Facilitation of workshops, including for the Geneva-based Nansen Initiative on climate change and movement of persons.

Career background

Over 27 years working experience in Law, Management, Legal Consultancy, Peace Building and Transitional Justice. Gained through working in Legal Practice, in Public Office, in various economic sectors, as well as in the United Nations Organisation and national and international NGOs. Specialising in Corporate and Commercial Law, Governance, Oil & Gas, Human Rights, International Refugee Law and Gender.

Qualified as an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya after serving pupillage with a pioneering Kenyan law firm. Solid Corporate experience in a blue chip Kenyan company, assisting the Company Secretary and deputising in her absence in certain duties. Practiced Conveyancing and Commercial Law with a leading Nairobi law firm, achieving good partnership prospects before taking a two year sabbatical in the USA. Augmented modern Corporate and Human Resource Management skills with a prominent Management Consultancy firm in Nairobi before launching into independent consultancy.

Sharpened training, research, writing and advocacy skills and competencies while consulting for various Human Rights NGOs. Facilitated Civic Education workshops for the Institute for Education in Democracy. Wrote concept papers for Education Centre for Women in Democracy amongst others. Election observer for FIDA-Kenya, a women's NGO with UN observer status, in the 1997 Kenya General Elections. Past Chairperson of Young Career Women (Kenya), affiliated to the International Federation of Business and Professional Women; spearheaded strategic planning for self-sustainability of the organisation's programmes and expanded existing programme for the education of deserving girls from poor families. Participant in local and international conferences and workshops. Keynote speaker at Catholic University of East Africa for International Women's Day in 2001. Alumnus of African Women's Leadership Institute, honing skills and knowledge in such areas as Feminism, personal empowerment, strategic planning and project management. Chairperson of Women in Law and Development in Africa (Kenya) chapter of this pan-African women's organisation. In this capacity, provided organisational leadership for critical support to the development, and successful lobbying process for the Sexual Offences Act, a ground breaking piece of legislative reform in Kenya. Member of the Attorney-General's Task Force on the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act.

As a Joint Secretary appointed by the High Court of Kenya, successfully discharged duty to bring about and oversee elections of the National Council of Women of Kenya, the umbrella organisation for women's NGOs in Kenya, by using mediating skills to break deadlock then subsisting between differing factions.

Broad experience with UNHCR both in Kenya and abroad. Has worked for UNHCR in the capacities of Legal Screener for Refugee Status Determination, Senior Protection Assistant, and as a trainer and facilitator for workshops on Sexual and Gender-based Violence and International Refugee Law. Completed two tours with UNHCR in Sudan as an international consultant for UNHCR; selected by UNHCR HQ in Geneva as Team Leader in Gedaref for the Refugee Status Determination exercise for Ethiopian and later for Eritrean refugees, pursuant to the application of the "ceased circumstances" cessation clause.

Achieved leading score for MA Dissertation on Ethnicity and Democracy in Kenya.

Joined International Alert, a medium sized peace building NGO based in London, UK, but working worldwide. In charge of the regional programme in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Facilitated the transition of the AMANI Forum – the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace – from a programme of Alert into a fully-fledged regional organisation covering Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and the DRC. Set up and co-ordinated the Regional Analysts Network – RAN. Launched RAN's inaugural research work, carried out in Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC, on the impact upon conflict of Myths, Rumours, Stereotypes and Prejudice. Took the organisational lead on developing a strategy for Alert programming in Kenya. Budget holder of over £Stg 250,000 per annum.

Successfully applied for the publicly advertised position of Commissioner with the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission established in Kenya pursuant to Agenda Four of the peace accord signed in February 2008 subsequent to Kenya's period of Post-Election Violence. After passing both the interview and a rigorous vetting process, was sworn in by the Honourable the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya on 03 August 2009.

Key participant in various committees, including Finance and Administration, overseeing a budget of up to US\$12.5 million.

After successfully concluding and winding up operations at the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission in August 2013, engaged in Legal consultancies, most recently on Women's participation and leadership in the Colombian peace process.

In January 2015 opened a Law practice with a selective yet broad based clientele nationally and internationally.

Member of various boards, including Total Kenya PLC chairing the Risk and Governance committee, and member of Board Audit Committee.

Education

The University of Leeds, UK, M A Democratic Studies, fully sponsored by a Ford Foundation fellowship. The University of Buckingham, UK, Bachelor of Laws, Honours Degree assisted by a Chevening Scholarship from the British Council. Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Certified Public Secretary (Kenya). Certificate in Oil & Gas from the Strathmore University Extractives Industry Centre, Strathmore Law School. Certificate in Competition Law from the Kenya School of Law.

References and affiliations

Available upon request
