

Comprehensive curriculum vitae

NTHOMENG JUSTINA MAJARA

Date of Birth: 8 June 1963

Nationality: Lesotho

Overview

Competence and practical experience presiding over and conducting criminal trials, hearing evidence and delivering judgements as a magistrate and Judge of the Law Courts of Lesotho including deciding on points of law in criminal cases in the Court of Appeal. Practical experience and competence in evaluation and analysis of criminal evidence and delivering timely, legally sound judgements as a Magistrate and judge in criminal cases.

Experience and expertise in criminal law and procedure as a Law lecturer at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) designing courses in criminal law and criminology. Practical court room experience presiding over and conducting civil trial litigation as a Magistrate, High Court and Court of Appeal Judge.

Proven record of performing all judicial duties including delivery of decisions, efficiently, fairly and with reasonable promptness, adhering to the highest standards of impartiality, independence and integrity. Management and supervisory skills as overall administrator of the Law Courts of Lesotho and President of the Lesotho Revenue Appeals Tribunal.

Memberships / Affiliations

Advocate of the Courts of Lesotho (admitted in 1992)

Judicial Officers Association of Lesotho

Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association

Federation of Women Lawyers (Lesotho)

Alternate Trustee of the Lesotho – RSA Biodiversity Trust (2004-2005)

Lesotho Organization for Conservation of Natural Resources (LOCNA) 1998-2000

Qualifications

1996 – 1997

Master of Laws (LLM) degree. King's College, London, United Kingdom

1989 – 1992

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. National University of Lesotho

1980 – 1984

Bachelor of Arts in Law (BA Law) degree. National University of Lesotho

Key skills

Proficiency in all areas of Microsoft Office, including Access, Excel, Word and PowerPoint

Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal (English and Sesotho)

Employment history

Chief Justice of the Kingdom of Lesotho

(2014 – Present)

Head of the Judiciary. Overall administration, supervision and management of all the courts of Lesotho in liaison with the respective heads of the courts and the master of the high court.

Chairperson of the judicial service commission whose duties and functions include appointments, removal and discipline of judicial officers and other officers of the judiciary.

Issuing policy directives and promulgating rules of practice and procedure for the law courts;

Presiding over cases including criminal cases before the High Court and sitting as an ex officio Judge of the Court of Appeal.

Liaising with the heads of the other branches of government on issues of administration of justice in Lesotho. Officiating at state functions pertaining to amongst others, the swearing in of the King as the Head of State, the Prime Minister as the Head of Government, Cabinet Ministers as well as the swearing in of both High Court and Court of Appeal Judges.

Hearing and determining any civil, criminal and constitutional law proceedings. Reviewing decisions or proceedings including on criminal matters, of subordinate and inferior courts, court-martial, board or officers exercising judicial, quasi-judicial or public administrative functions under any law

Ex officio Judge of the Court of Appeal

(2004 – Present)

The Court of Appeal is the Highest Judicial Instance and apex court of Lesotho. The Court consists of a President and six justices of appeal. Duties of a judge of the court of appeal entail hearing all appeals from the High Court including criminal appeals, on points of law, researching, writing and delivering judgments.

Judge of the High Court

(2004 – 2014)

The High Court has unlimited original jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters as well as appellate jurisdiction from subordinate courts and other administrative bodies and tribunals. Duties of a High Court judge entail hearing and determining constitutional, civil and criminal cases both in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal of Lesotho. Criminal cases that come before the High Court include murder involving inter alia, police brutality, public violence; fraud, rape, culpable homicide and attempted murder.

President of the Lesotho Revenue Appeals Tribunal

(2008 – 2014)

Carrying out managerial functions of the Tribunal including allocating cases and promulgating rules of procedure and evidence for the Tribunal. Presiding over tax objection cases lodged against the Lesotho Revenue Appeals Tribunal.

Head of Internal Affairs - Lesotho Revenue Authority

(2003 – 2004)

Managing the funds, property and business of the division. Administering, organizing and controlling the officers and staff of the division and managing the performance management system of the division officers and staff. Developing and implementing the departmental strategic and annual action plans and ensuring that departmental strategies are fully integrated with the authority's business strategies.

Providing support to the operating divisions and establishing Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with the other divisions. Advising the Commissioner General on matters relating to the division and identifying the need for and implementing change in procedures and operations of the division. Monitoring work in progress and ensuring efficiency in the division's operations as well as ensuring that the Authority staff maintained appropriate standards of conduct and adherence to all relevant regulations.

Liaising with the anti-corruption agencies and the police on management of relevant criminal investigations and prosecutions. Processing information on allegations of corruption and fraud and preparing prosecution dockets and liaising with other law enforcement agencies and outside bodies to exchange views and information and to meet operational needs and the authority's corporate development

Research Associate - Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust

(2000 – 2003)

Undertaking research into issues affecting women and the law at the national level, as well as on the legal rights of women nationally, regionally and internationally. Preparing all survey and research materials, methodology and other related topics in order to facilitate research activities. Carrying out all aspects of research such as data collection and analysis, report writing, printing and publication and dissemination of research findings to different groups of the community. Developing and distributing educational and informative materials that promote the understanding and appreciation of women's legal rights including presenting programmes over local radio stations and television.

Producing posters, pamphlets and booklets on research findings. Providing legal advice to clients including on criminal matters. Arranging and attending all regional and other meetings including workshops and seminars on issues concerning women and the law with a view to improving women's socio-legal situation for comparative and exchange of information purposes.

Lecturer – Faculty of Law at the National University of Lesotho

(1995 – 2000)

Designing and teaching law courses including Criminal Procedure, Criminology, Civil Procedure, Family Law, Law and Environment, Supervising Students' Dissertations

Other work experience

- Faculty tutor *(1998 – 2000)*;
- Member- Editorial board, Lesotho Law Journal *(1998 – 2000)*;
- Member- Faculty of social sciences board *(1998 – 2000)*;
- Chairperson- student's disciplinary committee *(1998 – 1999)*;
- Faculty of Law seminar coordinator *(1995 – 1996)*;
- Member- Institute of extramural studies board *(1995 – 1996)*;
- Resident Magistrate in the subordinate courts *(1993 – 1995)*;
- 1st Class Magistrate - Presiding over and hearing criminal and civil matters *(1989-1993)*;
- 2nd Class Magistrate - Presiding over and hearing criminal and civil matters *(1986-1989)*;
- 3rd Class Magistrate - Presiding over and hearing criminal and civil matters *(1984-1986)*

Other professional experience

- Alternate Trustee of the Lesotho- South Africa Biodiversity Trust, 2004 – 2005. My role included looking into legislation and policies with the aim to adopt measures for the preservation and protection of engendered species with special emphasis on the minnow fish which is a rare species that lives in the highlands waters of Lesotho.
- Member of the Students Disciplinary Committee of the National University of Lesotho (Students' Representative) 1990 – 1992
- Member of Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
- Chairperson of a Commission of Enquiry into Students' Alleged Examinations Fraud National University of Lesotho (NUL)1999
- Member of the Lesotho Organization for Conservation of Natural Resources (LOCNA) 1998 – 2000
- President of the Lesotho Revenue Appeals Tribunal 2005 – 2014
- Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on Adoption of Children in Lesotho. Chairing the Commission, designing the methodology for the adoption of new law including writing and submitting a report to Cabinet. Most of the recommendations were implemented including the enactment of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2011 and the establishment of a Ministry of Social Welfare.
- Chairperson of the Lesotho Legal Information Institute (Leslii) 2011 – present. Leslii is an offshoot of African Lii, the mother body whose main mandate is to provide free access to legal information to the public including decided cases, legislation, academic publications and other relevant information.
- Acting Judge of the High Court of Namibia 2010. I presided over a land mark case in which the Justice Minister and the Magistrate Commission headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court were parties in a matter concerning separation of powers of the Judiciary and the Executive. The judgment was confirmed on appeal.
- Member of the Lesotho Council of State – 2014. Assisting the King in the discharge of His functions and exercising such other functions as are conferred by the national Constitution.

Achievements / awards

Books (co-publisher)

- In search of justice: Where do women in Lesotho go?
- Sexual violence in Lesotho: The realities of justice for women

Book manuscripts

- The legal situation of women in Lesotho (an update and comparative analysis with other Sub- Saharan Africa countries – 2001

Consultancies reports

- The law-making process in Lesotho – 1998
- Legislation and Policy guidelines for management and Zoning of the Katse and Mohale Reservoir – 2001

Conference papers

- The role of women lawyers and judicial officers in leading the advancement of justice for women and achieving gender equality - 2015
- Celebrating 22 years of the constitution of Lesotho: Reflections on the role of the judiciary
- The Role of the judiciary and other stakeholders in responding to the scourge of violence against women and children: A holistic approach – 2012
- Environmental law and its implications for the judiciary – Judicial conference 2008
- The role of the courts in the fight against HIV/AIDS – Conference of the South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges – 2005

Awards

- Mokhele Kabi Memorial award for best student performer in Mercantile Law – 1992
- Best Performance award in the lawyers' category by Lesotho Women in Business – 2000

References

References are available upon request.