

Ankumah, Evelyn (Ghana)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

The Government of the Republic of Ghana has decided to nominate Evelyn A Ankumah for the position of Judge of the International Criminal Court, in the elections scheduled to take place during the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), from 7-17 December 2026, at the United Nations in New York.

Article 36, paragraph 3(a) and (b) of the Rome Statute, in accordance with article 36 paragraph 4(a) of the Statute

Evelyn A Ankumah is of recognised high moral character, impartiality and integrity, and meets the qualifications required for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Ghana. She is a distinguished Lawyer, a Human Rights Advocate and the Founder and Executive Director of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA). With extensive legal experience across Africa, Europe and North America, she has been a key figure in advancing international criminal justice, particularly, in promoting gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches. She has led initiatives addressing marginalised rights issues, accountability and access to justice. In February 2025, she was appointed Special Adviser to the Office of the ICC Prosecutor.

Article 36, paragraph 5 of the Statute - nomination under List A or B

Evelyn A Ankumah has been nominated under list B, which requires ‘established competence in relevant areas of international law such as international humanitarian law and the law of human rights, and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court’. A specialist in the law of human rights and international criminal law, Evelyn Ankumah has over thirty years of experience as a jurist, advocate and an author of many relevant publications. She is the initiator and coordinator of the Gender Mentoring Training Programme for Judges of International Courts and Tribunals, strengthening judicial capacity to deliver gender-sensitive rulings. Her advocacy for victims’ rights and defence counsels was a driving force behind the establishment of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA). Evelyn A Ankumah’s engagements with diverse categories of international justice stakeholders, including victims, defence counsels, prosecutors and judges, are attributes of requisite broad knowledge, impartiality and fairness for an ICC judge.

Article 36, paragraph 8(a) (i), (ii), (iii) and 8(b) of the Statute – principle legal systems, equitable geographical balance, fair representation of female and male judges, legal expertise on specific issues including but not limited to violence against women and children

Evelyn A Ankumah’s foundational legal training is in the Common Law System. Through education in comparative law and experience in the Civil Law System, she is also well-versed in the latter and appreciates the values of both systems.

A native of Ghana, founder and executive director of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA), Evelyn Ankumah has been nominated under the Group of African States.

Evelyn A Ankumah is female.

Evelyn A Ankumah has specific expertise on violence against women, children, marginalised and vulnerable groups. Significantly, her victim-centred and gender-sensitive approach to justice addresses the root cause of violence.

Through AFLA, Evelyn A Ankumah has addressed other specific, under-treated and topical justice issues, including the use of artificial intelligence in international criminal courts, and review of the amendments on the crime of aggression.

In 2009, Evelyn A Ankumah shared African perspectives at the first public meeting of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. The purpose of this experts' meeting was to study the need for a comprehensive convention on crimes against humanity and begin drafting a model treaty. On 4 December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly took the historical decision to convene a negotiating conference to elaborate and adopt a new convention on the Prevention and Punishment on Crimes Against Humanity (the CAH Convention), to commence in January 2026 and conclude in 2029. Evelyn Ankumah currently serves on the steering committee of the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty Coordination.

Commitment of availability for full time service

Evelyn Ankumah commits to be available for full time service when the Court's workload so requires.
