

Yillah, Ibrahim Sorie (Sierra Leone)

[original: English]

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Place of Birth: Freetown

Date of Birth: 11 January 1974

Age: 50 years

Country of Birth: Sierra Leone

Nationality: Sierra Leonean

Current Positions: Vice-Chair, Trust Fund for the Benefit of Victims, International Criminal Court

Principal Defender, Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Lecturer in International Criminal Law, Sierra Leone Law School

Managing Partner in the Law Firm of Tejan-Cole Yillah and Partners, Sierra Leone

Language skills: Fluent in written and spoken English and Advanced in French

Regional Group: African States

Educational Qualifications

1992 - 1996

Institution: Faculty of Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Mount Aureol, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Qualification: LLB (Hons), Bachelor of Laws with Honours.

1996 - 1997

Institution: Sierra Leone Law School, 11 Lamina Sankoh Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Admission: Admitted to the Utter Bar of Sierra Leone in December 1998

Qualification: BL (Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor) of the High Court of Sierra Leone

Academic Awards: Chief Justice's Prize for Student with the Best Overall Performance.

Attorney General's Prize for best performance in Criminal Procedure and Evidence

The best prize for Professional Practice and Ethics

January to December 2001

Institution: Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Qualification: LLM (Human Rights in Africa)

Thesis: Towards A Human Rights Approach to Refugee Protection in Africa

Professional Experience

February 1998 - December 2000

Employer: WRIGHT & CO. SOLICITORS, SIERRA LEONE

Title: BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR, WRIGHT & CO. SOLICITORS, SIERRA LEONE.

Other information: He worked extensively on civil, commercial, and criminal cases and attended many seminars and trainings on civil and criminal procedure in Sierra Leone including those organised by the Sierra Leone Bar Association and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

2002 - 2005

Employer: LAW FIRM OF ROBERTS AND PARTNERS, SIERRA LEONE

Title: PARTNER, Barrister and Solicitor at ROBERTS AND PARTNERS, SIERRA LEONE

Other Information: Mr. Yillah worked together with Justice Eku Roberts to find the Chambers of Roberts and Partners which subsequently transformed to Macaulay and Bangura Solicitors in Freetown, Sierra Leone

2013 - DATE

Firm: TEJAN-COLE YILLAH AND PARTNERS LAW FIRM, SIERRA LEONE

Title: MANAGING PARTNER, TEJAN-COLE YILLAH AND PARTNERS LAW FIRM, SIERRA LEONE

Other information: alongside his international duties, Mr. Yillah founded the chambers of Tejan-Cole, Yillah and partners partnering with the former commissioner, anti-corruption commission, Abdul Tejan-Cole. it is recognised by Chambers Directory, the leading global legal guide as one of the leading law firms in Sierra Leone undertaking civil, commercial, criminal and constitutional litigations in Sierra Leone and in international courts.

2015 - DATE

Employer: RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Title: PRINCIPAL DEFENDER, RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Other information: Mr. Yillah serves as the principal defender of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of sentences imposed by the special court for Sierra Leone on prisoners serving imprisonment in the United Kingdom and Rwanda.

2005 - 2011

Employer: OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Title: TRIAL LAWYER, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Other information: Mr. Yillah served as a trial lawyer in the office of the prosecutor of the international criminal court. In that capacity, Mr. Yillah undertook investigations and prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the democratic republic of Congo, Uganda and Central African Republic situations and cases arising from those situations

2011 - 2013

Employer: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Title: DEFENCE COUNSEL, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Other information: Mr. Yillah worked as co-counsel under the leadership of the current ICC Prosecutor, Karim Khan to defend suspects and accused persons in the Darfur and Kenya cases before the international criminal court.

2002-2005

Employer: THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Title: DUTY COUNSEL AND CO-COUNSEL AT THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Other information: Mr. Yillah served as Duty Counsel and subsequently Co-Counsel in the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) cases before the trial chamber of the special court for Sierra Leone

2016 - DATE

Employer: ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY, SIERRA LEONE

Title: EXTERNAL LEGAL COUNSEL, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY, SIERRA LEONE

Other information: Mr. Yillah has served as legal counsel and consultant for the environment protection agency (EPA) from 2016 to date. In this capacity Mr. Yillah assisted in the drafting of several environmental legal instruments in Sierra Leone namely; the marine and coastal regulations, the hazardous waste regulations and developed guidelines for the EPA for the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes in Sierra Leone

Other Selected Professional Activities

Arbitrator

Mr. Yillah is also an arbitrator and was a member of the drafting committee set up by the Law Reform Commission of Sierra Leone to produce a draft bill on arbitration in Sierra Leone.

2017 to 2018

Member, Drafting Committee on the New Law on Arbitration 2017 to 2018 under the auspices of the Law Reform Commission

Arbitrator having sat on a reasonable number of arbitration proceedings in Sierra Leone and has developed interest in mining arbitration.

Internship

After completing his Master's program, Mr. Yillah interned at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Ghana and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the latter under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Additional Professional Activities

In 2020, Mr. Yillah participated in a conference organised by the Centre for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) on the contributions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to the development of international criminal law

In 2021, Mr. Yillah chaired the Conference on the Implementation of the New York Convention on the Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in Sierra Leone under the Auspices of the Centre for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) – headed by Prof. Charles Jalloh, a renowned Professor of International Law and Florida International University and an Elected Member of the International Law Commission

2021 to 2024

Activities at the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court

Mr. Yillah was elected by the Assembly of States Parties (the ASP) at its twentieth session held in December 2021 as a Director in the Board for the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for three (3) years from 2021 to 2024 representing the group of African States.

Together with Colleague Board Members and the Secretariat, he designed programs to provide assistance, reparation, restitution etc. to victims of crimes in situation countries where the ICC operates including submitting expert filings to ICC Trials and Appeals Chambers on programs of reparation to victims of crimes and working with local partners in situation countries on how best to provide reparation and assistance to victims of crimes.

Fundraising for TFV ICC and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Together with Colleagues and the TFV Secretariat, they approved programs designed by the Secretariat for fundraising for the Trust Fund and each Director undertakes fundraising in his/her continent to provide funding for victims of crimes in Situation Countries of the ICC.

In this capacity, the Board and Mr. Yillah works with his colleagues to raise funds for victims as well as the profile of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC

As a Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor in Sierra Leone, Mr. Yillah has shown deep commitment to the rule of law, the promotion of human rights and legal education in Sierra Leone and beyond.
