

CURRICULUM VITAE OF

IBRAHIM SORIE YILLAH LLB (HONS) LLM (PRET) B.L

BARRISTER-AT-LAW AND SOLICITOR OF THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE

Bio-data

Date of Birth: 11 January 1974

Place of Birth: Freetown

Country of Birth: Sierra Leone

Nationality: Sierra Leonean

Education

Secondary Education: St. Edwards Secondary School, King Tom, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Years Attended: 1985 to 1992

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

Years Attended: 1992 to 1996

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

Sierra Leone Law School,

11 Lamina Sankoh

Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Years Attended: 1996 to 1997

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

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

Distinction: Won the Chief Justice's Prize for Student with the Best Overall Performance

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

Won the best prize for Professional Practice and Ethics

Centre For Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Years Attended: January to December 2001

Interned at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee Offices in Accra, Ghana as part of academic program requirements

Qualification: LLM (Human Rights in Africa)

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 1997 to November 1997- Intern, Wright and Co. Solicitors (Barristers and Solicitors of the High Court of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone)

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

February 1998 to December 2000- Barrister and Solicitor, Wright & Co Barristers and Solicitors working exclusively on commercial, civil and criminal litigation from Magistrate's Court, High Court as well as the Court of Appeal of Sierra Leone. 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 April

2001 to May 2001- Interned as part of LLM Requirements at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, studying the practical aspects of Prosecutions and Defence in cases of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Also worked briefly as a Protection Officer at the UNCHR in Accra as part of LLM requirements from August – November 2001 as part of my research for my thesis on refugee protection in Africa.

LLM Thesis: Towards a Human Rights Approach to Refugee Protection in Africa.

PARTNER, LAW FIRM OF ROBERTS AND PARTNERS, SIERRA LEONE

January 2002 to December 2002- Barrister and Solicitor (Roberts and Partners, serving as a Partner in one of Sierra Leone's leading law firms at that time) working extensively on corporate law, banking law, criminal law and procedure as well as civil procedural matters and developed interest in environmental law undertaking research into same. Whilst at Roberts and Partners, I worked extensively on researching complex legal issues and providing legal opinions to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), commercial institutions and diplomatic missions.

ASSOCIATE LEGAL OFFICER, PRINCIPAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE, SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

December 2002 to August 2005- left private criminal practice to work for the Defence Office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international criminal tribunal established by a treaty between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations as an Associate Legal Officer. In this capacity, I was instrumental in setting up the first Principal Defender's Office at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

**CO-COUNSEL, CIVIL DEFENCE FORCES LEGAL TEAM
REPRESENTING SAM HINGA NORMAN**

I was subsequently appointed by Trial Chamber 1 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone as Co-Counsel for Sam Hinga Norman, Former Defence Minister for Sierra Leone during his trial- (*Prosecutor v. Sam Hinga Norma, Moinina Fofana et al*). I presented evidence, challenged prosecution evidence, undertook legal research into complex matters, drafted motions, and appeared before the Trial and Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone together with other counsel representing Sam Hinga Norman. Additionally, I undertook and directed defence investigations in that case. I undertook these additional functions while serving at the same time as duty counsel in the Defence Office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. During my tenure at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, I pursued limited civil, commercial and criminal cases in the national courts

**TRIAL LAWYER, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT (ICC), THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS**

September 2005 to April 2011- I served the Office of the Prosecutor initially as an Associate Trial Lawyer rising through the ranks to become a Trial Lawyer in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, The Hague, Netherlands.

During my time at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), I worked on the Uganda situation, DRC and CAR situations and cases arising from these situations where I assisted Senior Trial Lawyers with the conduct of investigations, undertaking missions to identify and locate potential witnesses and evidence, drafting pleadings including but not limited to arrest warrant applications, written submissions for confirmation hearings, presenting evidence in

Court, presenting submissions at status conferences, and initiating strategies for the presentation of cases and evidence before the Trial Chambers of that court.

DEFENCE COUNSEL, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

After my resignation from the Office of the Prosecutor in 2011, I worked as Defence Counsel in the Darfur cases before the ICC in The Hague, The Netherlands from late 2011 to date. Led defence investigations, developed case strategies and presented evidence before Chambers of the International Criminal Court as defence counsel before Trial Chambers of the International Criminal Court.

MANAGING PARTNER, TEJAN-COLE, YILLAH AND PARTNERS, 2013 TO DATE

I am currently the Managing Partner and one of the founders of one of Sierra Leone leading Law Firms specialising (the Senior partner is Abdul Tejan-Cole Esq.) in Banking, Corporate Law, Project Finance, Criminal, Civil Procedure, International, Environmental, Corporate Law and Intellectual Property Law.

CONSULTANT, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), SIERRA LEONE

From 2015 to 2017, I served as a European Union Consultant for the Environment Protection Agency on matters relating to developing and strengthening the legal capacity of the EPA, reviewing existing environmental and proposing amendments to bring same in line with modern international environmental laws and to proffer strategies for the prosecution of environmental crimes in Sierra Leone.

From 2014 to date, our law firm provides legal retainer services to the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency – EPA SL

In this capacity, I had opportunity to review Sierra Leone's land laws and existing policies to determine its effects on productivity and its overall effects on the protection of the environment. I also assisted in the review of the Draft Environment Bill as well as regulations relating to sand mining etc in Sierra Leone

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES- CONSULTANT, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY, SIERRA LEONE

Reviewing the Existing Environment Protection Agency 2009 and propose amendments to same

Developing Guidelines for the Investigation and Prosecution of Environmental Crimes in Sierra Leone

Providing Training to the Police, Prosecutors and Magistrates on Environmental Law

Assisting with the development of Environmental Regulations for Mining, Sand Mining, Agriculture and the Telecommunications Industry in Sierra Leone

Assisting in the Prosecution of Environmental Offences in Sierra Leone

Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects with a view to assessing environmental impact and assisting in the determination of appropriate licence fees for projects

Developing Environmental Regulations for sectors such as Tourism, Mining Sector and Agriculture in Sierra Leone

Assisted in the Developing the following Environmental Regulations in Sierra Leone:

1. The Toxic and Hazardous Substance Regulations
2. The Harzadous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Regulations, 2016
3. Vehicle Emission Control Regulations

4. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations for the Agricultural Sector
5. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation for the Manufacturing Sector, 2016
6. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation for Communication Towers, 2016
7. Sand Mining Regulation
8. The Mines and Minerals Regulations, 2013

MEMBER, DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON THE NEW ARBITRATION LAW FOR SIERRA LEONE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

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

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

Consortium for the Trial of Yahya Jammeh, Former President of the Gambia

September to December 2017 Served as Consultant for AIDS Free World as part of the consortium advocating for the trial of Yahya Jammeh, Former President of The Gambia – Provided strategic advice on cases relating to HIV AIDS victims in The Gambia

OTHER LEGAL SERVICES RENDERED AS A PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTITIONER IN SIERRA LEONE 2014 TO DATE

Served as legal retainers for several banks in Sierra Leone namely; GT Bank (SL) Ltd, Eco Bank Microcredit Finance and have also provided

legal advice to several international financial lending institutions operating to provide project financing in Sierra Leone, In this regard, I assisted the Organisation for the Promotion of Investment Corporation (OPIC) now the United States International Finance Corporation (DFC) as well as Bank of New York and host of other foreign lenders to Sierra Leone Government as well as companies/banks in Sierra Leone

I have also assisted local commercial banks and continue to assist with coordinating finance from international lenders, preparation of loan agreements and security documents as well as the recovery of loan and enforcement of securities in court

Listed in Chambers Directory as one of the leading international commercial lawyers in Sierra Leone

PRINCIPAL DEFENDER, RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE 2015 TO PRESENT

I am the Principal Defender of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, a residual international tribunal carrying out the residual functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In this capacity, I assist the Registrar in overseeing the supervision and enforcement of sentences of Special Court for Sierra Leone convicts in the United Kingdom and Rwanda and file submissions for and on behalf of convicted persons before the Judges of that Tribunal

OTHER TRAININGS RECEIVED AND COURSES ATTENDED

While serving at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICC, I received extensive training from the Bar Council of England and Wales as well as several human rights and advocacy groups on enhancing trial advocacy techniques and arguing appeals before national and international courts.

While serving at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, I received extensive advocacy training techniques (trials and appeals), both at the ICC and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). These trainings served as refresher courses in trial and appeal advocacy which are useful in both national and international tribunals.

I also attended a number of courses and trainings on how to present evidence before Judges from civil law traditions at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Whilst serving in the Office of the Prosecutor, I received training in legal drafting, trial advocacy drafting as well as the drafting of investigative reports.

Publication

The Special Court for Sierra Leone: A Defence Perspective by Jones, John RWD, Ibrahim Yillah et al, Journal of International Criminal Justice, 2004, Volume 2, No. 1.

Courses/ Lectures and Conferences

I have attended many courses, conferences and seminars on issues pertaining to international criminal law, international arbitration in The Hague at the Asser Institute, ICC and OTP Guest lectures, Grotius Centre and have lectured on subjects of international criminal law at Utrecht University, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone etc as guest lecturer.

Attended several courses on international arbitration and recent trends in arbitration including those organised by Prof Khawar Qureshi QC of McNAIR Chambers on evolving subjects on international arbitration law
Contact: office@mcnair chambers.com

Attended seminars and courses organised by Centre for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) on the adoption of the New York Convention by Sierra Leone and its implications for international trade and investment as well as on the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in particular, its contributions to the development of international law

MEMBERSHIP- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (ICCBA)

Member, Executive Council of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA) 2021

Competencies

Trial and Appellate Advocacy

International Commercial Litigation

Arbitration

Recovery of loans and enforcement of security

Ability to communicate effectively in English and French

Leadership Skills and Trainings

Managing Personnel and Resources

Legal Drafting: Drafting of Investigative Reports, Arrest Warrant Applications, etc.

Other Languages

Fluent in written and spoken French

Research Skills

Research oriented, familiar with legal research technological tools **etc.**

Drafting

Excellent drafting skills

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WORKING ON VICTIMS AND WITNESS RELATED ISSUES

I worked extensively and continue to work on victims and witness related issues in my work with the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC and in my present capacity as the Principal Defender of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone where I continue to work with the Registry and the Victims and Witnesses Protection Unit. Have decades of experience working on victims related issues at national and international level. The ICCBA undertakes a lot of work on victims related issues at the ICC and my association with its Executive Committee has broadened my horizon on the challenges faced by victims and victims association within the ICC legal framework.

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