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International
Commission
of Jurists

KENYAN SECTION | Since 1959

FIRST EDITION OF 2023

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

2023

Dear ICJ Kenya Partners and Friends,

Happy New Year from ICJ Kenya!

We are thrilled to welcome you to 2023 and thank you for your continuous support throughout 2022 toward realising our mandate to advance the Rule of Law and Human Rights in Africa. Without you, our work would not be possible. That's why we are excited to share our first newsletter in 2023, highlighting some of our activities from the last quarter of 2022 and a note from our Chairman!

ICJ Kenya Chairman's Note



Last year was an exceptional and extremely busy one for ICJ Kenya! For one, Kenyans went to the polls, and all our thematic strategic areas contributed to supporting the delivery and outcomes of the elections, building public confidence in the electoral systems, processes, and outcomes.

While keeping with the spirit of welcoming a new year, it is equally important to appreciate the tremendous effort put in by the Secretariat and let them know that their work is greatly appreciated. Please reach out to them where you can!

To ICJ Kenya, my fellow Council members, I thank you for your dedication to ensuring the success of ICJ Kenya and your massive input to the effective leadership and collaboration with the Secretariat.

I cannot end without appreciating and acknowledging the participation of our Council and ICJ Kenya Members through various committees, namely the ICJ Sub Committee on matters membership, the ICJ Committee on our Katiba Review, and the ICJ Jurist of the Year (JOYA) Committee. These committees demonstrated commitment through endless hours to make sure our members' views, needs, and participation remained a priority even as we continued to advance the vision and mission of ICJ Kenya.

May I take this opportunity to welcome and wish you all a great 2023! We look forward to a wonderful year where we deepen the impact of our work!

Enjoy the read!

Protas Saende,
ICJ Kenya Chairman.

Hon. Justice Professor Joel Ngugi Crowned the 2022 Jurist of the Year

Since 1993, ICJ Kenya has each year recognised the achievements of an outstanding Jurist dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights. The award was introduced both to commemorate International Human Rights Day and to recognise and honour the contributions of an exceptional Jurist.

On 9 December 2022, at the Serena Hotel, Nairobi, ICJ Kenya was delighted to unveil its Jurist of the Year Award (JOYA) recipient – Hon. Justice Joel M. Ngugi, Judge of Appeal. The Chief Guest of the 2022 JOYA ceremony was H.E Margaret Whitman, US Ambassador to Kenya.

“To a man alive to the place of law in society, committed to interpreting the law courageously and ambitiously without fear or favour, we are honoured to present the 2022 Jurist of the Year Award to Hon. Justice Professor Joel M. Ngugi!” – read the citation.

In his acceptance speech, Justice Ngugi said, *“This award is meant for the many faceless Kenyans who fight for the Kenyan Constitution and Constitutionalism daily. It is intended for the many nameless Kenyans who diurnally fight for the Rule of Law. This is not my award: it is an award for the ordinary Kenyan who stands up every day for the Constitution and lives its aspirations without even calling it by name. I am merely their proxy.”* –



Read more: <https://icj-kenya.org/news/hon-justice-professor-joe-ngugi-receives-the-2022-jurist-of-the-year-award-joya/>

Full acceptance speech by Hon. Justice Joel Ngugi: <https://icj-kenya.org/news/hon-justice-professor-joe-ngugi-receives-the-2022-jurist-of-the-year-award-joya/>

Link to the Full Citation of the 2022 JOYA Recipient read by his son, Keoni Ngugi: <https://icj-kenya.org/downloads/2022-jurist-of-the-year-award-citation-hon-justice-joe-ngugi/>





Keynote Speech by the Chief Guest, US Ambassador to Kenya [Her Excellency Margaret Whitman]: <https://ke.usembassy.gov/ambassador-whitman-remarks-for-international-commission-of-jurists-icj-kenya-jurist-of-the-year-award-ceremony/>

Media Coverage:

Citizen TV

<https://twitter.com/citizentvkenya/status/1601882218967625728?t=3AQSDII-Pf9QvNqfDMAvYQ&s=08>

Standard Media

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001463028/court-of-appeal-judge-joel-ngugi-named-2022-jurist-of-the-year>

KBC English Radio Service, Radio Taifa, and KBC Digital

<https://twitter.com/KBCChannel1/status/1601613080030371840?s=20&t=6tY2isYi-alwX4agXt2-zA>

People Daily

<https://www.pd.co.ke/business/judge-who-slammed-brakes-on-bbi-bags-prestigious-award-162503/>

Tuko

<https://www.tuko.co.ke/people/486641-justice-joel-ngugi-crowned-jurist-year-by-international-commission-jurists/>

Kenyans

<https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/83052-justice-joel-ngugi-wins-jurist-year-award>

Human Rights Day - Spice FM Interview [The Situation Room]

Ahead of Human Rights Day, our Chairman, Mr. Protas Saende, was hosted on the Situation Room on Spice FM on 9 December 2022 to discuss the journey Kenya has made toward the realisation of Human Rights, ICJ's work on Human Rights, Democracy, the Rule of Law and Corporate Social Accountability and the Jurists of the Year Award (JOYA).

Link: <https://youtu.be/eDQf570Fh-w>

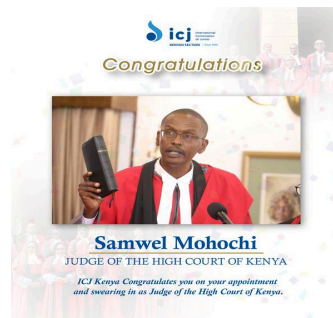


ICJ MEMBERS CORNER

Four ICJ Members were sworn in as Judges of the High Court of Kenya

On 7 December 2022, ICJ Kenya congratulated the 20 judges sworn in as the High Court of Kenya judges. Out of the 20, ICJ Kenya took pride in four of its members sworn in as Judges of the High Court of Kenya. Congratulations to Judge Patricia Nyaundi, Judge Samwel Mohochi, Judge Diana Kavedza, and Judge Josephine Mongare.

Justice Samwel Mohochi previously served as the Executive Director at ICJ Kenya from 2015 to 2019!



The 2022 Annual Jurists Conference (AJC)

ICJ Kenya organised and hosted its Annual Jurists Conference (AJC) 2022 on the theme, *“Reflections on Electoral Democracy in Africa: Trends in Judicial Decisions, Challenges, and Lessons.”* The Conference was held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 29 November to 2 December.

The Conference brought together over 15 guest speakers, two networking events, the welcoming cocktail, and the closing Gala Dinner. Over 40 Jurists attended the event.

Electoral Justice and Democracy in Africa have been through a lot of change, and it was critical for Jurists to have the opportunity to come together to interrogate the trends, challenges, and opportunities on judicial trends.



A visit to the UN Mechanism in Arusha

At the sidelines of the Annual Jurists Conference (AJC) 2022, ICJ Kenya members got the privilege to visit the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) in Arusha.

Watch: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1598019798012944387?s=20>



ICJ Kenya Paralegal Ms. Wanjiru Ndungu receives an award at the PSK Annual Paralegal Awards

During the 2nd Annual Summit held by the Paralegal Society of Kenya (PSK), one of the summit's objectives was to award paralegals who have fiercely promoted Access to Justice.

The PSK governing Council recognised Wanjiru Ndung'u as the best overall ICJ Kenya community paralegal at its 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony. Wanjiru Ndungu is a community paralegal with a critical interest in human rights, specifically orphans and vulnerable children. She also works with different support groups, especially for persons living with HIV. Wanjiru is a self-made Climate Justice Champion. She leads a group of enthusiasts who promote environmental conservation. She also mentors children to plant trees to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Link: <https://icj-kenya.org/news/icj-kenya-paralegal-receives-an-award-at-the-psk-annual-paralegal-awards/>

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1603104478088994816?s=20&t=9DI7-b68gNJxXVDiO3uiVA>





The 2nd Annual Paralegal Summit.

The Paralegal Society of Kenya held its 2nd Annual Summit on the 13th and 14th of December 2022 at Tamarind Tree Hotel, Nairobi. The summit brought together paralegals to discuss areas of collaboration and exchange best practices. The 2022 theme was “Towards a robust and vibrant paralegal movement.”

Link: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1602602431334031360?s=20&t=9DI7-b68gNJxXVDiO3uiVA>





DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

During this last quarter, we have demonstrated, through our work, the need to contribute to tangible outcomes for the most vulnerable by promoting human rights and the Rule of Law, building public support for future change, and creating a society where justice thrives.

Here are some of our programmatic highlights and interventions!

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS & IMPLEMENTATION

Development and Launch of the Technical Brief on Election Technology and Electoral Justice in Kenya.

ICJ Kenya, with the support of Privacy International (PI), developed and launched the technical brief on Election Technology and Electoral Justice during the Annual Jurists Conference held in Arusha in 2022.



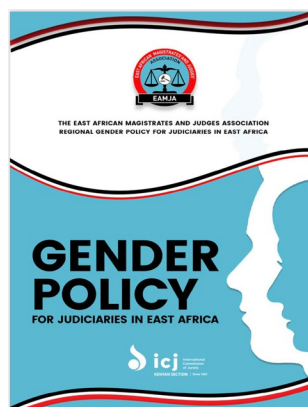
JUDICIAL STRENGTHENING & REFORMS

The East African Magistrates and Judges Association adopts the Regional Gender Policy for Judiciaries in East Africa in 2022.

ICJ Kenya working in partnership with East Africa Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA), developed a regional gender policy for judiciaries across the region. The Gender Policy was launched during the 19th EAMJA Annual Conference. The policy sets a standard for all judiciaries in East Africa to have gender-sensitive and gender-responsive structures and processes.

More: https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1589539862973407232?s=20&t=g_n-mteiYa3vNWT8LCgAgQ

More: https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1589539862973407232?t=aB7gzoQ3F-GUfNB2VrP_RJw&s=19





Southern African Chief Justices Forum Annual General Meeting and Conference on Judicial Accountability.

In partnership with ICJ Kenya, the Southern African Chief Justices Forum held a conference on Judicial Accountability in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23 to 29 October 2022. The conference theme was “Judicial accountability and the role of the judiciary in the fight against terrorism.”

<https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1584477868809076738?s=20&t=Hd-4kv17cQNjBBYGdJUed5g>



SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

Simplified Versions of Kenya's Security Laws

ICJ Kenya seeks to empower the citizenry on their mandate towards the realisation of an accountable security sector. Towards this end, ICJ Kenya developed a simplified version of the post-2010 Constitution of Kenya security laws that can be easily read and understood by members of the public and Police officers. The publication is slated to be launched in early 2023.

Police Reforms Working Group (PRWG) Retreat

As an output of the Police Reforms Working Group retreat held in Naivasha earlier in 2022, ICJ Kenya and other members of the PRWG-K convened to review and validate the strategic position paper on how civil society can influence police reforms, especially on police accountability.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

NCCJR Sentencing guidelines workshop

On 8 and 9 December 2022, ICJ Kenya participated in the National Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms (NCCJR) workshop at Great Rift Valley Resort, Naivasha. The workshop objective was to review and critique the draft 2022 sentencing guidelines in the development stage.



HUMAN RIGHTS

EQUALITY RIGHTS AND INCLUSION

On 20 October 2022, Mashujaa Day, ICJ Kenya collaborated with Hon. Gladys Shollei, the speaker of the National Assembly and Moi University School of Law, to hold a legal aid clinic in Uasin Gishu County. The legal aid clinic provided legal aid to 121 members of the community.

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1583514330993070080?s=20&t=8d5-gcVaXOauLeKV1yr2ZQ>



Mediation Conference

ICJ Kenya supported a mediation conference by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Kenyan Chapter, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill. The Conference aimed to enhance Access to Justice through advocacy on the different Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1585919109086162945?s=20&t=8d5-gcVaXOauLeKV1yr2ZQ>



DIGITAL RIGHTS

Participation in a panel on Artificial Intelligence

ICJ Kenya participated on a panel on artificial intelligence at the Privacy Symposium held by the Unwanted Witness, Uganda, at Strathmore University. It discussed the strategies African policy-makers should consider adopting to realise the right to privacy.

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1588096766489939968?s=20&t=8d5-gcVaXOauLeKVlyr2ZQ>

PANEL 3:
Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning: Balancing Benefits and Respect of the Right to Privacy in a Data-Driven African Economy

DATE: Thur 03-11-2022 **TIME:** 10:36am - 12:25pm (EAT)
VENUE: Strathmore University, Nairobi

4TH PRIVACY SYMPOSIUM AFRICA
2ND - 4TH NOV, 2022 HYBRID
NAIROBI, KENYA

SPEAKER
Ms. Santanu Simiyu
Programme Officer
International Commission of Jurists
Kenya

SPEAKER
Mosa Thekiso
Executive Director of International
Legal & Regulatory
Initiatives
Kenya

SPEAKER
Mercy Mutemi
Executive
Director
Kenya

SPEAKER
Chenai Chair
Executive Director
Africa Model Innovation & Justice Foundation

SPEAKER
Amanda Manyame
Programme Officer
Kenya

SPEAKER
Oorabile Mudongo
Executive Director
Kenya

SPEAKER
Nompilo Simanje
Executive Director
Kenya

MODERATOR
Wandiri Karimi
Vice Chairperson of
the Creative Economy Taskforce

SIGN UP HERE:
<https://bit.ly/PSAfrica2022>





ECONOMIC JUSTICE

National Conference on Disclosure of Information and Open Contracting Conference.

On 14 October 2022, ICJ Kenya held a one-day conference at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, bringing together key public procurement and service sector stakeholders. The Conference's theme was *"Towards Advancing Transparency and Accountability in Public Contracting Through Open Contracting and Proactive Disclosure of Information."*

Communique:

<https://icj-kenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Communique-on-Disclosure-of-Information-and-Open-Contracting-Conference-1.pdf>

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1580975519687852032?s=20&t=8d5-gcVaXOauLeKV1yr2ZQ>

Journalists' capacity building on Open contracting and Access to information

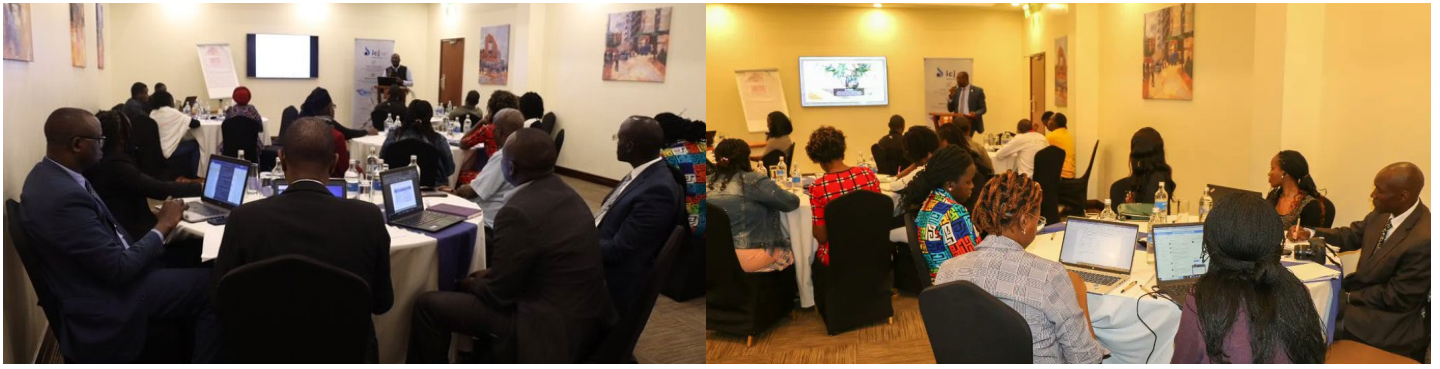
On 22 September 2022, ICJ Kenya hosted a training session for 55 participants from the media, CSOs, and CBOs. The training focused on building the capacity of the participants to understand open contracting, Access to information, and use PPIP to get procurement data.



Economic Social and Cultural (ECOSOC) Rights

ICJ Kenya held a validation forum to review the legal and policy frameworks that inhibit Access to the right to health in Kenya. The meeting was held on 7 December 2022. It was attended by thirty-two participants comprising: community health volunteers from eight counties, namely Nairobi, Machakos, Kiambu, Nyeri, Kisumu, Isiolo, Kakamega, Narok; a representative from civil society organisations; government, Ministry of Health, Commission on Revenue Allocation and Council of Governors. ICJ Kenya will convene a multi-stakeholder forum to share the study's findings and conduct more advocacy on the right to health in Kenya.

More: <https://twitter.com/ICJKenya/status/1600429161155219456?s=20&t=9DI7-b68gNJxXVDiO3uiVA>



Validation forum to review the legal and policy frameworks that inhibit Access to the right to health in Kenya.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

Pre-COP 27 CSO Gender and Climate Change Brainstorm Workshop

ICJ Kenya participated in the Pre-COP 27 CSO Gender and Climate Change brainstorming workshop on 17 October 2022. The workshop was held in recognition of climate change increasingly affecting people's livelihoods, more so the poor, given their lack of capacity to prepare for and cope with the effects. Among these, women and men may experience these impacts differently. In most contexts, women and girls are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. The workshop was also a build-up to the momentum for COP. It was critical to integrate local voices' perspectives and explore what issues need to inform gender discussions from a Kenyan perspective.

Stay in Touch.

Thank you for reading our first edition newsletter of 2023.

Do you have any feedback, questions or comments?

You can reach us at info@icj-kenya.org or call our office line: +254720 491 549.

For more information, you can visit our website,
<https://icj-kenya.org/> and follow us on social media.



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