

PROFILE OF THE JUDICIAL STUDIES INSTITUTE (JSI)-KAMPALA, UGANDA

Background

The Judicial Studies Institute (JSI) was established under an administrative direction of the Chief Justice of Uganda in 2004 as a training arm of the Judiciary.

The mandate of the Institute is to develop and deliver educational programs for the Judiciary. It is yet to obtain a legal status which will give it more autonomy so as to become more competitive and stand out on its own.

The JSI Vision is to; become a leading provider of high quality training for excellence in the administration of Justice.

The JSI Mission: To develop and deliver sustainable educational, training, research and consultancy programmes for social economic development for all.

Since its inception, the institute has had five Executive Directors namely;

- i) Hon. Justice David K. Wangutusi - 2004- Oct 2010
- ii) Hon. Justice Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine – November - December, 2010.
- iii) Hon. Justice Lawrence Gidudu – January 2011 – June, 2013
- iv) Hon. Justice Kiggundu Jane F.B. – July, 2013 to December, 2016
- v) Hon. Justice Dr. Henry Peter Adonyo- December 2016 to date

Objectives of JSI

The objectives of the Institute are:

- i. To contribute to the quality of judicial performance through programs that stimulate continuing professional and personal growth.
- ii. To change systems and practices within the Judiciary through evidence based research, institutional engagement and advocacy
- iii. To link skills enhancement programs across the Administration of justice chain
- iv. To build a JSI institution that is effective, efficient relevant and responsive to the Judiciary training and development needs.

In its operation, JSI policy is guided by the Governing Council/Judicial Training Committee whose membership consists of;

- Chairperson who is a Justice of the Supreme Court, The current Chairperson is Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Esther Kisaakye Kitimbo

- Vice Chairperson is a Justice of Court of Appeal currently occupied by Hon. Justice Augustine Nshimye
- A Judge of the High Court currently occupied by Hon. Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise
- The Executive Director, JSI
- Secretary who is the Registrar, Research & Training
- Other Members include: Representative of Uganda Law Society, a representative of Judicial Service Commission, Chief Registrar, Secretary to the Judiciary, Representative Law Development Centre, Registrar High Court, Registrar Inspector of Courts, Assistant Registrar Research and Training, President UJOA,

The Committee is assisted by four (4) specialized sub-committees that focus on the training and Career development of specific occupational categories as indicated in the table below.

Sub-Committee	Representation
Judges	(Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court)
Registrars and Magistrates	Registrars and Magistrates
Core Support Staff (Court Supervisors/Clerks and Records Supervisors/clerks)	Non-Judicial Staff
Non-Core Support Staff (Administration and Management Support Staff)	Non-Judicial Staff

The Institute has 30 members of staff headed by the Executive Director (ED) who is a Judge of the High Court assisted by the Registrar Research and Training(RRT). The RRT is deputized by the Deputy Registrar Research and Law Reporting (DRRLR) and also by the Deputy Registrar Training.

Department of Law Reporting and Research

Besides the actual training of the Judiciary staff, the JSI is the home of the department of Law Reporting and Research headed by a Deputy Registrar. The Deputy Registrar is assisted by three Judicial Officers one of

whom is in charge of Law Reporting and manages the ULII (Uganda Legal Information Institute) website. ULII is an internet facility that provides the public with legal information concerning Uganda. On the ULII website, primary and secondary legal information can be found in the form of Judgments from the different courts of record in Uganda as well as consolidated Legislations. For further information about ULII, visit www.ulii.org.

The Other Judicial Officer under the Research department is the Officer in charge of Research and the other in charge of documentation which basically deals with case digests in the Uganda Judiciary.

JSI Achievements over the years

- i) Training of all cadres of staff in different areas.
- ii) Development of a Curriculum. Thanks to the Nuffic project, the JSI built the capacity of some of its faculty members who developed a total of 12 courses for the Institute. The Courses include Judgment Writing, Case Management, and Induction Course for Judicial Officers, Induction Course for Non-Judicial Officers, Gender and the Law, Ethics, ICT in the Administration of Justice, Financial Management for Non-Finance Management, Criminal Procedure Course and Evidence Procedure, Court Interpreters Course and Communication Skills Course. In addition, JSI in conjunction with FIDA (U) developed a Training Manual of Sexual and Gender Based Violence which was launched by the Principal Judge in 2014.
- iii) Training of other stakeholders in the Justice Sector including the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission, advocates, and prosecutor's among others.
- iv) Formulating a Faculty of Trainers composing of experienced Judicial Officers and experts in other areas of study.
- v) Establishment of a Resource Center and Library
A resource center at JSI under the NUFFIC project was established. The resource center is equipped with internet connected computers to facilitate electronic research and learning.

The JSI also has a fully functional Library which has relevant reference materials which include law books, Law Reports, Journals and Valuable Working Papers prepared by JSI Faculty Members and other scholars.

- vi) Acquisition of a new building. JSI had been a tenant for a number of years but recently moved in its new structure located in Nakawa on the out skirts the Capital City Kampala fully furnished with the relevant training equipment.
- vii) JSI has built strong partnerships with sister Judicial Training Institutes including; Common Wealth Judicial Education Association, International Organization for Judicial Education(IOJT), The East

African Judicial Education Committee among others. Judiciary staff have benefited through collaboration with these institutes.

viii) JSI has also scored some success in fundraising and securing funding for its Training programmes from stakeholders and development partners including the Dutch Government through NUFFIC, DANIDA, Uganda Revenue Authority, UNICEF, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Green Watch, NEMA, Advocates without Borders, Uganda Bankers Association, CEDOVIP etc.

Linkages with other Institutions

- JSI is registered with and accredited by the International Organization for Judicial Education (IOJT). It was established in 2002 in order to promote the rule of law by supporting the work of judicial education institutions around the world. The mission of the IOJT is realized through international and regional conferences and other exchanges that provide opportunities for judges and judicial educators to discuss strategies for establishing and developing training centers, designing effective curricula, developing faculty capacity, and improving teaching methodology.
- It is also a member of the Common Wealth Judicial Education Association.
- It is also a member of the East African Judicial Education Committee.

Our trainers therefore enjoy the expertise of Global Judicial Educators.

The East African Judicial Education Committee (EAJEC)

The EAJEC brings together National Judicial Training Institutes from the member states of the East African Community and the JSI is an accredited member of the EAJEC.

Faculty

JSI relies mainly on its part time faculty members, i.e. Judicial Officers in Court and other senior members of the Uganda Public Service who are called upon to train whenever the need arises.

For more information about the Institute, visit our website at www.jsi-uganda.org.