

THE LAW SCHOOL OF TANZANIA

Monthly Newsletter

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Provision of practical legal training status

By Schola Njozi

There is a debate in the legal fraternity on the best approach for provision of legal training for university graduates in Tanzania. Initially, all LLB graduates were attached in the Attorney General's Chamber but the increase in number of graduates made the approach almost impractical.

The establishment of Law School of Tanzania from 2nd May 2007 made it possible for more law graduates to attend practical legal training. In the interview with Dr. William Pallangyo (Deputy Principal Planning, Finance and Administration) it was noted that since its establishment, the school has trained over seven thousands (7525) students and over three thousands (3203) have graduated and qualified to be sworn as lawyers.

The school has maintained its role to offers, conduct, manage and impart

practical legal training programmes as may be prescribed by the Council of Legal Education. Other functions of the institution, include promoting and providing opportunities and facilities for the study of and for the training in legal practice and allied subjects. Apart from teaching function, Dr. Pallangyo said that the school provides consultancy services in legal matters to the Government, public and private organizations, individuals and other clients within and outside Tanzania. He further said that the institution applies research findings for the betterment of practical legal training, literature and for continued enrichment of the curriculum and teaching. The school has also established relationship and association with similar colleges, and institutions both nationally and internationally.

Students Affairs

By Aziel Elinipenda

The School offers various services and activities aimed at improving welfare of students. Specifically it offers guidance and counseling services to students to enable them to fulfill academic and personal potential. Students are given an opportunity to meet competent and experienced professionals and practitioners in different counseling areas. Necessary and basic facilities to students directly related to their training function and stay at the School are also provided. Such facilities including those aimed at assisting students with special needs.

Students do participate in management and relate to other organizations through students' organization. The students' organization at the School is known as the Tanzania Students' Bar Association (TASBA). **Sports and games** are an integral part of a student's life as there are many benefits of sports and games to students. Our School environment allows students to participate in sports and games.

MY LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Margareth Maganga

12th Cohort Vice President

Trainee—Associate at Clyde & Co. Tanzania

"You are going to law school in Bongo?? Why?? Good luck with that!" "Prepare to supp!" "Law school is insane!" Those were just a few of the sentiments that I received from people when I announced I was joining the Law School of Tanzania (Law School) in 2012. I had just graduated that summer from University of Leeds and I was set on joining Law School in order to be admitted to the Roll of Advocates. Hearing such statements surprised me to say the least. Why surprise? Well I didn't know what the big fuss was about Law School. After all it should be an institution just like any other. I had graduated with an upper second class so surely Law School shouldn't be too difficult....wrong!

I joined the 12th Cohort in August 2012. We were the first cohort to be officially taught in the new campus behind Mawasiliano Towers. We were elated as we had escaped the hassle of 'classroom-hopping' experienced by previous cohorts who used various classrooms at University of Dar es Salaam.

Academic-wise, the Law School timetable was intense: 9am-5pm lectures Monday to Friday, clearly preparing us for the employment world. After being used to two or three one-hour lectures a day during my LLB, I found this extremely difficult. On top of a full day of lectures, we had assignments that had tight deadlines. Thus after the taxing hours spent in the lecture theatre, one had to find time also to complete the assignments, which at times included group work. Deadlines were just that, if you didn't submit your assignment on time you were dead (well not literally). Surprisingly, although by the end of the four months of teaching we had submitted about ten assignments, we never received individual feedback from any of the lecturers. This was alien to me. While an undergraduate, I was always used to receiving feedback in order to improve on the next assignment. When I asked my fellow students whether this was a normal practice, I was answered in the affirmative. I found the lack of feedback to be a setback in my understanding of what was expected of me especially during exams.

Apart from lack of feedback, I also noted that access to course material in some subjects was difficult. Although some lecturers provided a guideline as to what material was needed, it was extremely difficult, especially for someone like me who had not previously studied in Tanzania, to obtain material such as case law. So unless you knew someone who knew someone

who was a mobile library, you would probably end up not having the material required especially during exams. By the time we finished our course, the library, a very impressive building on the outside was not stocked up with books. Perhaps this was because the facility was fairly new. The Law School should have a reference library equipped with books and research material both physical and e-copies to be reckoned with. After all it is the only institution that produces advocates in the whole country.

All in all, I must commend the lecturers for showing up to class. We rarely had incidents of no-shows. In fact as the cohort Vice President, together with my fellow student representatives, we got in touch with the lecturers to convey any message in terms of what was expected of us in case of their absence. The lecturers ensured that attendance was compulsory by having random roll calls during lectures. If you were absent you had better hope to the heavens that your name was not called or at least had an iron clad alibi to support your absence. After a gruesome 10 months and 25 exams later I finished law school. Unfortunately I did not clear in the first sitting, which apparently only an average of 15% did. What could I have done different? Well I guess I should have joined the study groups earlier and obtained the necessary course material from the 'mobile libraries'. Regardless, with Law School you win some and you lose some. The experience equipped me with the ability to grasp as much information as I could for the short period of time the course lasted.

Recommendations to Law School

- Give feedback- Although it is impractical to give feedback on ten assignments, it would be helpful if only one or two assignments were given by lecturers in which individual feedback would be provided;
- Feedback after ICA & WPE exams- This would be extremely helpful in order for students to know the areas they need to improve during the final exams;
- Reduce the number of intakes in a year in order to subsequently improve the quality of teaching and issuing of feedback. It appears that the lecturers are overwhelmed with the amount of scripts they have to mark;
- Capitalize on the practical skills and reduce the theory exams. Law School program should focus more on practical aspect i.e. the moots, case preparation, writing of legal opinions rather than theoretical examinations, which lead to a lot of cramming;
- The field placements should contribute more towards the final grade as such experience is vital and practical to a candidates' actual career.



Key note for LST Students

- Attend all lectures & seminars- There is no two way to this. You don't attend you miss out on very vital information. You cannot always rely on your friends to convey the correct message;
- Don't waste time - As soon as you start the course before you know it exams are around the corner. Don't leave your revision till the last minute. Revise as you go along;
- Join study groups- Study groups are very helpful especially to grasp the concepts you didn't understand during lectures. However, be careful because some study groups may be misleading. For example I attended one where the question talked about 'an individual got hurt in a hullabaloo...' Some students were convinced that the word 'hullabaloo' meant that the person broke a part of their body or something. So if you just swallow information from others without conducting personal research, you may end up being erroneously misled;
- Don't cheat- Unfortunately, I saw some students being kicked out after being caught cheating. Don't try it, it is not worth it. Just because others are doing it and get away with it doesn't make it right; and finally
- Maintain good friendship- Your course mates will become especially handy when you start working. It helps to know people in this field who work in a place you are interested in applying or who can assist to expedite a process



Admission to the Law School

By *Schola Njozi*

Each year The Law School of Tanzania (LST) receives more than 2,000 applications from potential students; and from that, approximately 1,800 join our community. Students, apply by downloading the application form on our website (www.lst.ac.tz), fills important information, and submit to the Law School of Tanzania.

Law School of Tanzania is committed to a nondiscriminatory admission policy and philosophy. We welcome applications from all people without regard to race, age, gender, disability, religion, national origin, family status or sexual orientation.

Applicants often wonder what is the minimum score Law School is willing to accept for admission. We typically admit students with a Bachelor of Law degree holder or a person who has become eligible for the conferment of the Bachelor of Laws degree of an accredited higher education institution in Tanzania Mainland or a Bachelor of Law degree holder or a person who has become eligible for the conferment of the Bachelor of Laws degree of a higher education institution recognized in Tanzania and approved by the council of equivalent qualifications approved by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) obtained from any institution within or outside Tanzania.

In addition to that, Admissions Committee considers other non-numerical factors in reaching decisions. The Admissions Committee takes a broad view of undergraduate performance and other academic background as mentions in the application form just to evaluate your transcript based on

courses taken and making sure that the core course eligible for the this course are there. Transcripts from ALL academic information you have attended must be submitted together with the application form. Your application will not be considered without all of the transcripts. Failure to submit all of the transcripts could delay your application process.

The School has three intakes a year (February, July, and September) during each admission cycle The School has three intakes a year (February, July, and September) during each admission cycle.

In addition to the criteria above, a student is eligible to be admitted if she/he passed the following subjects;

- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Legal Method
- Constitutional law
- Law of contract
- Law of evidence
- Law of torts
- Land law
- Civil Procedure
- Law of business Associations
- Family Law
- Public international law
- Tax Law
- Administrative Law
- Labor Law and
- Jurisprudence.

This requirement is to ensure that students joining the school's are well grounded in at least the theoretical aspects of these core subjects to allow the training at schools' is to focus on the practical aspects, especially considering that classroom training at the school is offered in only one semester, without the theoretical foundations, it will be difficult to bridge in the practical aspects.

Library Services at Law School

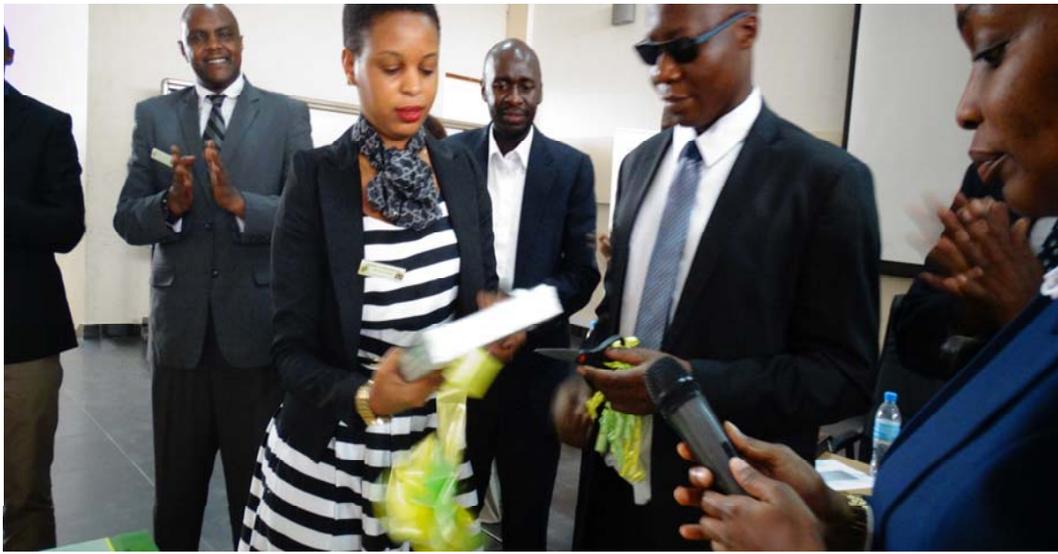
By **Aristarik Maro**

The library provides information and library services to the students, staff, its alumni and the surrounding community. Its collection is currently organized by subject areas within the various stages of legal training namely:-

- Legal Writing and Drafting
- Trial Advocacy
- Civil Litigation
- Criminal Litigation
- Professional Ethics
- Conveyancing
- Commercial Transactions
- Legal Practice Management
- Probate and Administration

The library also offers information services to library users within and outside the school community. Such amenities include: lending of library materials (currently done indoors), document delivery services (a service which will soon be launched), traditional and electronic references services {online journals & e-Books through (COTUL),} Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) and Current Awareness Services (CAS). Other services include research, publication and consultancy, information literacy and computer training for library users and conference facilities.

The purpose of LST library is to build collections of relevant materials of both legal and professional knowledge to facilitate teaching, learning, research and consultancy for its users. It facilitates access to reading materials in form print and of on-line reference services. It also facilitates research and practical learning. The Library in conjunction with the ICT department undertakes regular information literacy training for both academic staff and students on access of online resources.



LST LAW REVIEW JOURNAL LAUNCHED

By Schola Njozi

The Law School of Tanzania launched its first journal namely LST LAW REVIEW which will be out two times a year (June & December). Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, of the journal the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Mr. Amon Mpanju as a guest of honor urged students to make sure they use the journal for the study to be professionals in the legal practice.

The first Issue of the journal features articles on:-

- **Establishment, prospects and challenges of the Law School of Tanzania by HE Justice G. Ndika & G. Chuwa.** The article provides perspectives on the successes and challenges experienced by the school as well as offering suggestions on issues that need to be addressed to enable it fulfil its mandated role of providing legal education and practice more effectively.
- **Access to Justice and Need for Reforms of the Civil Justice System by Kennedy Gastorn.** The article assesses the introduction of case management and the state of the legal aid services. It points out that access to justice can only be achieved if the system provides legal aid services to indigents as well as providing necessary resources to defend legal rights or to prosecute his or her case in order to bring equality among the parties to a dispute.
- **The New Rules of Procedure on Litigation of Human Rights in Tanzania by Dr Julius. C. Mashamba.** The article provides that the new rules have brought important elements in the practice of human litigation in Tanzania, including elaborating the necessary stages in litigating human rights in court (both in the High Court and the subordinate courts), which is missing in the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Economic Growth through Competition Reforms and the Role of the Fair Competition Commission by Dr. Deo J. Nangela.** The article discusses practical challenges facing the competition regime in Tanzania with particular focus on policy, institutional, and implementation of the Fair Competition Act.
- **The Universal Declaration and Human Rights in Tanzania by Mr. Fahamu H. Mtulya.** The article assesses the influence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Tanzania through judicial interpretation of fundamental rights and freedoms. The notes that the Declaration has served as legitimizing force to the judiciary in interpreting and enforcing human rights and freedoms in Tanzania.
- **Digital Trademarks and the Law by Mr. Innocent P. Kibadu.** This article highlights the legal concern in developing digital trademarks provisions. It underpins the centrality of having effective measures to ensure that not only is the legal framework in place but also it is effectively operational to regulate possible crimes.
- **Foreign Judgments Recognition and Enforcement in Courts of Tanzania and Kenya by Prof. Mohammed S. Hussain & Mohammed M. Khartoum.** The article focuses on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments (REFJ) under Private International Law Rules, Convention, Treaties among nations and more particularly Tanzanian and Kenyan Courts.
- **Foundation of Admissibility of Electronic Evidence in Tanzania by Dr. Zakayo N. Lukumay.** This article investigates the required standards for proper foundation of admissibility of electronic evidence in Tanzanian courts. The standards range from authenticity, relevance, rules against hearsay, and the best evidence rule.

A Tribute To A Dedicated, Compassionate Lawyer -Mr. Tahirali

He did not push himself in the foreground, that's why he stood out .

He did not recommend himself ,that's why he was not overlooked.

He did not praise himself ,that's why he had merit.

He did not glorify himself, that's why he excelled.

And because he did not compete with anyone, Nobody in the World could measure himself with him.

LST Received Donation of Books from the family of late Advocate Tahirali.

By Schola Njozi

The family of Late Advocate Tahirali donated the law books to the Law School of Tanzania valued more than 19 millions.

Speaking at the receiving ceremony on 23rd September, 2016 at the school's compound, the daughter of late advocate Said that her father was a dedicated lawyer with high integrity and most respected one in law profession.

"He would be proud today that his law books "The Hals bury laws editions and Laws of Tanganyika have gone to their rightful place" said

Advocate Tahirali passed his bachelor of law from Agra University in India with a 1st Class Degree in 1946. He then came to Tanganyika at the age of 27 and was admitted as an advocate in His Majesty's High Court of Tanganyika on the 25th of April 1949, paid a fee of 400 shillings and set up his office in Tanga where he lived all his life. He is no.5 on the register of Advocates in Tanzania. Retired 2015 and passed away at age 92 2016.

May his soul rest in Peace... Amen!



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