



CHIEF JUSTICE KORPOR SPEAKING AT THE PROGRAM

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOOSTED AS JUDICIARY DEDICATES BOMI COURT COMPLEX

The Judicial Branch of the Liberian Government has dedicated another Judicial Complex to house the Eleventh (11th) Judicial Circuit Court located in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The project, which began in February 2015, when grounds were broken for the construction of the modern court facility sitting on a hill on the outskirts of Tubmanburg City, was funded by the Government of Liberia. Constructed by a local construction company, the Liberia Reconstruction and Development, Incorporated, the modern court complex also houses

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## NATJL to accrue huge benefits from its membership with IAJ

The President of the National Association of Trail Judges of Liberia, NATJL, has said that the Association stands to benefit enormously from its membership in the International Association of Judges, IAJ.

Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie, Resident Circuit Judge of Criminal Court "A", named some of the key objectives of the IAJ for its members around the world as ensuring the independence of the Judiciary, guaranteeing honesty and integrity in the judiciary by making sure that judges are logistically equipped, as a way of enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in the system.

Judge Willie made the statement during the opening of the February A.D 2018 Term of court at the Temple of Justice when he delivered the

joint charge for Criminal Courts A, B, C, D and E.

Speaking further, NATJL President told the gathering that the IAJ also promotes net-working among member associations and protects its members from arbitrary interference and subsequent violation of their rights.

"What this means to us as an Association is that, we can revert to our parent body, meaning the IAJ, when these privileges are not provided us and all diplomatic means fail to make the authority know and grant them to us" Judge Willie noted.

According to the NATJL President, the protection of the above listed privileges for judges comes with great responsibility of performing to a very high ethical expectation, adding that it was important

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JUDGE ROOSEVELT Z. WILLIE DELIVERING THE JOINT CHARGE



# From The Courts



## Chief Justice Urges Jurors To Take Responsibility Seriously

CHIEF JUSTICE KORKPOR SPEAKING AT THE PROGRAM



Speaking at the orientation ceremony, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. also thanked the prospective jurors for accepting to serve as a link between the Judiciary and the ordinary Liberian people.

Chief Justice Korkpor told the prospective jurors that their role is very critical to dispensing justice and cautioned them to take their responsibility very seriously if selected. “Because if you sit on a murder case and you don’t listen to the evidence and you don’t decide only based on the evidence and you listen to outside influence and other considerations and you make a wrong decision, your conscience is there. You will live with it. If someone is not guilty and by your decision you say the person is, because someone influenced you, you live with the guilt.”

Making reference to the Golden Rule of Life, Chief Justice Korkpor warned the prospective jurors to remember to do unto others as they would expect others to do unto them. He described the Golden Rule as the greatest rule laid down by Jesus Christ in whom he, Chief Justice Korkpor, strongly believes.

In remembrance of the golden rule, Justice Korkpor urged the prospective jurors to decide cases as they see the facts and avoid being influenced by others. “I implore you to do the right thing in the service of our country, he added.” He used the occasion to inform the prospective jurors that not every allegation in the media against the Judiciary is true. “Even though the system is not perfect,” the Chief Justice admitted, “our intentions as judicial officials are good for our country” he noted.

When he told them that he was happy that they had come to experience what judges go through to handle cases, and criticisms they received when the cases don’t go the way the public sees them, the crowd of over two hundred prospective jurors for Montserrado laughed and cheered.

Concluding, Chief Justice Korkpor lauded the jury management team for regularly conducting jury orientations for the purpose of explaining to prospective jurors the importance of their role as triers of facts before the commencement of the trials.

Jury service is a constitutional mandate. According to Chapter 18 of the Judiciary Law, “Any citizen of the Republic, male or female, who has attained the age of twenty-one years, is competent to serve as a grand or petit juror in the county in which he/she resides unless that citizen by law is unfit for service.”

According to the Jury Management Unit, jurors are now being selected from the documents and registries of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services, LISGIS, the National Elections Commission, NEC and the Civil Service Agency in line with the new jury law.

For several years, names of jurors were provided by the municipalities through a request from the courts for prospective jurors. That system had its own flaws. One of its key drawbacks was the professionalization of jury service by some Liberians who served almost every term of court in violation of the jury law of Liberia.

The National Office of Jury Management of the Judiciary, on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, summoned hundreds of Liberians, mostly civil servants, who were randomly selected as prospective jurors, for a day of orientation. “If selected, the prospective jurors will serve during the February Term of Court” said Cllr. George Katakpah, head of the Jury Management Unit at the Judiciary.

According to Cllr. Katakpah, the unit has summoned up to 8000 Liberians to perform the “Civic Duty Call” as provided for by the Constitution of Liberia and has conducted eleven (11) orientations in Montserrado County, nine (9) in Bomi and Margibi Counties, and eight (8) in Lofa, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties respectively. He then thanked Liberians, most of whom are young people, for answering the call of the Judiciary to assist in deciding factual issues of cases before the courts.

***“Any citizen of the Republic, male or female, who has attained the age of twenty-one years, is competent to serve as a grand or petit juror in the county in which he/she resides unless that citizen by law is unfit for service.”***



# The Judiciary

## EDITORIAL

### Advancing Freedom of Information and the Right to Know

The Judiciary Branch of the Liberian Government is the final arbiter of constitutional issues and exercises final appellate jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of records, courts not of records, administrative agencies and so forth. Since its creation, ordinary Liberians have had difficulty understanding its functions.

In light of this difficulty, the Judiciary under the administration of Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. has established the Public Information Department tasked with the responsibility to inform and educate the public about the Liberian Judiciary.

One of such mediums being the publication of a quarterly newsletter, "The Judiciary." The publications will provide basic education on the workings of the courts and events within the Judiciary, as well as provide basic legal education that will enlighten the public on the Rule of Law.

"The Judiciary" will also serve as a medium to create awareness that repositions the Judiciary Branch in a way that maintains its dignity and respect, in addition to the Judicial website ([www.judiciary.gov.lr](http://www.judiciary.gov.lr)) which is one the most significant platforms for legal and academic research in Liberia.

It is our goal that this newsletter will bring the administration of justice closer to the public and promote understanding that will engender respect for the rule of law in Liberia.

## UNMIL GENEROUSLY DONATES TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIARY



According to the UNMIL DSRSG, the Mission has trained few Judiciary personnel who will pass on the training to others who will manage the Data Base Tracking System for Public Defenders. The data base tracking system he said, will guarantee the efficiency of tracking cases in the criminal justice system. In conclusion, he lauded the Judiciary for the relationship it built with the UN Mission over the years and expressed confidence that the progress made will be irreversible. Receiving the donation on behalf of the Judiciary, the Court Administrator Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson expressed overwhelming contentment for the donations and said, Chief Justice Korkpor would have loved to have received the items himself but, he was absent due to some

pressing national engagements on strengthening the rule of law in Liberia. Cllr. Nelson at the same time made an additional appeal to UNMIL for additional support to create offices, a new courtroom for Criminal Court E and a bigger space for the newly furnished Waldemar Vrey Human Rights Resource Center. "Trust me, this will be our final, final appeal to UNMIL, the Court Administrator added, sparking a scream of laughter from the UNMIL delegation and other guests at the program. Madam Nelson emphasized that the delivery of the equipment was timely and that they would be used adequately for their intended purpose.

## Judge calls for enforcement of pro independent judiciary laws

the public builds confidence in the justice system, it will gain the courage to use the courts as a means of resolving grievances. "Confidence in the courts discourages people from taking the law into their own hands thereby promoting peace rather than chaos."

Judge Smith, stressed the need for the enforcement of Articles 71 and 72 (b) of the Liberian Constitution which protects the tenure of judges to ensure judicial independence and impartiality. Other laws he wants enforced that also protect judicial independence and impartiality include Article 72 (a) of the Liberian Constitution, section 3.14 of the Liberian Judiciary Law and Canon Six of the Judicial Canons of Liberia which protect the salaries and benefits of judges.

Judge Smith added that these laws were enacted to promote independence and fairness in the judicial system by paying judges adequate salaries and benefits, since they are by law, prevented from engaging in any other professional duties or commercial business to earn a living whilst serving as a judge.

Considering the requirements judges have to meet to gain public trust, he said it was the duty of the government to provide judges encouraging incentives to enable them live decent lives. This, he said, will prevent financial and domestic worries and enable them repel temptation.

Judge Smith paid tribute to the administrations of President William R. Tolbert, the Interim Government of National Unity of Dr. Amos C. Sawyer and President Ellen

Johnson-Sirleaf all of who tried to support, uphold, protect and defend an independent and impartial judiciary in Liberia during their regimes.

"President Tolbert gave circuit judges duty-free privilege to purchase their vehicles; and in early 1980 he instructed that residences be secured in all the then nine (9) counties for the accommodation of circuit judges, following Judge Frank W. Smith's CHARGE during the November 1979 Term of Court at the First Judicial Circuit or at Sixth Judicial Circuit Court during the December 1979 Term of Court when he raised the issue of lack of accommodation for circuit judges. During Dr. Sawyer's IGNU administration judges of courts of record, for the first time, were provided official vehicles amidst the

only major source of revenue to the IGNU administration – maritime fund. During President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's Unity Party-led government we witnessed several courthouses being built in Liberia; all resident circuit judges of the fifteen (15) counties and all specialized courts judges at the Temple of Justice were provided government official vehicles; and a marked improvement in the salaries, allowances and benefits was made, though this improvement was and is not unique to judges and magistrates – in fact, other government officials were and are by far paid higher than justices, judges and magistrates."

The judge spoke on the theme: The Role of Judges in the Sustenance of Peace in Liberia. What is the Role?

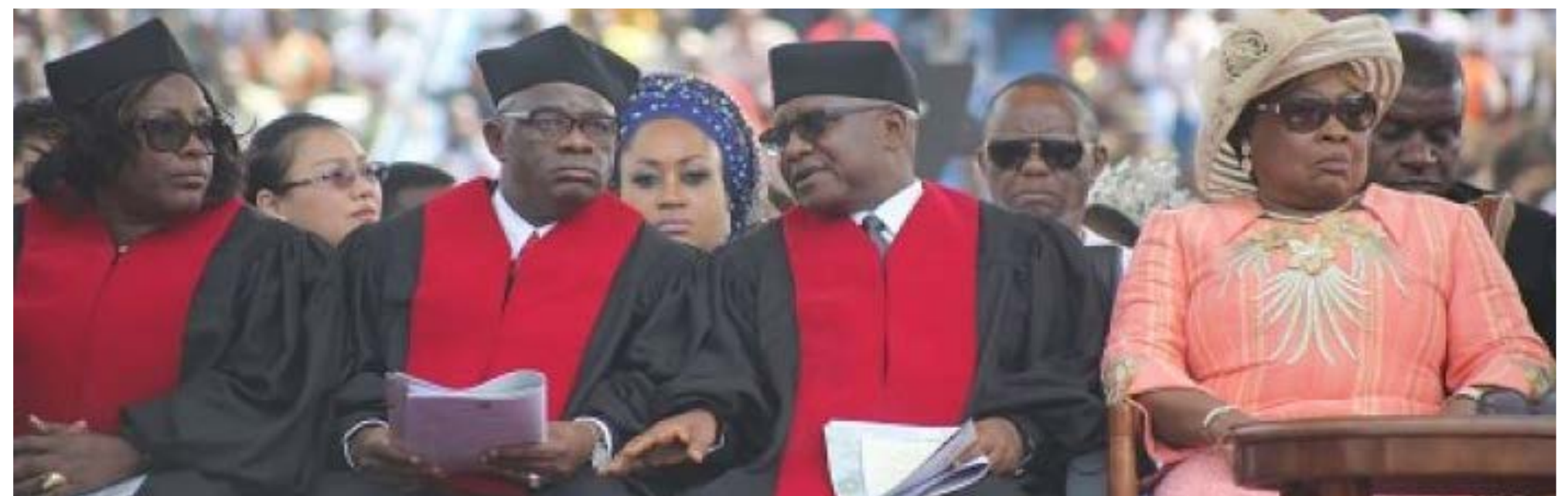


# A Pictorial of the opening and dedication of the Judicial Complex in Bomi County





# A Pictorial from H.E George M. Weah's Inauguration Held At the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex





# ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOOSTED AS JUDICIARY DEDICATES BOMI COURT COMPLEX

the Debt Court, Traffic Court, Labor Court, Revenue Court and Magisterial Court—a true manifestation of its name. Each court has a chamber with corresponding offices for other court actors, like sheriffs, bailiffs, and clerks. Offices are also available for the County Attorney, Public Defender, City Solicitors as well as grand and petit juries.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. said the construction of the judicial complex represented a clear showing of the government's intention of promoting judicial independence in Liberia. Chief Justice Korkpor noted that it was time for the Liberian Judiciary, a distinct and independent branch of the Liberian Government, to move its circuit and other subordinate courts in the counties into structures built by government. Doing so will not only promote and enhance access to justice in Liberia, he said, it will also ease the huge financial burden government usually has to bear for renting private structures for use by courts and other government ministries and agencies. "With the construction of this complex, the government will now be relieved from the burden of continual payment of rentals for private properties that housed the many subordinate courts in the City of Tubmanburg."

According to the Chief Justice, Liberia has constructed six (6) judicial complexes so far, with the biggest (the Temple of Justice built in 1965) in Montserrado County where the nation's capital, Monrovia is situated. The others are located in Gbarnga, Bong County, Bopolu, Gbarpolu County, Greenville, Sinoe County, and Sanniquellie,

Nimba County and Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The seventh judicial complex is under construction in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and is expected

to be dedicated this year. Beside the judicial complexes, Chief Justice Korkpor disclosed that the constructions of Magistrate Courts are also ongoing across the country. "Last year we dedicated a new magistrate court in Karnplay, Nimba County. It is one of the four magistrate courts constructed



with funds provided by the Swedish Government through the Justice and Security Trust Fund. The other three magistrate courts are in Botota, Bong County, Vahun, Lofa

The Chief Justice also added that the UN Mission under its Quick Impact Project, last year, constructed two magisterial courts in support of Liberia's efforts to make justice accessible to its people. One of such courts is in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island and is currently operational while the other is in Todee rural Montserrado, will soon be functional.

Chief Justice Korkpor praised the development partners of the judiciary for assisting with the level of improvement being experienced so far in the

Judicial Branch of Government and assured that his Bench will ensure that all judicial circuits have judicial complexes and all magisterial districts have magisterial courts. "In this way, the rule of law will truly be

accessible to all citizens and residents across the country. Recent events in our country have shown that the rule of law must be and remain strong, devoid of other influences to keep our country on the path of peace." The Chief Justice also appreciated President George Weah and former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for attending the ceremony and described their physical presence as a signal to the world that they both believe that the rule of law is the surest way of strengthening Liberia's democracy.

In remarks, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf thanked the Judiciary for the opportunity of participation. She praised the Judiciary for the commitment shown in continuing their dedicated work to expand and improve upon the facilities of the Liberian Judiciary. Also speaking at the ceremony, President George Weah thanked former President Johnson-Sirleaf for funding the project through her administration and promised that his government will support the Judiciary to continue the construction of judicial complexes until every county has one as a way of promoting access to justice. President Weah said access to justice is a pro-poor priority and therefore urged judges to at all times protect the poor because the court is the only true channel for redress in the democratic form of government.

He said his government will depend on the courts for its fight against corruption and urged every Liberian to put the rule of law above their personal interest to promote development and growth. The program was attended by several other dignitaries who also made remarks, including UNMIL DSRSG for Rule of Law, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Liberia IDLO representatives amongst others.

## NATJL to accrue huge benefits from its membership with IAJ



to remind themselves about the maxim in the law, which states that he who goes to equity must go with clean hands.

"For example, a Judge cannot receive money from party litigants and refused to give receipt. A magistrate should and must not conduct survey on a land, where the two parties are claiming title. A magistrate should

not charge any bail bond arbitrarily, but the fees should be based on the degree of the offence. Judges and Magistrates must ensure that all fees and fines are deposited into the Judiciary accounts and should not keep them. Judges and Magistrates must stop delaying cases because of some interests and allow party litigants and lawyers to spend funds on assignments and transportation."

Judge Willie used the occasion to call for improvement in the retirement benefits of judges and magistrates, noting that there is a need to review the current monthly retirement package of LD\$7,500 for judges and the withdrawal of vehicles they use during active service.

On the issue of remunerations for judges and magistrates, the NATJL President said salaries and other benefits for judges and magistrates "shall not be diminished without a national program enacted by the Legislature as enshrined in Article 72 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution."

He also said "Judges shall not be suspended

for final judgment rendered in a case; since appeal is a constitutional right. Judges and Magistrates must be provided vehicles and other logistics like any other government officials so as to make their movement easy and efficient on the job. All discussions for programs to include the Judiciary budget and insurance must include the NATJL, since they

may ultimately be affected."

To deal with ethical issues in the body, Judge Willie said the NATJL has established an Inquiry Committee within its Constitution to ensure strict compliance to ethical standards. He urged party litigants, the general public and even their own members to report judges or magistrates who may behave unethically in the discharge of their functions.

The NATJL President then praised the government for efforts made so far towards improving the incentives of Judges and Magistrates, but said, the government needed to do more to ensure the independence and dignity of judges and magistrates during active service and retirement. "We will not also allow our members to retire in poverty after serving the people of this country sacrificially, while other employees of other functionaries of government retire in luxury and comfort.

Responding to the judges' joint charge, State and Defense counsels praised the judges for the efforts and sacrifices they are making to bring credibility to the judiciary and promised to assist in whatever way possible to ensure problems and challenges in the judiciary are collectively dealt with, as a means of promoting a strong Justice System.

The opening of the February A.D 2018 term of court was attended by hundreds of prospective jurors, lawyers, magistrates and the public. Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. and some international partners also graced the ceremony.



# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.



**H**is Honor, Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., was born in a little village called Zao, Lao Clan, lower Nimba County, in the Republic of Liberia. Due to the fact that there was no school in his home village, Chief Justice Korkpor began his formative years of education in a nearby village called Kpain where he was sent to live with an aunt.

Chief Justice Korkpor then gained admission, as a boarding student, to the St. Mary's Catholic School in Sanniquellie City where he

completed his elementary, junior and senior high school education.

In 1972, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. enrolled at the University of Liberia in pursuit of higher education where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in Sociology in 1976. Upon graduation from university, Chief Justice Korkpor was employed with the Ministry of Justice in the Criminal Rehabilitation Division as a Research Coordinator from where he was granted a scholarship by the US Government to study Criminal Justice at the

N. C. Justice Academy at Salemburg, North Carolina, USA, after a year on the job.

Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. returned home in 1978 and subsequently enrolled at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia where he obtained his LLB Degree in 1982.

### PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Mr. Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. began his public and professional services at the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia, where he was first recruited as a Research Coordinator immediately upon obtaining his BA degree from the University of Liberia. His service at the Ministry of Justice, also witness his rise to leadership positions within the government of Liberia specifically serving as Assistant Minister for Economic Affairs, Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs, and then Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs.

Due to the civil war in Liberia, like many other Liberians, Chief Justice Korkpor left the country in 1990. He however returned in 1991 and went into private law practice. He established the Tiala Law Associates, Inc., and for about 13 consecutive years, served as its Managing Director. Notable amongst the clients he worked for was the Catholic Church in Liberia and its affiliate institutions. He was also a member of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, a human rights organization and for many years, served as its

Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In 2004, during the reign of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, then Counsellor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. was appointed to the Supreme Court of Liberia as Associate Justice for the period of two years, a position to which he was nominated and subsequently reappointed by Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf upon assuming Presidency of the Country in 2006.

On April 18, 2013, His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, a position he currently occupies.

Chief Justice Korkpor has five children; four sons and a daughter- Francis Jr., Michael, Tom-Wesley, Tiala and Wuo-Victor. He also has three grandchildren...

Chief Justice Korkpor has pursued a reform agenda for strengthening the third branch of the Liberian government in a number of key areas:

- Office of the Court Administrator
- Creation of the Office of Court Inspectors
- The Judiciary Inquiry Commission & the Grievance and Ethics Committee
- Record keeping and Information Technology
- Regional Justice and Security Hubs
- Infrastructure
- Judicial Training Institute

## Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh



Justice Ja'neh part-time in the classrooms of the Muslim Congress High School teaching geography between 1986 – 1988. Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh matriculated to the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia where he acquired a L.L.B degree in Law in the year 1990. Later that same year, Justice Ja'neh attended the Arab Maritime Academy, in Alexandria, Egypt where he

His Honor Kabineh M. Ja'neh was born in Bahn, Zoe-Geh District, Nimba County, Republic of Liberia. Justice Ja'neh obtained his formative early education at an Islamic teaching school where he was tutored by his father, Karmo Sorie Ja'neh.

He then pursued his high school education at the A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion Academy in Monrovia, where he obtained his High School Diploma, in 1979. Justice Ja'neh immediately commenced his public service career after his high school studies as a "clerk" in the Civil Engineering Department of the National Port Authority, Freeport of Monrovia, whilst at the same time, in pursuit of higher education. His educational quest then took him to the University of Liberia where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree in Geography in 1987. In the same year, Justice Ja'neh received a Teacher's Certificate from a Khartoum, Sudan-based Specialized Teacher's Training Group; a qualification which found

studied and received a Diploma in Planning and Administration of the Maritime Industry. In 1994, Justice Ja'neh studied and received another Diploma in Organizational Techniques, Planning & Port Management from APEC (Association of Port Engineering Consultants), in Antwerp, Belgium, the same year Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh was admitted to the Liberian National Bar as an Attorney-At-Law. In 1995, Justice Ja'neh furthered attained a Diploma in General Maritime Administration (to include Laws of the Sea for senior port administrators) through a specialized training program conducted by the Louisiana State University, New Orleans, Louisiana, the United States of America (USA). Justice Ja'neh holds a Certificate in Opinion Drafting and Legal Writing which he obtained from the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, USA.

**PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**  
Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh began his public and professional services as a "clerk" in

the Civil Engineering Department of the National Port Authority at the Freeport of Monrovia, immediately after his graduation from High School, in 1979. Justice Ja'neh's service at the National Port Authority spanned over a period of eighteen (18) years during which time he rose through the ranks occupying various positions to include; Senior Statistician, Superintendent (Container and Pier) and Operations Manager. He also served as Port Manager of the Freeport of Monrovia (between 1995 – 1997).

Following his admission to the Liberian National Bar as an Attorney-At-Law, in 1994, Justice Ja'neh embarked on his legal practice by associating with the Freeport Legal Section, Center for Law and Human Rights Education, Association of Liberian Professional Lawyers and later joined the firm, Legal Services, Inc. operated by Mr. Justice Karmo Soko Sackor, Sr. and Counsellor Snonsio E. Nigba as Senior Partners. In 1998, Mr. Justice Ja'neh was admitted to the Supreme Court Bar as a Counsellor-At-Law further enhancing his legal career.

Mr. Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh was called to further service to his nation, when he served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Republic of Liberia (between 2003 and early 2006), during which time he also served as Chairman of the Mano River Union Security Council. As Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Justice Ja'neh attended and received a Certificate in Harmonization of International Penal Code held in Beijing, China in 2004.

In 2006, Mr. Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh, then Counsellor Kabineh M. Ja'neh was nominated and subsequently appointed Associate Justice to the Honorable Supreme Court Bench of

the Republic of Liberia. Justice Ja'neh continues to demonstrate his dedication and commitment to service to Country in this position, working collaboratively with His Honor the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices to reform the Liberian Judiciary for a more efficient and effective dispensation of Justice. It is this commitment that saw Justice Ja'neh chairing the Steering Committee leading to the establishment of the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Institute where he served as the first Chairman of the Board of Governors of that institute from 2008 to 2010. Mr. Justice Ja'neh is also a lecturer in Criminal Law, Department of Criminal Justice at the A.M.E. Zion University.

**PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL AFFILIATION**  
Mr. Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh is proud to affiliate and associate with various international and local professional and humanitarian organizations. These include; Board Member, International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC); Member, Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia; Member, Communita Di Sant' Egidio (Catholic Church), Rome, Italy; Member, Board of Trustees, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Academy, Monrovia; Executive Member, Muslim Congress of Liberia; Founding Member, Student Integration Movement (SIM), University of Liberia; President; Geography Students Association of the University of Liberia (GEOSAUL) (1986 – 1987).

Mr. Justice Ja'neh has great appreciation of the people of the world due to his vast travel experience that has taken him to over thirty (30) countries across Africa, The Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

# UNMIL GENEROUSLY DONATES TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIARY

In an effort to effectively uphold the rule of law in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), made a number of donations to the Judiciary.

The donations included equipment, stationery and furniture to enhance the performances at the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, Todee Magisterial Court, Public Defenders Central Office, Case Processing Unit, and the Circuit Courts in Montserrado.

Making the presentation Thursday, February 1, 2018 at the Temple of Justice, UNMIL's Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General for Rule of Law, (DSRSG) Waldemar Vrey,

pledged the UN's continuous support to the Judiciary despite its limited time left to completely drawdown.

The DSRSG expressed optimism that Rule of Law in Liberia will be stronger than ever, in the absence of UNMIL. He also mentioned that UNMIL is proud that the judiciary is focused on things far ahead.

Mr. Vrey told the gathering that the supplies and equipment were made possible through the help of the UN High Commission on Human Rights, with funding from UNMIL and support from the Judiciary.



# Judge calls for enforcement of pro independent judiciary laws

The Resident Circuit Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit Court, River Gee County has called for the enforcement of laws aimed at promoting the administration of impartial justice by judges and the enhancement of an independent judiciary in Liberia.

His Honor, George W. Smith said, judicial independence and judges' impartiality are critical to the administration of unprejudiced justice, which is believed to be the foundation of any democratic nation.

Delivering his charge at the opening of the February A.D. 2018 Term of Court in Fishtown, River Gee County, Judge

Smith added that the administration of impartial justice fosters and sustains peace, and encourages investment that consequently leads to economic development of a nation.

In a well-researched charge, the Circuit Judge noted that, "in order for judges to administer impartial justice, they must be independent in the discharge of their judicial duties," describing "independence" as a core value and pre-requisite of judges, the Judiciary, and the rule of law.

According to Judge Smith, "Judicial independence and impartiality of judges mean that judges must be free from

external pressure, like influence from other branches of government that make policies affecting judges. Judicial independence and impartiality of judges also means that judges must be free from internal pressure or influence – internal pressure and influence from colleague judges and superior judges."

Speaking further, the Resident Circuit Judge of River Gee County said independence and impartiality of judges bring about public trust and confidence in the courts; maintaining that once

**"THE JUDICIARY" IS PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE LIBERIAN JUDICIARY AT THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, ON CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.**

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