

JUDGE'S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF COURT

By: Her Honor Serena F. Garlawolu, Assigned Judge, 8th Judicial Circuit Court in Sanniquellie Nimba County

Summary

In her opening charge for the May Term 2026, Judge Serena F. Garlawolu commended lawyers, court staff, and judicial officers for their professionalism and dedication during the February Term, which saw significant reductions in both criminal and civil dockets. She emphasized that the justice system thrives when the Bar and bench work together, and praised the collective discipline, integrity, and diligence that uphold public confidence in the judiciary. While acknowledging challenges in the administration of justice, she urged continued commitment to fairness, accountability, and cooperation to improve the judicial system and society.



JUDGE'S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF COURT

By: Her Honor Nancy Finda Sammy Resident Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit Court in Lofa County

Summary

Judge Nancy F. Sammy opened the May Term of Court with a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to her colleagues before shifting to a sobering theme: the devastating impact of drugs on Liberia's youth and the critical role of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA). She described how substances like Kush, tramadol, cocaine, and heroin were destroying young lives, tearing families apart, and fueling crime. While praising the courage of LDEA officers, she condemned corruption within the agency and warned against illegal searches and coerced confessions, reminding all of constitutional protections. She urged communities, schools, churches, mosques, and traditional leaders to unite in the fight, pledging the Judiciary's impartial support. With a call for integrity, vigilance, and justice, she declared that Lofa County would not be a safe haven for drug lords and formally opened the May 2026 Term of Court with hope for a drug-free Liberia.



JUDGE’S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF COURT

By: His Honor Geeplah Tiklo Konton, Assigned Circuit Judge, 1st Judicial Circuit Court, Criminal Court “D” Temple of Justice

Summary

Presiding over Criminal Assizes “D,” Judge Geeplah Tiklo Konton delivered a stirring charge, urging the judiciary to uphold integrity, dismiss lingering cases, and serve as a beacon of hope for Liberia’s citizens. Judge Konton reminded his colleagues that the courts are the “last place of hope for the human race,” stressing the herculean responsibility judges bear in interpreting the law. He called for justice to be dispensed without fear or favor, warning that cases exceeding statutory limits must be dismissed. He emphasized the collective role of communities, law enforcement, courts, and rehabilitation of institutions.

He urged citizens and residents of Montserrado County to report crimes promptly, cautioning that failure to do so would be akin to “stabbing justice in the back.” His charge reinforced the judiciary’s role as the cornerstone of peace, unity, and progress, challenging residents to actively pursue justice during this new term of court.



JUDGE'S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF Court

**By: Her Honor Mamieta Jabateh Sirleaf, Assigned Circuit Judge, 5th Judicial
Circuit Court, Grand Cape Mount County**

Summary

On May 11, 2026, the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court of Grand Cape Mount County opened its May Term with Her Honor Mamieta Jabateh Sirleaf presiding. In her charge, Judge Jabateh Sirleaf invoked God's guidance and addressed one of Liberia's most pressing judicial challenges. Her Honor Mamieta Jabateh Sirleaf spoke in the presence of His Honor Associate Justice Boakai N. Kanneh, who was attending the opening of the court. Speaking on the prolonged detention of pre-trial detainees, she emphasized that such delays violate constitutional rights to speedy trial and due process.

She urged the Government of Liberia to prioritize funding for the timely prosecution of criminal cases. Acknowledging the tension between releasing accused persons without trial and detaining innocent citizens indefinitely. Her Honor Mamieta Jabateh Sirleaf reaffirmed her oath to uphold the Constitution and called on lawyers, prosecutors, and the judiciary to ensure justice remains both fair and responsive to public perception. With this solemn reminder of duty, she declared the May Term of Court A.D. 2026 formally open for the transaction of legal business.



JUDGE’S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF COURT

By: His Honor T. Ciapha Carey, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit Court, Bomi County

Summary

Declaring the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Bomi County formally open for the May Term of Court, A.D. 2026, Cllr. T. Ciapha Carey, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit Court, Bomi County, said judges are the administrators of justice, but justice itself belongs to the people. The strength of democracy depends on the independence of the judiciary, the integrity of jurors, and the trust of citizens. When these pillars stand firm, the rule of law prevails, corruption is defeated, and justice shines as a beacon for all.

Judge Carey spoke on the topic “Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law.” The judge used the occasion to call on all citizens and residents of Bomi to channel their grievances through the court system. *“Do not take the law into your own hands. The court is the last place of hope for man on earth, the sanctuary where disputes are resolved according to law, not violence”*, he concluded.



JUDGE’S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF Court

By: His Honor Nelson T. Tokpa, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 4th Judicial Circuit Court, Maryland County

Summary

His Honor Nelson T. Tokpa, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 4th Judicial Circuit Court, Maryland County, delivered his charge on the theme: *“The Physical Impact of the Rule of Law.”* Judge Tokpa explained that the rule of law, rooted in ancient traditions and refined through global consensus, rests on four universal principles: accountability, just law, open government, and accessible impartial justice. Together, these principles ensure that governments and private actors are held responsible under the law, that laws are clear and applied equally, that governance is transparent and responsive, and that justice is delivered fairly, free from corruption or undue influence.

He noted that when upheld, the rule of law strengthens democracy, protects human rights, and fosters trust in institutions. Its physical impact is seen in healthier societies, stronger economies, improved education, and lasting peace—reminding us that no matter who we are or where we live, the rule of law shapes justice, opportunity, and stability for all.



**JUDGE'S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF Court
By: His Honor A. Blamo Dixon, Assigned Circuit Court Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit
Court, Rivercess County**

Summary

In his opening charge for the May Term of Court A. D. 2026, the Assigned Judge of the 14th Judicial Circuit Court, Rivercess County, His Honor A. Blamo Dixon pledged to deliver transparent justice to the more than 71,509 inhabitants of Rivercess County, emphasizing cooperation among county attorneys, public defenders, magistrates, court staff, and the local bar for a successful May Term of Court. He warned against tampering with jurors, stressing that they are judges of fact and must act with integrity, and that lawyers or jurors engaging in misconduct would face serious consequences.

Public defenders were urged to proactively defend the rights of indigent citizens and pre-trial detainees, ensuring fairness in challenges against state prosecutors. Judge Dixon reminded all officials that they are equally subject to the law, clarifying that while the Ministry of Justice is the custodian of prisoners, only the courts have authority to order releases, which county attorneys cannot block. His message underscored teamwork, accountability, and the court's role as the ultimate place of hope for justice in Rivercess County.



JUDGE’S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026, OPENING OF COURT

By: Her Honor Victoria Worlobah Duncan, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi County

Summary

On Monday, May 11, 2026, Her Honor Victoria Worlobah Duncan, Resident Circuit Court Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi County, described justice as a living commitment in Margibi County. Delivering her charge at the formal opening of the May Term A. D. 2026, the court said it exists to uphold justice without fear or favor, carrying the solemn responsibility of resolving disputes, protecting rights, and ensuring accountability. “Justice is not abstract but a living commitment that touches families and communities, requiring impartiality, patience, courage, and integrity. Judges must listen carefully, deliberate thoroughly, and act fairly, while members of the Margibi County Bar are urged to practice civility and respect, as their conduct sets the tone for proceedings,” the judge stated.

According to her, the pursuit of justice is advanced not by hostility but by reasoned argument and adherence to ethical standards. Decisions made in court ripple outward, shaping lives and communities, reminding us that the law is not merely a system of rules but a covenant with the people—a promise that fairness and truth will prevail.

Judge Duncan reminded those selected to serve on the jury that they embody the principle that justice is not the province of judges alone, but of the people themselves. She said that serving as a juror brings conscience, common sense, and the community's values into the courtroom, among other things.

“This duty is not easy; it requires impartiality, patience, and courage. Jurors must set aside personal bias, resist outside influence, and commit themselves wholly to the truth”, she added.



JUDGE'S CHARGE DELIVERED FOR THE MAY TERM, A.D. 2026 OPENING OF Court

**By: His Honor Onesimus Barwon, Assigned Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial
Circuit Court, River Gee County**

Summary

At the opening of the May Term A.D. 2026 of the 15th Judicial Circuit Court in River Gee County, the Assigned Judge His Honor Onesimus Barwon, emphasized that crime is a major threat to peace, development, and human dignity, noting its destructive impact on lives, families, and economic growth.

Speaking on “The Role of the Community in the Fight against Crime,” he stressed that combating crime is not solely the duty of police, courts, and prisons, but a collective responsibility requiring active citizen participation. Judge Barwon highlighted that communities serve as the first line of defense, with a moral obligation to instill values such as honesty, respect, discipline, and responsibility, especially among young people, to prevent criminal behavior and foster a peaceful society built on trust, unity, and cooperation.

