

To Safeguard Liberia's Legal Profession

**... Supreme Court Instructs Foreign Law School Graduates
Take Additional Courses**



The Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., has declared that foreign law school graduates intending to practice law in Liberia must take additional courses to meet the Supreme Court of Liberia's requirements and safeguard the legal profession.

On Monday, October 12, 2026, at the Supreme Court's October term opening, His Honor, Chief Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., clarified that some Liberians who traveled abroad and graduated from foreign law schools have not met the requirements to practice law in Liberia.

He explained that the Supreme Court of Liberia, under Chapter 17 of the New Judiciary Law of Liberia and the current constitution, is mandated to regulate the practice of law in Liberia.

The Chief Justice noted that the New Judiciary Law's enabling statute requires that, to be admitted to practice law in Liberia, an applicant must graduate from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law or another recognized law school.

“By the authority vested in the Supreme Court to regulate the practice of law, the Supreme Court is the only legal authority to determine which law schools are recognized.”

Continuing this justification, the Chief Justice, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., further explained that the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law (LAGSL) standing policy requires that an applicant for admission must have obtained a first degree with a specified grade point average (GPA) and passed the aptitude test.

“In the face of these requirements, the office of the Chief Justice, having received scores of applicants for admission to the Bar to practice Law from institutions abroad, and in an effort to determine whether these applicants are from recognized law schools as contemplated by the Statute, the Supreme Court constituted a 12-man committee headed by a former professor of Law, Cllr. Emmanuel James, to examine the credentials of the applicants”

He further explained that the committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court's full bench with appropriate recommendations. “The report determined that most of the applicants did not meet the minimum requirement of 90 credit hours or 3 academic years of rigorous study required under our jurisdiction. The committee report was therefore analyzed by the full bench, which came out

with a policy guideline that requires the applicants to do additional specified courses at either of the two law schools to qualify them to be tested and subsequently admitted to practice law in this jurisdiction.”

This effort aims to ensure the quality of law practice in our country, because inadequate knowledge of the law leads to poor administration of justice and, eventually, poor governance. As we reform the Judiciary, we must simultaneously improve the standards governing the legal profession. The Supreme Court will therefore continue to work with the Liberian National Bar Association, our law schools, senior members of the profession and other stakeholders to ensure that legal practice in Liberia develops in a manner consistent with the growing complexity of our society, economy and system of justice,” among other things, he concluded.