



Institute for African Women in Law

The IAWL
**Gender
Scorecard**
2025

Women in Law & Leadership
Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General



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www.africanwil.org

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Ministers of Justice
& Attorneys General**

Executive Summary

The Institute for African Women in Law's Gender Scorecard on Women in Law and Leadership presents statistics on the representation of women as Ministers of Justice and or Attorneys General. Data on women in leadership is crucial for assessing their equitable access to decision-making processes. In several countries, Ministers of Justice or Attorneys General operate within the executive branch, and the limited number of women in these positions aligns with findings from research on women's representation in executive and cabinet roles across Africa.

The difference in terminology between common law and civil law traditions influenced our decision to use "Minister of Justice" and or "Attorney General." In common law countries, these two roles are often combined, while in civil law countries, the role of Attorney General may be distinct from that of the Minister of Justice.

The legal field has historically been male-dominated, with women significantly underrepresented in leadership positions. However, in recent years, many countries have witnessed an increase in the number of women graduating from law schools and a gradual diversification of gender within the legal profession.

The Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL) research on Women in Law and Leadership in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Senegal highlights various factors contributing to the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles. These factors include differences in negotiation and networking abilities, a lack of institutional mentoring opportunities, gender biases, and negative stereotypes regarding women.

The Gender Equality in Law Campaign (GELC), launched in 2024, aligns with the IAWL's vision of enhancing women's capacity in law through training, advocacy, research, and mentorship. The Women in Law and Leadership Gender Scorecard represents the first step toward achieving gender equality in leadership positions within the legal field. It will guide future interventions to support women's advancements in law and leadership.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The information referenced in this edition was gathered at the end of February 2025. As a result, some details may not reflect the most current numbers since the data were obtained. While we strive to ensure accuracy and reliability, we acknowledge that data and insights may evolve over time. We assume no responsibility for outdated websites or sources.

We encourage you to reach out if you have credible updates, corrections, or additional verified information. Your contributions help us maintain accuracy and improve the quality of our content.

For any updates or clarifications, please contact us at info@africanwil.org



WHO

African women as Ministers of Justice
(or Attorneys General)



WHAT

The representation of women as
Ministers of Justice (or Attorneys
General)



SOURCE

Publicly available data on the websites
of the courts profiled.



RANKS

Ministers of Justice (or Attorneys General)



GENDER

IAWL acknowledges that gender is socially constructed and that the meaning of the term “gender” varies between societies and changes over time. While acknowledging expansive gender identities, this project uses the binary division of male and female to classify the representation of men and women on the scorecards. For this project, we use the visual gender representation of the binary male and female rather than the self-identified gender identity of the individuals.



The Gender Scorecard presents data collected at the end of 2024. As a result, some of the details provided may not reflect the most current numbers since the data were obtained. IAWL assumes no responsibility for outdated websites.

AT A GLANCE

The IAWL
**Gender
Scorecard**
2025



45
Countries



103
Ministers of Justice/
Attorneys General



9
Deputy Attorneys
General

Ministers of Justice & Attorneys General



The IAWL
**Gender
Scorecard**
2025



Mmako Mpelegang Abram

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Botswana	Attorney General	Hybrid	2023	N/A



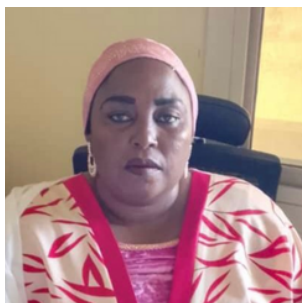
Domine Banyanikomba

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Burundi	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2022	N/A



Joana Rosa

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Cabo Verde	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2021	N/A



Zamzam Ismaël Issouf

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Comoros	Public Prosecutor	Civil Law	2012	N/A



Sori Nayé Henriette

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Cote d'Ivoire	Attorney General	Civil Law	2022	N/A



Fozia Hashim

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Eritrea	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	1993	N/A



Pholile Shakantu

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Eswatini	Minister of Justice	Mixed (Civil, Common and Customary Law)	2018	N/A



Hanna Aryaselassie

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Ethiopia	Minister of Justice	Civil	2024	N/A



Dorcas Agik Oduor

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Kenya	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	2024	N/A



Mahali Phamotse

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Lesotho	Minister of Justice	Common law and Roman-Dutch law	20217	N/A



Rahmona Ziani

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Morocco	Public Prosecutor	Civil Law and Islamic Law	2018	N/A



Helena Kida

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Mozambique	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2020	N/A



Angelique Habyarimana

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Rwanda	Prosecutor General	Civil/Common Law and Customary Law	2024	N/A



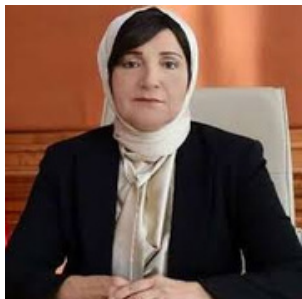
Ilza Maria dos Santos Amado Vaz

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Sao Tome and Principe	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2022	N/A



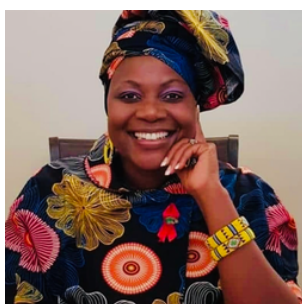
Mmamoloko Kubayi

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
South Africa	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2024	N/A



Leïla Jaffel

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Tunisia	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Islamic Law	2021	N/A



Princess Kasune

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Zambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2024	N/A



Virginia Mabiza

Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Zimbabwe	Attorney General	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2023	Present

FORMER MOJ/AG

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Kaddache Ghania	Algeria	Attorney General	Civil Law and Islamic Law	2008	N/A
Guilhermina Contreiras da Costa Prata	Angola	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2008	2012
Grâce d'Almeida Adamon	Benin	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Civil law	1995	1996
Marie-Elise Gbèdo	Benin	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Civil law	2012	2013
Athaliah Molokomme	Botswana	Attorney General	Hybrid	2005	2016
Lesego Motsumi	Botswana	Minister of Justice	Hybrid	2010	2011
Bibata Nebie	Burkina Faso	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2022	2023
Joséphine Ouédraogo	Burkina Faso	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2014	2016
Marie Louise Nignan-Bassolet	Burkina Faso	Minister of Justice	Civil law	1982	1983
Jeanine Nibizi	Burundi	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2020	2022
Aimée Laurentine Kanyana	Burundi	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2015	2020

FORMER MOJ/AG

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Maria Ancilla Ntakaburimvo	Burundi	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2010	2011
Clotilde Niragira	Burundi	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2005	2007
Janine Lélis	Cabo Verde	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2016	2021
Marisa Helena Morais	Cabo Verde	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2008	2011
Cristina Fontes Lima	Cabo Verde	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2001	2006
Januaria Moreira	Cabo Verde	Minister of Justice	Civil law	1999	2001
Justine Aimée Ngounou Tchokonthieu	Cameroon	Attorney General	Civil law	2015	N/A
Isabelle Gaudeuille	Central African Republic	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2014	2016
Harimia Ahmed	Comoros	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Islamic Law	2007	N/A
Wivine Mumba Matipa	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2012	2015
Claire Masiala Kaza	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Advocate General	Civil Law and Customary Law	2023	N/A

FORMER MOJ/AG

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Jacqueline Oble	Cote d'Ivoire	Minister of Justice	Civil law	1990	1994
Victorine Gboko-Dailly Wodié	Cote d'Ivoire	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2002	2003
Henriette Diabate	Cote d'Ivoire	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2003	2005
Adanech Abebe	Ethiopia	Attorney General	Civil law	2020	2020
Evangelina Oyo Ebule	Equatorial Guinea	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2013	N/A
Sophie Diouly	Gabon	Minister of Justice	Mixed (Civil Law and Customary Law)	1987	1989
Honorine Dossou Naki	Gabon	Minister of Justice	Mixed (Civil Law and Customary Law)	2002	2008
Denise Mekamme	Gabon	Minister of Justice	Mixed (Civil Law and Customary Law)	2017	2018
Erlyne Antonella Ndembet	Gabon	Minister of Justice	Mixed (Civil Law and Customary Law)	2019	2023

FORMER MOJ/AG

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Hawa Sisay-Sabally	Gambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	1996	1998
Fatou Bensouda	Gambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	1998	2000
Marie Saine-Firdaus	Gambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	2007	2010
Amie Joof	Gambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	2013	2013
Mama Fatima Singhateh	Gambia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	2013 2015	2014 2017
Betty Mould-Iddrisu	Ghana	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2009	2011
Marietta Brew Appiah-Oppong	Ghana	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2013	2017
Gloria Akuffo	Ghana	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2017	2021

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Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Paulette Kourouma	Guinea	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2007	2008
Fatoumata Yarie Soumah	Guinea	Minister of Justice	Civil law	2017	2021
Antonieta Rosa Gomes	Guinea Bissau	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2000	2001
Carmelita Pires	Guinea Bissau	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2007	2009
Ruth Monteiro	Guinea Bissau	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2019	2020
Martha Karua	Kenya	Minister of Justice	Common, Customary and Islamic Law	2006	2009
Mpeo Mahase-Moiloa	Lesotho	Minister of Justice	Common law and Roman-Dutch law	2007	2012
Gloria Musu-Scott	Liberia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	1996	N/A
Frances Johnson-Allison	Liberia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2006	2007
Christiana Tah	Liberia	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2009	2014
Frances Johnson-Allison	Liberia	Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	1998	2006

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Alice Rajaonah	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2002	2004
Lala Henriette Ratsiharovala	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2004	2007
Christine Harijaona Razanamahasoa	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2009	2013
Noëline Ramanantenasoa	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2014	2016
Elise Alexandrine Rasolo	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2017	2018
Harimisa Nolo Vololona	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2018	2019
Randriamanante nasoa Landy Mbolatiana	Madagascar	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2023	2024
Jane Ansah	Malawi	Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2007	2011
Fatoumata Sylla	Mali	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2004	2007
Sanogo Aminata Mallé	Mali	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2015	2016

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra	Mauritius	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Hybrid	1982	1983
Beatriz Buchili	Mozambique	Attorney General	Civil Law and Customary Law	2014	2024
Esperanza Machavela	Mozambique	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2007	2008
Maria Benvinda Levy	Mozambique	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2008	2015
Iivula-Ithana Pendukeni	Namibia	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2005	2012
Yvonne Dausab	Namibia	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2020	2025
Iivula-Ithana Pendukeni	Namibia	Attorney General	Civil Law and Customary Law	2001	2008
Agnès Ntamabyaliro Rutagwera	Rwanda	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	1993	1994
Edda Mukabagwiza	Rwanda	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2003	2006
Elsa Teixeira Pinto	Sao Tome and Principe	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2004	2006
Edite Tenjua	Sao Tome and Principe	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2012	2014

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Ilza Maria dos Santos Amado Vaz	Sao Tome and Principe	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2016	2018
Ivete Santos Lima Correia	Sao Tome and Principe	Minister of Justice	Civil Law and Customary Law	2018	2022
Elsa Teixeira Pinto	Sao Tome and Principe	Attorney General	Civil Law and Customary Law	2013	N/A
Aïssata Tall Sall	Senegal	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2023	2024
Aminata Touré	Senegal	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2012	2013
Mame Madior Boye	Senegal	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	2000	2002
Priscilla Schwartz	Sierra Leone	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2018	2020
Thembi Simelane	South Africa	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2024	2024
Brigitte Mabandla	South Africa	Minister of Justice	Civil, Common and Customary Law	2004	2008
Asha-Rose Migiro	Tanzania	Minister of Justice	Common, Customary and Islamic Law)	2014	2015

FORMER MOJ/AG

Name	Country	Designation	Legal tradition	Start date	End date
Mary Michael Nagu	Tanzania	Minister of Justice	Common, Customary and Islamic Law)	2006	2008
Bibi Yao Savi de Tove	Togo	Minister of Justice	Civil Law	1978	1980
Janat Mukwaya	Uganda	Minister of Justice & Attorney General	Common and Customary Law	2004	2005

Deputy Ministers of Justice & Attorneys General



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**Gender
Scorecard**
2025

Deputy Ministers of Justice & Attorneys General



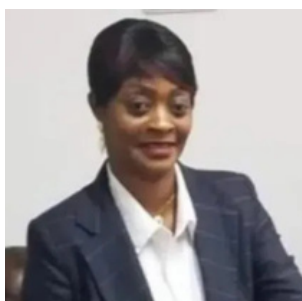
Inocencia Pinto

Country	Designation	Start date	End date
Angola	Deputy Prosecutor General	2023	N/A



Dalia El-Nemaky

Country	Designation	Start date	End date
Egypt	Deputy Attorney General	2023	N/A



Saptieu Elizabeth Saccoh

Country	Designation	Start date	End date
Sierra Leone	Deputy Minister of Justice	2024	N/A

Deputy Ministers of Justice & Attorneys General



Fortune Chimbaru

Country	Designation	Start date	End date
Zimbabwe	Deputy Attorney General	2021	N/A

Former Deputy Ministers of Justice & Attorneys General

Name	Country	Designation	Start date	End date
Mmako Mpelegang Abram	Botswana	Deputy Attorney General	2018	2023
Gloria Akuffo	Ghana	Deputy Minister of justice & Deputy Attorney general	2001	2005
Diana Asonaba Dapaah	Ghana	Deputy Attorney General	2021	2024
Angie Brooks	Liberia	Assistant Attorney General	1953	1958
Isabelle KALIHANGABO	Rwanda	Assistant Attorney General	2007	2014

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