



Institute for African Women in Law

South Africa Footprint





ABOUT IAWL

Enhancing the capacity of women in law for positive societal change and development.

The Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL) is a Pan-African non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., and Accra, Ghana. IAWL is committed to supporting the formidable works of women in law across Africa and the African diaspora. Our goal is to be a focal point for addressing issues across the legal and judicial professions.

MISSION

To enhance potential, nurture leadership, create opportunities, and build partnerships.

VISION

To build a network of legal professionals devoted to using the law as a tool for positive societal change and advancement.

FOCUS AREAS

We center women in all our approaches and interventions.

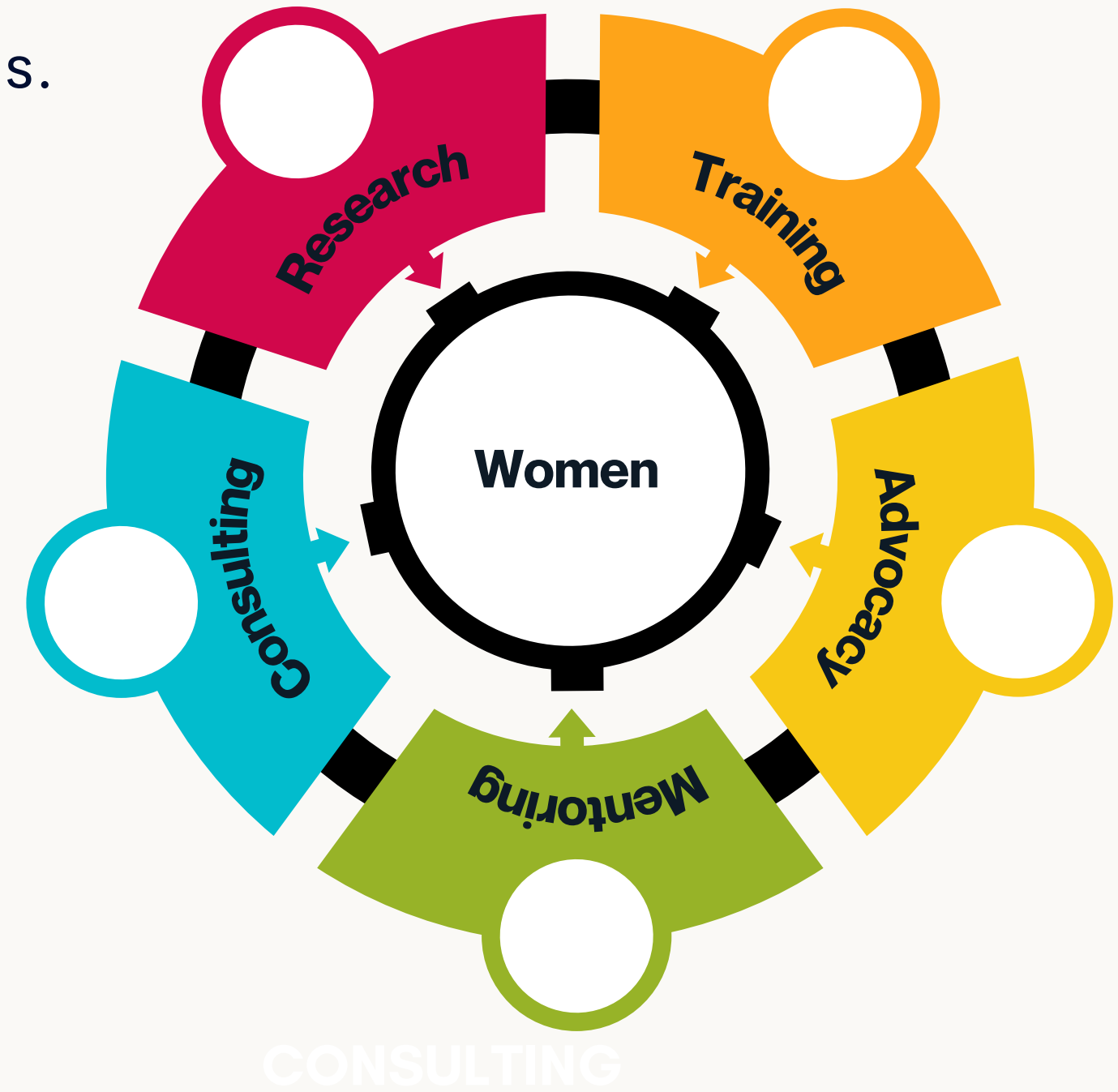
OUR APPROACH

01 Strategic Partnerships

02 Innovative Programming

03 Coalition Building

04 Knowledge Production

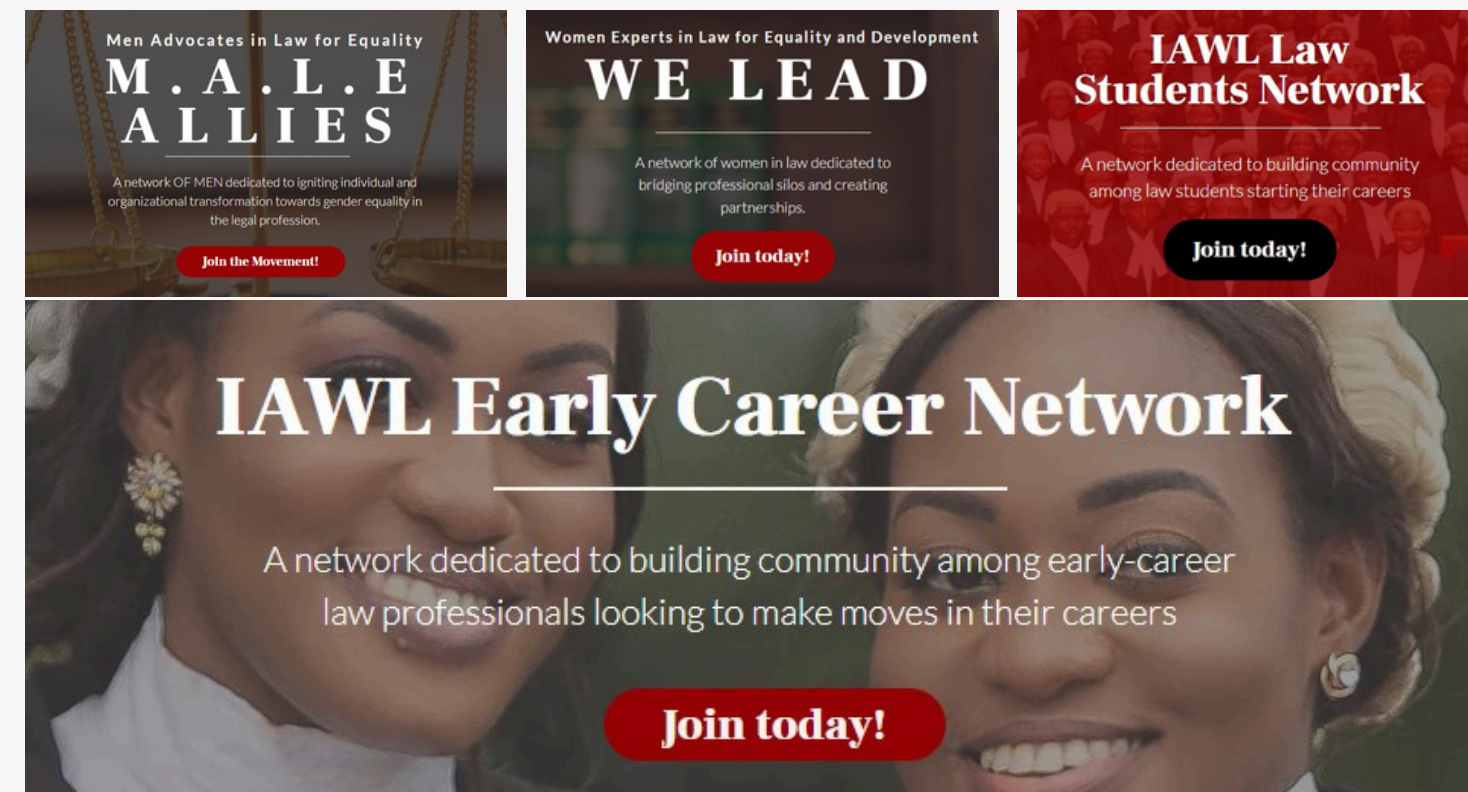


What we do

Women's Excellence in Law and Leadership Academy

An innovative initiative to train and develop the capacity of 500,000+ women for leadership and professional development in the next five years.

Training

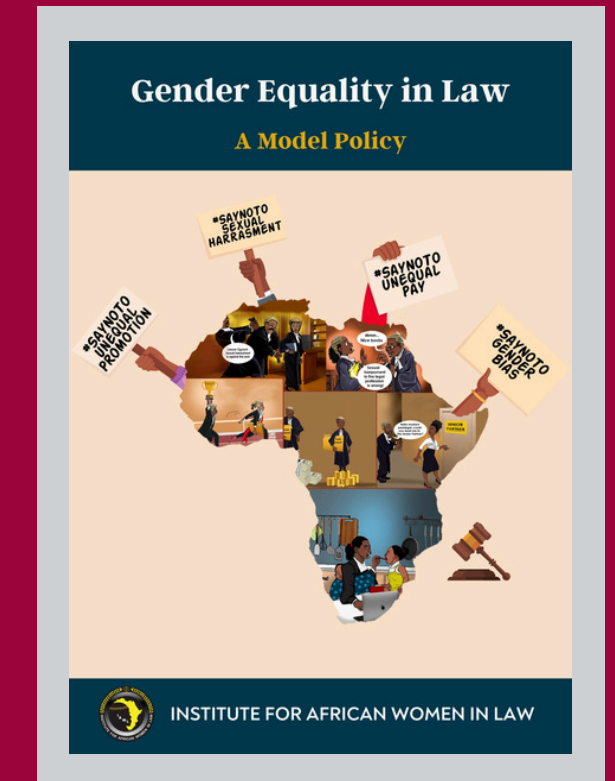


IAWL has four networks for legal professionals devoted to using the law as a tool for positive societal change and development!

What we do

Advocacy

Engaging in high-level advocacy that has sparked important conversations and brought attention to the need for gender balance in the legal profession.



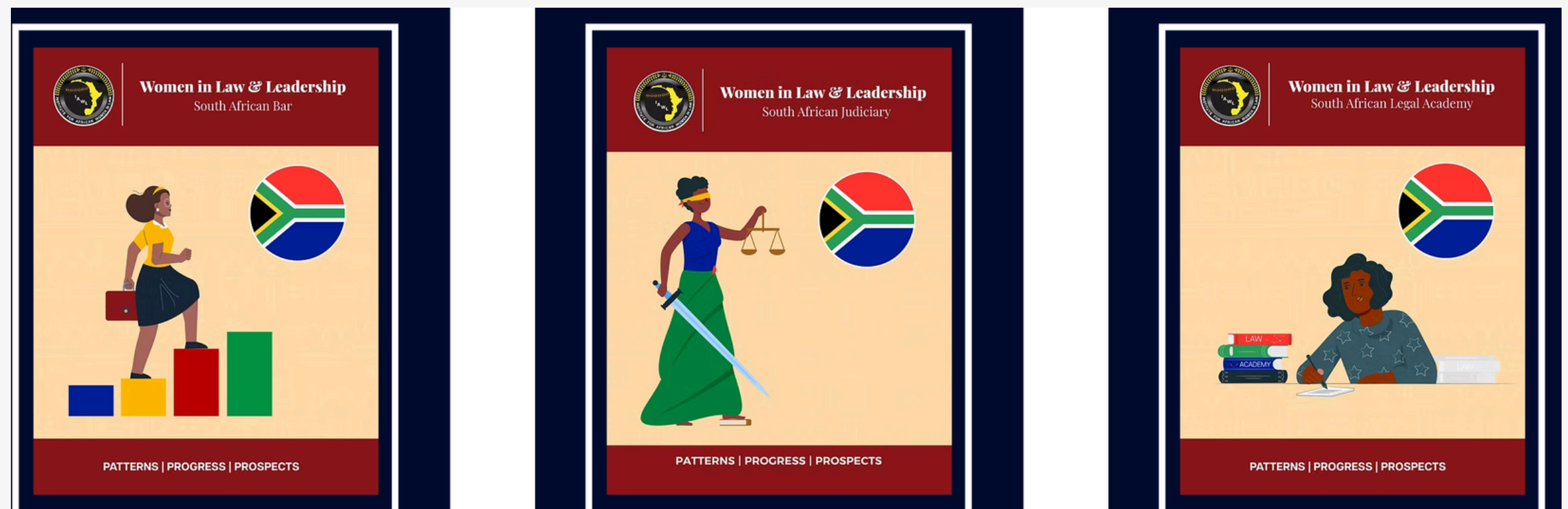
- Created opportunities for women in leadership: Successfully advocated for the appointment/ election of qualified women in law into national and international leadership positions.
- Launched the Gender Equality in Law Campaign (GELC) to effect policy and practice reforms for equitable and women-inclusive institutional practices and policies.

What we do

Research



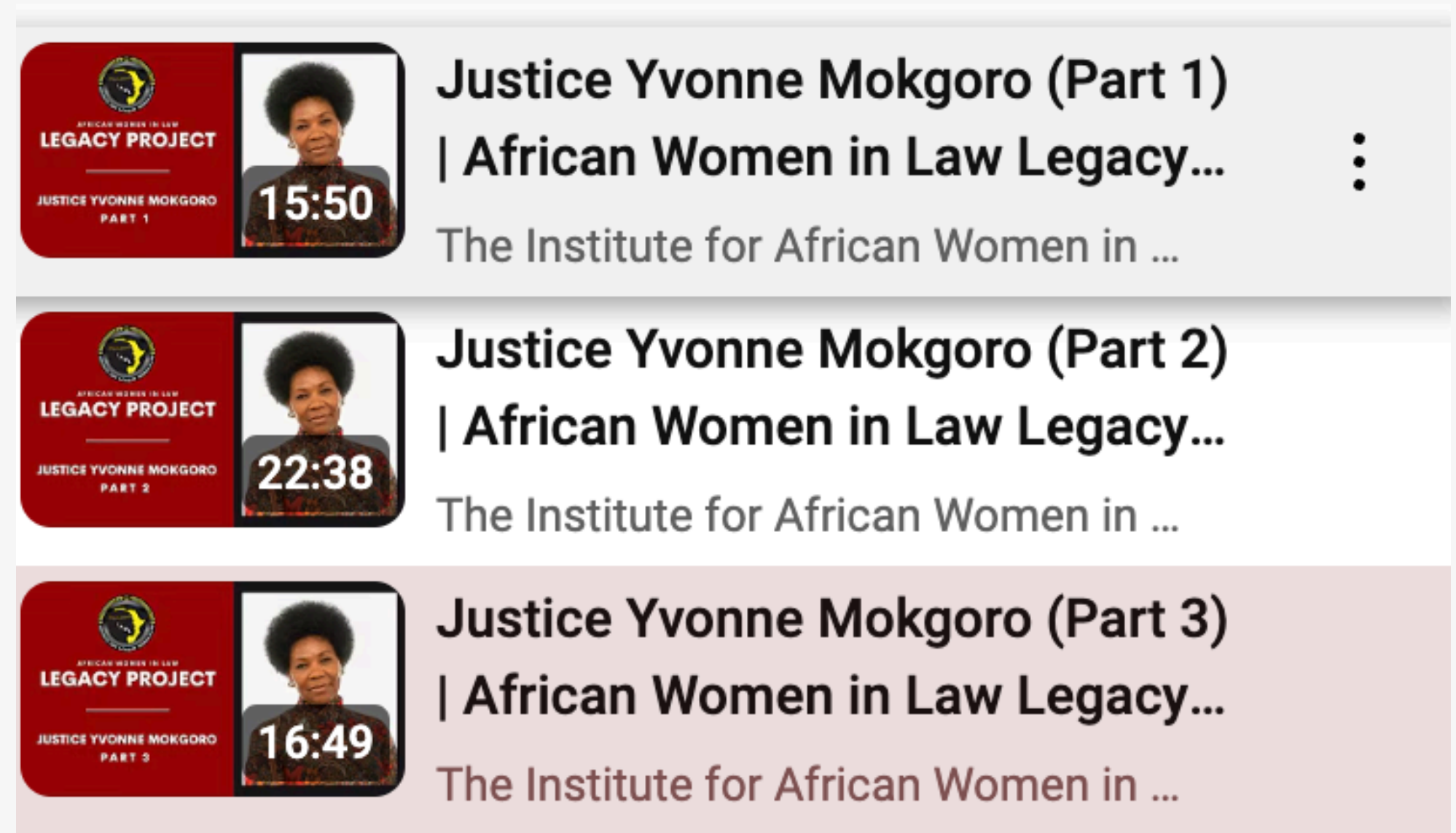
- Harness the power of **storytelling** to restore and preserve the historical agency of African women in law.
- Highlight the **often-overlooked contributions** of African women in law and ignite inspiration among women across the continent and beyond.
- Call attention to the **gender disparity in law institutions** and HOLD them accountable for their commitment to gender equality, driving them to take meaningful steps toward creating inclusive environments.
- Provide a **model plan** for stakeholders and civil society to take decisive steps toward systemic change for a more equitable legal profession.



African Women in Law Legacy Project

The Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL) presents an oral history project, the African Women in Law Legacy Project – documenting the life stories of pioneer and iconic African women in law.

Digital Archive



Our Convenings

In 2023, we launched the Leadership reports in high-level convenings in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa.

NUMBERS

500+
women in law across the
legal profession.

REACH

Legal professionals
Diplomatic corps,
Government officials,
International Non-
Governmental
Organizations (INGOs),
and more .



IMPACT

Received multiple
collaborative requests
from other organizations
and individuals.



Our Convenings

In 2024, we launched the Gender Equality in Law Campaign in Accra, Ghana.

200+ lawyers in attendance



20+ Ghanaian law firms represented



ENGAGING THE AFRICAN UNION



GELC endorsed through a Regional Consultative and Stakeholder Engagement at the African Union, in collaboration with the African Union Office of the Legal Counsel and the Office of Former Chief Justice Meaza Ashenafi.

OUR REACH & IMPACT

Our Numbers

11,000+
Annual blog readers



10,000+
Social media following

9,000+
Online event attendees

5200+
Email marketing database

1,500+ in-person
event attendees



IAWL has reached women across Africa and the African diaspora through various programs and initiatives. Our impact has been felt at individual and systemic levels as we work to empower women to make positive changes in their communities and the legal field.

Impact Testimonials

“

As a woman on the bench, I encountered my own barriers in rising to where I am today. But those barriers play out differently for different women and change over time. Therefore, the barriers this report identifies shed light on the old, new, and emerging obstacles to women's retention and promotion.

”

CJ Mandisa M. L. Maya,
Chief Justice of South Africa

“

For so long, the profession had been men's domain. Upon women's entry, we had to confront a number of patriarchal attitudes and male-driven barriers. Sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose. But I believe, as this report communicates, that having women equally represented in leadership is the way to go.

”

Mabaeng Lenyai,
President, Law Society of South Africa

Impact Testimonials

“

In my opinion, the report by the Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL) is a timely masterpiece with rich evidence that documents the intersectional challenges facing women in South Africa's legal academy. It is a valuable addition to the limited scholarship on women legal academics not only in South Africa but across Africa.

”

Najma Moosa, Ph.D.

Senior Professor, University of the Western Cape

“

The IAWL reports provide rich data and is a strong foundation for interventions to address challenges in the South African legal profession. Read the reports.

”

Kathleen Dlepu,

Former Chairperson Legal Practice Council,
South Africa



CONTACT US

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