



# INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN IN LAW

## GHANA 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.

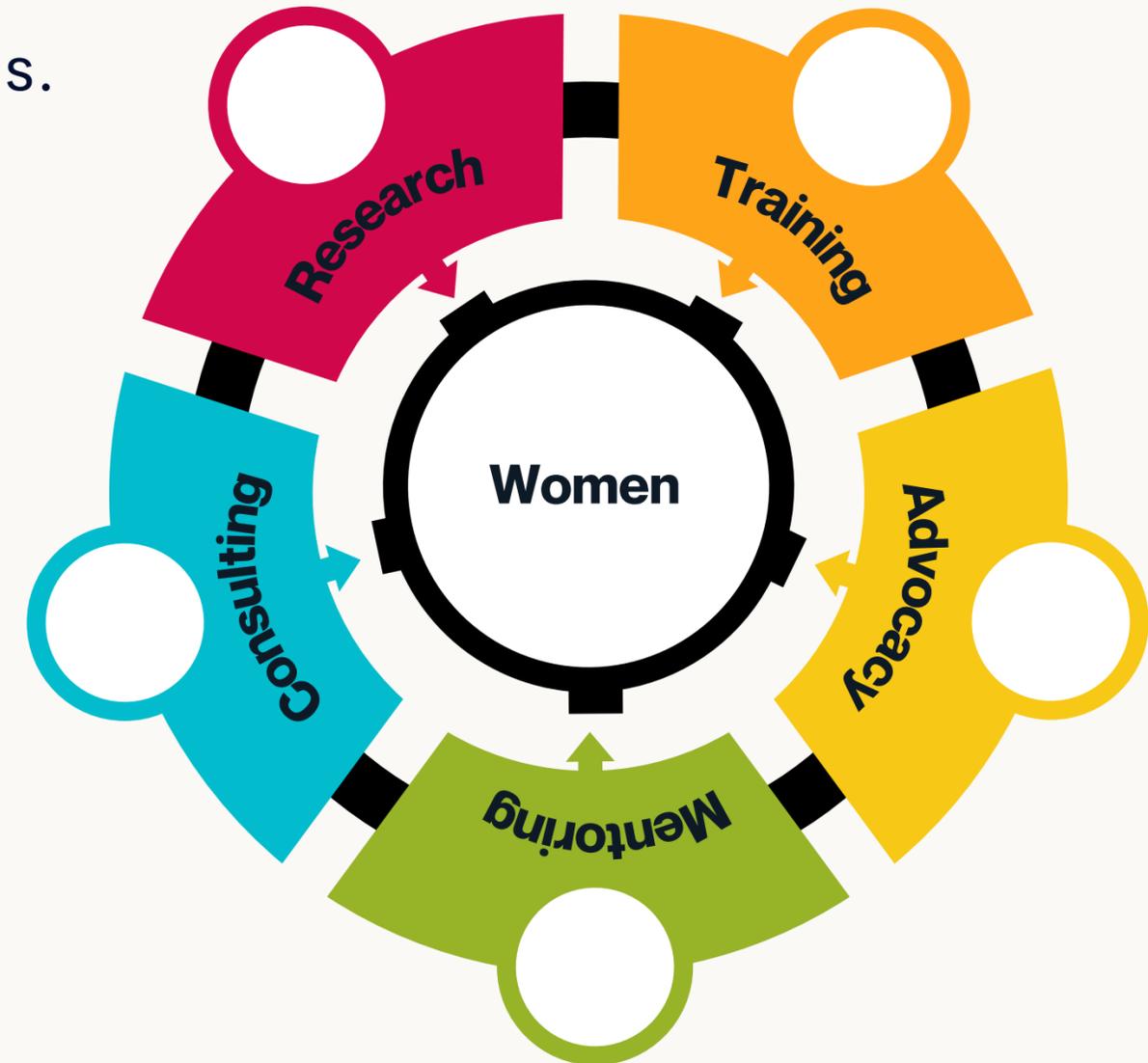


# FOCUS AREAS

 We center women in all our approaches and interventions.

## OUR APPROACH

-  Strategic Partnerships
-  Innovative Programming
-  Coalition Building
-  Knowledge Production





# Training



# IAWL Networks



## Women's Excellence in Law and Leadership Academy

A digital training initiative to train and develop the capacity of **500,000+** women for leadership and professional development in the next five years.



### WE LEAD Experts Network

A network of women in law dedicated to bridging professional silos and creating partnerships.

[Learn more](#) ↗

### M.A.L.E. Allies Network

A network OF MEN dedicated to igniting individual and organizational transformation towards gender equality in the legal profession.

[Learn more](#) ↗



### IAWL Law Student Network

A network dedicated to building community among law students starting their careers.

[Learn more](#) ↗

### IAWL Early Career Network

A network dedicated to building community among early-career law professionals looking to make moves in their careers.

[Learn more](#) ↗



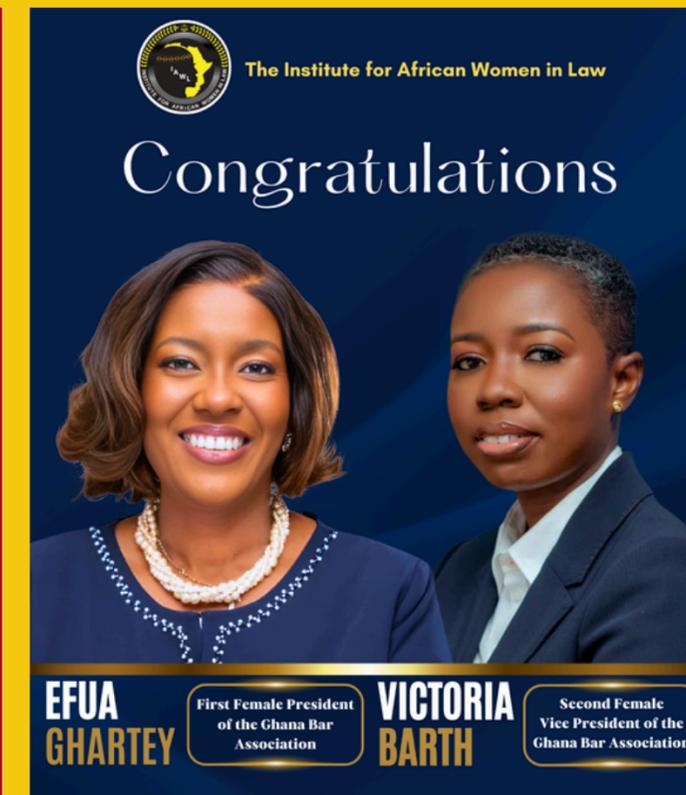
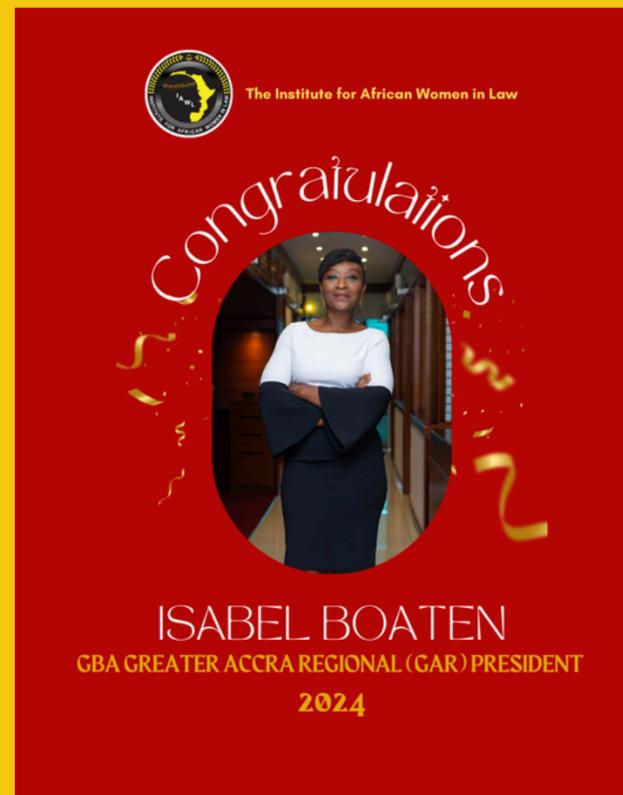
IAWL has four networks for legal professionals devoted to using the law as a tool for positive societal change and development.



# Advocacy



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



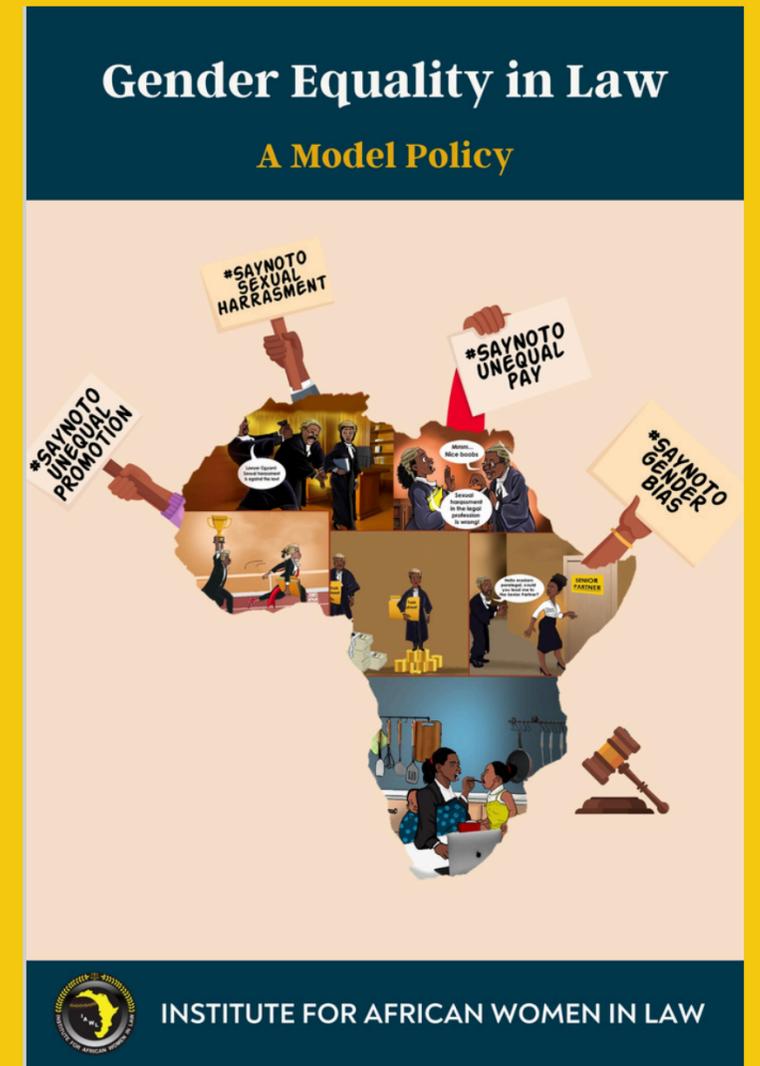
- **Created opportunities for women in leadership:** Successfully advocated for the appointment/ election of qualified women in law into national and international leadership positions.
- Launched the Gender Equality in Law Campaign (GELC) to effect policy and practice reforms for equitable and women-inclusive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



# Advocacy



Engaged with Africa-based law firms to adopt the Gender Equality in Law Model Policy to serve as a framework for creating a gender-balanced profession.





# 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 inspire women across the continent and beyond.
- Report the **statistical representation** of women in high-level positions across African legal institutions.

The Institute for African Women in Law

The IAWL Gender Scorecard 2025

Available to

DOWNLOAD NOW

Women in Law & Leadership Bar & Law Society Presidents

Women in Law & Leadership Ministers of Justice/Legal Advisors

International Courts & Tribunals

LAW FIRMS

www.africanwil.org/genderscorecards

The Institute for African Women in Law

WHEN WOMEN IN LAW Lead

SHEILA MINKAH-PREMO

President, Ghana Bar Association Women's Forum

Read Now



# Digital Archive

<p><b>International Court Judges</b></p> <p>Profiling the status of African women judges on international courts – have we made symbolic or substantive gains?</p> 	<p><b>African Women in Law Legacy Project</b></p> <p>Highlighting the lives and achievements of pioneer women Justices across Africa.</p> 
<p><b>Amandla! Vanguard Edition</b></p> <p>Centering the experiences and achievements of African women in law as a source of inspiration for coming generations.</p> 	<p><b>Amandla! Women to Watch Edition</b></p> <p>Centering the experiences and achievements of up-and-coming African women in law – as told in their own words.</p> 
<p><b>Pioneer African Women in Law</b></p> <p>Highlighting the works and achievements of African Women legal professionals who have paved the way for the women coming after them.</p> 	<p><b>Women Chief Justices</b></p> <p>Highlighting the lives and achievements of pioneer women Chief Justices across Africa.</p> 
<p><b>BECOMING</b> Isabel Boaten MANAGING PARTNER AT AB &amp; DAVID GHANA</p> 	<p><b>Men Advocates in Law for Equality</b> <b>M.A.L.E ALLIES</b> DAVID OFOSU-DORTE Senior Partner AB &amp; David Africa</p> 

## 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.

<p>AFRICAN WOMEN IN LAW <b>LEGACY PROJECT</b></p> <p>JUSTICE AKUA KUENYEHIA PART 1</p>		<p>AFRICAN WOMEN IN LAW <b>LEGACY PROJECT</b></p> <p>ESSI MATILDA FORSTER Narrated by Estelle Appiah</p>	
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**JUSTICE GERTRUDE TORKORNOO**  
Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana





# Our Workshops

As part of IAWL's training efforts, a student workshop was held in July 2024 at the University of Ghana School of Law to highlight the skills necessary to thrive in the legal profession and to foster a gender-inclusive workplace, with **120+** students in attendance.



## ADOPTIONS

Five (5) highly ranked law firms in Ghana have adopted the Gender Equality in Law Model Policy, underscoring their commitment to ensuring a gender-balanced work environment.



### UGSOL EVENT & HONOR OF PROF. KUENYEHIA

**500+** guests in attendance at the University of Ghana School of Law Gender Equality in Law Model Policy Adoption & Legacy award events.





# Our Convenings

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



**200+**  
lawyers in  
attendance



**20+**  
Ghanaian law  
firms represented





# REACH & IMPACT IN GHANA



**100+**

lawyers impacted by the Gender Equality in Law Model Policy adoptions

Partnerships with organizations



**450+**

attendance at Ghana-hosted events

Countries impacted

# GHANA Impact Testimonials

**“My first experience with IAWL was when I had the honour of sharing my story on the Amandla series. When I began my legal career as a woman from the village, it was difficult to find stories of women from similar backgrounds. Reading the stories of women from across the continent spanning different sectors of legal practice, I knew immediately how inspiring the series would be to young women beginning their careers. IAWL also offers practical solutions to tackling gender issues. This year, my firm adopted the IAWL gender equality in law policy, which reaffirms our commitment to promoting gender diversity in the law and underscores our ongoing partnership with IAWL. It has been a privilege to collaborate with IAWL, and I hope to maintain and strengthen this relationship.”**

**”**

**Ms. Amina A. Kaguah,**  
Managing Partner, ENS Ghana

# GHANA Impact Testimonials

**“** *Isaac Asimov’s words best capture the impression IAWL has made on me: “Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won’t come in.” I once viewed the legal profession solely through my own lens, unaware of the burdens my female colleagues quietly carried. IAWL opened my eyes to the structural barriers they face and their resilience. Its advocacy has helped women in Ghana rise to leadership in practice, the bar, politics, and the judiciary. Congratulations on 10 years—and may your impact continue to grow across Africa.*

**”**

**Mr. Michael B.Y Apalbilah,**  
Associate, AB & David Africa – Ghana

# GHANA

## Impact Testimonials

“

*IAWL has strengthened my confidence as a young lawyer and positively shaped my professional journey and reputation. My relationship with the organization has been a valuable catalyst. The GELC has also established a vital benchmark for fair treatment of female practitioners in law firms, promoting greater equity and inclusion in the profession.*

”

**Ms. Offeibea Asante,**  
Associate, Sam Okudzeto & Associates

“

*“The Institute of African Women in Law has profoundly impacted my career trajectory. From intern to research fellow and blogger, I gained expertise in women's rights and gender justice. As a lawyer, I now apply these skills in my practice, advocating for women's rights within my community. The Institute's training and mentorship equipped me with the knowledge and confidence to drive change. I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful impact and look forward to continuing this work, inspired by the Institute's mission and values. Its influence has shaped my professional path and commitment to social justice.”*

”

**Miss Rahma Abdul-Rahman,**  
Former Intern, IAWL



## CONTACT US

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