

Africa Legal Forum 2026				
Day 1 Wednesday				
Day 1: Wednesday		Africa Bar Leaders' Roundtable Closed session: Invitation only A high-level strategic dialogue among Bar leaders addressing governance, independence, and the future architecture of the African legal profession.	NextGen Lawyers Forum Open to all lawyers under 40 A dynamic platform for emerging legal talent to engage with the realities of modern practice, innovation, and leadership across African markets.	
	9.30 – 10.30	Session 1 Rewriting the Rules: Regulation, Independence, and Cross-Border Legal Practice in Africa A strategic examination of Bar independence and regulatory reform in an era of digital transformation. Explores AI-enabled legal services, cross-border mobility, and the tension between national sovereignty and continental integration—focusing on licensing, discipline, and professional standards.	Session 1 Beyond Litigation: Building High-Value Legal Practices in African Markets A forward-looking session challenging litigation-centric models. Focuses on transitioning into transactional advisory, investment structuring, and private client work—where sustainable value is created. In particular, delegates will look at the concept of “preventative lawyering” by using their skills to assist clients to avoid litigation by drafting smarter contracts, avoiding regulatory pitfalls, and proactive dispute solving.	
	10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break		
	11.00 – 12.00	Session 2 Efficiency vs Justice: Rethinking the Future of African Court Systems A critical analysis of procedural reform—summary proceedings, référé mechanisms, and digital courts—balanced against the imperatives of due process, fairness, and judicial integrity.	Session 2 From Expertise to Earnings: Monetising Legal Practice A practical guide to converting legal knowledge into revenue. Covers advisory service packaging, pricing strategy, and retainer models aligned with client business outcomes. Clients never want litigation, and highly value lawyers who strategise non-litigious outcomes for them – and the emerging legal firms can bank on it!	
	12.00 -12.30	Wrap up session and photos	Session 3 Ask, Learn, Lead: The NextGen Legal Q&A	

			Your questions. Real answers. In this engaging finale, NextGen speakers respond to audience-submitted questions on mentorship, entrepreneurship and charting a path as a young legal professional in Africa. With added focus on starting and running a business amid generational change, expect honest reflections, actionable advice and fresh perspectives on how the next generation is reshaping the legal and business landscape across the continent.	
	12.30 – 13.30	Networking Lunch		
	14.00 - 15.30	CLA Council Meeting	IAFL Fellows Meeting	
		Closed meeting for CLA Council members: invitation only	Closed meeting for IAFL Fellows: invitation only	
	16.00 -17.15	Opening Ceremony		
		Welcome Remarks, President Rwanda Bar Association Remarks by CLA President Formal opening of the Forum, Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja The Minister of Justice/Attorney General A formal launch bringing together distinguished guests, including judicial and government leadership. Features welcome remarks, keynote addresses, and ceremonial proceedings. All delegates assemble for the formal opening of the conference.		
	17.15 - 19.15	Welcome Reception		
		All delegates are invited for drinks and canapes		

	19.30 -22.00	African Family Lawyers Networking Dinner (ticket event with limited capacity) Invitation Only Limited Capacity An exclusive evening for senior family law practitioners, academics and judicial officers to build relationships, exchange insights, and strengthen professional networks across jurisdictions.	
Day 2: Thursday	Day 2 Thursday		
	9.00 -10.15	Plenary 1	
		Practising Across Borders: Opportunity, Barriers, and Market Entry in Africa A practical exploration of cross-border legal practice—addressing regulatory fragmentation, qualification recognition, and client expectations—while outlining actionable expansion strategies. There will be insights into navigating the regulatory labyrinth of cross border legal practice.	
	10.15 - 10.45	Coffee	
	10.45 – 12.00	Plenary 2	
		Dispute Resolution in Africa: Courts, Arbitration, and the Efficiency Imperative A comparative assessment of dispute resolution mechanisms, analysing enforceability, cost, and speed, alongside the growing role of arbitral institutions such as the Kenyan International Arbitration Centre. For clients, the issue is efficiency – so why rely upon government appointed courts to resolve commercial or private disputes? If the answer is enforcement, what can we as practitioners do about it?	
	12.00 - 13.15	Plenary 3	
		Families, Property and Rights: Protecting Wealth and Human Dignity in a Changing Africa As family structures and wealth become increasingly complex and cross-border, legislative frameworks and dispute resolution systems must balance marriage, status of children, property rights and human dignity with economic certainty. This session explores the intersection of family law, human rights and wealth preservation, examining emerging developments in marriage, family status, succession, property	

		ownership and dispute resolution across Africa. The session will particularly look at the lawyer's responsibility to alert clients of the risks of these complexities when advising clients on not only transactions, but future commercial planning.	
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch		
14.15 – 15.30	Corporate and Commercial Stream	Family Law Stream	
	Session 4A	Session 4B	
	Beyond the Courtroom: The Rise of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Africa Explores mediation, hybrid models, and community-based mechanisms, assessing their legitimacy, scalability, and enforceability.	Family Wealth and Cross-Border Frameworks: Law at the Intersection of Business and Family in a transnational context Analyses the intersection of matrimonial regimes, business ownership, and wealth preservation strategies, and dissects the practical and legal barriers to implementation	
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee		
16.00 - 17.15	Session 5A	Session 5B	
	Data, Cybersecurity, and Liability: Managing Legal Risk in Digital Economies Examines evolving data protection regimes, cross-border data risks, and the expanding liability landscape for businesses and their legal advisers.	Cross-Border Family Law Enforcement in Africa: Rights, Recognition, and Reality Addresses enforcement challenges in maintenance, custody, and property disputes across jurisdictions, including recognition of foreign judgments and parentage. After the litigious dust has settled, the client needs to know how the outcome will be enforced.	

Day 3: Friday

Day 3 Friday		
9.00 -10.15	Plenary 6	
	AI and the African Lawyer: Opportunity, Risk, and Regulation Explores how AI is reshaping legal work—from drafting to due diligence—while introducing new challenges in confidentiality, accuracy, and professional liability. Lawyers will face the challenges of the increased use of AI in courts by administrative and judicial officers – and how can we guard against misuse of AI in courts, procedural decision making and judgements – and what if we don’t?	
10.15 - 10.45	Coffee	
10.45 – 12.00	Plenary 7	
	ESG in Africa: Compliance, Capital, and Competitive Advantage Examines whether ESG is regulatory obligation or market necessity—and how lawyers can position themselves at the centre of this shift. The lawyer’s role in separating the hype from the legal necessity of compliance will be examined by case studies.	
12.00 - 13.15	Corporate and Commercial Stream	Family Law Stream
	Session 8A	Session 8B
	Infrastructure, Energy, and Extractives: Managing Legal Risk in High-Stakes Projects Covers public private partnerships, concession agreements, and dispute exposure in major projects, highlighting political, regulatory, and contractual risk	Children’s Rights and Identity This session explores some of the most pressing issues affecting children across Africa, including birth registration, legal identity, parentage and the protection of children's rights in an increasingly complex legal landscape.

	13.15 – 14.15	Lunch		
	14.15 – 15.30	Corporate and Commercial Stream	Family Law Stream	
		Session 9A	Session 9B	
		Secured Transactions in Africa: Collateral, Enforcement, and Risk Allocation An in-depth look at lending frameworks, including movable collateral regimes, mortgage enforcement, and the realities faced by lenders and investors.	Succession and Estate Planning in Africa: Structuring Wealth for Continuity Focuses on wills, trusts, and corporate structures designed to preserve wealth and ensure intergenerational transfer.	
	15.30 - 15.45	Coffee		
	15.45 – 17.00	Plenary 10		
		The African Lawyer as Architect of Integration: Reflections on Building Markets, Institutions and Opportunity As the Forum draws to a close, this concluding plenary reflects on the lawyer's evolving role in shaping Africa's future. Beyond advising clients and resolving disputes, today's legal profession is helping to build the legal architecture that underpins investment, trade and regional integration. Drawing together the key themes explored throughout the Forum—including legal innovation, cross-border practice, regulatory harmonisation and international legal frameworks—this discussion considers how African lawyers can strengthen institutions, unlock opportunity and help shape a more integrated, competitive and prosperous continent.		
	17.00 – 17.15	Closing Ceremony		