

African Women of Excellence



Judge Julia Sarkodie-Mensah

The Honorable Justice Julia Sarkodie-Mensah is a highly motivated, proactive and a results oriented woman with a passion to bring about change and make a difference.

She is currently employed by The Commonwealth Secretariat as a Criminal Justice Expert, assigned to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in the office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. She joined in May 2015, with a mandate to address the challenges in the criminal justice system to ensure improved access to, and swift justice administration, and co-ordinate reform initiatives.

.She joined the Ministry after her sterling performance in Sierra Leone, bringing with her a wealth of experience having previously devoted her career to issues of judicial reform, women empowerment and human rights issues, with an aim to improve the administration of justice and access to justice.

She worked as a lawyer in private practice in Botswana for 29 years, spent time on the bench as a High court judge in Botswana, a lecturer in law, and human rights advocate. She was the first honorary consul of Ghana in Botswana for 12 years during which period she worked hard to enhance diplomatic relations between Ghana and Botswana, culminating with the first ever Ghana Botswana Expo in 2005.

Whilst a sitting judge in Botswana, she accepted an appointment from The British Council in Sierra Leone, assigned to the Judiciary of Sierra Leone with a mandate to restructure and reform the Judiciary, strengthen its capacity and put systems in place for judicial reform and improved judicial administration. Her appointment was taken over by the Commonwealth Secretariat due to her performance, to continue with the mandate, which position she occupied until July 2014.

She has received many honors and awards including the Living Legends Award and Woman of the Year.

She is a member of the International Bar Association, International Association of Refuge Law Judges, International Association of Women Judges, Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation Trust, Women's Finance House Botswana and the African Women's League.