

INTRODUCTION

TO ACGC



ACGC

African Corporate &
Government Counsel Forum

About ACGC

Who we are

The African Corporate and Government Counsel Forum (ACGC Forum) is a professional association that supports, champions and promotes the African in-house legal community. Our objective is to serve the professional needs of Africa's in-house legal community by providing a network, information, resources, training and other services that support their roles in business and government across the continent. ACGC will leverage on, and improve the connections our members have across jurisdictions, industries and sectors both in Africa and beyond to identify and share good practice and promote a culture of innovation amongst its members.

Our Vision

To create a connected, innovative and enabled in-house legal community that contributes to Africa's growth and prosperity.

Our Mission

To become the primary professional association for Africa's in-house counsel. We intend to achieve this by:



Facilitating the building of professional and social networks through the organisation of in person and online events for Africa's in house legal community.



Leveraging and improving the connections our members have with their counterparts across jurisdictions, industries and sectors both in Africa and beyond



Anticipating and responding to the needs of those undertaking in-house legal roles in corporations, associations and within government offices in Africa



Promoting a culture of innovation amongst our members.



Developing and delivering tailored and timely content that addresses the unique challenges faced by our members.



Equipping our members with skills and tools that enable them and their teams to operate more efficiently and effectively in delivering in house legal services.



Promoting diversity and inclusion both within our association and across the African in-house legal community

Recent Examples of ACGC Activities

ACGC Webinar

In June 2020 we organised an online leadership roundtable entitled Demonstrating Leadership in Unprecedented Times. The discussion focussed on how in-house counsel are responding to the forces disrupting and reshaping the current operating model. A variety of hot topics were addressed including:

- 1 How in-house legal teams have adapted to remote working
- 2 New tools/solutions and innovations are in house teams in Africa using to maximise productivity
- 3 Examples of live contractual & data protection issues being raised during the pandemic
- 4 Public sector perspectives on opportunities & challenges created by the pandemic
- 5 Views on how external legal advisers have responded to & supported African corporate & government counsel through Covid 19
- 6 Market predictions on sectors that will rise or decline as a result of Covid19

Discussions were led by a stellar line up number of Africa based General Counsel and Heads of Legal from key industries and government departments. Please see below a number of video highlights from the event:

<https://youtu.be/VKaOvqK56b4>

Demonstrating Leadership in Unprecedented Times (June 2020) Welcome remarks by **Cynthia Lareine** (Lead Strategist, LGC Africa & ACGC Co-Founder) & **Derin Adefulu** (Governance Executive- Old Mutual Nigeria & ACGC Roundtable Moderator)

<https://youtu.be/O7UwQel-3zM>

What are some of the current contractual issues being faced by African GC's as a result of the pandemic? Remarks by Dr Mirian Kene Kachikwu - General Counsel, Seplat Petroleum

<https://youtu.be/qi062iCryyw>

What areas of digitisation should African corporate and government counsel be prioritising now? Remarks by Naomi Amobi - Head of Legal, Paystack

<https://youtu.be/gnG5eU3Af70>

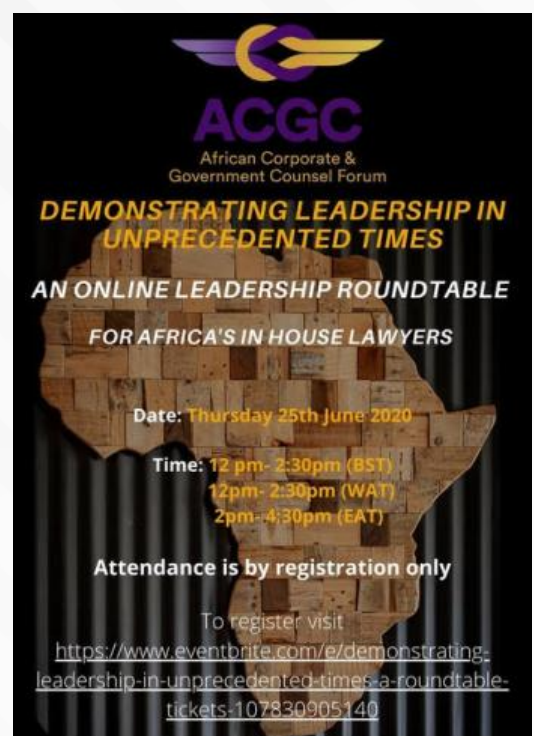
Public Sector Perspectives Sheriffsam Mwendwa - Deputy Director, Litigation & Compliance at the Parliament of Kenya reflects on how the public sector in Kenya has responded to and in some cases thrived from the impact of Covid19 on the court system.

<https://youtu.be/pBttp97b-VU>

What are some of the key life lessons being learned by GCs during the Covid19 pandemic? Remarks by Seye Kosoko, Company Secretary, FBN Holdings PLC

https://youtu.be/eY_T5lcTViA

Link to a full recording of the ACGC June Demonstrating Leadership in Unprecedented Times webinar



A follow up event is planned for Autumn 2020 entitled 'Demonstrating Leadership - Position, Profile, Presence'. This will focus on views and experiences from past and present GCs on what it takes to position oneself as a successful internal influencer.

Screenshots from ACGC event



2. Given the choice how much time would you like to see the in-house function working remotely?

100% of the time – 5 days a week	(3) 10%
50% of the time – working at home at least 2 days	(20) 69%
25% of the time – working at home one day a week	(5) 17%
Not at all – There is no place for remote working in the business in which we operate	(1) 3%

2. Which of the following 'new' sectors do you believe will be able to capitalise most on the pandemic?(Multiple Choice)

Digital payments	(33/37) 89%
Healthcare	(14/37) 38%
Manufacturing	(5/37) 14%
Technology/Cloud computing	(34/37) 92%
Automation/Robotics	(22/37) 59%
Renewable energy	(7/37) 19%
E-Commerce	(22/37) 59%
Infrastructure & Utilities	(4/37) 11%

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing poll results

1. How have you and your in-house legal colleagues adapted to remote working during the pandemic?

Very easily – we already had systems in place	(12) 41%
Fairly straightforward	(12) 41%
With some difficulty	(5) 17%
Its been a nightmare!	(0) 0%

AL Abiola Laseinde 12:55 PM

I'll like to ask any of the panelists on how to really demonstrate and quantify value brought to bear especially during this time. i.e. is it possible to express success in real Naira/Dollar value? Thank you

Seye Kosoko 01:00 PM

I believe it is possible to demonstrate and quantify the value added in real currency values - cost of operations, reduced travel costs, training costs, also the cost savings of AGMs held via proxy, amongs others

Past Event Footage

- 2020 GC Event Nairobi Video - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11O4MvRDiAjW4rQgu8RytbeOnTqXYlclV/view>
- 2019 GC Event Lagos Video - https://drive.google.com/file/d/12EO8XFwkEnSuT5Fs03SWp3S2_-Dxigoc/view

ACGC Insights Survey

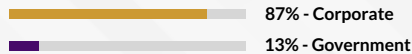
ACGC has undertaken a membership survey to enable us to better understand

- our membership demographics and growth patterns
- key business and professional priorities for existing participants
- important themes regarding membership engagement and communication

INSIGHT 1

Our members

The majority of ACGC members are **87%** corporate rather than government counsel



Most respondents are mid-career

31-44 with the most common job title being 'legal counsel', followed by 'head of legal'

The average legal department size amongst respondents ranges between

6-10 lawyers



INSIGHT 2

Key Sectors

The top 3 sectors in which respondents work are:

33% Financial Services

20% Energy & Natural Resources

13% Business Services

INSIGHT 3

Key Issues

- When asked what priority concerns it would be useful for ACGC to focus on, respondents cited regulation and compliance as their number one concern followed closely by legal technology.
- This finding reflects the changing nature of the in house legal role, in that corporate and government counsel are expected to be able to implement innovative measures to increase efficiency and reduce costs whilst also remaining abreast of the rapidly changing regulatory environments in which they operate.
- Similarly, we found that compliance, costs and risk were the top 3 factors cited by respondents in relation to their companies' key priorities.
- ACGC aims to create an environment which facilitates and encourages discussion and information-sharing to enable in-house counsel to innovate and grow.



ACGC Co-Founders



Nankunda Katangaza

Nankunda is a Director and co-founder of Hook Tangaza, a London based research and advisory firm working globally with firms, institutions and governments to build more competitive businesses, stronger institutions and better regulated markets in the professional services sector. Nankunda is also co-founder of the Africa Legal & Tech Network (ALT Network), an online membership community at the intersection of technology and legal services in Africa. It is a hub for collaboration, creativity, information and opportunities for African legal services providers, tech entrepreneurs, regulators, policymakers and investors.

Previously, Nankunda held senior positions at the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association and the Law Society of England and Wales most latterly, as Head of International Policy. Her work has focused on leading policy reform efforts for services liberalisation and regulatory good practice in key emerging markets and working with law firms, educational institutions and in-house teams on business growth and capacity development strategies. Nankunda graduated in political science from the University of Toronto and holds an MSc in International Public Policy from University College London and an MA in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies. Nankunda was recognised by Thomson Reuters' Powerlist 2014 and 2015 of the 100 most influential black Britons for services to the UK legal sector.

Cynthia Lareine

Cynthia is the founder and lead strategist at Lareine Gold Consulting (LGC Africa), an Africa focussed advisory business which supports professional service organisation seeking to deepen their skills and capacity in terms of marketing and business development. LGC Africa advises a variety of professional services organisations across Africa particularly independent law firms, accountancy practices and in-house legal teams. With 20 years working experience as both a legal practitioner (UK qualified solicitor) and business development professional, Cynthia has an established reputation as an experienced business developer and relationship manager who is 'proactive, pragmatic and passionate' about legal services marketing and business development.

Prior to venturing out as an entrepreneur, Cynthia worked extensively within leading global law firms including as global head of business development for Norton Rose Fulbright and also at Allen & Overy, Olswang, Linklaters and Hogan Lovells. She was also Chief Executive Officer for International Lawyers for Africa (ILFA) UK-based organization focused on building legal excellence in Africa by providing access to advanced legal training, networking opportunities and education for African lawyers and senior professionals engaged in the negotiation of complex transactions in Africa.



ACGC Contact information

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Website: www.acgc.africa (will be live in September)

Social media hashtags

#AfricaCGC

#corporatcounselafrica

#generalcounselafrica

#govtcounselafrica



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