

## Responsible Business Webinar for Lawyers in South Sudan

Date: 22 April 2021: Time: 11:00 AM – 13:00PM (CAT)

### Moderator



#### **Yasmin Batliwala – Advocates for International Development**

Yasmin is the CEO of Advocates for International Development (A4ID), which sources lawyers to provide free legal advice and assistance to support organisations working in the international development sector and whose principle aim is the eradication of poverty by focusing on the 2030 Agenda. She has held a number of significant leadership positions over the years within the Public and Third Sectors. Her portfolios have included HIV/Aids, Drug and Alcohol dependency, and Criminal Justice. She has undertaken work for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in this regard. Yasmin was a recipient of the City of London Woman of Achievement Awards in respect to her work in the Public Sector.

### Opening Remarks



#### **Bernard Oundo – East Africa Law Society**

Bernard Oundo is the president of the East Africa Law Society. He is a partner at Citadel Advocates (formerly Oundo - Co. Advocates), a Uganda-based legal consulting firm that specializes in public-private partnership (PPP) legal consulting services in project finance. As a project finance specialist, Bernard has advised on notable infrastructure projects such as the North Corridor Standard Spread Railway Line, the Crude Oil Pipeline, Transmission Lines, the Oil Refinery and the Kampala-Jinja Highway. Prior to starting his private legal practice, he had an illustrious 10-year career in the public sector, first as legal counsel to the Privatization Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Uganda) and then as a legal expert with the Uganda PPP Unit, a unit of which he pioneered. He has also been a consultant to the World Bank - Infrastructure Division, Public-Private Partnerships and Guarantees. Bernard is a strong advocate of mentoring and developing young talent through specialization and skills-based learning and development. He is also passionate about modernizing the legal profession in Africa in line with global social, economic and political trends. One of the main objectives of her presidency is to give women EALS members the knowledge and skills they need to become stakeholders in the regional economy and achieve greater political and social recognition and inclusion.

## Panellists



### **Ajak Mayol – ALP South Sudan**

Ajak is the Head of ALP in South Sudan. He is one of the leading litigators in South Sudan and has considerable experience in areas of Telecommunications, Energy Law, Project Finance, Construction Law, Public Procurement Regulation, Contracts and Corporate Management, Arbitration and Litigation and Criminal Law.

He is currently the Secretary General of South Sudan Bar Association (SSBA) and has been very instrumental in providing leadership in developing the bar in South Sudan. Ajak has served as a Prosecutor and Litigation Counsel in the Ministry of Justice and has been the Legal Advisor for MTN – South Sudan.

He is also passionate and involved in his community, especially about providing legal services to the indigent persons as the founder of Centre for Justice and Democracy (CJD), set up for this purpose. Ajak Mayol Bior holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree and Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Juba. He is an Advocate and Commissioner for Oaths of the Courts of South Sudan and a Fellow of the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa



### **Asunta Lual – Kolmarek Law Chamber**

Asunta Lual is the Managing Partner and Head of Corporate & Commercial Department at Kolmarek Law Chambers in South Sudan. She specializes in corporate governance, joint ventures, mergers & acquisitions, investment portfolios on energy extractive resources and infrastructure. She recently served as the Secretary to the Board of Directors of South Sudan Revenue Authority. She has also previously served as the Legal Adviser at Arech petroleum South Sudan Limited.

Asunta holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL. B Hons) and Master of Laws (LLM) in International Commercial Law from University of Northumbria, Newcastle UK. She also holds a post graduate certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship from the University of New Mexico. Asunta is also a lifetime member of the Honorable Society of Lincoln Inn London and a Mandela Washington Fellow. She is a member of South Sudan Bar Association and East Africa Law Society.



### **Clare Connellan – White & Case (UK)**

Clare Connellan is a Partner based in White & Case's London office. Clare leads the firm's Business & Human Rights (B&HR) Interest Group and is consulted in relation to issues such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, supply chain risk assessments, due diligence and the Modern Slavery Act, as well as B&HR trainings. She was recently recognized by Chambers & Partners 2021 as an “Up and Coming” global market leader in the field of Business & Human Rights Law. In her dispute advisory work, she works with the International Arbitration and Construction and Engineering Groups and advises companies, state entities, contractors, owners and operators on the resolution of complex disputes, with a particular focus on disputes

within the construction and engineering industry. Clare also advises on alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, and is a CEDR-accredited mediator.



### **Emily Holland – White & Case (UK)**

Emily Holland is a senior associate in the Firm's International Trade Practice and core member of the Business & Human Rights Group. Emily is ranked in Chambers Global for Business and Human Rights Law where she is described as "a highly regarded senior associate very much in the cutting edge in this field" who is admired for her "wide breadth of knowledge." Emily specializes in helping companies across sectors design integrated solutions to complex corporate responsibility challenges and navigate ESG risk across the globe. She advises governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on human and labor rights issues and the broader sustainability agenda.

### **Plenary Moderator/Closing Remarks**



### **David Sigano – East Africa Law Society**

David is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the East Africa Law Society (EALS), overseeing the welfare and capacity building of over 20,000 members, while promoting the East African Community's regional integration.

David is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He has previously been serving EALS as the Programs Manager. He is an experienced programmes administrator with a Master of Laws degree from Nottingham Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi.