Who We Are
Founded and registered in July 1993, the Kenya Women Judges Association (KWJA) is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organisation comprising women Judges and Magistrates from all over Kenya.

Our Mandate
KWJA remains steadfast in its belief that the objects of its constitution are the legitimate basis of the association’s mandate. KWJA aspires to demonstrate that it will always lead and provide the legal fraternity and the society with personal and institutional professional articulation of delivery of justice to all. It envisions a justice system which promotes human rights, gender sensitivity, equality, parity, family values, equal access to justice and social fairness.

Our Vision
To be a model of excellence in promoting human rights, gender parity and access to justice for all

Our Mission
To promote and engage in empowerment towards enhancing women and human rights awareness and creating an enabling environment for accessing justice for all

Our Goals
• To make the courts accessible to all
• To empower judicial officers and stakeholders to respect and uphold human rights
• To recruit all present and past women judges and magistrates and potential associates as described in the associations constitution
• To forge a good and positive working relationship with the stakeholders and authorities
• To ensure that all the activities and programmes of the association are executed and carried out

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INTRODUCTION

Appreciation

Since assuming office as the Hon Chief Justice, the President of the Supreme Court, and the Chairperson of the Judicial Service Commission, the KWJA has noted with appreciation, a great increase in the promotion of its members to higher positions within the Judiciary. We have also noted that many of our members have been appointed to leadership positions such as heads of stations and sections, including, but not limited to: the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, the Registrar of the High Court, the Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, and the Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal. For this sensitive gesture we wish to honour and appreciate you, Hon Dr Justice Willie Mutunga, together with the Deputy Chief Justice, and Vice President of the Supreme Court, Hon Lady Kalpana Rawal.

Chairperson’s Message

My Dear Sisters,

Receive warm greetings through our Lord Jesus Christ. This day marks yet another milestone in the life of this esteemed association, in its pursuit for quality justice for all. This is our noble task. As you are already aware, our ideals and vision for existence are anchored on the values of gender, equality, equity, social justice, and equal representation. Our initial plan at inception was to revolve our activities around our parent institution, the Judiciary. We envisioned a Judiciary that our activities around our parent institution, the Judiciary. We envisioned a Judiciary that

local workshops and conferences that address what we stand for. Notable of these are the Jurisprudence of Equality Programme, and the Court Users Committees. In July 2013, during the association’s 20th anniversary, a number of activities were lined up and successfully executed in Nairobi and in the Kisii, Menya and Eldoret regions. You, our sisters, did a commendable job that we all lauded and appreciated during our AGM, held on September 7, 2013. Members also passed eight resolutions during our 2013 AGM. Notable of these was our appreciation to the Judicial Service Commission for promoting and appointing more female judicial officers to senior positions. This trend continues, and we are very grateful to our parent Institution for this recognition.

recognition of our members’ hard work and dedication to duty. Remember the slogan “fire fighters engine”? That is who we are. Our members have successfully subdued stations that are known to be difficult. The public has begun to appreciate us, as the people of Eldoret demonstrated when they protested the transfer of our sister who was in charge, because she was instrumental in reducing case backlogs in that area.

Hot in the heels of the AGM was the inaugural Executive Committee meeting of September 17, 2013, where a number of action points were identified. Of success was the International Association of Women Judges’ Biennial Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania between May 9 and14, this year. The parent institution, together with our esteemed partner, UNFPA, stepped in and facilitated the association to send a strong delegation of 26 members, including one secretariat staff. Soon after the Arusha Conference, we got talking with our partners, Equality Now and International Council of Jurists, which has borne fruits in the reality of the forthcoming retreat/ dialogue. Lined up for discussion are topics we hold dear to our hearts, namely the Maputo Protocol that encompasses a whole basketful of rights affecting women and children. Side by side with the Maputo Protocol are emerging issues affecting women and children in familiar areas, which were hitherto thought of as well beaten paths – land law, matrimonial property, succession, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and children’s rights, among others. Dialogue on these is overdue due to the fact that we have been confronted by challenges in the discharge of our judicial work. We need to rethink our strategies to be able to fulfill the mandate that our most esteemed employers, the people of Kenya have bestowed upon us, namely protection of human rights. This uphill task cannot be achieved through our own individual efforts; we need the support of one another. Let us purposefully deliberate and put our best feet forward. Owing to constraint of time, not every one will get an opportunity to play a lead role. However, we look forward to active and fruitful deliberations. We are one – sisters committed to each other with a common purpose to reach out to our own (women and children) and empower them. Let us discuss all these topics openly and thoroughly, draw conclusions on the way forward and put them into practice in our daily judicial work so that when we assemble again in 2015 we will bring back positive feedback. This is the greatest gift and appreciation we can give not only to our partners, but also to ourselves in particular and the Institution at large. Since time could not allow us to carry out all our planned activities within one year, our next dialogue should centre on mentorship, particularly and the Institution at large.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu – Vice Chairperson
Hon Lady Justice Lydia Achode – Treasurer
Hon Lilian Arika – Secretary
Hon Enniece Nyata – Vice Secretary
Hon Rosslyn Oganyo – Vice Treasurer
Hon Lady Justice Jamilah Mohammed – Member
Hon Lady Justice Roselyn Naumbuye Judge of Appeal Chairperson, KWJA
INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon Lady Justice Rose Ougo – Member
Hon Lady Justice Lucy Gaichuru – Member
Hon Judith Omonage – Member
Hon Rose Makungu – Member
Hon Asenath Ongeri – Member
Hon Lady Justice Jessie Lesiti – Member
Hon Lady Justice Ruth Sitati – Member
Hon Lady Justice Rose Ougo – Member
Hon Lady Justice Lucy Gaichuru – Member
Hon Judith Omonage – Member
Hon Rose Makungu – Member
Hon Asenath Ongeri – Member
Hon Lady Justice Jessie Lesiti – Member
Hon Lady Justice Ruth Sitati – Member

SECRETARIAT STAFF

Lydia Mwaangi – Programme Officer
Evelyn Komba – Ag. Programme Officer
Michael Alube – Accountant
Dolphiine Ajwang’ – Administrative Secretary
Dr Hon Julie Oseko – Member

2013 YEAR IN FOCUS

20th Anniversary Celebrations!

We celebrated our 20th anniversary in July last year! That was a time to rejoice in the achievements we’ve made so far. When KWJA started in July 1993, Kenya only had three female Judges, Hon Lady Justices: Effie Osumo (Retired), Joyce Ahoch (at the ICC), and Roselyn Nambuye (High Court Judge, and KWJA chairperson).

Dabbed Women in Pursuit of Quality Justice and Fairness for All, our weeklong celebrations included the following activities:

A visit to Rehema orphanage in Korogocho Slum, which started with a match through the slum, led by the prisons band.

Moot Courts in Riara and Nairobi Universities, led by Hon Lady Justices Roselyne Nambuye and the Deputy Chief Justice Kalpana Rawala, respectively.

A visit to comfort and donate gifts at the Langata Women’s Prison, accompanied by KCC. 26 petty offenders were released from prison to mark the day.

Korogocho Open Day July 13
2013 YEAR IN FOCUS

Korogocho Open Day July 13

Riara Moot Court July 16
At our September 7th 2013 AGM, members amended the constitution and welfare guidelines, and passed eight resolutions that we continue to implement passionately. We also had an election and ushered in new members of the executive committee, see pages 3, 4 & 5.
2013 YEAR IN FOCUS

Court Users Committee Meetings

KWJA activities cut across Kenya, within the fifteen High Court stations all over the country. With the support of UNFPA, we conduct Court Users Committee (CUC) meetings. The CUC committees are an inter agency coordination mechanism for all stakeholders – Magistrates, Advocates, Medical Practitioners, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Children Officers and Gender Officers – involved in the administration of justice.

Since 2011, we’ve focused the CUC meetings on implementation of the Sexual Offences Act within UNFPA’s four focus areas: Nairobi West, Naivasha, Migori and Kilifi. Stakeholders in the CUCs discuss challenges they encounter in administration of justice, with the main objective being to make courts accessible to all, and to enhance understanding of various legislations with a view to promoting equality.

SGBV & RHR Training
July 26 & 27

CUC Training
2014 has been a busy year for KWJA, with activities that have enhanced our networks in the region and internationally. We have also been able to conduct activities geared towards imparting knowledge of the justice system to university students and other stakeholders in the country. One such activity was in April this year, when Hon Lady Justice Martha Koome and Hon Dr Julie Oseko conducted a successful moot court at the University of Nairobi.

Earlier, in February, together with the Judiciary, KWJA hosted Prof Sally J. Kenney, a professor of Political Science at the Newcomb College Institute. Networking with Prof Kenney who studies women judges was rich and enlightening. Equally enlightening was our participation at the 13th Biennial International Conference of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) at Arusha, Tanzania, between 4th and 8th May. Finally, the networking visit by the DCJ for Zambia, Lady Justice Irene Namhiima created an awesome opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience.

More activities are lined up for the remainder of this year, and we look forward to the full participation of our members and partners.
2014 YEAR IN FOCUS

**Arusha Conference** May 4 to 9

**DCJ Zambia** June 18 to 24
2014 YEAR IN FOCUS

PARTNERS

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