

FATMATA SORIE (MRS.)

Fatmata Sorie holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Sierra Leone and has 17 years post qualification experience. She is the Managing Partner of the firm. She also holds a Master degree (LL.M.) in International & Comparative Law from the George Washington University in the United States of America and is an Attorney in the State of New York. Her experience covers a wide range of legal issues which include litigation, conveyancing, mines and minerals law, corporate and commercial law, Administrative & Labour law, Family law and the law of Succession. She is currently listed in the world's leading directory of lawyers; Chambers Global, wherein she is described as *"very competent, straightforward, energetic and thorough. She is considered an up-and-comer in the Sierra Leone market. prominent and competent lawyer."*

She provides legal consultancy services to the Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit on a vast variety of legal issues including project closure support and general advisory services. She has provided legal support for an Energy Company, Jacobsen Elektro, for the installation of a 16MV thermal power plant in Freetown; a project jointly sponsored by the African Development Bank (ADB); Bank of Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); Saudi Fund and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, prepared and reviewed documents and agreements for the British High Commission in Sierra Leone as well as prepared opinions for the British High Commission on international law issues relating to Eminent Domain and Sovereignty, researched Petroleum policies in Sierra Leone for Hebert Smith LLP, reviewed Advisory/Policy documents for international Companies, provided an opinion on transshipment in Sierra Leone and the taxation laws to a major Canadian Company, reviewed the MOU on Trade Relations between the United Kingdom and the Ministry of Trade of the Government Republic of Sierra Leone. She has also provided legal services to various other companies and government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency in Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), Barclays Bank PLC on matters relating to Estates and Trusts, as well as serving as lead solicitor for Skye Bank, Access Bank and Guaranty Trust Bank. She continues to provide legal services to several Non-Governmental Organisations (Action Against Hunger, Handicap International, BBC Media Action, IPAS; to name but a few) on issues relating to Administrative Policies, Labour and Employment law, copyright and intellectual property law. She also has successfully completed many acquisitions and mergers including an acquisition of a local company engaged in the mining of niobium/tantalum by Global Advance Metals a leading player in the tantalum industry. Mrs. Sorie has litigated high profile antigraft/corruption cases with an impressive record of winning her cases.

In addition to the above; she presented a Paper at a meeting convened by the British Chamber of Commerce in Sierra Leone on conflict of laws in Sierra Leone for International Investors and the UK Bribery Act.

She currently commits part of her time to serving vulnerable women and girls in Sierra Leone serving as the current President of Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equality Rights

and Social Justice (L.A.W.Y.E.R.S) - a professional organisation of female legal practitioners that has been in existence for 22 years.

Since taking up office as President of L.A.W.Y.E.R.S in 2018, she has and continues to passionately advocate for the Economic Empowerment of Women, the elimination of child marriage and gender equality in general. Most recently she successfully lobbied Parliament on reviewing the Sexual Offences Amendment Bill of 2019 which has now been passed into law; increasing the penalty for rape and sexual penetration to a maximum of life and a minimum of 5 years imprisonment. Her work for women and girls has most recently land her recognition by PowerWomen232 (2019), Zonta Club of Freetown (2019) and in 2018 as one of Sierra Leone's 50 most Influential Women. Her tenure as President of L.A.W.Y.E.R.S ends in June 2020.

American Bar Association –Member (2009 – Present)

She has also served as a member of the General Legal Council Disciplinary Committee between 2013 – 2015. The General Legal Council is the body which regulates the Legal Profession in Sierra Leone. She is also a member of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW).

Additionally, she has served in various boards and Commissions which are as follows:

- Member - Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission - Commissioner & Legal Practitioner – August 2016 to Present
- Member of Government's Task force on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights reviewing Government's policy banning pregnant Girls from going to School - November 2016 to Present
- Board Member - Aberdeen Municipal School – December 2019 – Present
- Board Member - Milla Group of Companies – May 2017 - Present