

Frederick E. Ssempebwa, Uganda

Speaker, Round Table: Sub-Saharan Africa



Consultant, Advocate, Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public at Katende, Ssempebwa & Co., Advocates, Kampala, Uganda. He is member of the following professional societies: The East African Law Society – (President 2002 – 2004), Uganda Law Society – (President 1990 – 1992), and the International Bar Association. Professor Ssempebwa has practiced law both within and outside the courtrooms with distinction for over thirty years and he is a leading consultant in several areas of practice in Uganda.

Professor Ssempebwa's standing has received international recognition and he is recognised as "a lawyer of the highest order" in every one of the Chamber and Partners Global Guide to the World's leading Lawyers from 2001 to 2005. Professor Ssempebwa was the Chairman of the Uganda Constitutional Review Commission which had been charged with reviewing the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and he was a member of the original Constitutional Commission which helped draft the 1995 Constitution. He has just completed an assignment as a member of the Committee of Experts which prepared a draft for the constitution of Kenya. Professor Ssempebwa has been the President of the Uganda Law Society, and a President of the East African Law Society. He was a Minister and member of the Cabinet in 1979 – 1980 and also member of the Consultative Council which acted as Parliament then. Professor Ssempebwa is currently a Senior Partner in the Law Firm of Katende, Ssempebwa and Company. He is also a member of the Judicial Service Commission of Uganda, a constitutional body that appoints regulates and disciplines judicial officers at the Magisterial level and recommends appointments to the Higher Bench. He was Lead Counsel in the key case of Susan Kigula and Others v. Attorney General of Uganda in which the mandatory death penalty sentences were declared unconstitutional. His firm continues to represent the over 400 petitioners in that case, over their mitigation hearings. He has attended death penalty conferences/workshops in Uganda, Kenya, and London. Prof. Ssempebwa has carried out extensive research and is widely published in journals and magazines.

He holds Bachelor of Laws (LL.B with honours) John F. Kennedy Scholar from the University of East Africa at Da-es-Salaam and a Master of Laws (LL.M) from the Queen's University, Belfast. He was President of East African Law Society (2002 – 2004); Member of the Committee of Experts for Review of the Kenya Constitution

(2009—2010); Chairperson of the Uganda Constitutional Review Commission (2001 – 2003); Commissioner of the Uganda Constitutional Commission (1989 – 1994); President of the Uganda Law Society (1990 – 1992); Minister of State, President's Office, 1979 – 1980; Associate Professor at the Makerere University, Kampala (1979-1984); Senior Lecturer at the University of Zambia (1977-1970); Lecturer at the University of East Africa, Dar-es-Salaam, 1970 – 1971; Senior Lecturer at the University of Zambia (1977 – 1979).