

AFRICAN  
WOMEN  
LAWYERS'  
ASSOCIATION

Media Pack

## About us

---

### **African Women Lawyers' Association Together. Stronger.**

#### **Who are the African Women Lawyers' Association?**

The African Women Lawyers' Association (AWLA) exists to help women of African and Caribbean descent who want to enter the legal profession and who want to progress their careers. We aim to provide support, advice, mentoring, training and networking opportunities for all of our members.

Our mission is to transform the careers and lives of African women lawyers around the world. We also seek to leave our members feeling refreshed, empowered and optimistic about their lives, their futures and their legal careers.

The AWLA seeks to be the essential international network helping to promote the potential and success of African women lawyers at every stage of their careers.

#### **What we do:**

We intend to provide a full range of services to all of our members. At present, we liaise with and respond to reports and consultations from the Law Societies and Bar Councils.

We attend meetings of the Law Society Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Women's Divisions.

We undertake research on areas of practice which are of interest to our members.

We provide an advice service which gives women solicitors an opportunity to talk to more experienced practitioners about issues affecting their professional careers.

We provide workshops and seminars on a range of issues including legislative changes (some attracting CPD hours).

We provide the opportunity to meet like-minded professionals to talk about issues of concern.

We connect with other BAME and women's organisations and with women lawyers outside the UK.

#### **The AWLA's Aims and Objectives**

- To promote African women lawyer's interests in the legal professions;
- To actively oppose discrimination against African women lawyers;
- To articulate and represent the views of African women lawyers;
- To articulate and promote the professional education of practitioners, legal workers and students;
- To enable women of African and Caribbean descent to come together to support each other, develop themselves and their careers and mentor other women who wish to enter the legal Profession;
- To support Black female practitioners, legal workers and students against race, gender, sex, colour, age, disability discrimination and all other types of disparate treatment;

To work towards the elimination of racism and sexism and the combined effects of racial and sexual discrimination within society which disproportionately affects Black women and to ensure true equality of opportunity and equal access;

To campaign on issues important to African women lawyers

To influence the legal community to bring about meaningful change in order to meet the needs of African and Caribbean women lawyers.

## **Community Support**

We also help members of our communities who are victims of injustice or victims.

## **Who Can Become a Member?**

Membership of the AWLA is open to members of the legal profession worldwide. This includes solicitors, barristers, attorneys, judges, law students, trainees, pupils etc. The current membership consists of senior members of the Bar, partners of law firms, sole practitioners, in-house counsel, public sector lawyers, trainee solicitors and pupil barristers. Therefore, the AWLA is truly representative of all sectors of the legal professions.

## **Membership**

There are 4 levels of membership

### **Associate membership**

Associate Membership is FREE. Individuals can register at our website [www.AWLA.org.uk](http://www.AWLA.org.uk)

### **Benefits of Associate Membership**

AWLA is a member of the Law Society BAME and International Division

AWLA members receive priority notices of international law events

Regular networking and other events

Essential mentoring from experienced lawyers

Opportunity to have their say in consultations and attend relevant meetings

Access to opportunities: jobs, training, work experience

Be part of a vibrant and active Forum

Take part in legal workshops and debates

### **Full Membership**

The subscription for Full membership is £50.00 per year.

### **Benefits of Full Membership**

In addition to the Associate members benefits

Members can post their details on the AWLA website so they can be found by other members and passed opportunities.

Receive 25% Discount on Courses, Master classes and events.

### **Corporate Membership**

If you have more than six members in your legal department then our **Subscribed Corporate Membership** is even better value for money at **just £300 (for up to 20 members)** and **£400 (for 20+ members)**.

Membership can include barristers, trainee solicitors, legal executives, paralegals and so on.

### **Affiliate Membership**

Organisations which share the aims and objectives of the AWLA or who have similar interests can register to become affiliate members. There is no cost to this. Organisations can register at [www.AWLA.org.uk](http://www.AWLA.org.uk)

### **Founder and Patron**

The AWLA was founded by Caroline Newman. She now serves as Patron of the Association.

### **The Executive Committee**

Our current Executive Committee consists of barristers, solicitors and other leading women within the legal profession.

1. Chair- Mellissa Akinya
2. Vice Chair- Shola Mos-Shogbamimu
3. Secretary- Stella Waata
4. Events Secretary- Yasmin Tiya miyu
5. Treasurer- Rosemarie Smith
6. Marketing Secretary- Pennie Constantine
7. Membership Secretary- Teresa Rossetti

Administrator: Caroline Anena

Message from the Founder

“Unfortunately, discrimination is still rife in the legal profession. Sadly, so is ignorance of the impact of discrimination on Black Women. We face the double discrimination of racial and sexual discrimination. I’ve come to the conclusion that we cannot totally rely on others to sort this out. We have to get together and help and support each other in any way we can. The AWLA Executive is committed to building a strong community where we can support each other and celebrate our successes. We would love for you to join us. *Remember, alone we can do good things, together we can do great things.*”

### **Engage with us**

Social & digital media channels

The AWLA owned channels – website, Facebook page, Twitter feed – provide added value for our readers. The social media strategy for these channels enables us to engage and communicate directly with our readers, which in turn drives greater brand awareness and loyalty.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AfricanWomenLawyers](http://www.facebook.com/AfricanWomenLawyers)

Daily, engaging and informative updates on the AWLA Facebook page:

**Twitter:** @AfricanWomenLaw

Daily tweets to inform followers about fresh content via It encourages direct, two-way conversations with the community

LinkedIn: [African Women Lawyers' Association \(AWLA\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/african-women-lawyers-association)

### **Contact Us:**

Phone Number: 07711 584211

Email us: [info@awla.org.uk](mailto:info@awla.org.uk)

**Our Website:** [www.AWLA.org.uk](http://www.AWLA.org.uk) is updated regularly with fresh news content