

Curriculum Vitae

Hon Justice Nicola Ann Sharpe-Phiri LLB, LLM, FCIArb

Personal Data

Date of Birth :	27 August 1969	Nationality :	Zambian
Telephone :	0966 750272	Languages :	English
Email Address:	nsharpephiri@gmail.com	Marital Status :	Married

WORK EXPERIENCE

Justice of Appeal 1 Dec 2024 to date
Judiciary of the Republic of Seychelles

- Adjudication of Civil Appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles

Court of Appeal Judge Apr 2021 to Mar 2025
Judiciary of Zambia

- Presided over the adjudication of criminal & civil Appeals originating from the High Courts & Quasi-Judicial Bodies, encompassing a broad spectrum of legal disciplines.
- Served as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Training & Continuing Education, overseeing the coordination of Judicial training initiatives within the Judiciary of Zambia.
- Acted as the Focal Point for Zambia with the Judicial Institute for Africa (JIFA) facilitating and coordinating Judicial training programs.
- As Judicial Trainer, actively assisted in judicial training programs organized by the Judicial Institute for Africa in Zambia and within the region.

Judge-in-Charge, Family & Children's Court 2016 to 2021
Judiciary of Zambia

- Spearheaded the establishment and operationalization of the Family & Children's Court
- Presided over a wide range of family law matters and general list disputes
- Managed case allocation and monitored case flow management within the Family Division to enhance judicial efficiency.
- Led the coordination and drafting of Rules governing matrimonial causes, wills & testate, intestate succession matters.
- Actively contributed to the review and refinement of the Children's Code Bill
- Provided oversight of the juvenile justice system within the Zambia High Court
- Prepared and submitted quarterly performance reports on the Family Division to the Chief Justice, highlighting progress and areas for improvement.

- Supervised and monitored the performance of registry staff in the Family Division to ensure optimal court operations.
- Served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Training & Continuing Education contributing to strategic training initiatives for judiciary personnel.
- Coordinated and facilitated training programs for judiciary officers and support staff to enhance capacity building and professional development.
- Supervised the operations of Small Claims Courts at Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe in Zambia, ensuring consistent standards of performance and service delivery.

**Judge of the High Court
Judiciary of Zambia**

2011 to 2017

- Presided over the adjudication of a broad range of criminal and civil matters, appeals from Subordinate Courts encompassing torts, administrative law, employment and labour law, banking and financial law, company and commercial law, matrimonial & family law, property and land law, as well as constitutional law.
- Served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Training & Continuing Education, contributing to the strategic development of judicial training programs.
- Planned and coordinated training initiatives for judicial officers and support staff, fostering capacity building within the Judiciary of Zambia
- Served as Chairperson of Small Claims Court of Zambia and oversaw its operations.
- Monitored and evaluated the performance of Commissioners of the Small Claims Court upholding quality standards and effective case management.
- Prepared quarterly reports on the operations and performance of the Small Claims Courts, submitted to Chief Justice for review and policy direction.

**Senior Partner
SHARPE & HOWARD, Legal Practitioners**

2001 to 2011

- Served as senior Partner, successfully leading the firm for over a decade.
- Oversaw daily operations of the firm, managing a team that exceeded 35 staff at its peak.
- Represented clients in complex litigations before Superior Courts achieving favourable outcomes in various legal matters.
- Provided a broad spectrum of legal and corporate services including advisory services to banks & financial institutions.
- Practiced extensively across multiple legal areas, including property and land law, probate and succession, family law, insolvency, banking, financial, commercial and company law and employment & labour law.
- Provided effective representation in alternative dispute resolution processes, including mediation and arbitration.
- Presided over and participated in several domestic arbitration proceedings, serving as arbitrator and as legal counsel representing parties in different matters.
- Conducted training programs for arbitrators under the auspices of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London) and the Zambia association of Arbitrators.

- Mediated disputes referred by the High Court and Industrial Relations Courts of Zambia, facilitating amicable settlements.
- Trained, supervised and mentored numerous learner legal practitioners and associate attorneys, fostering professional development within the firm.
- Lectured in family law at Cavendish University in Lusaka providing legal education.
- Designed and oversaw the construction of a purpose-built law firm, enhancing the firm's operational capacity and client service delivery.

Partner

1995 to 2001

MOPANI CHAMBERS, Legal Practitioners

- Founded and operationalized one of the first female-led law firms in Lusaka, setting a benchmark for women in legal practice.
- Provided comprehensive legal services to a diverse client base, including individuals, corporations, banks and financial institutions, multinational companies, liquidators, and commercial entities with a focus on commercial and corporate law.
- Defended clients in criminal cases across all superior courts ensuring diligent representation.
- Managed the day-to-day operations of the firm.
- Performed administrative and management functions integral to the successful practice of law.
- Trained, supervised and mentored learner legal practitioners and associate attorneys.
-

Assistant Associate

1991 to 1995

CHILUPE & COMPANY

- Worked under the mentorship of the late Mr. George Chilupe SC at a prominent Lusaka-based law firm, gaining extensive experience in diverse legal matters.
- Conducted in-depth legal research, drafted and reviewed legal documents and assisted in trial preparation for both civil and criminal cases.
- Represented clients in various courts across Zambia, including Subordinate and High Courts, as well as before government agencies.
- Represented large corporate client in the Industrial Labour Court.
- Managed litigations and conveyancing matters for clients.
- Facilitated the incorporation of companies and provided corporate secretarial services.
- Advised clients on a range of legal matters, including employment and labour matters, business transactions, estate planning, probate and preparation of wills.
- Represented and advised executors and administrators in estate management and probate matters.
- Regularly monitoring the firm's performance and operations, contributing to its growth.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London	Dec 2020
Court-Annexed Mediator	April 2000
Admitted as a Special Member, Chartered Institute of London	2002
Certificate of Award on International & Domestic Arbitration – FICA	Jan 1999
Admission as an Advocate to the Zambian Bar	Dec 1992

CURRENT POSITIONS

Justice of Appeal, Judiciary of Seychelles, Dec 2024 to date
Assistant Deputy Secretary, African Judicial Training Network, January 2025 to date
Faculty Member, Judicial Institute of Africa (JIFA) 2023 to date
Member of Board of Examiners, Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education 2014 to date

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Association of Women Judges, 2012 to date
Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges' Association 2017 to date
Zambia Association of Women Judges, 2012 to date
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London) 2002 to date
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Zambia Branch) 2019 to date
Law Association of Zambia from 1992 to 2011
International Bar Association from 1996 to 2011
Female Lawyers Association of Zambia from 2000 to 2011
Zambia Association of Arbitrators from 2000 to 2013
Alchemy Women in Leadership, 2009
Institute of Directors from 2006 to 2011

POSITIONS HELD

Court of Appeal Judge, Judiciary of Zambia 2021 - 2025
Judge-in-Charge, Family & Children's Division, High Court for Zambia, 2016-2021
High Court Judge, Judiciary of Zambia – 2011 - 2016
Focal Point Person, Judiciary of Zambia, Judicial Institute for Africa (JIFA) 2021 - 2025
Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Training & Continuing Education 2024 - 2025
Vice President, Zambia Association of Women Judges (ZAWJ) 2018 to 2023
Member of the Advisory Committee on Training & Continuing Education 2013 to 2024
Commissioner of the Small Claims Court, Lusaka 2009 to 2011
Vice President, Female Lawyers Association of Zambia, 2004 to 2006
President, Zambia Association of Arbitrators, 2009 to 2019
Honorary Secretary, Zambia Association of Arbitrators, 2001 to 2009
Convenor, Administration of Justice Committee, Law Association of Zambia
Honorary Secretary, Legal Practitioners Committee of LAZ, 2006 to 2011
Council Member, Law Association of Zambia, 1999 to 2006

Convenor, National legal Aid Clinic for Women, LAZ, 2003 to 2007

EDUCATION

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London
Domestic Arbitration December 2020

SOAS University of London
Masters, Human Rights, Conflict & Justice (LLM) December 2021

College of Law, London
Banking and Capital Markets Diploma January 2008

College of Law, London
International Arbitration Law Diploma August 2005

College of Law, London
International Business Organizations Diploma July 2004

University of Natal, South Africa
Certificate in Trial Advocacy Nov 1995

Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education
Admission as Legal Practitioner in Zambia with distinctions 1991 to 1992

University of Zambia: School of Law
Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) 1987 to 1991

COURSES

Judicial Institute for Africa, South Africa
Train-the Trainer November 2022

Judicial Institute for Africa, South Africa
Environmental Law / Climate Change Law August 2022

ADR Centre International, Italy
Accredited Mediation Training February 2021

Edwards Mediation Academy, USA
Mediation Skills Course April - Sept 2020

Judiciary of Zambia
Training of Trainers - Environmental Law December 2019

Judiciary of Zambia <i>Training of Trainers -Insolvency & Movable Properties Securities</i>	July 2019
Chemonics International, USA <i>Train-the-Trainer Mediation Training</i>	Mar 2002
Chemonics International, USA <i>Court-Annexed Mediation Training</i>	April 2000
Forum for International Commercial Arbitration, USA <i>International & Domestic Arbitration</i>	Jan 1999

INTERESTS

Cycling enthusiast, African Art collector, photography & construction.
Actively dedicated to the development of sports, with a decade of involvement in advancing swimming in Zambia

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Under the Financial Sector Deepening Zambia (FSDZ) initiative, facilitated access to sustainable and affordable financial services to excluded and underserved people in Zambia.
- In collaboration with the Zambia Association of Women Judges (ZAWJ), implemented programs to support rights and welfare of incarcerated individuals.

REFEREES

Hon. Mr. Justice Albert M Wood
Supreme Court Judge
Tel: +260962035310
albertmark.wood@yahoo.com

Mr. Abyudi James Shonga, Jnr SC
Messrs Shamwana & Company
Plot 8101, Cedar Road,
Woodlands, Lusaka
Tel: +260967 702337
ajshonga@shamwana.co.zm