

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE LDC INDUCTION**

Good afternoon to you all

I bring you cordial greetings from the Uganda Law Society (**ULS**) and in a similar spirit I welcome you to the Bar Course 2020/2021.

Let me start with the immortal words of **Admiral James Stockdale**, who ran for Vice President with H. Ross Perot in 1988. He asked at the Vice Presidential debate, **"Who am I and what am I doing here?"** This is the same question that should be the bedrock of your stay at the bar course and it should form the road upon which you ponder so that you can achieve the desired goal at the end of the day.

We meet in unprecedented times where boundaries are almost none existent. As the pandemic continues to distort economies and professions, you gather here today to achieve career goals that form the core of your professional lives as lawyers and advocates to be. In this new normal, I would like you as the young generation of lawyers to appreciate these shifting times so that you can be in position to benefit from the new way of doing things. It is evident that we are executing activities online and I believe the bar course still holds the bar high in ensuring legal excellence as it has always been.

Some say **"law is about fees, fees, fees."** I disagree. Law is about service and the responsibility to serve. In his address to the American Bar Association in 1972, **Chief Justice Warren Burger** said: **"Ideas, ideals, and great conceptions are vital to the system of justice, but it must be more than that—there must be delivery and execution."** I am certain that your choice to follow this noble profession to this point is grounded on this fact. You seek to appreciate the principles of legal practice so that at a time when these skills are required you can ably and professionally execute your duty to your clients.

Today, I challenge you to help us restore confidence in our justice system. With the knowledge you're going to acquire in this bar course, you are going to become stewards of justice with every action you do. As good stewards of justice, you must be driven to make the law work in the real world. As **Justice Stephen Breyer** said, **"The law should provide real answers, to help real people, with real problems."** Making the law work requires common sense and good judgment. Stewards of justice don't look for simple yes or no answers. We know they are rare. Stewards of justice give options to their clients and advise them of what is right within the sense of justice.

In this highly competitive era, good stewards of justice remember that it is essential to be civil and ethical. I am confident that with the fine tuning of Law Development Centre you will appreciate the importance of acting civilly and ethically with clients, in the courtroom, in the bar, and with others in our own offices. Being stewards of justice means doing what we can to ensure the doors of the justice system are kept open. As it is bold in our supreme law, you will also understand that our courts must be places where people can come to seek redress without fear that they will be treated unfairly or disrespectfully because of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

I implore you all to be the stewards of justice who fight for access to the legal system. In your training here at LDC, look out for the benefit of helping people who need legal services, but cannot afford it, and understand the value of providing this assistance. Ensuring justice and fairness also involves representation for those who may be politically unpopular or may not be very appealing clients. Representing those clients can be very difficult, especially when many non-attorneys see only the unpopular position the individual takes and have trouble understanding the need to represent even unpopular views. You need to appreciate that as an upcoming lawyer this is where we stand different from the public, for we

understand the value of advocacy and representation even in the worst case scenario.

Therefore, I urge you to take this at heart during your training; **“Be the lawyer we expect of you and execute your duty with the requisite skill that will leave no professional doubt in the work carried out while ensuring your client’s satisfaction in all respects.”**

Thank you all and the best of luck in your Bar Course.

**Pheona N. Wall**

**President - Uganda Law Society**