



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE YEAR 2023

Introduction

The Judicial Training Institute (JTI) is mandated under section 19 of the Administration of the Judiciary Act (No. 8 of 2020) to provide specialized and continuous Education to the Judiciary Service, and to any other person or institution approved by the Director of the Institute.

The Training and Research function of the Institute constitutes one of the strategic objectives of the Judiciary *'To build capacity of judiciary staff to be effective and efficient in delivery of Judicial Service'*; which is in line with Judiciary's quest to attain its mission *'To be an independent, competent, trusted and accountable institution that administers justice to all'*.

The JTI has 2 departments which are Training; and Research and Law Reporting with a total number of 29 Staff including the Executive Director; One Registrar; 2 Deputy Registrars; One Chief Magistrate; 5 Magistrates Grade One; and 19 administrative staff. These work as

a team to execute the JTI mandate through the different duties they perform.

The core functions of the JTI currently include:

- Teaching/Training
- Evaluation of courses
- Faculty Development
- Law Reporting and Judicial Based Research
- Curriculum Review and Programme Development.
- Creating Partnerships and Networking

Performance of the Training Department

The trainings conducted by the Institute are therefore intended to promote efficiency in the delivery of justice, improve the skills, knowledge and abilities of Judiciary Service Staff; encourage and facilitate achievement of staff upward mobility.

During the year 2023 the JTI organized and conducted several trainings for Judiciary staff aimed at enhancing their capacity to serve and administer justice. A total of 30 trainings were conducted, some with Government of Uganda (GOU) funding, while others were done with support from development and other partners.

The Details of Training Activities Conducted Between January and December 2023 are Indicated in the Table Below:

S/N	TRAINING ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1.	Annual Judges Conference	Mestil Hotel	30 th January – 2 nd February, 2023	GOU
2.	Training on Tobacco Control	Entebbe	7 th – 8 th February, 2023	Ministry of Health
3.	Training on Disability Rights	Hotel Africana	17 th February, 2023	Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC)/NETPIL
4.	Training on Management of Electricity - Related Offences by ERA	Mestil Hotel	24 th February, 2023	Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA)
5.	Taxation Workshop for Judges and Members of the TAT	Serena Kigo Hotel	2 nd – 3 rd March, 2023	Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)

6.	Training of Chief Magistrates on Cybercrime	Hotel Africana	9 th – 10 th March, 2023	Attorney General Alliance (AGA)/ KTA Advocates
7.	Sixth Insolvency Conference	Mestil Hotel	20 th March, 2023	URSB
8.	CEELI Roundtable Session for the African Judicial Network	Cape Town, South Africa	27 th – 29 th March, 2023 (5 Judges)	CEELI Institute
9.	Training of Judicial Officers and Advocates in Northern Uganda in Management of SGBV cases and Family Related Conflicts.	Desert Breeze Hotel, Arua	24 th – 26 th April, 2023	European Union
10.	Training of Court Clerical Staff in Northern Uganda in Interpretation Skills in SGBV Cases and Family Related Conflicts	Desert Breeze Hotel, Arua	27 th – 28 th April, 2023	European Union

11.	Training of Magistrates in Northern & West Nile Region in Land Justice	Boma Hotel, Gulu	3 rd – 4 th April, 2023	GOU
12.	Induction Retreat for Justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court	Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe	8 th – 12 th May, 2023	IDLO & GOU
13.	Workshop on Climate Justice	Mestil Hotel	18 th – 19 th May 2023	Greenwatch
14.	Benchmarking Visit by Zambian Judiciary on Management of SGBV Cases	Judicial Training Institute (JTI)	22 nd – 26 th May, 2023	GOU
15.	SGBV Phase 5 Post Sessions Evaluation Meeting	Mestil Hotel	29 th May, 2023	UNFPA

16.	SGBV Phase 6 Pre-Session Training of Actors	Mestil Hotel	30 th May, 2023	UNFPA
17.	Training of Research Magistrates Grade One on Case Digests and Law Reporting	Mestil Hotel	4 th – 5 th July, 2023	UNDP
18.	Launch of the Judicial Bench book on Practice and Procedure for Prosecution and adjudication of International Crimes	Mestil Hotel	20 th July, 2023	International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)/ Avocats San Frontiers (ASF)
19.	Training of Judicial Officers in Child Psychology & Development	Sheraton Hotel	17 th – 18 th August, 2023	Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)
20.	UCC Stakeholder Engagement with Justices of the Court of	Serena Kigo Hotel	24 th – 25 th August, 2023	Uganda Communication s Commission (UCC)

	Appeal/Constitutional Court			
21.	Induction Training for Newly appointed Chief Magistrates	Colline Hotel, Mukono	27 th August – 6 th September, 2023	GOU
22.	Training on Human Rights	Mestil Hotel	6 th September, 2023	Commonwealth Secretariat
23.	Induction Training for Newly Appointed Registrars	Colline Hotel, Mukono	25 th - 29 th September, 2023	GOU
24.	Africa Regional Dialogue on Adjudicating Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows	Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa Kenya	3 rd – 5 th October, 2023 (3 HC Judges)	Kenya Judicial Academy and Partners
25.	Training of Magistrates in Examination Malpractice Offences	Sheraton Hotel	10 th October, 2023	UNEB

26.	Training of Judges & Registrars in Child Psychology & Development	Mestil Hotel	12 th – 13 th October, 2023	Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)
27.	Induction Training for Members of the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT)	JTI	16 th – 20 th October, 2023	TAT
28.	Induction Training for Newly Appointed Magistrates Grade One	Colline Hotel, Mukono	30 th October – 10 th November, 2023	GOU
29.	Induction Training for Newly Appointed Judges of the High Court	Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe	12 th – 24 th November, 2023	GOU
30.	Annual Registrars and Magistrates Conference	Hotel Africana	14 th – 15 th December, 2023	GOU

Performance of the Research and Law Reporting Department

The Research and Law Reporting department of the JTI concentrated on the Uganda Legal Information Institute aspect of their mandate. ULII serves as a repository for a vast array of legal resources

including but not limited to Legislation and Case Law. It digitizes and publishes Ugandan legislation, case law, and legal documents, making them freely accessible online. It curates subject-based collections, offers edited case notes, and provides original research. ULII operates a high-traffic legal information research engine, facilitating easy access to Ugandan jurisprudence through its comprehensive database of Ugandan legislation, case law, and legal documents.

The Type and Number of Documents That Were Digitized on The Ulii Website Between January and December 2023 are Indicated in the Table Below:

DIGITIZED DOCUMENT TYPE	NUMBER
JUDGMENTS	6,682
LEGISLATION	95
GAZETTES	1,738
TOTAL	8,515

Under its Research Engine which enables users to search and retrieve legal information efficiently, ULII underwent migration to a

new website that has a better interface for our users. (Repealed laws are flagged).

ULII compiled 70 case summaries, covering a broad spectrum from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and High Court.

An assessment was conducted to identify any gaps in the ULII collection, and efforts to acquire and integrate the missing materials are ongoing.

Successes Registered by the JTI in 2023

As indicated in the table of the training activities (pages 3 – 8) the JTI organised/conducted 30 trainings. Prominent among these are:

- a) The 24th Annual Judges Conference that was held between 30th January and 2nd February 2023.
- b) Four induction trainings for the newly appointed judicial officers at the different levels. These included induction trainings for Judges of the High Court, Registrars, Chief Magistrates, and Magistrates Grade One.
- c) The JTI successfully hosted a delegation from the Zambia Judiciary for one week, which had come to benchmark on GBV cases management, and a GBV Bench Book.
- d) On request of the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT) management, The JTI organised and conducted a one – week induction for new members of the Tax Appeals Tribunal.

- e) Upon request from the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) JTI did provide a Judge from its faculty who trained the newly appointed members of the Identification and Registration Committee, whose mandate is to adjudicate matters arising/related to the NIRA functions under the Registration of Persons Act, 2015.
- f) The JTI Resource Centre underwent cataloging and classification, a meticulous process that involves creating an inventory of all existing materials and arranging them according to specific subjects.
- g) ULII entered successful collaboration with the Insurance Appeals Tribunal and Electricity Disputes Tribunal, which enthusiastically agreed to send their respective decisions for uploading on the ULII platform and have been sending in decisions that have substantially enriched the content on the platform.

Challenges Faced by the JTI

- a) The JTI has limited space and as a result some of the staff do not have secure and conducive working space. It has only one training room with a capacity of only 20 people, and one computer lab.
- b) Limited financial and Human Resources.

- c) The current staffing position is 29 members of staff, which is too small a number to manage the activities of the Institute in both its departments.
- d) To date, the JTI does not have its own Bank account, which affects its activities through financial uncertainty, and creates a challenge in planning and execution of its mandate due to untimely release of funds.
- e) The IT equipment and office equipment are not sufficient as some staff do not have even desktops.
- f) The Institute lacks a generator, yet power outages are a common occurrence.
- g) The internet is still unreliable which affects operations, especially for the law reporting team that depends entirely on the internet to upload cases.
- h) Inadequate office equipment e.g printers, photocopiers etc.
- i) The Institute lost a member of staff, Mr. Nyanzi Eriab who died in an accident in December 2023.

Recommendations for Improved Performance and Way Forward

I note that there has been a marked improvement towards the funding of the Judicial Training Institute. In addition, several partners have continued to support the Institute in terms of funding for selected training activities. This has made the relevancy of the JTI recognised consequently improving the capacity of the Judicial Officers and the Judiciary Support Staff.

1. We appeal for improved funding to enable the JTI achieve its mission of being an excellent Centre for Judicial Education.
2. The JTI should have a bank account for proper planning financial certainty and effectiveness in conducting training activities.
3. We reiterate our request to be provided with a generator, to enable smooth work at the Institute
4. Better and more reliable internet should be procured or a backup internet plan be available in case the main internet supply is off.
5. Enhancing ULII's digital infrastructure, expanding its legal database, and promoting legal literacy.
6. Providing training and educational programs to legal professionals, students, and the general public.
7. Engaging with stakeholders to solicit feedback, foster collaboration, and promote the value of legal information.