

# Chambers

Global 

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2022

The leading lawyers  
and law firms globally

Uganda



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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| <small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small> |

Band 1

Bowmans (AF Mpanga Advocates)

**What the team is known for** Bowmans (AF Mpanga Advocates) is the full-service Ugandan arm of a highly regarded continental law firm, renowned for its cross-border capabilities. Operating out of Kampala, it offers extensive experience advising on capital markets agreements, financing facilities, M&A transactions and private equity investments, with an impressive list of high-calibre clients in the financial sector. Its expertise cuts across a diverse range of practice areas, showcasing standout work in the TMT, energy and natural resources, and construction industries. The practice possesses further expertise in dispute resolution.

**Strengths** One client said: “The firm is organised and professional, with good turnaround times.”

**Work highlights** Collaborating with its team in Johannesburg, Bowmans advised Network International on the acquisition of DPO.

Notable practitioners

**David Mpanga** is a skilled litigator as well as transactional counsel, assisting with cross-border corporate acquisitions and financing transactions. Based in Kampala, his expertise also covers corporate governance, compliance and investigations, as well as competition law. “David Mpanga is serious

| General Business Law                                     |
|--|
| Senior Statespeople                                      |
| <b>Senior Statespeople:</b> distinguished older partners |
| Katende John W Katende, Ssempebwa & Co *                 |
| Shonubi Alan Shonubi, Musoke & Co *                      |
| Ssempebwa Edward Frederick Katende, Ssempebwa *          |
| Leading Individuals                                      |
| Band 1   |
| Karugaba Phillip ENSAfrica                               |
| Katende Sim Katende, Ssempebwa & Co *                    |
| Mpanga David FK Bowmans (AF Mpanga Advocates)            |
| Musoke Rachel ENSAfrica                                  |
| Tumusingize Barnabas S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu *)   |
| Band 2   |
| Ecimu Nicholas S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule *)  |
| Fisher Kanyemibwa John H&G Advocates                     |
| Kambona Oscar Kampala Associated Advocates               |
| Karugaba Gertrude S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu *)      |
| Kasozzi William Bowmans (AF Mpanga Advocates)            |
| Kibaya Andrew Shonubi, Musoke & Co *                     |
| Masembe Timothy Kanyerezi MMAKS Advocates *              |
| Mukumbya Musoke Julius Mukumbya Musoke Advocates         |
| Mwesigwa Noah Edwin Shonubi, Musoke & Co *               |
| Nangwala James Nangwala, Rezida & Co Advocates           |
| Paulsen Blaisie N Byenkya Kihika & Co Advocates          |
| Band 3   |
| Byenkya Ebert Byenkya Kihika & Co Advocates              |
| Gimara Francis ALP Advocates (ORL) ◇ *                   |
| Karamagi Kabiito Ligomarc Advocates *                    |
| Kasirye Andrew Kasirye Byaruhanga & Co Advocates (ORL) ◇ |
| Kihika Innocent Shonubi, Musoke & Co *                   |
| Kusaasira Denis ABMAK Associates                         |
| Lubega Wamala Dennis H&G Advocates                       |
| Makubuya Apollo N MMAKS Advocates *                      |
| Matsiko Joseph Kampala Associated Advocates              |
| Mpanga David Dentons (ORL) ◇                             |
| Naiga Aisha ABMAK Associates                             |
| Nyakairu Donald ENSAfrica                                |
| Sebugenyi James Mukasa S&L Advocates (formerly *)        |
| Band 4   |
| Akunobera Festus ABMAK Associates                        |
| Birungyi Cephas Birungyi, Barata & Associates (ORL) ◇    |
| Magona Fiona N MMAKS Advocates *                         |
| Ogwal Joshua Ligomarc Advocates *                        |
| Rezida Alex Nangwala, Rezida & Co Advocates              |
| Sebatindira Ruth Ligomarc Advocates *                    |
| Segawa Moses S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule *)    |
| Up-and-coming individuals                                |
| Muhangi Kenneth KTA Advocates & Solicitors (ORL) ◇       |
| Musinguzi Bruce Kampala Associated Advocates             |
| Namuli Blazeovic Alice Katende, Ssempebwa & Co *         |
| Ninsiima Kibuuka Diana Mukumbya Musoke Advocates         |

and hard-working. I would recommend him.” **William Kasozzi** leads the firm’s corporate and banking and finance practice in Kampala. He has fashioned a strong reputation for his advice on domestic and cross-border acquisitions and financing facilities, including providing local counsel on high-profile international transactions. He is also well versed in project financing.

ENSAfrica

**What the team is known for** ENSAfrica in Kampala is a well-regarded group showcasing experience in a range of capital markets and project finance transactions. As the Ugandan office of a high-profile and well-respected multi-jurisdictional African law firm, the team also has notable expertise in both domestic and international M&A matters. The practice services an impressive client roster in the banking sector, with further sectors of notable activity including energy, real estate, retail and agriculture. Additionally, ENS offers experience concerning business liquidation and receivership proceedings.

**Strengths** One client said: “The team at ENSAfrica offers practical legal advice aimed at concluding legal disputes. The team is very supportive when called upon to respond to urgent matters.”

“The team is commercially astute and has a solid grasp of Ugandan law issues,” explained another interviewee.

**Work highlights** A team led by Donald Nyakairu advised DPO Group on its USD288 million acquisition by Network International.

Notable practitioners

**Phillip Karugaba** is head of ENSAfrica Uganda and is based in Kampala. He is an accomplished corporate and commercial lawyer with a wealth of M&A experience, including in cross-border private equity investments. “He is good at considering various perspectives and provides high-level advice.” “Phillip Karugaba is creative and innovative. I go to him with complex work and legal issues, and I trust him with clients.” **Rachel Musoke** is held in high regard for her work on tax and financing transactions, including syndicated lending and project finance, as well as debt restructuring.

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| <b>General Business Law: Dispute Resolution</b>                        |
| <b>Senior Statespeople</b>   |
| <b>Senior Statespeople:</b> distinguished older partners               |
| Kabatsi Peter C R <i>Kampala Associated Advocates</i>                  |
| <b>Leading Individuals</b>   |
| <b>Band 1</b>  |
| Fisher Kanyemibwa John <i>H&amp;G Advocates</i>                        |
| Masembe Timothy Kanyerezi <i>MMAKS Advocates*</i>                      |
| <b>Band 2</b>  |
| Katende Sim <i>Katende, Ssempebwa &amp; Co*</i>                        |
| Matsiko Joseph <i>Kampala Associated Advocates</i>                     |
| Mpanga David FK <i>Bowmans (AF Mpanga Advocates)</i>                   |
| Rezida Alex <i>Nangwala, Rezida &amp; Co Advocates</i>                 |
| Tumusingize Barnabas <i>S&amp;L Advocates (formerly Sebalu*)</i>       |
| <small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>                    |
| <small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>                          |
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Based in Kampala, she services an impressive roster of high-level financial institutions, including DFIs. “Rachel Musoke is very practical and takes the initiative. She understands the work she is doing and is a solid resource.” “She is on top of hot legal topics and is commercially astute.” **Donald Nyakairu** is recognised for his wide-ranging expertise, covering cross-border M&A, financing and project development, with further experience of insolvency. His impressive client portfolio includes names in telecoms, fintech and real estate. “He is very experienced and is a strong presence. He gives good and thoughtful advice to clients.” “Donald Nyakairu is a highly experienced corporate and commercial lawyer. He has excellent negotiation skills and an ability to engage with authorities for the timely closure of deals.”

### Katende, Ssempebwa & Co

**What the team is known for** Katende, Ssempebwa & Co is a pre-eminent local law firm based in Kampala with a long-established presence at the top of the Ugandan legal market. The firm acts on an impressive spread of mandates, from banking advice and project finance to telecoms investment and infrastructure development. The practice also has additional notable capabilities in dispute resolution, particularly in tax and commercial litigation, with further areas of strength including competition law and IP. The firm benefits from its membership of the LEX Africa legal network, an alliance comprising firms from across the continent.

#### Notable practitioners

Co-founding partner **John Katende** (see p.2500) has amassed a wealth of legal and business experience over his many years of practice. He continues to utilise this experience to the benefit of the firm’s clients. Co-founding partner **Edward Frederick Ssempebwa** (see p.2502) is held in high regard in Uganda. Based in Kampala, he has been at the fore of the country’s legal market for decades and has been actively involved in the development of the country’s legislature. “He is a highly respected constitutional lawyer.” **Sim Katende** (see p.2500) is a distinguished corporate lawyer with extensive M&A and capital markets transactional credentials and expertise spanning the energy, oil and gas, and TMT industry sectors. He is based in Kampala. “He is always focused on the client and making sure the transaction will close. He is a practical lawyer and a problem solver.” “Sim Katende is a brilliant lawyer.” **Alice Namuli Blazevic** (see p.2501) continues to enhance her standing in the market,

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| <b>Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)</b>                      |
| <b>General Business Law</b>                              |
| <b>Ugandan expertise based in countries listed below</b> |
| UK Clifford Chance LLP                                   |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)</b>                             |
| <b>General Business Law</b>                                       |
| <b>Ugandan expertise based in countries listed below</b>          |
| UK Alicker Phillip <i>Tanfield Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>               |
| UK Mpubani Gabriel <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (ORL) ◇*</i> |

with particular recognition for her work in the TMT sector. She is based in Kampala and is also respected for her experience of cryptocurrency and blockchain mandates. “She stands out for her impressive legal work in technology and innovation.”

### MMAKS Advocates

**What the team is known for** MMAKS Advocates is a distinguished full-service law firm with renowned prowess in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. The firm, based in Kampala, is regularly approached by a range of international companies and law firms to act as local counsel in a variety of mandates, including project financing, international arbitration, private equity and cross-border M&A transactions. It possesses significant cross-border capabilities across the African continent as a member firm of the Africa Legal Network. The team is regularly consulted by clients from a wide range of sectors, from energy and oil and gas to agriculture and utilities.

**Strengths** One client said: “Their lawyers have in-depth technical knowledge and are able to clearly summarise legal issues.”

Another added: “MMAKS Advocates is a very good firm. It has a strong foundation and committed partners who invest a lot in growing their legal attorneys and training them in line with current best practice to be able to advise their clients well.”

**Work highlights** A team led by Fiona Magona advised SN Power Invest Netherlands on the sale of its stake in Bujagali Energy to Bujagali Holding Power Company.

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Timothy Kanyerezi Masembe** (see p.2501) is widely recognised as one of the country’s foremost litigators. He routinely features on some of the jurisdiction’s largest corporate and commercial cases, with further proficiency in public law disputes. Practising out of Kampala, he is also noted for his counsel in arbitration proceedings. “He is a very good lawyer.” “Timothy Masembe is very committed to us as a client.” **Apollo Makubuya** (see p.2501) is an experienced corporate practitioner based in Kampala with a particularly developed cross-border M&A practice. He regularly acts for international clients on inbound acquisitions and investments, with notable activity in the mining and banking and finance sectors. “Apollo Makubuya is a smart lawyer who does serious work.”

**Fiona Magona** (see p.2500) operates a broad corporate practice, ranging from cross-border M&A and investments to project and development finance. She offers legal and strategic commercial advice to clients from a range of sectors, including energy, insurance and banking. “Fiona Magona is responsive, reliable and delivers an excellent work product.” “She

does good work and is focused and determined to give her all.”

### S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates)

**What the team is known for** S&L Advocates is a premier Ugandan law firm with a strong bench of sought-after lawyers. The Kampala-based team is engaged on a formidable range of mandates including project finance, lending facilities, PPP, domestic and regional M&A, and corporate restructuring. It has a strong following of clients in the banking sector, as well as standout names in telecoms, oil and gas, private equity and power. The team also has noteworthy experience representing clients involved in commercial disputes. S&L is supported through its membership of renowned legal alliance DLA Piper Africa.

**Strengths** One client commended the firm’s “strong local team” and “good client service,” adding: “S&L Advocates are also well connected.”

**Work highlights** Led by Gertrude Karugaba, S&L Advocates advised MTN Uganda on its IPO listing on the Ugandan Stock Exchange.

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Barnabas Tumusingize** (see p.2502) is held in high regard in Uganda, with a distinguished reputation for his banking and finance practice. Based in Kampala, he handles contentious and non-contentious matters for his clients. **Nicholas Eciimu** (see p.2500) is a highly regarded Kampala-based lawyer with a practice focus on projects and construction. His expertise covers the full range of power and infrastructure projects, with a particularly strong grasp of project finance. Kampala-based **Gertrude Karugaba** (see p.2500) regularly assists clients in the TMT and banking sectors with corporate structuring and financing. She also has notable experience in capital markets. “Gertrude Karugaba is really good at dealing with complex matters and approaches them with an open mind.” “She’s really brilliant. I think its amazing how she gets things done.” **James Mukasa Sebugenyi** (see p.2501) is a well-regarded commercial litigator and arbitration counsel. His wide-ranging disputes practice covers real estate and product liability, as well as intellectual property and constitutional law. **Moses Segawa** (see p.2501) is valued by clients for his employment, labour relations and employee benefits expertise. Based in Kampala, he has notable experience advising on issues surrounding restructuring and liquidation.

### Shonubi, Musoke & Co

**What the team is known for** Shonubi, Musoke & Co is an acclaimed Kampala-based law firm, recognised in the market for its long-established proficiency in project finance, syndicated lending, capital markets and other corporate transactions. Benefiting from its strategic alliance with Norton Rose Fulbright, as well as a close partnership with Gilbert & Partners in nearby Burundi, the team has notable cross-border and regional resources. The firm acts for a number of eminent names in the financial services and telecommunications sectors.

**Strengths** “The firm is well established in the Ugandan market,” explained one source, praising the team’s “consistency” and “practical legal advice.” Another commended the group’s “considerable experience and solid industry background,” adding: “The

team at Shonubi is efficient and always responds to us in a timely manner."

**Work highlights** Led by Noah Mwesigwa, Shonubi, Musoke & Co acted for Global Woods and Capricorn Forest Fund on the sale of all of the former's assets in Uganda.

#### Notable practitioners

Founding partner **Alan Shonubi** (see p.2502) remains an immensely well-respected lawyer in Uganda. His expertise covers project financing and PPP, as well as general corporate issues. He is based in Kampala. "I respect him very much for building a firm that has lasted several generations." **Andrew Kibaya** (see p.2500) maintains a prominent position in the banking and finance field, representing a range of investment banks, private investors and receivers in syndicated loan transactions and credit facilities. He is based in Kampala and has further experience of insurance and taxation matters. "He is solution-oriented, very enthusiastic and doesn't give up." "Andrew Kibaya shows good understanding of commercial law for structuring deals and businesses." Firm managing partner **Noah Edwin Mwesigwa** (see p.2501) is an accomplished commercial lawyer with a wealth of experience assisting with corporate, capital markets and lending transactions. He is additionally proficient advising on securities and corporate restructuring. He is based in Kampala. "As well as substantial experience and high-level litigation skills, Noah Mwesigwa is also very professional and timely in his responses." "He is a very engaging person and is knowledgeable across a range of industries. He is also a very accessible lawyer." **Innocent Kihika** (see p.2500) is praised for his counsel on mining, infrastructure and energy projects, advising on financing, sponsorship, development and construction. Based in Kampala, his expertise extends into the wider energy and natural resources sectors, in which he advises on power purchase agreements and regulatory compliance. "He has a solid industry background, and is always willing to accept challenges and come up with practical solutions." "Innocent Kihika is an open and approachable attorney. He is not difficult to reach and is always willing to learn new areas, if required."

## Band 2

### ABMAK Associates

**What the team is known for** ABMAK Associates is a dynamic and well-respected law firm with significant skill in the energy and natural resources industries, especially the oil and gas sector. The team also has notable expertise in the telecoms sector, in addition to an impressive reputation for handling tax advisory and defence work. Based in Kampala, the firm enjoys high standing among international clients and law firms.

**Strengths** "ABMAK Associates is a respected firm in the oil and gas sector," declared one source, while another said: "They do a good job in matters involving tax and projects."

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Denis Kusaasira** attracts considerable recognition for his work in the energy, natural resources and infrastructure industry sectors. He is based in Kampala and handles both disputes and transactions in the space, including the acquisition of mineral rights and the development of projects.

"Denis Kusaasira is a knowledgeable, thorough and cerebral lawyer." Kampala-based **Aisha Naiga** is particularly active in the infrastructure and energy spaces, in which areas she assists clients with project financing and commercial transactions. She is additionally well versed in construction matters.

"She is a very good lawyer." "Aisha Naiga is particularly strong on project development and finance issues."

**Festus Akunobera** is a well-regarded lawyer based in Kampala with a practice focused on tax. He is sought out for his representation in disputes and for his counsel on the tax considerations of transactions, as well as compliance advice.

### Kampala Associated Advocates

**What the team is known for** Kampala Associated Advocates is an accomplished and respected law firm with an experienced bench of lawyers who are well known for their commercial litigation capabilities. The firm also operates a standout tax disputes practice. It is adept in handling regulatory and transactional mandates, particularly in the energy and telecoms sectors. The team is also noted for its expertise in banking and finance, as well as agriculture.

#### Notable practitioners

**Peter Kabatsi** is a formidable lawyer who has had a distinguished career as a public prosecutor and in private practice. He heads the firm's litigation practice in Kampala and is also noted for his skill in alternative dispute resolution. "He is brilliant, highly respected and one of the best at litigation." Kampala-based **Oscar Kambona's** expertise covers the full gamut of taxation issues. In addition to courtroom advocacy and advisory roles, he played a role in the development of Uganda's tax legislation. "He is a brilliant tax lawyer; when considering who to appoint for certain areas, it's got to be Oscar Kambona for tax."

"He is an exceptional tax lawyer." Managing partner **Joseph Matsiko** is an accomplished Kampala-based litigator and arbitration counsel, handling construction disputes, in addition to commercial and contractual cases. "He is a good litigation lawyer who is respected for his craft and practice." Kampala-based up-and-coming lawyer **Bruce Musinguzi** dedicates most of his practice to commercial litigation, with further expertise in taxation. His services are regularly engaged by clients in the banking, telecoms and natural resources sectors.

## Band 3

### Byenkya Kihika & Co Advocates

**What the team is known for** Byenkya Kihika & Co Advocates is a well-established Kampala law firm, respected for its roster of experienced and skilled lawyers. The practice is adept with commercial disputes advocacy, in addition to corporate transactions, project finance and banking matters. Insolvency, employment and labour law are additional areas of proficiency for the firm.

#### Notable practitioners

**Blaisie Paulsen** is best recognised for her work in the field of banking and finance. She is based in Kampala and has extensive experience assisting with loan facilities, representing both borrowers and lenders. She additionally advises on commercial transactions and tax. "She's a very good, pleasant, practical and

articulate lawyer." **Ebert Byenkya** is the founding partner of the firm, as well as the head of the litigation practice group. He is based in Kampala and plays a key role servicing clients, in addition to his managerial responsibilities.

### H&G Advocates

**What the team is known for** H&G Advocates is a long-standing law firm in Uganda with a solid bench of lawyers, offering experience and dexterity in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Based in Kampala, it is also sought after for its expertise in project finance and general corporate matters, with noteworthy capabilities in the real estate and energy sectors.

**Strengths** "H&G Advocates has a strong reputation," declared one commentator.

#### Notable practitioners

**John Fisher Kanyemibwa** is best recognised for his contentious work, including both litigation and arbitration proceedings, handling cases relating to energy, banking and property law. He is based in Kampala. "John Fisher Kanyemibwa is a brilliant litigator." "He is a brilliant commercial lawyer. He pays attention to detail, and is articulate and meticulous."

**Dennis Lubega Wamala** operates a notable practice in Kampala and is especially active in the energy industry. He represents clients in disputes, advises on transactions and provides regulatory compliance counsel. "He is a brilliant lawyer and particularly highly respected for his litigation skills."

### K&K Advocates

**What the team is known for** K&K Advocates is a Kampala-based law firm with broad commercial experience, covering both contentious and non-contentious matters. The team stands out for its support to clients in business compliance and public procurement advisory services, particularly in the oil and gas sector. Its disputes expertise covers litigation and arbitration.

**Strengths** One observer praised the team as "well grounded in the dynamics of government relations."

"K&K Advocates is well placed to advise the oil and gas sector," explained another.

#### Notable practitioners

Edwin Karugire and Peter Kauma are key contacts for clients.

### Ligomarc Advocates

**What the team is known for** Ligomarc Advocates has an impressive team showcasing standout finance-related capabilities. The Kampala-based firm is known particularly for its excellent insolvency practice, demonstrating particular proficiency in contentious bankruptcy cases as well as corporate restructuring work. The team has further notable expertise in tax, project finance, banking and insurance work. Ligomarc Advocates is a member of the Andersen Global alliance.

**Strengths** "Ligomarc Advocates particularly stands out for its involvement in serious insolvency work," said one interviewee.

#### Notable practitioners

**Kabiito Karamagi** (see p.2500) is singled out for his considerable insolvency experience, in which space he acts for lenders and debtors on debt and corporate restructuring, as well as related litigation. He is based in Kampala and currently acts as the firm's

managing partner. Kampala-based **Joshua Ogwal** (see p.2501) has a practice focus on finance law and infrastructure. He regularly advises on the development and financing of infrastructure projects, as well as transactions in the space. He is also well versed in financial regulation. *“Joshua Ogwal is very switched on and is a safe pair of hands.”* **Ruth Sebatin-dira** (see p.2501) is a founding partner of Ligomarc Advocates, and a former president of the law society, with a practice focused on commercial disputes and transactions, as well as insolvency. She is based in Kampala.

### Mukumbya Musoke Advocates

**What the team is known for** Mukumbya Musoke Advocates is a recognised and experienced law firm in Kampala with an impressive reputation among domestic and international financial institutions and law firms for its work in projects and project finance. The firm is engaged on a number of high-profile developments in the energy and infrastructure spaces, acting for lending, borrowing and acquiring parties. In addition, the group is routinely instructed to provide counsel on insolvency and administration, as well as capital markets transactions.

**Strengths** *“They are a team of stars at Mukumbya Musoke,”* declared one commentator.

Another said: *“They are very proactive and the speed of their response is commendable.”*

**Work highlights** A team led by Julius Mukumbya Musoke advised African Export-Import bank on its trade finance facility to Southern Range Nyanza, providing funding for equipment to manufacture COVID-19-related products.

#### Notable practitioners

**Julius Mukumbya Musoke** is an accomplished banking and finance lawyer with extensive projects experience. Based in Kampala, he services a prestigious portfolio of clients, from development funds and retail banks to manufacturing companies and hospitality entities. *“He knows the local market well and is very attuned to commercial drivers.”* *“He is very good in high-pressure situations and stands out for his equanimity; when in a crisis, he will never break mould or character.”* **Diana Ninsiima Kibuuka** is a Kampala-based lawyer with notable experience in insolvency and restructuring. Servicing a client roster that includes major banks and telecoms companies, she also has experience in M&A, capital markets and tax. *“Diana Ninsiima Kibuuka is a very bright lawyer.”*

### Nangwala, Rezida & Co Advocates

**What the team is known for** Nangwala, Rezida & Co Advocates is a well-established local law firm with a solid reputation for its courtroom advocacy, as well as land and conveyancing law. The firm is increasingly visible on a variety of corporate mandates, including M&A transactions and banking sector activities. In addition to its litigation capabilities, the firm offers alternative dispute resolution services.

#### Notable practitioners

Kampala-based **James Nangwala** is held in high regard for his land law and conveyancing work, advising on matters including the acquisition of land titles and mortgage security. He additionally advises on corporate restructuring and M&A, as well as disputes. *“James Nangwala is one of the best when it comes to land transactions.”* **Alex Rezida** is well versed in the corporate and finance fields, advising on M&A and lending transactions, with further expertise in IP and employment law. He also provides dispute resolution services. He is based in Kampala.

### Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

#### Clifford Chance LLP

**What the team is known for** Clifford Chance is a high-profile multinational law firm with widely recognised expertise in Uganda, particularly out of its London office. The firm is regularly sought out for its handling of projects-related mandates, notably acting for lenders and sponsors on the financing and development of projects in the traditional and renewable power sectors, as well as infrastructure. Additionally, it regularly acts for international companies on acquisitions, investments and divestitures in the jurisdiction. The firm also has demonstrated proficiency in cross-border transactions through its dedicated East Africa practice group.

**Strengths** One source commented: *“The lawyers stand out for being very solution-driven in their approach to matters and for having a strong command of commercial issues in transactions.”*

**Work highlights** A team led by Jennifer Mbaluto acted for 8 Miles on the sale of its entire stake in a Ugandan commercial bank, Orient Bank.

#### Notable practitioners

London-based Nicholas Hughes and Jennifer Mbaluto are important contacts for clients.

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Cephas Birungyi** offers his clients deep expertise in all manner of tax matters, providing both advisory and advocacy services. He is particularly recognised for his impressive credentials surrounding Ugandan tax legislation and international taxation agreements.

**Francis Gimara** (see p.2500) has a well-established reputation in the country for his arbitration counsel work, as well as his advice on business integration. He heads the East Africa group at ALP Advocates in Kampala, and is a former president of the law society. *“He is a very thorough, strategic lawyer; practical, sensible and agreeable. I wouldn’t hesitate to go to him again.”*

**Andrew Kasirye** commands a significant amount of experience in both commercial litigation and transactions. He is based in Kampala. *“Andrew Kasirye is a good lawyer and a safe pair of hands.”*

**David Mpanga** advises on various property development matters, for private clients and public associations, as well as lending and corporate transactions. Based in Kampala, he is the chairman and senior partner of Dentons Uganda.

**Kenneth Muhangi** is recognised for his impressive intellectual property practice, servicing a range of emerging technology and fintech companies, as well as higher education institutions. He is based in Kampala. *“Kenneth Muhangi has a particularly strong understanding of technology and how to position it with traditional stakeholders. He is a strong commercial lawyer.”* *“He has knowledge relevant to both Uganda and East Africa, and can compare laws and how they impact our company. He is quick and knows our business well.”*

### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

**Phillip Alikor** is an accomplished international arbitrator and arbitration counsel who splits his time between London and Kampala. He has an active practice on the African continent, including in relation to Uganda, handling a wide range of mandates including investor-state disputes. *“He is a really good lawyer and is particularly active in arbitration cases.”*

**Gabriel Mpubani** (see p.2501) acts as the co-head of the firm’s Africa group. He is a Uganda-qualified lawyer who continues to advise on infrastructure and energy project development and financing mandates in the jurisdiction from his base in London. *“Gabriel Mpubani is a particularly highly regarded lawyer.”*

## Leaders' Profiles in Uganda

### ECIMU, Nicholas

S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates), Kampala  
+256 414 233063  
necimu@sebalulule.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Nicholas Ecimu heads S&L Advocates' practice in projects and infrastructure, oil and gas and mining, and is an established practitioner in the power sector. He acts on the mandate of the world's leading development financial institutions, the Government of Uganda, governmental agencies, global infrastructure entities and project sponsors, and his expertise covers all aspects of project development (including large-projects procurement), project finance, public-private partnerships and regulatory compliance. Transactional highlights include; acting as lead counsel to Sinohydro Corporation Limited, the EPC contractor of the US\$ 1.7 billion 600 MW Karuma Hydro Power Project which is currently Uganda's largest infrastructure project and acting as local counsel to the lenders for the project financing of the 250 MW Bujagali II hydro-power project. In oil and gas, Nicholas represents two international oil and gas operators and has acted as local counsel for a feasibility study into the construction of an oil pipeline in Uganda. Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society Uganda Chambers of Mines and Petroleum

### GIMARA, Francis

ALP Advocates, Kampala  
256 (772) 225 222  
fgimara@alp-ea.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Integration Practice Public Procurement Law Corporate & Commercial Law Corporate Governance Law Alternative Dispute Resolution (Mediation & Arbitration)

**Career:** Chairperson – Public Procurement & Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Appeals Tribunal Past President of Uganda Law Society (ULS) –2016 to 2018

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society Pan African Lawyers Union International Bar Association

### KARAMAGI, Kabiito

Ligomarc Advocates, Kampala  
256-414-255801  
kabiit@ligomarc.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Kabiito is Uganda's most renown Insolvency Practitioner. He dedicated the last 16 years of his career to insolvent administration after acting as Receiver/Manager of insolvent undertakings. He was the consultant for the Uganda Law Reform Commission on the drafting of the Insolvency Act, 2011 and a consultant for the Uganda Registration Services Bureau for the drafting of the Insolvency Regulations. Kabiito has had extensive experience advising on Corporate Insolvencies and Corporate Restructures having recently successfully co-engi-

neered the successful rejuvenation of the Uganda Performing Rights Society (UPRS). He has significant experience in Commercial and Banking Litigation, some of which have set precedents in commercial practice in Uganda. Kabiito has participated in the development of important pieces of commercial legislation in Uganda including: The Insolvency law; the Companies law; the law establishing the Information Technology Authority of Uganda; and the Partnership Act.

**Professional Memberships:** Kabiito holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) Hons. from Makerere University, Kampala and Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (DIPLP) from Law Development Centre, Kampala. Kabiito is a Fellow of INSOL International, a member of the Uganda Law Society and East Africa Law Society

### KARUGABA, Gertrude

S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates), Kampala  
+256 39 2202 030  
gwkurugaba@sebalulule.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Gertrude Wamala Karugaba's commercial practice focuses on finance, banking law, equity and debt capital markets, corporate law, commercial agreements and regulatory support. Gertrude acts for local and international financial institutions as well as large corporates, some of which are listed on regional stock exchanges, on a variety of legal, regulatory, compliance and transactional mandates. In notable matters, Gertrude acted as lead legal adviser for MTN Uganda for its US\$ 150 million initial public offer, Uganda's largest ever initial public offer. Gertrude holds a Master of Laws (Commercial and Corporate Law) degree from the University of Cambridge (Queens College) and Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society

### KATENDE, John W

Katende, Ssempebwa & Co, Kampala  
+256 414 233770  
jwk@kats.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** John's distinguished career in the academic field is rivalled by equal merit in the practice of law. He has been involved in a lot of groundbreaking and law-creating litigation that has significantly contributed to the evolution of jurisprudence and legal practice in Uganda. He has over the years developed expertise in the areas of Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Mediation and Arbitration, Corporate and Commercial Law, Capital Markets, Banking & Finance, International Trade, Mergers & Acquisitions. On the 31st March, 2017, John was recognized by the Uganda Law Society (ULS) and awarded the ULS' first 'Distinguished Service Award' by the Uganda Law Society. He was also, one of the first 3 lawyers in the history of Uganda to be inducted into the ULS inaugural 'Roll of Honour'. This award is given to lawyers who have distinguished themselves in the profession, have a proven track record of being excellent

attorneys with stellar reputations and have also made significant contribution to jurisprudence or contributed to the development of a particular area in law. On the 28th March, 2018, John was awarded the Special Rank of Senior Counsel (the highest honor in the legal fraternity) by the Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon. Bart Katureebe.

### KATENDE, Sim

Katende, Ssempebwa & Co, Kampala  
+256 702 529 937  
sim@kats.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Head of KATS' Banking & Finance, Corporate & Commercial, Energy, Oil & Gas, M&A, Capital Markets and TMT practices

**Career:** Sim is widely acknowledged and internationally recognised as one of the leading transactional lawyers in East Africa. He boasts of over 20 years' multi-jurisdictional practice experience having worked in New York, South Africa and Uganda. Sim has worked closely with most of the leading commercial law firms in East Africa, South Africa and the United Kingdom including most of the magic circle firms and has developed an excellent working relationship with many of the key transactional lawyers in these firms. He is known for strengthening bargaining positions and moving deals forward by understanding interests of all parties and all moving parts of complex transactions. Sim has structured, negotiated, and executed landmark multimillion-dollar deals and financial transactions in Uganda and East and sub-saharan Africa in the fields of: Capital Markets, Banking & Finance, Technology, Media & Telecommunication, Insurance, Private Equity, PPPs & Project Finance, Energy, Oil & Gas and Mergers & Acquisitions. Licensed to practice law as an Attorney and Counsellor-at-law in the State of New York as well as an Advocate, Commissioner For Oaths and a Notary Public in Uganda.

### KIBAYA, Andrew

Shonubi, Musoke & Co, Kampala  
256 (772) 594 007  
akibaya@shonubimusoke.co.ug

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Andrew is a Partner at the firm. He specializes in banking and finance law. He also specializes in insurance, taxation, privatisation and de-regulation law, and all aspects of commercial litigation. Andrew heads the banking and finance department of the firm. He has experience in advising international and local clients on commercial transactions, financial regulation and complex commercial litigation. He has acted for government and its institutions and agencies, as well as the private sector in Public and Private Partnerships, earning him a good understanding of private and public sector needs. He was seconded to Barclays Bank, Uganda, as a legal consultant to assist in the legal integration following Barclays' acquisition of a financial institution.

**Career:** Partner at Shonubi, Musoke & Co. Advocates

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East Africa Law Society International Bar Association,

**Personal:** He was a part-time instructor at the Law Development Centre, Uganda. He is a Notary Public. Andrew is an ardent golfer.

### KIHIKA, Innocent

Shonubi, Musoke & Co, Kampala  
+256 414233114  
kiihika@shonubimusoke.co.ug

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Innocent is an Administrative Partner at the firm. He specializes in energy, mining and infrastructure law. His experience includes advising on several Power Purchase Agreement negotiations between independent power producers and government of Uganda / UETCL, a large number of electricity generation projects, as well as transmission line projects and different aspects of Right of Way. He has also worked on a number of mining transactions within the country, and is well versed with the regulatory and licensing architecture of the energy sector in Uganda.

**Career:** Shonubi, Musoke & Co Advocates (Partner) Uganda Electricity Transmission Co. Limited Byenkya, Kihika & Co Advocates Kaggwa & Co Advocates

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East Africa Law Society International Bar Association

**Personal:** He is also a founding member of the Uganda Rights of Way Association (URWA), an affiliate of the Internal Rights of Way Association (IRWA). Innocent is a Notary Public and a Commissioner for Oaths.

### MAGONA, Fiona N

MMAKS Advocates, Kampala  
magona@ug.africalegalnetwork.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Fiona is a Partner in the MMAKS Corporate team with over 15 years' experience in multi-jurisdictional commercial transactions cutting across corporate M&A, Private Equity, Energy, Mining and Natural Resources, Projects & Infrastructure, and general corporate commercial, regulatory and investment advisory. She is also the Acting Head of the MMAKS Banking and Finance team. Fiona is consistently ranked by IFLR1000 as a highly regarded lawyer, described by Chambers as highly efficient, effective and customer oriented, and also recognised as a recommended lawyer by Legal 500. Fiona provides legal and strategic commercial advice on cutting edge transactional work across sectors like telecom, broadcasting, insurance, education, banking, manufacturing, gaming, mining and energy. She routinely handles legal due diligences, advises on corporate transactional structuring, negotiates local and cross border transactional agreements, commercial operational agreements. With impressive knowledge of the local regulatory framework, she is commended for her advice on compliance issues, licensing regimes, and issues affecting local and foreign investors. Fiona has

advised on deals such as Bujagali Hydro Power Project, Kampala Jinja Expressway, including the acquisition of Orient Bank. Some of her clients include Scatec, Africa Rivers Fund and SN54. She holds a LL.M in commercial law from the University of Birmingham, UK.

**MAKUBUYA, Apollo N**  
MMAKS Advocates, Kampala  
+256 414 259 920

makubuya@mmaks.co.ug

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Apollo is one of the founding partners of MMAKS Advocates. He heads the Commercial Transactions team. With 26 years in legal practice, he specialises in corporate and commercial transactions including company incorporation, governance and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions in various fields such as banking and finance, oil and gas and projects and infrastructure. He has handled several high-profile commercial transactions in the energy, oil, petroleum, infrastructure and mining sectors. These include deals with the National Oil Company on the National Oil Refinery and the Kampala Storage Terminal, and with an Oil and Gas local content and incubator programme. Other assignments include the Kilembe Mines, Bujagali Hydro Power Project, Kampala Flyover Project and the Namanve industrial park. He routinely advises on commercial and regulatory aspects in the banking, telecommunications and insurance sectors. Apollo is the current chair of Prudential Assurance Uganda Ltd. and he has been consistently ranked as a leading lawyer by Chambers Global and IFLR. He is a graduate of Cambridge University, UK and holds a first-class honours Bachelor's law degree from Makerere University and a Diploma in Legal Practice.

**MASEMBE, Timothy Kanyerezi**  
MMAKS Advocates, Kampala  
(+256 414) 259 920

maseembe@ug.africalegalnetwork.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Timothy is the Managing Partner and also heads the firm's Litigation Team. His practice focuses mainly on commercial, tax and civil litigation, as well as arbitration. Timothy is a leading litigator in Uganda, handling several groundbreaking cases in the banking sector in Uganda. He recently acted successfully for Samsung Electronics (EA) Ltd in a tax dispute against Uganda Revenue Authority in which he challenged a Value Added Tax assessment for services provided by the Samsung Ugandan branch to its head office in Kenya. He is consistently ranked as a Band 1 commercial lawyer by Chambers Global and other leading international directories. He is an external lead counsel for the Bank of Uganda and has indeed been at the center of the reconstruction and improvement of Uganda's banking sector. Timothy is a qualified Barrister-at-law, and a Member of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, United Kingdom. He holds an LLB (Hons) degree from the University of London and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1992. Timothy also holds a Diploma in Legal Practice of the

Law Development Centre in Uganda and was recently granted a special license to appear in the courts of Tanzania.

**MPUBANI, Gabriel**  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, London  
+44 7885 472 382

gabriel.mpubani@freshfields.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Gabriel is a partner in Freshfields's London Global Transactions team and serves as co-head of the firm's Africa group. Gabriel's practice is mainly focused on energy, mining and infrastructure. He advises on a wide spectrum of transactions with a focus on project development and financing, event-driven financings and direct lending transactions across the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Gabriel has acted on some of the most innovative financings in the market and is known for taking a commercial approach to executing transactions. Clients value Gabriel's breadth of experience across many jurisdictions and situations in developing markets, and his ability to get the job done to international standards in often challenging business and legal environments.

**MWESIGWA, Noah Edwin**  
Shonubi, Musoke & Co, Kampala  
+256 414 233114

nmwesigwa@shonubimusoke.co.ug

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Noah is the Managing Partner of the firm. He specializes in all fields of corporate and commercial law with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions. His expertise ranges from project finance and banking, capital markets and debt securities, property law, aviation law, energy, telecommunications, infrastructure projects, debt recovery, general litigation, arbitration and mediation. He has advised and participated as lead local counsel in two of the largest mergers and acquisitions in the financial sector and also in the telecommunications sector in addition to other mergers and acquisitions in insurance, commodities, food processing and manufacturing in Uganda.

**Career:** Partner Shonubi, Musoke & Co. Advocates

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society International Bar Association

**Publications:** He authored a number of articles on legal developments in Uganda. An article on the revised Uganda Companies Act 2012, the Anti-Money Laundering Act, public private partnerships, oil and gas, among others. These continues to provide insight into Uganda's legal regime for clients and foreign lawyers/ advisors.

**Personal:** Noah serves as a Board Director and Company Secretary to a number of companies and provides guidance on good corporate governance practices. He served as the chairperson of a Government of Uganda appointed commission into a mining concession.

**NAMULI BLAZEVIC, Alice**  
Katende, Ssempebwa & Co, Kampala  
+256-414-233770

anamuli@kats.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Corporate & Commercial Transactions, Mergers & Acquisitions, PPP's, and the Energy, Oil & Gas Sector

Telecom, Media and Technology law with a keen interest in Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies and the law.

**Career:** Board Member of the Innovation Advisory Board of the Uganda National Social Security Fund External Innovation Program. Chairperson of the Uganda Legal Tech Network -2018 to date Founder of the Legal Innovation Hub -Uganda: The Legal Innovation Hub is a co-working space for lawyers and innovators.

**Professional Memberships:** Alice served as the Vice President of the Uganda Law Society for two terms from 2016-2018. Alice also served as the Chairperson of the Female Lawyers Chapter of the Uganda Law Society from 2013-2016. She was also the representative of the Central Region (Uganda) on the Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society. She also serves as the Uganda Country Leader for Legal Business Women For Africa (LABFA), a multi jurisdictional network of women transactional lawyers and corporate leaders in Africa and beyond. She was appointed as an Executive Council Member of the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Alumni Association of Uganda in July 2015.

**Publications:** She has authored several articles on AI and Blockchain.

**OGWAL, Joshua**  
Ligomarc Advocates, Kampala  
256772744309

jogwal@ligomarc.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Joshua is a leading financial lawyer in Uganda with 22 years' experience. He has extensive experience advising on and structuring financial and investment transactions in the Financial Sector in Uganda. His advisory experience has included project finance and other financing structures. He also has significant experience advising in infrastructure sectors, including the Power and the Rail sector and has participated in the development of important pieces of commercial legislation in Uganda including: the Mortgages law, Companies law; the Collateral Securities law, and the Mining law He has experience in providing financial and infrastructure law advisory, including advisory on development and restructuring of electricity projects, advice on compliance and regulatory issues, and project finance.

**Professional Memberships:** Joshua holds a Masters of Science (MSc.) degree in Finance and Financial Law from the University of London (Centre for Financial and Management Studies), Certificate in Privatisation and Public Private Partnerships (University of London), Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (L.D.C), Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) Makerere University and a member of the Uganda Law Society and East Africa Law Society

**SEBATINDIRA, Ruth**  
Ligomarc Advocates, Kampala  
256-41-4255801

rsebatindira@ligomarc.com

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Ruth Sebatindira is a Senior Counsel and past President of the Uganda Law Society (2013-2016). Ruth founded Ligomarc Advocates in 2003; a

commercial and corporate law firm based in Kampala, Uganda. She has built business leadership skills and legal expertise out of her twenty four years' experience in commercial litigation, corporate transactions and tax advisory assignments. Ruth has experience in advising clients through complex issues that can accompany large and sophisticated transactions. She majorly advises and represents financial institutions, large manufacturing companies, Regulators and Government Agencies. Ruth is a transfer pricing specialist and heads the firm's Tax Practice. She leads the team in tax litigation, advisory, negotiations with the URA and in tax risk mitigation assignments. She supports clients and renders advice in response to changes in regulatory environments of their businesses and tax laws; as well as advise on tax aspects of mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations, permanent establishment and double taxation treaties of contemplated transactions.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society, Kampala, Uganda East Africa Law Society, Arusha, Tanzania International Bar Association, London, United Kingdom International Fiscal Association, Rotterdam, The Netherlands Association of International Petroleum Negotiators

**SEBUGENYI, James Mukasa**  
S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates), Kampala  
+256 414 233063

jsmukasa@sebalulule.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** James Mukasa Sebugenyi (Senior Counsel) specialises in dispute resolution (litigation and arbitration) and has participated in significant cases covering mainstream areas of law such as commercial contracts, real estate and product liability, and in specialised spheres such as constitutional law, property fraud, telecommunications, energy, expropriated properties, utilities, employee benefits and aviation negligence. James has undertaken specialised litigation training from the prestigious National Institute of Trial Advocacy in Colorado, USA, the world's premier continuing legal education provider of trial advocacy skills, and the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, where he received training in trial advocacy instruction. He has participated in numerous seminars and conferences around the globe as a speaker and faculty on litigation practice. In 2009, James was attached to Kirton & McConkie Attorneys, Utah, Salt Lake City, USA as Visiting and Training Attorney. James holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society International Bar Association

**SEGAWA, Moses**  
S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates), Kampala  
+256 0312 250013

mosessegawa@sebalulule.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Moses Segawa is a specialist employment and employee benefits practitioner. He advises on both non-contentious and contentious matters and acts for a range of sector-leading organisations in the private sector as well as governmental agencies. He has been

at the forefront of guiding employers on their obligations under the 2006 labour laws and works with general and in-house counsel and employment advisers in handling employment issues, including specialised matters such as transfers of undertaking, corporate restructurings and labour law compliance audits. Moses' market-leading pension practice handles the full spectrum of pension matters. He advises on benefit set-up, drafting of trust deeds and rules, registration of schemes, commercial matters and the restructuring, migration and liquidation of pension funds. Moses holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society

#### SHONUBI, Alan

Shonubi, Musoke & Co, Kampala  
+256 414 345 155  
ashonubi@shonubimusoke.co.ug

*Featured in General Business Law (Uganda)*

**Practice Areas:** Dr. Alan is the founding Partner of the firm. He specializes in all corporate and commercial law matters advising both local and international business entities in areas of Public Private Partnerships, banking and project finance, technology and telecommunications, real estate, oil and gas, privatization and de-regulation, aviation, mergers and acquisitions, as well as general business

practices, with a particular focus on cross border transactions. As local counsel, he advised ABSA Bank Limited acting through its ABSA Capital Division and Barclays Bank Uganda in the provision of syndicated loan facility of US\$100 million to a local telecommunications company.

**Career:** He worked with Ekemu, Kabugo and Co. Advocates, Sun International Insurance Brokers, Co-operative Bank and founded Shonubi, Musoke and Co. Advocates in 1987

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society International Bar Association

**Personal:** He previously served as the Chairman for Uganda Breweries and the National Library of Uganda, and as a Director on the Boards of local and regional companies such as East African Breweries, Golf Course Holdings and AAR Health Services. He also serves as chairperson on the Board of Trustees for the Kampala School for the Physically Disabled. He is a Senior Counsel of the High Court of Uganda.

**SSEMPEBWA, Edward Frederick**  
Katende, Ssempebwa & Co, Kampala  
+256 752 777111  
efs@kats.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Professor participated in groundbreaking litigation (he appeared in the first case brought before the

newly instituted East African Court of Justice), and has also been instrumental in the formulation of numerous laws in Uganda. He has meritoriously earned the title of "Senior Counsel" in the Ugandan Courts of Judicature and his outstanding scholarly record has made him a leading authority in Uganda on matters relating to Revenue Law and Taxation, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Conveyance and General Litigation. He has been instrumental in the drafting of various pieces of legislation, regulations and rules governing regulatory bodies including but not limited to; the Insurance Act, the Tax Appeals Tribunal Act and its Rules as well as the Uganda Communications Commission Rules. He was a Member of the Taxpayers Advisory Committee of the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) from 2000 to 2002, a Member of the Minister of Finance Advisory Group on drafting the Income Tax Act, 1987 and a Consultant to the Ministry of Finance and the URA on forming the Tax Appeals Tribunal and drafting the aforementioned Tax Appeals Tribunal Act.

#### TUMUSINGIZE, Barnabas

S&L Advocates (formerly Sebalu & Lule Advocates), Kampala  
+256 414 232 064  
brt@sebalulule.co.ug

**Practice Areas:** Barnabas Tumusingize is the Managing Partner of S&L Advocates and is a leading financial services and regulatory affairs practitioner with over 30 years' experience. Barnabas heads the team which advises twelve commercial banks in Uganda, and he is additionally retained as legal counsel by the region's two leading development banks. Barnabas also possesses considerable experience and expertise in disputes work, with his practice covering banking and financial law, construction, commercial contracts, insurance, telecommunications and regulatory affairs. Barnabas has handled several complex in-country and cross-border matters and is the trusted legal adviser of leading local and multinational companies and financial institutions with extensive business and investments in Africa. Barnabas holds a Master of Laws (Corporate and Commercial Law) degree from University College London and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University.

**Professional Memberships:** Uganda Law Society East African Law Society International Bar Association