

Context: Sub-Saharan Africa comprises 13% of the world's population, yet two out of three people there lack access to electricity. As a result, economic and social development is delayed. The continent needs investment, technology and know-how. This includes bridging the "skills gap" by training African lawyers with the skills to negotiate complex international transactions to finance energy generation and distribution projects throughout the continent.

Program Objectives:

- To provide 6-8 fellowships over 30 months to highly-qualified African energy lawyers at U.S. law firms to develop world-class skills and experience in energy transactions to be transferred back to the Fellows' home law firms and colleagues;
- African energy lawyers to gain exposure to U.S. government programs and access to Power Africa's network of partners in the energy sector;
- To provide trainings by the Fellows upon return to their home countries to other lawyers, including those working in or for African government agencies; and
- To strengthen Power Africa's private sector partnerships by engaging the Fellows with key private sector partners in the U.S. and Africa.

Program Activities:

- The Vance Center recruits Fellows from leading law firms in Power Africa's partner countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa;
- The Fellows work for up to a year at U.S. law firms and corporate legal departments as international associates;
- The Fellows interact with Power Africa, other U.S. government agencies, and Congressional staff in Washington, D.C.;
- The Fellows interact with U.S. and African energy companies; and
- The Fellows return to their home countries to help build capacity for negotiating and closing energy transactions.

Program Outcomes:

- The African energy sector attains enhanced human capacity;
- Host U.S. law firms benefit from the perspectives of African energy lawyers and gain exposure to opportunities to strengthen their energy practice and presence on the African continent;
- The alumni network of all Vance Legal Fellows further develops to support this program and contributes to stronger legal capacity targeted to the African energy sector; and
- A spirit of public service and pro bono practice spreads among the African legal profession.

PARTNERS:

Power Africa

A U.S. Government initiative involving 12 agencies and departments, coordinated by USAID, in partnership with approximately 160 public and private partners that have committed \$54 billion to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Vance Center

Advances global justice by engaging lawyers across borders to support civil society and an ethically-active legal profession. The Vance Center is a program of the New York City Bar Association, a national leader in legal professionalism and pro bono practice since 1870.

Program Management:

This program is part of the existing Vance Center African Legal Fellows Program. Since 2002, the Vance Center has placed more than 50 corporate lawyers from South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria at 16 U.S. law firms and 5 corporate legal departments for year-long fellowships. Ms. Adaobi Egboka, the Vance Center Africa Program Manager, manages the program. She is a qualified Nigerian lawyer with more than 11 years of experience.

**For inquiries, please email:*
africanlegalfellows@nycbar.org

Current Power Africa Legal Fellows for 2018-2019:

Ms. Ejemen Ofoman



Ms. Ofoman is currently a Power Africa Fellow at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe in New York. She comes from the Nigerian-based law firm, Olaniwun Ajayi LP, where she focuses on the development and financing of energy and infrastructure projects. She is admitted to both the Nigerian and New York State bars. She has an LL.B from University College London and an LL.M from Cornell Law School.

Mr. Lotanna Nwodo



Mr. Nwodo is currently a Power Africa Fellow at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York. He comes from the Nigerian-based law firm, Aluko & Oyebo, where he specializes in capital markets and mergers and acquisitions. He is admitted to practice in Nigeria and has an LL.B from the University of Nigeria as well as an LL.M from Harvard Law School.

Ms. Belinda Ongong'a



Ms. Ongong'a is currently a Power Africa Fellow at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in New York. She comes from the Kenya-based law firm, Bowmans Kenya (Coulson Harney LLP), with a background in corporate and commercial transactions. She is admitted to practice in Kenya and has an LL.B from Kenyatta University School of Law as well as a Postgraduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law.