

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OFFICE FOR THE WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT - LIBERIA

BACKGROUND

Liberia's fourteen-year civil war ended in 2003 with the signing of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The CPA mandated the creation of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The National Transitional Legislative Assembly of Liberia passed the Truth and Reconciliation Act in July 2005, thus establishing the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The mandate of the TRC as stipulated in the statute creating it, included the investigation of major human rights violations between January 1979 and October 14, 2003, and the compilation of a report of its findings and recommendations to establish a comprehensive historical account of the conflict. In December 2009, following all its fact-finding activities, the TRC compiled a multi-volume comprehensive report of its findings. These findings, containing determinations and recommendations, addressed issues of justice, human rights, and other forms of impunity, the root causes of the conflicts, peacebuilding, and institutional reforms to stem the legacy of past abuses and prevent the country from experiencing the outbreak of violent conflicts of such nature in the future.

The report contained over 200 recommendations, including Recommendations on Accountability to establish an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal to redress cases of War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, International Human Rights Violations, including violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Recommendations on Accountability for Egregious Domestic Criminal Law Violations.

On April 8, 2024, the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature of Liberia passed Resolution # 001/2024, titled "THE MECHANISMS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXTRAORDINARY CRIMINAL COURT AND DOMESTIC CORRUPTION COURT FOR WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIME". By passing Resolution # 001/2024, the House of Representatives approved the setting up of war and economic crimes courts for Liberia. The Liberian Senate concurred with Resolution #001/2024.

Resolution #001/2024, relying on Article 34 (b) (e) (i) (j), and Chapter 2, Article 5(c) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, implored the Executive Branch of Government to use its executive powers to issue an Executive Order setting out a mechanism which shall study and recommend the machinery and process relative to the establishment of this SPECIAL WAR CRIMES COURT FOR LIBERIA.

The War & Economic Crimes Court aims to prosecute persons and organizations identified as responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberian civil war between the periods 1979 and 2003, as well as the mechanism for the establishment of an ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT, subject to domestic jurisdiction and operating and guided by domestic jurisprudence, with power to adjudicate matters involving acts of corruption committed between 1979 to present.

Cognizant of Resolution # 001/2024 and the desire of the majority of Liberians, the President of Liberia issued Executive Order # 131: **ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT FOR LIBERIA**, to investigate, design, and prescribe the methodology, mechanisms, and the processes for the establishment of a Special War Crimes Court for Liberia as well as for the establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia.

The Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court is to be headed by an Executive Director (ED), who shall be an astute lawyer of impeccable character, knowledgeable of Liberian constitutional and criminal law, and capable of working with the international community in the formulation of the mechanisms, procedures, and processes attending the establishment of a war crimes court and an anti-corruption court for Liberia.

To assist in vetting applicants for the position of ED, the President established an ad hoc search Committee to conduct a thorough and objective public vetting process for the position of ED.

In keeping with its mandate, the ad hoc Committee is hereby soliciting applications for the position of **Executive Director for The Office of War and Economic Crimes Court**.

Position Summary: The ED will oversee the establishment and operationalization of the Office for the War and Economic Crimes Courts for Liberia. The ED will lead efforts to build institutional frameworks, ensure effective operations, and advance the Office's mission of establishing the War and Economic Crimes Courts for Liberia in pursuit of justice and accountability for war and economic crimes committed. The ED will draft the Statutes of both the WCC and the Anti-Corruption Court for presentation to the National Legislature and work with both the National Legislature and the Executive Branch of Government for its passage into Law.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- a. Provide strategic direction and leadership for the establishment and operationalization of the war and economic crimes courts.
- b. Conduct research and studies, and growing therefrom, and in consultation with international partners, select a model of an international tribunal for war crimes, including the jurisdiction and status of the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia, consistent and in harmony with international models that have been used for similar trials of war crimes.
- c. Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners.

- d. Represent the Office in meetings, conferences, and public forums to promote the Court's objectives.
- e. Liaise with international partners and donors to source and secure funding for the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia.
- f. Recruit, manage, and develop a professional team, including legal experts, administrative staff, and support personnel.
- g. Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Office ensuring effective and efficient management and foster a positive and productive work environment.
- h. Prepare and manage the Office's budget, ensuring effective allocation of resources, and managing financial reports and audits.
- i. Develop and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness about the Court's work and progress. Handle media inquiries and manage public relations efforts.
- j. Work with legal experts, and appropriate international organizations to draft and finalize legal frameworks and operational guidelines compliant with national and international standards, and best practices for the Courts such as:
 - Draft legislation for the establishment and operation of the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia.
 - Draft legislation for the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia, taking into full consideration jurisdictional configuration, which shall be separate and distinct from those ascribed to other current criminal courts in Liberia, and capable of addressing all forms of corruption cases connected to and growing out of the civil war as well as corruptions committed during the governance of the Republic subsequent to the Liberian civil war and the present.
- k. Recommend the scope and duration of the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia, after due consultation with funding partners and other considerations necessary to the existence and operations of the court.
- l. Recommend any other means by which the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia can be expeditiously established.
- m. Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Office's initiatives.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant must be a lawyer and a member of the Liberia National Bar Association and the Supreme Court Bar.

Education:

A Master's degree or higher in Law. A Bachelor's or graduate degree in Political Science, International Relations, Public Policy, Public Administration, Economics, Management, and related fields in the social sciences. Certificates in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and Alternative Dispute Resolution will be an added advantage

Professional Experience:

- A. Must have practiced law in the Republic of Liberia for at least 10 years
- B. Must have senior management experience of at least 7 years, preferably working with human rights, international justice, transitional justice, and public integrity institutions.
- C. Must be familiar with the TRC Report and Recommendations
- D. Proven knowledge of complex legal and institutional frameworks. Must have sufficient knowledge of the processes of cases involving war and economic crimes before an international tribunal.

Skills and Competencies:

- A. Strong understanding of international criminal law, human rights, and transitional justice mechanisms.
- B. Excellent leadership, strategic planning, and organizational skills.
- C. Strong Analytical and problem-solving skills
- D. Ability to manage budgets and financial resources effectively.
- E. Exceptional communication and negotiation skills, with proficiency in public speaking and media relations.

Public Service and Integrity:

- A. Must be a Liberian.
- B. Personal attributes of high ethical standards and integrity. Must be of impeccable and high moral character, with integrity and impartiality, and has neither been convicted of any criminal offense nor declared bankrupt, in any jurisdiction.
- C. Commitment to justice, accountability, and the rule of law.
- D. Must be knowledgeable in the Liberian constitutional and criminal laws.
- E. Must be capable of working with the international community in the formulation of the mechanisms, procedures, and processes attending the establishment of a war crimes court and an anti-corruption court for Liberia.

Supervision and Delegation:

- A. Must have experience in delegation and supervising highly professional legal minds, administrators, consultants, and others.
- B. Ability to work under pressure, work with individuals from diversified backgrounds and manage multiple priorities.

REPORTING AND INDEPENDENCE

Through the Executive Director, the Office of War and Economic Crimes Courts shall prepare and present regular progress reports to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. However, it shall be independent, divorced from all political influence, and guided strictly by legal considerations.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be considered, interested candidates should submit their CV, a cover letter, all relevant credentials, and contact details for three professional references to:

In-Person Delivery: The Chairman
 Office of the Ad-hoc Committee
 Ministry of Justice
 Paynes Avenue
 Sinkor, Monrovia

Via Email: ksiaffabahn@gmail.com

Deadline for Application: Friday, September 20, 2024 @ 4 0'Clock P.M. (GMT)

Note: Only Shortlisted Applicants Will Be Contacted