



2022 FIRM PROFILE

TARA
ADVOCATES

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WHO WE ARE

Tara Advocates is an award winning Commercial law firm based in Kampala, Uganda. The Firm specializes in all laws that affect the business community including Corporate law, Intellectual Property law, Tax law, Labor law, and Real Estate law etc.

Other areas of practice include Family law, Telecommunications law, Corporate Finance and Governance. Our services include general legal consultancy and advisory services, legal compliance, company registration and corporate secretarial services, contract drafting, negotiation, and review, conveyancing, intellectual property registration, protection and enforcement, HR related services, litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

We officially started operations in 2019, and the legal team has a combined experience of over 20 years. In 2021, the firm won the Uganda Law Society Award for Boutique Law Firm of the Year In Mid 2021, and at the African level, the Firm was a Nominee and Finalist for Small Practice of the Year at the African Legal Awards, 2021 in South Africa.

In 2020 the firm was ranked among the top 70 law firms in Uganda by **Asia Africa Development Council** based in India

[See :https://asiafricaonline.com/the-2020-accredited-best-70-law-firms-in-uganda-east-africa/](https://asiafricaonline.com/the-2020-accredited-best-70-law-firms-in-uganda-east-africa/).

OUR VISION

Tara Advocates aspires to become an international commercial law firm.

OUR MISSION

To ease the doing of business through offering quality, real time and affordable legal services.

SOME OF THE PRACTICE AREAS



CORPORATE LAW

- ☐ Company registration
- ☐ Trading licenses
- ☐ Contracts
- ☐ Corporate governance
- ☐ Legal compliance



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- ☐ Trade mark
- ☐ Patents and Copy right
- ☐ Industrial designs
- ☐ Trade secrets
- ☐ Geographical indications



EMPLOYMENT LAW

- ☐ Employment contract drafting
- ☐ Employee relations advisory
- ☐ Disciplinary action support
- ☐ Representation at labour office/industrial court



TAX LAW

- ☐ Tax advisory
- ☐ Legal representation at the Tax appeals tribunal and Court

RECENT EXPERIENCE

- The Firm is currently supporting a German Italian Industrial Group operating in the development, investment, construction and operation of high voltage transmission facilities and hydro power plants to set up and construct a hydro power plant in Uganda. For this assignment, The Firm has reviewed Quota holders Agreements, conducted due diligence, advised on compliance requirements with Electricity Regulatory Authority, URSB, is drafting all relevant and supporting legal documentation for the entity.
- The Firm is also providing legal support to a Kenyan business to establish in Uganda to carry out Petroleum supply operations. The services rendered include incorporation of the local company, advising on sector specific compliance requirements including licences and permits required to import, transport, store, distribute, retail, and sell petroleum products in Uganda and to engage the relevant departments at the Ministry of Energy.

- The Firm conducted a legal audit for a Civil Society Organisation with operations across Africa and supported restructuring and creation of systems and procedures for effective corporate governance, and business management.
- The Firm has also supported an American company to establish itself in Uganda and provided legal support for it to carry out and implement a USAID funded project on Sustainable Energy and Engineering Solutions in Northern Uganda.
- The Firm was recently engaged by a Tanzanian based Telecommunications company on the drafting and review process of a Master Tower Space Agreement with another tower company in Tanzania.
- The Firm has also provided legal support to a foreign investor to set up a mineral dealing business and to export minerals from Uganda. Part of the work required engaging with the Department of Geology and Mines to obtain the requisite Permits, URA, Immigration Control office, land owners, and stakeholders in the minerals supply chain. It also involved drafting relevant documents and contracts with engaged parties.

- The Firm is currently handling a Multi Million US Dollar commercial arbitration case for a telecommunication company against tower companies on aspects of passive infrastructure contractual obligations and breaches, regulatory aspects around electricity billing, negligence, anti-competition laws, and telecommunications laws. The matter has been both at the International Court of Arbitration under the International Chamber of Commerce and Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in Uganda.
- The Firm concluded a case where it successfully represented a media house against Uganda Communications Commission on matters relating to application, licensing, revocation, compliance requirements for radio frequency and electromagnetic spectrum. The matter was amicably resolved pursuant to The Firm's negotiating skills and engagements with the regulator.

- The Firm is also advising a Credit Finance Institution on legal and regulatory requirements including KYC, due diligence, contracting, mobile and online finance products, enforcement and recovery, legal aspects of social media marketing and advertising, etc.
- Recently The Firm advised on a joint venture project between a Ugandan and Tanzania production house carrying out the production of a 2 year period based documentary on UN work in Uganda and Tanzania.
- The Firm is currently representing land owners against tower companies for trespass, and failed compensation for use of their land to install masts and related equipment.
- The Firm successfully represented a Telecommunications company in a trademark opposition case against another telecom.

- The Firm has also advised a consortium planning to set up a low cost housing project comprising Italian based Concrete and prefabrication panels manufacturer, a Kenyan based capital fund, plus a construction and marketing company in Uganda.
- The Firm is currently representing a construction and hardware company in a case against a European manufacture of venetian floor tiles, paints, waxes, resins, and dyes for breach of an international sale of goods contract and tax refund.
- The Firm is also providing legal support to the administration of a multimillion US dollar estate on matters of obtaining letters of administration, engaging with the office of the Administrator General, Local governments, land office, contracting, registration of charges and mortgages, caveats and property management.
- The Firm conducted research which was published by International environmental organization, Tropenbos International and Ecological Trends Alliance titled “An assessment of land deals undertaken by the National Oil Palm Project in Kalangala and Buvuma districts”. The research studied and examined the application of the Principle of Prior Free and Informed Consent by the locals in respect of the oil palm project.

WHY US

GENUINE CONCERN AND OWNERSHIP

- We take to heart all the matters that our clients put forth expressing genuine interest in the relationship. It is not just an institutional relationship but rather a matter of personal care and continued involvement.
- We also take ownership of matters and don't just disappear because the transaction has ended. We will still remain your genuine partner and friend and walk a mile with our clients.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

- We understand that for every client their matter is the most urgent thing giving us the privilege to serve you in as little time as possible without compromising the quality of services offered.
- Our services are offered with an adequacy of knowledge amassed from thorough research and adequate preparation in order to make informed decisions about the matters our clients put to the table.

WHY US

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

- At the core of what we do is integrity and professionalism. Our reputation is our most valuable asset and we are not willing to compromise it.
- We genuinely listen to our clients and understand the service they need rather than what the firm wants to offer. We understand the context in which we are delivering advice and we are respectful advocates to the clients and the justice system.
- We are mindful of our roles as lawyers as officers to the legal system, advocates, counselors, negotiators and problem solvers.

RESPONSIVENESS

- We take all our client's matters as priority and as a principle we acknowledge receipt of emails and documents or instructions within twenty four hours of receipt. We also inform our clients of any changes in the law that may affect them. We believe this is of utmost importance not only for clients but also to us as a firm as it establishes a pattern of trust and regular updated communication.

SOME OF OUR CLIENTELE



MEET THE TEAM





MS.TIBUGWISA DAMALIE- MANAGING PARTNER

- Damalie is the Founding and Managing partner of the firm and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. She is an advocate of the High Court of Uganda and all Courts subordinate thereto with over 9 years experience.

Damalie is a Commercial Law who specializes in the areas of Corporate law and advisory, Intellectual Property law, Tax law and advisory, Employment law Telecommunications, Real Estate law, Commercial law Arbitration and Litigation.

Through out her practice since, 2011, Damalie has had a 95% success rate as a Commercial Litigation lawyer.

Noteably, Damalie ably represented a client at the Tax Appeals Tribunal that led to a reduction in tax liability for a Client from UGX. 12 Billion to UGX. 4 Billion, represented a Client against UCC that led to the reissuance of radio frequency licence, and is currently representing a telecommunication company in a Multimillion USDollar arbitration Claim in Telecommunication and Energy Laws.



MS.TIBUGWISA DAMALIE –MANAGING PARTNER

- She is also a Chartered secretary with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, UK and a trained legal auditor with Train With Clarity; TCA, Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a Bachelors Degree and Masters of Law [1] from Makerere University and Post graduate
- Damalie is a member of the Uganda Law Society, Uganda Law Society Female Lawyers Committee, East Africa Law Society, FIDA, Business Networking International- Integrity Chapter and a member of the Intellectual Property Users Forum of the Uganda Registration Services Bureau.



MS.TIBUGWISADAMALIE- MANAGING PARTNER

- Prior to starting the firm, Damalie worked with Muwema and Co. Advocates one of the biggest firms in Uganda since 2011.
- Damalie also sits on several boards of companies as a Director or Secretary where she renders quality and sound corporate advisory services.
- An ardent intellectual property practitioner, Damalie has assisted many innovators and businesses to enforce their intellectual property rights through registration, oppositions, litigation both at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau and in the courts of law. Damalie has also facilitated trainings on intellectual property at the National Agricultural Research Organization and done several trainings and attended workshops facilitated by WIPO and ARIPO, UIRI, URSB, UNSCT etc.



MS.TIBUGWISA DAMALIE-MANAGING PARTNER

- Damalie is also an enlisted blogger for African Legal Institute through the Uganda Legal Information Institute the leading online legal information data base in Uganda[www.lulii.org] and also the CEO East Africa Magazine for which she frequently writes on national matters of the law
- On a personal note Damalie is a mother of two beautiful girls and a wife to one. She is also an ardent reader and a vegetarian. She loves to cook, listen to music and interact with others.
- Damalie also runs a women empowerment organization called The Awakened Woman.



MS.KAGOYA ALLEN – PARTNER

Allen's has over 7 years experience and her practice covers a wide range of areas including Cyber law, International law with a bias on international law, criminal law, human rights and commercial law. She has engaged in innumerable legal research and was the lead researcher in the Irish case of Fred Muwema V. Facebook and TVO.

- She also participated in the international Crimes Division Rules symposium where a commentary prepared by her was presented.
- She is currently a Partner at Tara Advocates and previously worked with Muwema & Co. Advocates and the Uganda Human Rights Commission.



MS.KAGOYA ALLEN – PARTNER

- She is an advocate of the High Court and all Subordinate Courts thereto and a member of Uganda Law Society (ULS) and the East Africa Law Society.
- Allen is family oriented and is a philanthropist . She has served as Chairperson of Charity Initiative Ltd an organization that was set up to help the needy especially by providing and improving education amongst the rural and the less privileged communities.
- She has worked with Kengele Ya Toto an NGO offering innovative justice for victims of both child and domestic violence. She likes to refer to herself as a “creative” and is happy to roll up her sleeves and get the work done.



ABIO PATIENCE TEDDY- ASSOCIATE

- Patience is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honors) Degree from Makerere University Kampala and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Center. She has experience in legal research, advisory, management, corporate law, employment law, conveyance law and criminal law.
- Patience is passionate about the environment and has written a paper on Public Interest Litigation in Environmental Law in Uganda. Currently, she is a member of the Alumni Association of the Public Interest Law Clinic of Makerere University where she continues to serve the community through outreach such as the 2019 High School Human Rights Moots competition where she served as a coach for Nansana Senior Secondary School
- Patience also has managerial and administrative experience from working as the Assistant manager at Hotel Eleanorah, Kireka. She has acquired great exposure with law firm practice and court room decorum, which experience she obtained from Nangwala, Rezida & Co. Advocates during clerkship and M. Kamanzi & Co. Advocates.

NATUMANYA BRIGHT- ASSOCIATE



- Bright is an Associate with the firm having joined immediately after completing his Post Graduate Diploma in Law at the Law Development Centre in 2019. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Law from Law Development Centre and a Bachelor's Degree in Law (Hons) from Makerere University School of Law. While at law school, Bright worked with Public Interest Law Clinic(PILAC) and Network of Public Interest Litigators,(NETPIL).

- He also worked and practiced law while at Law Development Centre using a Student Practicing Certificate which enabled him to gain experience in legal practice
- He undertook both internship and clerkship with M/S Muwema & Co Advocates where he amassed wide experience in legal practice, drafting legal documents among others. He is passionate about legal practice especially commercial law aspects. He is also a law blogger, writer and an ardent reader of books. He has good interpersonal skills and is an effective and fluent communicator in several languages including English and French.



NANTEZA JOANITA PAULINE- ASSOCIATE

- Nanteza is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honors) Degree from Makerere University Kampala and Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Center.(LDC) She is currently pursuing a Post graduate certificate from the Chartered Governance Institute (ICSA). She has experience in conveyance law, family law, corporate law, employment law and legal research.
- Nanteza is passionate about human rights law and enforcement especially the rights of women and has worked for various human rights organizations for example Chapter Four Uganda and Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) where she was involved in the legal research, drafting and outreach seminars for various groups of people. She has also acquired a wealth of practical experience from her previous assignment as an Associate at *NOMREK Law Consultants and Advocates* from 2017-2020 where she was involved in mainly conveyance and family law practice.



MARIA KAMBUDUE- HUMAN RESOURCE/ ACCOUNTANT

- Maria Kambudue is both a Human Resource Manager and an Accountant at the firm. Maria pursued a Bachelors degree in Human Resource Management at Makerere University Business School(Honors).

- She is responsible for developing and implementing HR strategies and coordinating all HR issues within the firm to make sure that the team is comfortable.
- She has a passion for accounting and is on the road to taking a class in ACCA. She manages the accounting and payroll for staff, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial planning, audits, budget preparation, long term forecasting and payroll functions. This knowledge was amassed from being an accountant at Zho Jun Health Care Uganda LTD.



NASSOLO ISABELLA- FIRST IMPRESSIONS MANAGER

- Isabella is our Firm Impressions Manager in the firm. She pursued bachelor's degree in Business Computing at Makerere University Business School (Honors).
- She is responsible for all secretarial and administrative work like answering incoming calls or emails, receiving visitors, and providing general information about the firm to the public and customers, responding to client's inquiries, scheduling appointments between lawyers and clients, assist lawyers with day to day tasks, managing and preparing case files.
- She has got experience from working with Oscar associated Advocates as a receptionist and with brainchild Cohn and Wolfe.

SOME OF OUR PUBLICATIONS

A. Publications with Uganda Legal Information Institute;

ULII: <https://ulii.org/content/welcome-uganda-legal-information-institute>

1. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/29-july-2020/options-oppressed-shareholder>

1. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/20-september-2019/public-interest-and-human-rights-aspects-underlying>

1. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/28-january-2020/7-reasons-settle-your-case-mediation>

1. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/22-november-2019/tax-alert-court-appeal-finds-uras-imposition-interest>

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1. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/22-november-2019/tax-alert-court-appeal-finds-uras-imposition-interest>
5. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/3-december-2019/how-compute-rental-ta>
5. <https://ulii.org/blogs/damalie-tibugwisa/30-august-2019/everything-wrong-sudhir-and-bank-uganda-ruling>

B. Some of the Publications with the CEOEast Africa Magazine

1. <https://www.ceo.co.ug/options-available-for-an-oppressed-shareholder/>
1. <https://www.ceo.co.ug/legal-review-vivo-energy-wins-case-against-ura-as-court-confirms-rent-paid-in-respect-of-leases-as-an-allowable-deduction/>
1. <https://www.ceo.co.ug/7-reasons-to-settle-your-case-at-mediation/>

SOME OF OUR PUBLICATIONS

C. Publications by Tropenbos International and Ecological Trends Alliance titled

“An assessment of land deals undertaken by the National Oil Palm Project in Kalangala and Buvuma districts”

<http://www.ecotrendsalliance.org/assets/files/Article-Kakungula-Mayambala-Tibugwisa.pdf>

Other popular publications.

- <https://madvocates.com/index.php/articles/us-company-registered-matooke-as-its-trademark>
- https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1239277/court-ought-option

TESTIMONIALS



RanJith Kumar:

"talented, honest, experienced, available, responsive, prompt, professional. Showed their best at all times." *Elite Digital Solutions.*



Head Legal and Regulatory Affairs

"The Firm has produced excellent results and has proven to be diligent, efficient and very ethical." *Smiles Communications Ltd.*



Adrine Atumanya-General Manager

"Intelligent, strong analytical skills, and excellent understanding of the law. Effective and responsive communication." *Waterquip Uganda Ltd.*



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