



## Special Adviser Without Portfolio

### Short Bio. | Evelyn Ama Ankumah



Evelyn Ama Ankumah is a distinguished lawyer, human rights advocate, and the founder and executive director of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA). With extensive legal experience across Africa, Europe and North America, she has been a key figure in advancing international criminal justice, particularly in promoting gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches.

Through AFLA, she has led initiatives addressing marginalised rights issues, accountability and access to justice.

Ankumah earned her Juris Doctor (JD) degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was admitted to the Minnesota state and federal courts. She later obtained an Advanced Diploma for Human Rights Researchers and Lecturers from the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France. She was a Research Fellow at the Department of International and European Law, Maastricht University, the Netherlands, where she authored the first book on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, later translated into French and Arabic.

A specialist in international criminal law, Ankumah has been instrumental in shaping legal frameworks for human rights and justice. She convened the Review of the Kampala Amendments on the Crime of Aggression, mobilising African States Parties to the ICC to engage in justice reform discussions. She also leads the Gender Mentoring Training Programme for Judges of International Courts and Tribunals, strengthening judicial capacity

to deliver gender-sensitive rulings. Her advocacy for victims' rights and defence counsels was a driving force behind the establishment of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA).

Ankumah initiated the Cairo-Arusha Principles on Universal Jurisdiction, promoting accountability for gross human rights violations. Recognised as an expert on the Rome Statute of the ICC, she has played a critical role in shaping discourse on international justice and accountability.

Her long-standing contributions have earned her several accolades. In 2014, Power List Magazine recognised her as one of 25 Africans significantly contributing to the continent's progress. In 2020, she was inducted into the International Gender Champions (IGC) network, a leadership initiative promoting gender equality and international justice.

As editor and author, Ankumah has published six books and over forty editions of the AFLA Quarterly journal. Through her legal expertise and advocacy, she continues to influence global efforts toward justice, accountability, and human rights, ensuring greater protection for victims and marginalised communities worldwide.

