



Judge Florence Ndepele Mumba A Lifetime of Historical Firsts

Her Excellency Judge Florence Ndepele Mumba became the first African woman to sit on an international court in The Hague when she was elected to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1997 and subsequently served as its Vice President. She also served on the Appeals Chamber of the ICTY and its sister Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

In 2009, Judge Mumba was appointed to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and is currently concluding her mandate.

Judge Mumba was among the core group of female judges with whom AFLA started its Gender Mentoring Programme for Judges of International Courts and Tribunals in 2020, and was its first Chair.



Her Excellency Judge Florence Ndepele Mumba

Judge Mumba's career began as a state advocate in her native Zambia, where she represented the government in civil matters and prosecuted criminal cases. She was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Zambia in 1980 becoming the first female to serve on the High Court. In 1989, she achieved the milestone of being the first woman to hold the position of Investigator-General (Ombudsman). She later served on the Supreme Court of Zambia and was the first woman to join the Supreme Court.

Judge Mumba has represented Zambia at high-level international meetings including the Conference on Women in 1985 and the African Regional Conference on Women in 1994. She participated in drafting the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court of Justice in 1995. She has also served as a commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists.



Judge Florence Ndepele Mumba

In recognition of her distinguished career as a lawyer and a judge of national and international courts, Judge Mumba has been honoured with the 2023 White & Case Distinguished Jessup Alumni Award, commemorating her lifetime of achievements and commitment to justice. She was also invited to join the bench for the final round of the moot court World Championship in Washington D.C. in April 2023.

As a student, Judge Mumba participated in the Jessup Moot Court International Competition in 1972, representing Zambia. Zambia won a silver cup. Over the years she had not been in touch with the Jessup Moot Court, only to be pleasantly surprised now as she begins to complete her long and illustrious career.

Aunt Flo, you make us proud to spell our name W O M A N.



Judge Florence Ndepele Mumba (ECCC) and Judge Julia Sebutinde (ICJ) at the 2023 White & Case Jessup International Rounds in Washington D.C. Behind them, Moot Court Finalists.

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