

KHANDIKILE P. MVUNGA SOKONI

kms@truewalshlaw.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

TRUE, WALSH & SOKONI, LLP. Partner. Attorney at Law. General practice of law including the areas of immigration, corporate, real estate, municipal and elder law.

2014 to Present

TRUE & WALSH, LLP. Attorney at Law. General practice of law including the areas of immigration, corporate, real estate, municipal, and elder law (particularly Article 81 MHL Guardianship Proceedings).

2011 to 2013

CITY OF ITHACA, Office of the City Attorney, Ithaca, New York. Assistant City Attorney. Serving as legal adviser to the Mayor, Common Council, department heads and staff. Experience included drafting legislation; complex government contracts; being involved in complex business transactions with private developers seeking to pursue development projects in the city; ensuring city's compliance with various local, state and federal laws; conducting high level negotiations with officials of other governmental entities regarding inter-governmental agreements and memoranda of understanding; representing the City in litigation; handling Freedom of Information Law Requests and a wide variety of municipal law matters.

2006 to 2012

CITY OF ITHACA, Office of the City Attorney, Ithaca, New York. Associate.

1998- 2005

CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL, COOK & COMPANY, Lusaka, Zambia. ATTORNEY. Work in general practice including areas of commercial, corporate, contracts, conveyancing and civil litigation. Represented financial institutions and international clients in business transactions.

Attorney.

1995-1996

Clerkship prior to bar admission.

1994-1995

EDUCATION:

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Ithaca, New York. Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree. Selected coursework included: Corporate Law, Contracts, Federal Income Taxation, International Taxation, International Business Transactions, International Commercial Arbitration, Conflict of Laws.

1997

LAW PRACTICE INSTITUTE, Lusaka, Zambia. (Mandatory one year pre-bar admission preparation course).

UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA, Lusaka, Zambia. Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B – equivalent to the U.S. Juris Doctorate).

LICENSES:

US FEDERAL COURT – NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. Admitted to practice and in good standing.

NEW YORK STATE BAR. Admitted to practice law in all courts of the State of New York, and in good standing.

HIGH COURT OF ZAMBIA. Admitted to practice law before the High Court of Zambia, and in good standing.

HONORS/AWARDS:

1. Law Association of Zambia Award Presented by the Chief Justice for Highest Score in Bar Examination with Distinctions (i.e. Highest Honors) in 7 out of the 8 courses.
2. Award for the best thesis in the Law School.
3. “Best Oralist Award” at the International Moot Court Competition.
4. Award for Overall Best Academic Performance in the Law School.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Present: President of the Tomkins County Bar Association
Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission for the Appellate Divisions Sixth Judicial District (appointed by Chief Judge Lippman – Term: March, 2015 to December, 2017)
American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) – Member.
New York State Bar Association (Member).
Past President of the Finger Lakes Women’s Bar Association, a chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York.
Past: American Bar Association; Law Association of Zambia; University of Zambia Law Association – President.

PUBLICATIONS:

1. Freedom of Information Law. Zambia Law Journal, Vol. 35, 2003. [A comparative analysis based on the New York State Freedom of Information Law].
2. “Women, AIDS and the Law in Africa” published in the Cornell Institute for African Development journal “Africa Notes”, May, 1998. [Based on a Seminar Presentation at Cornell University].

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Kids Count, Inc. Board Member.
Volunteer judge in student moot court/debate competitions.
Presenter at Cornell Law School workshop on public service careers.
Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga, Ithaca New York – Board Member (2006-2008).
Drop-In Children’s Center, Ithaca, New York – Board Member (2000-2008).