


JOHN M. OHAGA

Date of Birth: 23rd February, 1966

Nationality: Kenyan

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

John Ohaga is the Managing Partner at TripleOKlaw LLP, Advocates, renowned for his outstanding leadership, mentorship, and expertise in dispute resolution. With an impressive 25-year tenure at the helm of one of Kenya's most enduring law firms, John has driven the firm to become one of Africa's Top 50 law firms in 2021, ranked at No. 39 with 36 lawyers.

John is a highly accomplished lawyer who has received recognition and several prestigious awards in recent years. In July 2020, John was conferred the rank and dignity of Senior Counsel, the highest level of professional recognition for lawyers, by the President of the Republic of Kenya. He was also named Kenya's Lawyer of the Year in same year in the 3rd Edition of Nairobi Legal Awards, having been the 1st Runner Up in the 'Lawyer of the Year' category and won the Pupil Master of the Year in 2019 as recognition of his commitment to mentoring young lawyers. In 2021, he was the only Kenyan Finalist for the Partner of the Year Award 2021 at the African Legal Awards held in September 2021. He was declared Kenya's Arbitrator of the year in 2022 by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Kenya Branch) in recognition of his exemplary contribution to arbitration in Kenya. He has also been featured as one of the Top 50 Arbitrators in Africa by the Legal 500 in the Arbitration Powerlist in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (<https://www.legal500.com/the-legal-500-private-practice-powerlists/>) as well as the Africa Arbitration Academy (<https://africaarbitration.org/2021/02/02/africa-arbitration-academy-publishes-africas-30-arbitration-powerlist-2020>).

John's expertise in dispute resolution is unparalleled. **Chambers Global** has ranked him for the last thirteen (13) years in Band 1 for Dispute Resolution and has variously quoted clients as describing him as as '*a very very fine lawyer*' particularly in the area of alternative dispute resolution... '*very strong on arbitration*' and '*a top lawyer without any doubt*'.

John was declared the 2010, 2016 and 2017 winner for Kenya in the category of litigation by the **International Law Office (ILO) Client Choice Awards**

(www.clientchoiceawards.com). Clients who voted for him described him as ‘..one of the foremost litigators in the country’ and “...an absolutely superb disputes lawyer’.

As a litigator, John represents clients regularly before the Kenyan courts at all levels, and has provided expert opinions and appeared as an expert witness on Kenyan law issues before the courts of England and the United States of America.

He has also represented parties as counsel in arbitration proceedings and acted in numerous disputes as either party appointed Arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator or Presiding Arbitrator. He is an experienced arbitrator and has been recognized by **Chambers Global** (<https://chambers.com/rankings>) for 12 years as one of the leading arbitrators in Kenya. He is also acknowledged by Legal 500 (<https://legal500.com>)

John is a Chartered Arbitrator. He is a Trustee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is also an Accredited Mediator and is a member of the Mediation Accreditation Committee established under the Civil Procedure Act as well as a member of the Judiciary Task-Force on Court-Annexed Mediation. He is also the Chairman of the Sports Disputes Tribunal which is established under the Sports Act, 2013 and also chairs the National Committee on the Formulation of the ADR Policy for Kenya.

John has been the Convener of the Law Society of Kenya’s Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution for the last seven (7) years. He served two (2) terms of 4 years each on the inaugural board of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration established under the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act, No. 26 of 2013 where he chaired the Legislative Review and Accreditation Committee.

John is a highly sought after speaker and judge and is regularly invited to speak at conferences and other forums both locally and internationally on arbitration, mediation, management of sports disputes and law firm management. He also participates as a Judge in moot competitions held by the various faculties of law whenever called upon.

John has been designated by the Republic of Kenya to the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators as well as to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. He has also recently been elected to the Governing Board of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA).

John is also a mentor in the International Commercial Council Arbitration (ICCA) mentorship programme and mentors several young arbitrators across the globe.

Apart from his legal work, John is also involved in charitable work and community initiatives. He is a trustee of the Mpesa Foundation and sits on the Board of the Mpesa Academy. He also sits on the board of several other companies.

In summary, John Ohaga is an exceptional leader, lawyer, arbitrator, mediator, and community leader, with a track record of excellence spanning over 25 years. His expertise in dispute resolution is unparalleled, and he is recognized as one of the leading lawyers and arbitrators in Africa. He is committed to mentoring young lawyers and giving back to the community, making him an inspiration to many. His achievements reflect his outstanding skills, experience and dedication to the legal profession in Kenya and beyond.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2022	*LLM (Corporate Governance)(University of Cumbria)
2022:	LLM (International Dispute Resolution) (Queen Mary, University of London)
2018:	Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration
2018:	Chartered Arbitrator
2018:	CIArb Accredited Mediator;
2012	Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators;
2010:	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Fast track to Fellowship Assessment. Construction Claims Course.

	Advanced Arbitration Course.
1999:	Notary Public
1999:	Commissioner for Oaths;
1990:	Kenya School of Law
	Post Graduate Diploma in Law (Dip. In Law, KSL)
1989:	University of Nairobi
	Bachelor of Laws (LLB)(Hons)

*Writing dissertation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Law Society of Kenya;
- East African Law Society;
- International Bar Association;
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association;
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators;
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration;
- International Association of Managing Partners;
- African Arbitration Association;
- Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution;

ACCREDITATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- ICCA Governing Board;
- ICSID Panel of Arbitrators
- ICC Commission on Arbitration and Mediation
- Chartered Arbitrator;
- Accredited Mediator;
- Mediation Accreditation Committee established under Section 59A of the Civil Procedure Act, Chapter 16 of the Laws of Kenya and chairs the Standards & Accreditation sub-committee;
- Member of the team that formulated the Mediation (Pilot Project) Rules, 2015 in Kenya;

- Judiciary Court-Annexed Mediation Task Force;
- Bar-Bench Committee of the High Court (Commercial Division);
- Chairman of the Sports Dispute Tribunal established under Section 58 of the Kenyan Sports Act, No. 25 of 2013;
- Chair of the Sports Dispute Tribunal Committee on the formulation of the Sport Disputes Tribunal Rules which govern the procedure at the Tribunal;
- Board of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration established under the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act, No. 26 of 2013;
- Chair of the Board Committee of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration which was responsible for formulating the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators, Code of Conduct for Mediators, Arbitration Rules of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration, Mediation Rules of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration and the criteria for accreditation to the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration;
- Trustee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators;
- Chair of the Appeals Committee of the Advertising Standard Board;
- Convenor of the Law Society of Kenya Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee;
- Committee appointed by the Council of Law Society to review the rules on marketing and advertizing;
- Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Council of Law Society to advise on the naming of Law Firms and the impact of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2011;

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROFILE

I. Litigation (As Counsel)

A list of past and current matters in which I have acted as counsel can be provided upon request subject to client confidentiality.

II. As Expert

A list of matters in which I have acted as an expert can be provided upon request subject to client confidentiality.

III. As Counsel in Arbitration

A list of past and current matters in which I have acted as counsel can be provided upon request subject to client confidentiality.

IV. As Mediator

A list of past and current matters in which I have acted as Mediator can be provided upon request subject to the parties' agreement.

V. As Arbitrator

A list of past and current matters in which I have sat as Arbitrator, whether Sole or as part of the Tribunal can be provided upon request subject to permission of the parties.

VI. As Chairman of the Advertising Standards Appeals Board

- Decided the matter between British American Tobacco (BAT) and National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse NACADA in relation to a dispute concerning radius of outdoor advertising for schools and other learning institutions;
- Decided the dispute between East African Breweries and the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) in relation to advertising;
- Decided dispute between Unilever and Colgate in relation to claims by Close-Up;

VII. As Chairman of the Sports Disputes Tribunal

I have heard and continue to hear numerous cases relating to disciplinary matters, selection disputes, sports disputes and doping violations. Most of these decisions are reported and can be found at

http://kenyalaw.org/caselaw/cases/advanced_search/

AWARDS & MERITS

2016: International Law Office (ILO) Client Choice Award in the category of Litigation – Kenya, 2016- <http://www.clientchoice.com/john-ohaga:>

Extracts from client comments:

“His integrity is unquestionable; he is articulate, thorough and extremely smart.”

“He has significant experience in both civil and commercial matters; he provides strategic legal advice that works for clients.”

“Mr. Ohaga has a clear understanding of the law and a deep appreciation of the context and dynamics of the business.”

“His knowledge of the Kenyan courts and the commercial environment is second to none.”

2010: International Law Office (ILO) Client Choice Awards in the category of Litigation – Kenya, 2010 - <http://www.clientchoice.com/john-ohaga:>

Extracts from client comments:

“John’s vast experience in commercial law, coupled with an astute legal mind that is continually enriched through research, is a clear advantage to any client.”

“He has a keen interest in wanting to understand the subject matter of the dispute; he insists on having a detailed briefing in order to appreciate the commercial impact of the problem and he then tailors his advice and actions to ensure an optimal result for us.’

“John brought in fresh impetus in the arbitral proceedings and effectively extinguished numerous related court applications that were removing critical attention from the real dispute at hand’

“John’s unquestionable integrity in handling legal matters is worth mentioning, in a world where compromise sometimes deprives litigants of justice.”

2006-2023: Chambers Global in the categories of Litigation and Arbitration
<https://www.chambersandpartners.com/Global/person/278964/john-m-ohaga>

Extract from comments:

‘John Ohaga is widely regarded as ‘*a very very fine lawyer*’ particularly in the area of alternative dispute resolution... ‘*very strong on arbitration*’ and ‘*a top lawyer without any doubt*’.

2007-2022: Best Lawyers -
<https://www.bestlawyers.com/Search?query=John%20M.%20Ohaga>

2007-2022 Legal 500 - <http://www.legal500.com/firms/51034/offices/51944>

Recognized as a leading individual and particularly as '*outstanding in arbitration*'