

CURRICULUM VITAE/RESUMES

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name(s) / Surname(s): **AMBASSADOR OSMAN KEH KAMARA**
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Nationality: Sierra Leonean
Date of Birth: 15/08/1975
Gender: Male
Marital Status: Married, with one daughter

QUALIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ambassador Kamara has over 22 years of professional experience as a lawyer, prosecutor, legal advisor at national and international levels and in diplomacy.

Experience

- Called to the Sierra Leone Bar as **Barrister and Solicitor of the Courts of Superior Judicature in Sierra Leone** on 4th October 2000, and joined the law firm of Terence Terry & Co. in Freetown, Sierra Leone;
- Conducted several litigations before the superior courts of judicature of Sierra Leone and the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in various fields of Law, including Admiralty/Maritime law, Law of the Sea, International Law, Environmental Law, Civil law, Commercial law etc.;
- Acted as Lead Counsel before Pre-Trial and Trial courts; prepared cases for and oversaw the conduct of confirmation hearings, trials, and appeals; prepared written submissions and appeared at court hearings;
- Prosecuted several cases on behalf of Sierra Leone National Social Security and Insurance Trust (August 2007 – September 2008);
- Served as **Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone Mission to the United Nations (UN)** with responsibility to cover the Sixth Committee, which primarily deals with legal matters and is the primary forum for the consideration of international law and other legal matters concerning the United Nations; represented the Mission at senior legal expert levels in relevant international fora including UN General Assembly and UN Security Council open debates relating to the implementation of the rule of law at national and international levels (between 2008 – 2014);
- Participated in the substantive work of the Sixth Committee of the UN including (i) Annual State Parties' meetings on implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention; (ii) 'Meetings of

the *Ad hoc* working Group of the Whole' on Oceans and Law of the Sea; (iii) Informal Consultative Conference on Ocean and Law of the Sea; (iv) negotiations of the Omnibus Resolutions on Law of the Sea; negotiations of the status of Biodiversity in the Sea-bed and high seas Beyond National Jurisdictions (the BBNJ process); (v) negotiations of international treaties and related environmental conventions etc. (between 2008 – 2014);

- Member of the team that prepared Sierra Leone's submission for an extension of the outer limits of her continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the UN Commission on the Limit of the Continental Shelf (between 2008 – 2016);
- Presided over and participated in stakeholders' consultative processes on: (i) "Assessment of the State of Marine Environment and its Socio-economic Aspects" at the UN Headquarters; (ii) regional workshops organized by the UN Group of Experts on Oceans and Law of Sea; and (iii) related matters concerning the legal regime of biodiversity (in the seabed and high seas) beyond national jurisdiction (between 2008 – 2019);
- Provided expert guidance and actively participated as member of the AU-PSC in the conceptualization, negotiations, and drafting of: (i) "Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy in 2014 (2050 AIM Strategy)"; (ii) "African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa" adopted by the African Union Assembly in Lomé 2016;
- Worked closely with the Office of AU Legal Affairs for the negotiation and drafting of annexes to the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa July 2016;
- Served as a member of the UN "Group of Experts on Assessment of the State of Marine Environment including its Socioeconomic Aspects" - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea from 2010 – 2020.

Education

- Holds the following academic **degrees**: **BL** (Sierra Leone Law School - 2000), **LLB Hons.** (University of Sierra Leone - 1999), **LLM** (Queen Mary University of London - 2020), **LLM** (Universitaire Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne - 2021), **MPA** (School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University – 2013).
- Possesses a Post-Graduate **Diploma** (Rhodes Academy of Ocean Law and Policy, Greece - 2011); and has also been a Nippon Foundation **Fellow** at the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, where he spent time at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany (2010).
- Possesses a series of relevant professional development training **certificates** in: **(i)** International law (UN Regional Course in International Law, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2011), **(ii)** International Maritime dispute settlement (International Foundation of Law of the Sea, IFLOS Summer Academy, Hamburg, Germany 2009), **(iii)** Legislative Drafting (U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Narcotic and Law Enforcement Affairs, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2015), International Legal Practice and Procedures (Bar of England and Wales, Freetown,

Sierra Leone, 2004), International Investment Arbitration Law and Procedures (Arbitration Academy of France, Paris, France, 2013), Intellectual Property Law (UNITAR, New York, 2013).

- Ambassador Kamara is educated in common law as well as civil law in Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, the United States and France. He brings substantial comparative law expertise and exceptional appreciation of the principal legal systems of the world.
- Ambassador Kamara is proficient in the official languages of the ITLOS.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Relevant Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Books and Reports

- Osman Keh Kamara, “An Analysis of the Adequacy of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism Under UNCLOS: Maritime Boundary Delimitation Disputes,” in Charles C. Jalloh and Olufemi eds., *Shielding Humanity: Essays in International Law in Honour of Judge Abdul G. Koroma* (Martinus Nijhoff Brill, Leiden, 2015), pp.187-229.
- Osman Keh Kamara, “Section 2.4.1. Legal: Review of the Policy and Institutional Measures for the Conservation and equitable sharing of benefits of Sierra Leone biodiversity,” in *Sierra Leone Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)*; (jointly funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Sierra Leone, and the World Bank office (GEF) in Freetown, 2002), pp. 17-24.

2. Contributions as a Member of the UN Group of Experts on Assessment of the State of Marine Environment and its Socio-economic Aspects

- Co-Lead Member of the writing teams entrusted with the preparation of the following chapters in the “*First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment I)*”, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea from 2010 -2014:
 - ~ Chapter 17: Shipping;
 - ~ Chapter 32: Capacity-Building in Relation to Human Activities Affecting the Marine Environment; and
 - ~ Chapter 53: Capacity-Building Needs in Relation to the Status of Species and Habitats.
- Co-Lead Member of the writing teams entrusted with the preparation of the following chapters in the “*Second Global Integrated Marine Assessment II (World Ocean Assessment II)*”, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea from 2016 -2020:
 - ~ Chapter 2: Approach to the Assessment;
 - ~ Chapter 3: Drivers of Changes in the Marine Environment;
 - ~ Chapter 8A: Coastal Communities and Maritime Industries;
 - ~ Chapter 21: Developments in renewable energy sources; and
 - ~ Chapter 28: Developments in the understanding of overall benefits from the ocean to humans.

- Also contributed as a member of the writing team entrusted with the preparation of
~ Chapter 7N: Open Oceans.

3. Selected contributions as expert to the promotion of regional initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment and its biodiversity:

- Coordinated a panel session at the 2nd International Forum on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP Forum), jointly organized by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DGMARE) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, in Saint Denis, La Réunion, France, from 26 -29 March 2019;
- Participated as expert Adviser on the invitation of the UN Environment Programme's Coordinating Body of Southeast Asia Seas (COBSEA) in the "Inter-governmental Consultation Meeting on the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas," being developed on the initiative of the Government of Indonesia - in Jakarta, Indonesia, 8-9 April 2019;
- Participated in the training of trainers on GEF LME: LEARN Courses on Transboundary Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy - from 14th January to 16th February 2019 on the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus and from 19th to 21st February 2019 face-to-face in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
- Participated as a 'lead presenter' in the "First African Union Retreat on the Coordination Mechanism for Implementation of Africa's Blue Economy Strategy", held in Nairobi, Kenya from 1-5 December 2019;
- Participated in the meetings of the UN Group of Experts (UNGOE) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of Marine Environment and its Socio-economic Aspects, at the UN Division for Oceans Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS); and several Regional Workshops organized by DOALOS to support the writing teams established for first and Second Cycles, from 2010- 2014 & 2016-2020 respectively.

4. Selected cross-cutting contributions and Leadership Roles as a Diplomat and International Civil Servant

- Attended the Second Preparatory Meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, and actively participated in the drafting of resolutions and decisions (including "cluster Three on Oceans and Seas" – Proposed by the European Union and its Member States and co-sponsor by the United States of America) for transmission to the Second Session of the United Nation's Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), Nairobi 15-19 February 2016;
- Head of Sierra Leone delegation to the United Nations Environment meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, from 15-20 April 2016;

- Lead Presenter of the “African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa,” to the European Union Political and Security Committee during the “9th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting” of the AU PSC and the EU PSC, held in Brussels, Belgium on 25th October, 2016;
- Dean of the Ambassadors of the ECOWAS Member States accredited to Ethiopia and the AU from April 2017- July 2018;
- Served as Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU with concurrent accreditation to the UNECA, UNHABITAT, and UN Environment in Kenya. Also, served as the Non-Resident Ambassador/High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Eswatini (Swaziland), and the State of Israel (from June 2014 – July 2018).
- Participated as a panellist on the topic: *The Role and Contributions of the ILC to the Development of International Law*, during the 70th Anniversary Celebration Symposium, at Florida International University (FIU), 26-27 October, 2018;
- Co-Chaired a segment of the stakeholders’ consultative meeting on the “Assessment of the State of Marine Environment and its Socio-economic Aspects” convened by DOALOS at the UN Headquarters, from 24-26 January 2019; and
- Special Adviser: AU StG Initiative within the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security. This Role encompasses representing the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department in inter-departmental coordination meetings for planning, management and implementation of the AU Maritime Security and Blue Economy Strategies from November 2019 to May 2021.

5. Selected Cases jointly and severally Conducted in the Superior Courts of Judicature of Sierra Leone

- Co-Counsel, Appeals Chamber: Case No. SCSL-2004-16-A: The Prosecutor of the Special Court V. Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara & Santigie Borbor Kanu, Appeal against the Decision of the Trial Chamber which convicted the mentioned accused for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Sierra Leone Civil conflict <http://rscsl.org/Documents/Transcripts/AFRC/AFRC-022208.PDF>
- Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration award by the High Court of Sierra Leone: *Lewis & Peat (Produced) LTD v Pellizari*, MISC APP 30 of 2000, MISC APP 31 of 2000(2001) SLCA 8 (24 January) 2001). <https://sierralio.gov.sl/sl/judgment/court-appeal/2001/8>
- The State v M.O. Taju-Deen (Judge): The Applicant in this case was charged in an indictment and convicted by the High Court under the Anti-Corruption Act 2000 for corrupt acquisition of wealth and accepting a reward in the performance of his duty and was sentenced to a term

of one-year imprisonment. The Applicant won his appeal in the Court of Appeal, 2001-2004; <https://old.sierralii.org/sl/judgment/supreme-court/1999/7>

- *John S. Yambasu and three others vs Ernest Bai Koroma and five others*: An application filed at the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone by the Plaintiff (2001-2004) for declaratory orders pursuant to sections 122, 124(1) and 175(15) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act. No. 6 of 1991) on the grounds that the first defendant contravened these provisions of the constitution to become the leader of the All People's Congress political party. The declaratory orders were sought to strip him of the de jure leadership of the party, Orders granted in favour of the plaintiff, in 2004. <https://sierralii.gov.sl/sl/judgment/court-appeal/2001/8>

6. Other Relevant Papers/Research

- Analysis of the Adequacy of the Dispute Settlement Regime of UNCLOS, Fellowship Thesis, presented before the Judges of the Law of Sea Tribunal, Hamburg, 17 March, 2010.
- The Impacts of the African Continental Free Trade Area Treaty on Africa's Energy Sector; LLM Dissertation Queen Mary University of London, 2020.
- International Oil and Gas Law and Contracts in the Energy Transition: "Legal and Fiscal Frameworks for Oil Production in Ghana" - paper in partial fulfilment of the LLM programme, Queen Mary University of London, June 2020.
- International Law of Patents and Related Rights: "Critical assessment of the extent to which the WTO Decision of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health has enabled developing countries to ensure access to medicines" - paper in partial fulfilment of the LLM programme, Queen Mary University of London, June 2020.