

Dr. Sylvia Ama Adusu

Chief State Attorney and Head of International Law
at the Office of the Attorney-General and
Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Ghana.



Profile

International Lawyer with over three decades of experience in public international law, the law of the sea, international dispute settlement and treaty negotiation as well as domestic litigation. Demonstrates independence, sound judgment, and respect for the rule of law with a strong commitment to the progressive development of the law of the sea and strengthening the authority and effectiveness of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

Education

- **PhD (Law)** – University of Lancaster, Lancaster, UK
Research: Law of the Sea – (2020)
- **MPhil (International Relations)** – University of Ghana, Accra
Research: International Law – (2006)
- **Postgraduate Diploma** (International Law and Sustainable Development) - Institute of Social Studies, The Hague (2002)
- **Qualifying Certificate in Law** – Ghana School of Law, Accra (1994)
- **BA (Hons)** – Law and Sociology, University of Ghana (1991)

Current Position

Office of the Attorney-General & Ministry of Justice

Chief State Attorney & Head of International Law (2020 – present)

- Advises government of Ghana on international law matters
- Agent and counsel for Ghana before international and regional courts and tribunals
- Coordinator of the National Mechanism for human rights reporting and follow-ups, especially for the United Nations and African Union human rights obligations
- Member, Ghana Boundary Commission (maritime and land boundary negotiations)
- Delegate to UNCLOS States Parties meetings and UN Human Rights Council sessions
- Co-Negotiator of bilateral investment and multilateral agreements

Additional Civil Division duties include:

- Conduct and defense of civil cases, involving government Ministries, Department and Agencies as well as the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Armed Forces
- Conduct of constitutional cases before the Supreme Court of Ghana
- Out-of-court settlement of civil cases using alternative dispute resolution procedures
- Legal advice to government Ministries, Department and Agencies on request
- Legal representation on governing boards of government Ministries, Department and Agencies

Other Professional Experience

Office of the Attorney-General & Ministry of Justice **Criminal Prosecution Division** (1999 – 2003)

- Prosecutor of criminal cases on behalf of the Republic of Ghana before the Court of Appeal, High Court and Regional Tribunals, including handling criminal appeals and motions
- Legal advice to the Police on criminal cases

Lands Commission of Ghana

Solicitor – Secretary (2010 – 2011)

- Legal Counsel and Solicitor Secretary to the Lands Commission

Lynes Quarshie-Idun & Co.

Lawyer (1994 – 1996)

- Researching cases for senior lawyers in the chambers
- Drafting pleadings under supervision
- Conducting cases in court under supervision

Selection of International Legal Work

- **ITLOS**
 - *Member of Team*, the "ARA Libertad" (Argentina v Ghana), Provisional Measures (ITLOS case No. 20) before the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany. (2012)
 - *Counsel*, Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Boundary Dispute - ITLOS case No 23 (2014-2017)
 - *Member*, Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Boundary Dispute Negotiating Team (July 2008- May 2014)
- **ICJ**
 - Represented the Republic of Ghana before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the matter of 'The Request for Advisory Opinion on the Obligation of States on Climate Change' (December 2024)
- **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**

- *Co-counsel*, Arvind Bhatnagar and 4 others v Republic of Ghana (PCA case No. 2024-31)
- Beijing Everyway v GOG (Government of Ghana) - Arbitration before the Permanent Court of International Arbitration and the London Court of International Arbitration (2021-2025)
- *Member of Team*, Bankswitch Ghana Limited v Republic of Ghana (PCA case No 2011-10) 2014.
- **Regional, National & Foreign Courts**
 - *Counsel*, Halle & Sønn v Embassy of the Republic of Ghana (Case No. 24-114682TVI-TOSL/07 before the Oslo District Court. (Judgment 2025)
 - *Counsel*, Shalimar Abbiusi v the Republic of Ghana (Case No. ECW/CCJ/APP/03/24 before the ECOWAS Court) 2024
 - Homeland Study Group Foundation & others v The Republic of Ghana (ECW/CCJ/APP/12/24 before the ECOWAS Court) 2024
 - Unus Alhassan v Republic of Ghana (Case No. ECW/CCJ/APP/2023 before the ECOWAS Court) 2023
 - *Co- Counsel*, Daniel Kwaku Gbedemah v US Central Intelligence Agency et al (Case No. 1: 21-cv-00438-DLF before the US District Court for the District of Columbia done in conjunction with Counsel in the USA) 2021
 - *Co-Counsel*, TJGEM v Republic of Ghana, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, & others at the United States District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia - done in conjunction with Counsel in the USA (2013)
 - *Co-Counsel*, St Luke School of Medicine Ghana et al v Republic of Liberia et al (Case No. cv-11-6322 before the US District Court, Central District of California done in conjunction with Counsel in the USA) 2013
 - CP Construction vs The Government of Ghana and others (done in conjunction with counsel in the UK) — 2012
 - *Counsel*, Supreme Court of Ghana case of The Republic v High Court (Commercial Division Accra) Ex parte Attorney General: NML Capital Ltd and the Republic of Argentina as interested parties. (Judgement delivered 20th June 2013 during the pendency of the *Ara Libertad* case before ITLOS)
 - Theo Smith v John A. Mills; Attorney General of Ghana; Ghana Commercial Bank (Case No. 0:10-cv-04655 before the US District Court, District of Minnesota done in conjunction with Counsel in the USA) 2012
 - Theo smith v Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd v and the Republic of Ghana (Civil No. 08-5324 before the US District Court, District of Minnesota done in conjunction with Counsel in the USA) 2010.
- **International legal bodies**
 - *Member*, Commonwealth Military Justice Working Group (2024 – present)
 - *Chair*, Specialised Committee on the Revision of the Treaty Establishing the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and its Fundamental Texts (2023 – present)
 - *National Focal Point*, United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Review Mechanism (July 2023 — present)
 - *Chair*, Expert Working Group of the Commonwealth Secretariat on The Enforcement of Suppression Orders in the Commonwealth (2022 – present)

- *Delegate*, AU Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STC-JLA) meetings and meetings of legal experts prior to AU ministerial meetings, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- *Observer participant*, 39th session of the International Law Commission held at the Palais des Nation, Geneva Switzerland from 7th to 25th July 2003.

Research and Conference Papers

- Unpublished PhD thesis on ‘Cooperation over Gulf of Guinea Resources’
- Unpublished MPhil thesis on ‘Sovereign Immunity: Charles Taylor's Indictment and Implications for International Relations’
- Conference Paper on 'The Role of Advisory Opinions on Climate Change: Impact on Marine Resource Management' delivered at the 2nd International Conference on Ocean Governance, University of Ghana, Legon (2025)
- Conference Paper on 'Post Judgment/Award Procedures in Maritime boundary Delimitation' delivered at the Ocean Governance Joint Interdisciplinary Conference, organised by the University of Ghana School of Law, Legon – (4 September 2024)
- Conference Papers delivered at the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf in Arusha Tanzania, organised by the University of Faroe Islands in collaboration with the African Institute of International Law- (21-27 April 2024)
 - 'Tacit agreement in maritime boundary delimitation'
 - 'Transboundary resources'
 - 'Activities in undelimited marine areas '

Academic Appointments

- *Part-time Lecturer*, LLM Programme – University of Ghana School of Law (2022–present)
- *Part-time Lecturer*, Civil Procedure – Ghana School of Law (2012–present)
- *Part-time Lecturer*, LLM International Law – Lancaster University, UK (2017)

Judicial Appointment

- Notary Public (2013)

Professional Development and Training

- Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea, (2021)
- National Security Law and Policy for Operational Staff Teaching Faculty, organised by Ministry of National Security, Accra (2021)
- Meeting of the International Criminal Court on Witness Protection held in Accra (2014)
- Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Workshop Accra (8-12 April 2013)
- 'Mastering the Techniques and Modern Trends in Negotiating and drafting Commercial Agreements' - Centre for Commercial Law and Financial Regulation University of Reading UK (24 August 2012)
- 'Maritime Boundary Delimitation', Center for International Law, National University of Singapore (26-28 September 2012)

- Ghana Security Sector Governance and management Course, organised by the Ghana Armed Forces at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Accra (5 August - 26 August 2008)
- Business Training Workshop for Attorneys organised by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General 's Department Accra (21 -25 July 2008)
- Project Design & Management Workshop in Accra (13-14 September 2005)
- 'Mediation and Conflict Transformation' United Nations Development Programme Project on Developing Capacity for Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution in Ghana, Swedru, Ghana (16-27 October 2005)
- Ghana Arbitration Centre Workshop on Techniques of Arbitration (26 November 2004)
- Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, California State University, Sacramento in collaboration with Ghana Association of Chartered Mediators and Arbitrators - Basic Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Training Workshop in Accra (7-10 January 2003)
- Advanced Securities, Ghana Stock Exchange Securities Course (Nov 1998)

Membership of Bodies

National Multisectoral Committees

- **Member**, Panel for Formal Hearing of the Public Utilities and Regulatory Commission (2023 – present)
- **Co-Chair**, Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights to develop a National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights in Ghana (2023-2025)
- **Coordinator**, Ghana's National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) (2020 – present)
- **Member**, National Assets Management Working Committee (2020 — present)
- **Member**, Ghana Boundary Commission - A commission that deals with the delimitation of Ghana's Maritime Boundaries among others (2010 – present)

National Governing Boards

- **Member**, Mental Health Authority Board
- **Member**, Governing Council, Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives

National Honours

- **Companion of the Order of the Volta** – For work done on the Ghana Maritime Boundary Delimitation dispute at ITLOS

Professional Memberships

- Ghana Bar Association
- African Women Lawyers Association
- International Federation of Women Lawyers