



CWAG | AAP

Africa | Law | Partnership | Training | Advocacy

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AMBASSADOR**

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Hon. Joseph Abang appointed CWAG AAP Ambassador

On a 25th April 2018 at the Investigation and Prosecution of Transnational Crimes - Wildlife Trafficking Symposium at Transcorp Hotel in Calabar, Nigeria. **Hon. Joseph Oshie Abang**, Attorney General Cross River State was appointed CWAG Africa Alliance Partnership (CWAG AAP) first Ambassador. Hon Joseph Abang has been a true partner and friend to the CWAG AAP partnership.

CWAG AAP Ambassador is a prestigious appointment. The ambassadors are carefully selected from the field of justice and law enforcement. These prominent personalities volunteer their time, talent and passion to raise awareness of CWAG AAP efforts to establish and foster robust relationships with Justice and law enforcement agencies in Africa to support the rule of law and combat transnational crimes.



Hon. Joseph Abang (far left) receives CWAG AAP Ambassador plaque from Mr. Markus Green, CWAG AAP (far right) with Hon. Justice Michael Edem, Chief Justice Cross River State and Chief Anthony Idigbe SAN

Hon. Joseph Oshie Abang, Esq. is a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and presently the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Cross River State of Nigeria

As Attorney-General, he has impacted greatly the lives of law officers in the Ministry of Justice by improving the work environment and building capacity of lawyers. He is member of various distinguished professional Associations including, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and International Bar Association (IBA), Founder of Total Quality Leadership Foundation, a foundation focused on raising quality leaders and True Care Foundation dedicated to providing for the less privileged and doing charity work generally.

Meeting with the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Uganda

In March 2018 the CWAG AAP team held a meeting with the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Uganda. The meeting took place at the offices of the DPP in Kampala. It was chaired by Mr. Mike J Chibita, the institutional head and was attended by the Assistant Inspector General and head of legal of the Uganda Police Force AIGP Erasmus Turahukwa and the CWAG AAP team by Mr. John Edozie together with Ms. Caroline Mbabazi and Mr. Chuks Unamba Oparah.

Mr. Chibita said that his office was keen on equipping its members to come to terms with tackling modern crime including transnational crimes such as human trafficking among others. In particular he mentioned the difficulty in prosecuting these crimes and the standard of investigation and evidence that are required to bring them to conclusion given their relatively new status and the multi-jurisdictional nature of the offence



L-R: CWAG AAP members John Edozie and Caroline Mbabazi meeting the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Uganda at his office in Kampala

The meeting concluded with a commitment from him to dedicate a resource from his office to work with the CWAG AAP country representatives to identify training opportunities. He committed to supporting CWAG AAP activities in Uganda.

Meeting with the Uganda Police Force

In March 2018 CWAG AAP held a meeting with the Uganda Police Force. The meeting took place at the Kampala Serena Hotel. It was attended by the Assistant Inspector General of Police and Head of the Legal and

Human Rights Commission of the Uganda Police Force, AIGP Erasmus Turahukwa and the CWAG AAP team led by Mr. John Edozie.

AIGP had earlier attended the meeting at the DPP's office and understood the mandate of CWAG AAP and the opportunities that the partnership with the Uganda Police Force would avail. AIGP Turahukwa welcomed the idea to work with CWAG AAP to train law enforcement forces such as Counter Terrorism and Criminal Investigations Departments. He promised to follow up on this partnership through the CWAG Uganda Country Representative. He concluded by pledging his support and that of the Uganda Police Force to the CWAG AAP initiatives in Uganda.

Symposium on Investigation and Prosecution of Transnational Crimes – Wildlife Trafficking

CWAG AAP partnered with the Cross River State Ministry of Justice to host a Symposium on 25th April 2018 in Calabar, Nigeria. The symposium was structured to deal with the challenges in the investigation and prosecution of various transnational crimes, but with a focus on wildlife trafficking. Wildlife trafficking is a persistent global problem with a profound effect in Africa. Wildlife trafficking has transcended to a highly lucrative organized transitional crime, perpetrated by high network individuals and organizations.

The symposium sparked robust discussions with environmentalists, judges, attorneys general, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, seasoned litigators and other stakeholders

Following the official opening address by **Hon. Justice. Michael Edem** -Chief Justice, **Hon. Joe Abang**-AG, Cross River State & **Mr. Markus Green ESQ** -CWAG AAP

CWAG speakers; **Jesus L Romero** -Deputy Public Defender, **Mary-Ellen Barret** -Deputy District Attorney & **Maria Di Tilio** -Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County spoke on 'Investigation and Prosecution of Transnational Crimes'.

Other keynote speakers included **Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Goni** -Conservator General National Parks Service who spoke on 'Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Nigeria'. And **Memudu Adedayo** - Nigerian Conservation Foundation shared on 'Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Nigeria.'

The presentations culminated in a Panel Discussion moderated by the erudite **Chief Anthony Idigbe SAN** -Senior Partner, Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors.



Hon. Justice Michael Edem - Chief Justice, Cross River State representing Hon. Benedict Bengiushuye Ayade - Governor - Cross River State



L-R: Hon. Joseph Abang - Attorney General, Cross River State, Mr. Markus Green -Board Member, CWAG AAP & Justice Michael Edem -Chief Justice, Cross River State



Mr. Markus Green ESQ - Board Member CWAG AAP giving his opening remarks at the symposium

“There is need for us to overhaul our legal system so that stringent measures and punishments will be enforced on wildlife traffickers
- Alhaji Musa Goni
Conservator General
National Park Service”

Workshop on Effective Administration of Criminal Justice. Calabar, Nigeria

The Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) Africa Alliance Partnership in collaboration with the Cross River State Ministry of Justice held a workshop on Effective Administration of Criminal Justice at Transcorp Hotel on the 26th to 27th of May 2018.

The workshop aimed to capacity build law and justice enforcement bodies on strategies to promote the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA)

ACJA was adopted because of its many benefits in the prosecution of criminals and to make up for the limitations of the 1963 criminal procedure code passed for all of the southern states. Following the official opening address by **Hon. Joseph Abang-AG**, Cross River State, **Mr. Mark Green Esq** -CWAG AAP.

CWAG speakers; **Jesus L Romero** -Deputy Public Defender, **Mary-Ellen Barret** -Deputy District Attorney & **Maria Di Tillio** -Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County spoke on success indices and global trends in effective administration of criminal justice

Other Keynote speakers included **Chief Anthony Idigbe SAN** -Senior Partner, Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors. He shared on the problems that led to these judicial reforms and the steps to improve the criminal justice system in Nigeria. **Mr. Fola Arthur Worrey** Executive Secretary, LSSTF spoke on the objectives of the ACJA and its applicability in the various states.

The workshop was interactive and engaging as top justice and law enforcement officials got to learn and share on best practices to ensure speedy dispensation of justice and improve criminal justice systems.



Hon. Joseph Abang - AG, Cross River State giving his opening remarks

“ This is a step in the right direction. I believe to curb criminality we have to start first with the right legislation. We’re going to definitely secure convictions for all these criminals and put them away so that we can have a better society.
- Hon. Joseph Abang
Attorney General



L-R: CWAG AAP Facilitators; Mary- Ellen Barret, Jesus L Romero & Maria Di Tillio



Chief Anthony Idigbe SAN delivering his presentation

Symposium on Investigation and Prosecution of Transnational Crimes – Wildlife Trafficking



L-R: John Edozie -CWAG AAP, Mary-Ellen Barret - CWAG, Markus Green -CWAG AAP, Maria Di Tillio & Jesus Romero -CWAG, Ebelechukwu Enedah -Punuka & Chuks Unamba-Oparah -CWAG AAP



workshop speakers & participants

Workshop on Effective Administration of Criminal Justice. Calabar, Nigeria



L-R: Hon. Barr Peter Basse -P.S Ministry of Justice, Cross River State, Anthony Worrey -LSSTF, Mary-Ellen Barret -CWAG, Justice. Eyo Ita -Cross River State Judiciary, Maria Di Tillio -CWAG, Markus Green- CWAG AAP, Ebelechukwu -Punuka & Hon. Joeseeph Abang -AG, Cross River State



workshop speakers & participants



A big thank you to our CWAG Facilitators; Jesus L Romero, Mary-Ellen Barret & Maria Di Tillio all the way from San Diego. A big thank you to our seasoned litigators from Nigeria; Chief Anthony Idigbe, Anthony Worrey and various distinguished speakers. If it were not for them such an informative valuable workshop would not have been possible

Jesus L. Romero

Jesus L. Romero received his undergraduate degree from University of California in Political Science (Honors), B. A. Independent Studies. He is currently the Deputy Public Defender, San Diego County.



As a man of in depth knowledge and experience in litigation, he successfully conducted litigation in a variety of complex and high-profile cases and has completed over 120 jury trials to verdict. Mr. Romero has vast experience in the area of litigation and spreads his knowledge as he has participated in numerous oral advocacy trainings in all phases of criminal litigation in state and federal courts. Mr. Jesus L. Romero is a member of NITA Latin America Programs, a team leader in oral litigation skill and currently teaches Latin American judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys the art of examining witnesses on the stand, oral argument and persuasion.

Mary-Ellen Barret

Mary-Ellen Barrett received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown School of Foreign Service and her law degree from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Barrett has been a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney for 28 years prosecuting a variety of cases.



She currently prosecutes human traffickers, rapists, and sexually violent predators in her office's Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division. She is the Human Trafficking Team Leader and is currently assigned to the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force. As part of her duties, she provides 24 hour on call support to law enforcement in the field. Ms. Barrett is chair of the San Diego County Regional Human Trafficking and Criminal Sexual Exploitation of Children Advisory Board which is responsible for developing best practice protocols to effectively combat Human Trafficking.

Marisa Di Tillio

Marisa Di Tillio has been a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for over 17 years. She has prosecuted different criminal cases, from animal abuse to special circumstances homicides.



After approximately three years in general felonies, she transitioned to the Family Protection Division, spending a decade prosecuting domestic violence, elder abuse, child molestation, Internet Crimes Against Children, physical child abuse, and homicide cases.

She is currently a senior trial attorney and team leader in the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, where she prosecutes late report child molestation, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault, and Sexually Violent Predator cases. She's been a mentor both inside and outside of the office,

She has trained in prosecuting crimes against children and jury selection in sexual assault cases, and has conducted trainings in the community on the topics of Human Trafficking and Internet Safety for families.

Chief Anthony Idigbe

Chief Anthony Idigbe graduated from the University of Ife, (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife in 1982 with a 2nd Class Upper Degree (Hons). He also received the Hon. Justice Orojo Prize for the Best Student in Company Law. He finished from the Nigerian Law School, Lagos in 1983 also with a 2:1.



He has three Masters of Law degrees from universities in the UK and Canada, as well as several other diplomas and certifications from various professional organisations.

A seasoned legal practitioner with over 30 years' experience, Chief Anthony Idigbe is the Senior Partner at Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors. He was elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2000 and was recently admitted to practice law in Ontario, Canada. He has advised clients on several complex transactions and has represented major companies and institutions in the highest courts of Nigeria.

He is a well-known capital markets legal adviser and possesses wealth of knowledge and experience in Telecommunications Law, particularly the Nigerian Telecommunications Industry

Anthony Worrey

Arthur-Worrey graduated from the University of Lagos with an LL.B (Hons) degree and was called to the Nigerian Bar after attending the Nigerian Law School. He immediately joined the



public service as a State Counsel in the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, rising to the post of Director of Public Prosecutions in 1996 and appointed as state Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, in which position he served from 1998 to 2006, the longest term on record. He is currently the Executive Secretary of Lagos State Security Trust Fund, LSSTF

Explore The Nation's Paradise, Calabar

Tucked into Nigeria's south-eastern corner, Calabar the capital of Cross River state has a rich history. Calabar was once one of Africa's biggest slave ports. If you've tired of the pace of life in Nigeria, Calabar is a relaxing escape.

Enjoy Canaan Ride, tour of Calabar and environs; see the ancient city, Millennium Park, old prison, The Marina, formerly used by the slave traders. Visit the Residency, Nigeria's first colonial headquarters.

Visit the Cross River National Park, it is one of Nigeria's top eco-tourism destinations where rolling hills of tropical rainforest and endangered species such as cross river gorilla & drill monkey can be observed in their natural habitat. Cross River National Park which is home to one of the thickest forests in Nigeria, has been termed as the African "Amazon Forest".



(source: artsymoments.com)

Enjoy the spectacular Kwa waterfalls located in a narrow, steep gorge on the headwaters of the Kwa River. A deep plunge pool forms at the bottom of the waterfall, all this is against a tropical mangrove forest.

The vibrancy of the Calabar Carnival is a must see attraction, also known as “Africa’s Biggest Street”. The carnival begins on every 23rd -31st December has boosted the cultural mosaic of Nigeria while entertaining the millions of spectators across the world.



(source:lifestyle.thecable.ng)

Visit Tinapa business and leisure resort situated by the Calabar River. A visit to Tinapa dazzles with its breath-taking architectural design; with a luxury hotel, cinema, water park, state of the art movie studio and a man-made Tinapa Lake.

Looming Crisis over Tramadol Abuse in Ghana

Tramadol is a synthetic opioid that is used to treat acute and chronic pain of moderate to severe intensity. Tramadol has the potential to be dangerously addictive and can cause dependence. Tramadol has been reviewed several times by the World Health Organization (WHO), it is not a regulated drug. It is considered a cheap opioid, used for managing pain. Being regulated would make it difficult for doctors in developing countries to obtain it for legitimate use.

Tramadol has recently become a cause of major addiction in Ghana and other developing nations in Africa and Asia. Tramadol has almost become a ‘street drug’; there is a recent craze of the abuse of Tramadol that has caught up with youth in Ghana. It is being used to enhance sexual prowess, increase athletic ability and allow prolonged physical labour. Ultimately, the addiction to the drug results in depression, an increase in risk-taking behavior, seizures and even death.



The weight approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be sold is 50mg and 100mg, therefore, selling 250mg over the counter suggests, the drugs are smuggled into the country. The strengths illegally sold on the streets, popularly called TRAMOOR by the youth, tend to be much higher (200mg, 225mg, 250mg).

The trade in Tramadol has links with organized crime. Porous borders allow the drug to be brought into the country undetected. It is up to the Law Enforcement agencies to investigate how these drugs are being smuggled into Ghana and other countries. Law enforcement agencies need to partner with medical and rehabilitation officials and programs to curb this crisis

Upcoming Events

14th-15th May 2018

Anti-Counterfeit Drugs Seminar

Accra, Ghana

29th - 30th May 2018

Anti-Wildlife Trafficking Workshop

Lilongwe, Malawi