HIGHLIGHTS

1. Foreword

2. Providing Legal Representation and Legal Advisory Services to the Indigent and the Vulnerable

3. 36th Annual National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Conference

4. Transnational crimes Workshop

SAVE THE DATES


Lusaka, Zambia, 13th - 16th August, 2019, Workshop: Trade-based Anti-Money Laundering

Nairobi, Kenya, 4th - 6th September 2019, Workshop: Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence

Kigali, Rwanda 7th - 9th September, 2019, AGA-AAP Participation in the Business Conservation Conference

Kigali, Rwanda 9th - 13th September, 2019, Human Trafficking Workshop
CWAG | AAP is now AGA | AAP!

We are delighted to announce that our name has changed from Conference of Western Attorneys General | Africa Alliance Partnership (CWAG|AAP) to Attorney General Alliance | Africa Alliance Partnership (AGA|AAP).

This came about as a result of the formation of the [Attorney General Alliance](https://www.aga-aap.org) (AGA) from our parent organization the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), a testament to their expanded reach across the United States and internationally. The name Attorney General Alliance (AGA) represents an association of Attorneys General, federal, state and foreign officials, and public and private sector partners throughout the United States. As CWAG continues to focus predominantly on core western issues, AGA will take on emerging issues in the West and beyond.

Subsequently, the Africa Alliance Partnership takes on the new prefix, ‘Attorney General Alliance’.

Since our inception in 2016, the Africa Alliance Partnership has trained African legal officers and prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of transnational crimes including Human Trafficking, Money Laundering, Counterfeit Drugs, Cyber Crime, and Wildlife Trafficking. We have also collaborated with African Ministries of Justice, Attorneys General, Solicitors General, and Public Prosecution agencies to share knowledge and experiences in fighting transnational crimes.

We are currently working with government partners in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, and are set to establish more partnerships throughout Africa.

As the CWAG|AAP programme transitions to AGA|AAP, our focus on combating transnational crimes on the continent remains unwavering.

The Africa Alliance Partnership (AAP) programme will be adapting its branding and online presence to align with the new name: Attorney General Alliance | Africa Alliance Partnership – AGA| AAP.

cwagaap.org → aga-aap.org

@cwagaaap → @agaaap
Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the sixteenth edition of the AGA-AAP monthly newsletter.

In July, AGA-AAP in collaboration with the Office of the Public Defender, Kogi State, Nigeria presented a two-day workshop on Providing Legal Representation and Legal Advisory Services to the Indigent and the Vulnerable – Roles, Responsibilities and Functions.

The Africa Alliance Partnership was also pleased to participate in the 36th Annual National Black Prosecutors Association Conference (NBPA).

This month, AGA AAP is delighted to announce a new partnership with the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) – South Africa in which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 25th July 2019 to work jointly in capacity building Law Enforcement Agencies to combat transnational criminal activities in South Africa. The collaboration commenced in high gear with the first workshop on Transnational Crimes taking place this month.

I wish to thank Alhaji Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, Hon. Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice, Kogi State, Keith Lamar, National Black Prosecutors Association President and Advocate Xolisile. J. Khanyile, Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre for providing a platform that allows us to explore ways to extend expertise working for social justice by changing laws, practices, and systemic apparatus that affect the vulnerable and minorities.

We are grateful to our speakers of the month, Thurbert Baker- Former Attorney General, Georgia, Karl A. Racine- Attorney General, Washington DC, Letitia James- Attorney General, New York, Dame Julie Okah-Donli- Director General, NAPTIP, Panelists, Charles Onyango-Obbo, Jim Karani, Sorious Samura, Nozipho Mbaniwa, Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja and the AGA AAP team- John Edozie, Kim Robinson, Ebelechukwu Enedah, for their support and dedication towards the AAP programme.

Special thanks to Susan Lustig, AGA-AAP Administrative Director, for facilitating a benchmarking exercise in which senior management from the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) of Kenya got to learn and interact with their colleagues at the National Judicial College in Nevada, United States.

Big thank you to AGA facilitators of the month Jesus L. Romero, Ricardo C. Garces, Henry C. Cooker, Scott Blake, Evan Malady, Jim Hennelly, our local facilitators, Adeyemi Olayinka and Hein van der Merwe, our country coordinators, Renaissance Strategic Solutions- Country Coordinator, South Africa and Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors- Country Coordinator, Nigeria for ensuring that the workshops were successful.

We look forward to more collaborations.

Regards,

Markus Green ESQ.
AGA-AAP in collaboration with the Office of the Public Defender, Kogi State, Nigeria held a two-day workshop on Providing Legal Representation and Legal Advisory Services to the Indigent and the Vulnerable – Roles, Responsibilities and Functions, Abuja, Nigeria, 8th - 9th July 2019. The workshop brought together investigators and prosecutors from Kogi State and aimed at building their capacity to enable the State set up a viable forum which will ensure that the disadvantaged residents are guaranteed the protection of their fundamental human rights and socio-economic rights.

Hon. Alhaji Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice delivered the opening remarks on behalf of His Excellency Alhaji Yahaya Bello, Executive Governor, Kogi State, Nigeria. He thanked AGA-AAP for organizing the two-day workshop and noted that it would be very useful to the prosecutors and investigators across Kogi state and Nigeria in general.

“I am extremely grateful to AGA-AAP for this very thoughtful course on fighting transnational criminal activities across Africa. This forum will ensure that best practices are shared and will go a long way in ensuring fair delivery of justice.”

Markus Green ESQ, AGA-AAP Board member in his remarks noted that the connectivity of the world is a very important aspect of transnational crimes as it takes collective efforts to curb these criminal activities.

“It is a great pleasure to be here and I urge all participants to actively engage in sharing knowledge. Prosecution is not about putting bad people in jail, the idea has to be centered around victims and justice.”

AGA Facilitator, Jesus L. Romero, Member of NITA Latin America Programs facilitated a session on The Profile of the Attorney for the Office of Public Defender and gave a case study presentation. He noted that although the right to counsel is guaranteed by the constitution or statute, there is no consensus as to how a public defender office should operate. Whenever there is a crime wave, a serious or gruesome crime, public sentiment and support for a public defender office change.

“The leadership of a public law office must be flexible. The traditional management approach associated with running a public agency cannot accommodate the kinds of changes that the average public defender office experiences in the course of 1 to 3 years.”
AGA Facilitator, **Ricardo C. Garces**, Public Defender Investigator facilitated a session on *Investigations for the Defense*. In his presentation he noted that criminal defense investigators are as essential in representation of a client as a good lawyer and the two must implement systematic and impartial methods to reach their goals.

“The interest of criminal investigators should not only be in learning trial advocacy techniques but also to master the defense investigative methods.”

AGA Facilitator, **Henry C. Cooker**, Public Defender San Diego County facilitated a session on *Corporate Administration of the office of the Public Defender*. He noted that the strategic triangle; that is Public Value, Legitimacy and Support and Operational Capacity, are essential in effectively implementing strategic management.

“Although the right to counsel is guaranteed by the constitution or statute, there is no consensus as to how a public defender’s office should operate. Whenever there is a crime wave, a serious or gruesome crime, public sentiment and support for a public defender office change. Therefore, the leadership of a public law office must be flexible.”

**Yinka Adeyemi**, Director Office of the Public Defender, Lagos State, Nigeria facilitated sessions on *Access to Justice for the Indigent : Necessity for a Public Defender and, Lagos State OPD: The Lagos State*. She noted that the office of Public Defender is a statutory body empowered by Section 2 of the OPD LAW 2015 and that the law provides legal aid services and advice, receives complaints directly from individuals or by referrals from government agencies, public and private institutions and investigate complaints or referrals made to it.

“The office is statutorily established to function as an independent corporate office possessing power to sue and be sued. It is to be controlled by a governing council with other five members from the private bar, NGOs and the Director of OPD.”
Hon. Alhaji Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice, Kogi State addressing the press after the opening ceremony.


Speaking; Jesus L. Romero, Member of NITA Latin America Programs and other panelists during a panel discussion on Corporate Administration.

Chief Anthony Idigbe, Country Coordinator for Nigeria addressing the media after the workshop.

Hon. Alhaji Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice, Kogi State, Mr. Markus Green ESQ- AGA AAP Board Member and workshop participants in a group photo.
AGA-AAP participated in the 36th Annual National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Conference themed *Encourage. Empower. Engage.: Black Prosecutors Serving as the Agents of Social Justice*, 14th - 19th July 2019, Atlanta, Georgia. The conference brought together chief and line prosecutors, law students, former prosecutors and law enforcement personnel across the US. AGA-AAP had the opportunity to present a one day event themed: *New Approaches to Understanding Transnational Crime in Africa:* at the 2019 National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) annual conference, on 16th July 2019.

The one day event drew participants from the NBPA, AGA stakeholders, and the AGA team. It aimed to explore new approaches to understanding Transnational Crimes like Human Trafficking, Money Laundering, and Cyber Crimes in Africa, and the role Black prosecutors in the US can play in sharing expertise and skills with their African counterparts in the justice, law and order sector.

In her welcoming remarks, Karen White, Executive Director, AGA AAP announced the formation of the Attorney General Alliance. She said that the Attorney General Alliance will take on emerging domestic issues like cannabis regulation, sports betting and cybercrime, as well as the growing international relationships.

“Grounded in the West, CWAG has always been a home for western state Attorneys General to collaborate on traditionally western issues like public lands, water rights and tribal issues. With associate members joining from all over the country, and transnational legal issues emerging around the world, we have consistently ventured beyond the boundaries of the West.”

In his speech, Keith Lamar, NBPA President, thanked the AGA Africa Alliance Partnership for their collaboration over the course of the last year which had been cemented by a Memorandum of Understanding during signed on 16th July 2019.

“I believe the partnership we have started today will go a long way in creating the shared knowledge, expertise and networks needed to empower our African partners so that they are able to deal more effectively with the increasingly complex and international nature of crimes like human trafficking, wildlife trafficking, among others.”

In his welcoming remarks, AGA-AAP Board Member Markus Green ESQ, highlighted AGA-AAP’s milestones since inception in 2016. He thanked NBPA for their partnership adding that it will provide an opportunity to understand each other’s work and a platform to explore ways to extend shared expertise beyond the U.S.
Karl A. Racine, Attorney General of Washington highlighted AGA-AAP’s work in Africa and how it ties to NBPA’s work. He noted that with increased transnational nature of crimes across the world, more concerted efforts to jointly address these issues are required.

“Hope lies in partnerships. Together, we can catch up with these criminal networks and even forestall their progress.”

Dame Julie Okah Donli, Director General, NAPTIP discussed Human Trafficking in Africa: A Cross-Border Threat and Solutions for our Future. She noted that Africa accounts for 8% of child sex trafficking in the world. External trafficking basically for sexual and labour exploitation, usually in young persons and women, use of deceit, debt bondage, abduction, oaths and threats. She highlighted the common causes of human trafficking in Africa as poor economic conditions, cultural practices, violent conflicts, territorial displacements, humanitarian and environmental crisis.

“One of the ways in which human trafficking can be solved is by intensified international cooperation among nations towards the development, implementation and review of bilateral, multilateral and regional treaties and protocols towards the suppression of transnational crime.”

Charles Onyango-Obbo, Founder and Publisher of Pan African Digital Media Platform spoke about Africa - Our Social, Economic, and Political Landscape: A Focus on Human Security and Transnational Crimes. He noted that Africa is a largely difficult to govern territory. Porous borders, weak institutions, and sluggish economies incentivize transnational criminals to break the states’ laws and engage in illicit trade. He advocated for cross-border efforts to defeat perpetrators of these criminal activities.

Sorious Samura, African Film and Television Journalist discussed The Face of Transnational Crime: The Seven Things I Learned Covering Human Trafficking in Africa. He noted that poor African countries are losing revenues they should not be losing to criminal groups through corruption, tax evasion and illicit trade. With weak enforcement capability, underpaid officials and porous national borders, African countries provide an ideal environment for organized criminal rings to extract or transfer illicit commodities.

“Corruption not only eats away at the moral fabric of society; it complicates the fight against crime in Africa.”
On behalf of Chief Anthony Idigbe, Senior Partner at Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors, Ebele Enedah, AGA-AAP Country coordinator, Nigeria, tackled the subject: Migration and Transnational Crimes in Africa - 10 Questions. She noted that Transnational Migration and Transnational Crimes such as human trafficking, cybercrimes and drug trafficking, wildlife trafficking and money laundering straddles private, public, criminal and human rights law.


In his closing remarks, former Attorney General of Georgia Thurbert Baker, congratulated Karen White for the tremendous efforts in seeing the Attorney General Alliance expand both geographically, from its initial Western states to now cover the rest of the United States, Mexico and Africa.

“I would like to make a rallying call for us all to expand this activism beyond our individual states; to help expand the frontiers of justice and the rule of law even beyond the shores of the United States. Partnerships like the one we have witnessed between the AGA-AAP and NBPA this afternoon point us in that direction: that we should care more about the increasingly transnational nature of crimes like human trafficking.”
Executive Director Karen White, signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of AGA-AAP, with the NBPA represented by Keith Lamar Jr., President of the National Black Prosecutors Association on 16th July 2019.

The memorandum of understanding was signed at Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia as part of efforts to foster international understanding and cooperation of a network of global support to combat transnational crimes across Africa.
Letitia James, Attorney General New York with Karl Racine, Attorney General Washington DC during a panel discussion.

L-R: Nozipho Mbanjwa, Anchor and producer for CNBC Africa; Kim Robinson, Country Coordinator, South Africa; Karen White, AGA-AAP Executive Director; John Edozie, AGA-AAP International Advisor; Markus Green ESQ, AGA-AAP Board Member; Keith Lamar, NBPA President; Chukukere Unamba-Oparah, AGA-AAP Programme Coordinator; Susan Lustig, AGA-AAP Administrative Director; Ebele Enedah, AGA-AAP Country Coordinator, Nigeria; Julie Okah-Donli, Director General, NAPTIP and Ruth Juliet Nyambura, Child Rights Advisor and Counter Trafficking Expert.

AGA-AAP EXPANDS ITS FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES IN AFRICA

The Attorney General Alliance | Africa Alliance Partnership (AGA-AAP) was pleased to start a new partnership across Africa with the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) – South Africa, beginning this July.

On behalf of AGA-AAP, Markus Green ESQ, AGA-AAP Board member and FIC represented by Adv Xolisile Khanyile, Director, FIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 25th July 2019 to work jointly in capacity building, with a view to combating transnational crimes in South Africa. The partnership will be marked by training workshops and seminars towards knowledge exchange.

The collaboration commenced in high gear with the first workshop on Transnational Crimes taking place from 24th to 26th of July 2019. Participants were drawn from Angola, Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo.

AGA facilitators, Scott Blake, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Arizona Attorney General, Evan Malady-Fraud and Special Prosecution Agent Arizona Attorney General’s Office, Jim Hennelly, Special Agent Arizona Attorney General’s Office, Phoenix, Arizona and local facilitator, Hein van der Merwe, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Organised Crime Unit, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Pretoria, delivered thought-provoking sessions on the scope of transnational crimes across the United States and Africa.
AGA-AAP EXPANDES ITS FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES IN AFRICA

Seated: Adv Xolisle Khanyile, Director, FIC and Markus Green ESQ, AGA-AAP Board Member.

L-R: John Edozie, AGA AAP International Advisor, Joseph Jagada, Secretariat of ESAAMLG; Kim Robinson, country coordinator for South Africa and Chukukere Unamba-Oparah, AGA-AAP Programme coordinator.
Jesus L. Romero received his undergraduate degree from University of California in Political Science (Honors), B. A. Independent Studies. He also attended the University of San Diego, School of Law in 1990 and was admitted into the California State Bar in 1990. As a man of in-depth knowledge and experience in litigation, he successfully conducted litigation in a variety of complex and high-profile cases, achieved favorable resolution of complex, often difficult to win 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 in Zacatecas, Mexico and Monterey and currently teaches Latin American judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys the art of examining witnesses on the stand, oral argument and persuasion. In 2010, he was invited to teach Peruvian legal professionals the art of oral advocacy at ACCESO Capacitacion Faculty. He has also assisted the Governor in the judicial selection process of state trial judges, appellate and Supreme Court Justices and vetted candidates for achievements in professionalism, trial skills, temperament, legal experience and ethics. He is a member of NITA – a group of professors, Judges and Practicing lawyers who work to promote justice and oral advocacy skills by developing and teaching effective trial skills, dispute resolution, ethics and professionalism. Mr. Jesus L. Romero is fluent in speaking, reading and writing English and Spanish.

Ricardo C. Garcés has been a Public Defender Investigator for the last 15 years in the United States of America. He is currently assigned to the investigations unit at the Office of the Public Defender in San Diego, California. Mr. Garces has ample experience in criminal defense investigations on local, national and international venues. He has handled over 500 cases, including homicides, kidnapping, grand theft, rape, fraud and domestic violence. Mr. Garcés graduated from the University of Baja California School of Law in 1996 and continued on to obtain an LLM (Masters in Comparative Law) from California Western School of Law in 2014.

His law degree thesis was entitled: “The Criminal Procedure Law in Mexico and the United States.” The thesis provided a comparative study of two legal procedural frameworks with analysis of the endemic deficiencies of the Mexican mixed (inquisitorial) system, suggesting legislative adjustments to secondary laws in order to consolidate legal principles that are now part of the new adversarial system in Mexico.

Mr. Garcés has participated as a defense investigations instructor for the last 6 years, teaching practical investigative skills to newly hired investigators for the Office of the Public Defender. In fulfillment of the Binational Public Defender Cooperation Agreement” between the San Diego Public Defender and the State Government of Baja California (Mexico), in 2015 Mr. Garcés was designated as chief advisor and mentor for the homicide defense investigations unit incorporated into Mexico’s Office of the Public Defender in Baja California.
Henry. C. Coker did his Bachelor Degree on Art in North Carolina A&T State University in 1976 where he majored in English Literature and minored in Political Science; also, he did his Master degree on Art in University of North Carolina in 1978 where in majored in Educational Administration and minored in Sociology; He also attended Thomas Jefferson University College of Law in San Diego, California where he bagged a degree of Juris Doctor in 1985. He was admitted into the State Bar of California in 1986; in the State of North Carolina, he got Principal’s Certification Class P and Teachers Certification Class A. He can be regarded as a man of in-depth knowledge and experience. Henry C. Coker has a bouquet of professional Experiences:

From July 2009 to March 2017, he held the office of Public Defender in San Diego County where he managed newly consolidated department that includes the Office of the Primary Public Defender, Office of the Alternate Public Defender, Office of Assigned Counsel and Multiple Conflict Offices. As a member of the Public Safety Group’s Leadership Team, he participated in the development of County Wide Policies. From November 1996 to July 2009, he was the Chief Deputy Branch Offices where he supervised them; Law Offices of the Public Defender where he participated in the development of office wide policies; San Diego County. He represented clients in complex litigation, reviewed all special circumstances murder cases assigned to branch attorneys. From July 1995 to November 1996, he was the Chief Trial Acting Deputy Child Advocacy Division Law Offices of the Public Defender, San Diego County where he made some changes in the Child Advocacy division to increase the efficiency of the division and decrease per case cost.

From 1994 to 1995, he was the Deputy Public Defender III/Felony Team Leader Law Offices of the Public Defender, San Diego County where he assigned cases; supervised team of approximately 15 felony lawyers; served as Liaison with court official, judges and law enforcement agencies. From 1991 to 1993, he was the Deputy Public Defender II/III Central Felony in San Diego County where he represented criminal defendants charged with serious felonies in all phases of criminal proceeding including trial and sentencing. From 1990 to 1991, he was the Deputy Public Defender II El Cajon Branch Office in San Diego where he counseled and represented criminal defendants charged with misdemeanors and low-level felonies including trial and sentencing. From 1989 to 1990, he was the Deputy Public Defender I/II Child Advocacy Delinquency Division in San Diego where he negotiated plea bargain agreement with District Attorney’s Offices. From 1984 to 1989, he was in the Senior Personnel Analyst Human Resources Department in San Diego Medical Center where he was part of the team responsible for analyzing and resolving employee’s grievances and complaints.

From 1982 to 1984, he was a Personnel Analyst in Staff Management Office in San Diego where he was responsible for supervision of employment function; provided interpretation of staff personnel policies of department head. From 1981 to 1982, he was the Senior Employment Representative in San Diego where he had the responsibility of recruitment of administrative, research, and clerical staff positions; monitored Compliance with university employment and selection policies and procedures. From 1979 to 1980, he was in Teacher in Gillespie Junior High School/Lexington Senior High School North Carolina where he taught English Language and Literature; and Served as Advisor to school newspaper and Assistant tennis coach. As a member of leadership team of Public Safety Group and Public Defender, he participated in the development of County-wide policies such as crime awareness and prevention, development of Office-wide policies and budget.
Karl A. Racine was sworn in as the District of Columbia’s first elected Attorney General in 2015 and was reelected to a second term in 2018. Attorney General Racine is honored to serve again and will use the next four years to expand work on priorities, including preserving affordable housing, employing evidence-based juvenile justice reforms, cracking down on slumlords, holding unscrupulous employers accountable for wage theft, and protecting consumers from scams and abusive business practices. He is also committed to making investments in new efforts to protect seniors and other vulnerable residents, interrupt violence in the District, address childhood trauma, and more.

Through his work as vice president of the bi-partisan National Association of Attorneys General and as co-chair of the Democratic Attorneys General Association, Attorney General Racine also speaks out for D.C. autonomy at the national level and pushes back against federal government policies that harm District residents. Attorney General Racine draws on over 25 years of legal and leadership experience in his work on behalf of District residents. Over the course of his career, he has worked at the D.C. Public Defender Service, where he represented District residents who could not afford a lawyer, served as Associate White House Counsel to President Bill Clinton, and worked on criminal cases and complex civil litigation at private firms. While in private practice, he was elected managing partner of his firm, Venable LLP, and became the first African-American managing partner of a top-100 American law firm. Born in Haiti, Attorney General Racine came to the District at the age of three. He attended D.C. public schools, including Murch Elementary, Deal Junior High, and Wilson High, and graduated from St. John's College High School. He earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was captain of the basketball team, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he volunteered in a legal clinic supporting the rights of migrant farm workers. His commitment to equal justice was inspired by his parents, who fled authoritarian rule in Haiti to start a better life in the United States, and by the lawyers of the Civil Rights Movement, who used the law to make positive social change.

Thurbert Baker

Attorney General Thurbert Baker co-leads Dentons’ US State Attorney General practice, serves on the US Board and he also serves on Dentons’ Global Board. His practice focuses on corporate compliance and investigations, complex state legal and legislative matters, public policy and regulatory affairs, multi-state litigation, public sector procurements and regulatory matters. Attorney General Baker served as the attorney general for the State of Georgia for 13 years under three different governors. He has been consistently selected as one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians” by Georgia Trend Magazine. In 2009 he was the recipient of the first annual Barack Obama Political Leadership award from the National Bar Association for his pioneering achievements as a public servant and an elected official.

Men Looking Ahead Magazine recently selected him as its "Man of the Year." Attorney General Baker was nationally ranked by Chambers and Partners USA in 2019 as a Band 1 attorney in the area of Government Relations: State Attorneys General. Clients noted that he is "extremely knowledgeable around all government affairs and quick to assist in setting up appropriate political meetings when needed." In addition to his impact on the state level in Georgia, Attorney General Baker also has a broad national network, having served as the President of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) from 2006-2007. He has been recognized as one of “America’s Top Lawyers” by Black Enterprise Magazine and served for over a decade as NAAG’s representative to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates. He has gained respect and cultivated relationships with some of the nation’s top governing officials and business leaders through his work with NAAG, Democratic Attorneys General Association (DAGA), Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) and other organizations. This experience and network of key relationships enables him to effectively advise clients on a wide range of issues involving State Attorneys General, as well as in complex federal legal and legislative matters. Attorney General Baker began his career in politics, spending eight years in the Georgia House of Representatives.
Letitia James

Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York. With decades of work, she is an experienced attorney and public servant with a long record of accomplishments. She is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General. In 2013, Ms. James was elected Public Advocate for the City of New York and became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. As Public Advocate, Ms. James served as a watchdog over New York City government agencies and as an advocate for the City’s most vulnerable communities. She transformed the Public Advocate’s office to be a formidable engine for change. Her office handled over 32,000 constituent complaints and passed more legislation than all previous Public Advocates combined, including a groundbreaking law that banned questions about salary history from the employment process to address the pervasive gender wage gap.

Ms. James successfully took on the gun industry by pushing New York City’s largest pension fund to divest from gun and ammunition retailers. She fought in court on behalf of children and families on issues including children in foster care, children with disabilities, and tenant protection. New Yorkers overwhelmingly elected Tish James to a second term as Public Advocate in November 2017. Prior to serving as Public Advocate; Tish James represented the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in the New York City Council for ten years. As a Council Member, she passed the Safe Housing Act, legislation that forced landlords to improve living conditions for tenants in New York City’s worst buildings. She helped uncover the corruption behind the Office of Payroll Administration’s CityTime contract, a scheme that cost New York City over $600 million. She also pushed through a revolutionary recycling package that included expanding plastic recycling, a new clothing and textile-recycling program, and increased access to recycling in public spaces. Before her election to the City Council, Tish James served as head of the Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General’s Office. She resolved hundreds of consumer complaints and investigated predatory lenders who preyed on first-time homebuyers. She assisted the Civil Rights Bureau in its investigation of the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk policy and cracked down on firms engaged in deceptive business practices including violations of human rights, environmental laws, and scams targeting immigrants. Tish James began her career as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society. A proud Brooklynite, she is a graduate of Lehman College and Howard University School of Law.

Dame Julie Okah-Donli

Dame Julie Okah-Donli is a legal expert with over 25 years of experience in leadership positions in government and the private sector. She currently serves as the Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria tasked with combatting human trafficking and other human rights violations. As head of NAPTIP, Julie persuaded the Nigerian government to extend whistleblower protections in cases involving human trafficking issues, allowing easier communication between informants and NAPTIP without fear of revealed identities.

She established a Rapid Response Squad (NAPTIP-RRS) under the Director-General’s office, which has had success in disrupting a range of criminal activities as well as a Reform Unit to employ anti-corruption and gender balance initiatives. Prior to her work at NAPTIP, she was the Principal Partner of Julie Okah & Co Legal Practitioners and has held positions in the Securities & Exchange Commission, Nigerian Capital Market Institute, UBA Trustees, and the Office of the Governor of Bayelsa State. She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, the International Bar Association, and the Nigeria Institute of Management, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators International (FCIS), Associate of the Chartered Arbitrators of Nigeria (AcArb) and Fellow, Certified Institute of Auctioneers (FCIA). She is the founder of Julie Donli Kidney Foundation, a charity that supports indigent patients with kidney disease. She is also the author of “Parenting in the 21st Century.”
Charles Onyango-Obbo

Charles Onyango-Obbo is founder and publisher of pan-Africa digital media platform Africapedia, based in Nairobi, Kenya. It publishes africapedia.com, a data site, and explainer site roguechiefs.com. He is also currently crowd-sourcing a “digital museum” of African historical figures, “The Wall of Great Africans.” Prior to founding Africapedia, he launched the Mail & Guardian Africa. Earlier in his career, he was the Executive Editor for National Media Group’s (NMG) convergence and Africa project. He was also a founder and Managing Editor of The Monitor, Uganda’s leading independent newspaper.

Charles graduated from Makerere University in Kampala, obtained his MA in Journalism from the American University in Cairo, and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. After the Nieman Fellowship he worked as Deputy Editor of the Nieman Reports. He continues to write weekly columns for The Monitor, Daily Nation, and the regional publication The East African. He focuses on democratic transitions, technology, and disruptive trends across various sectors in the continent. He is the author of three books, and Chair of the Board of Directors at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Nairobi, one of Africa’s leading independent think tanks. He is a member of the Advisory Board, of hacker space i-Hub, and the Advisory and Selection Panel of Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (2015-2017). He was a member of the inaugural panel of the BBC’s Komla Dumor Award. He received the Spear Award in Uganda for journalism in 1995.

Sorious Samura

Emmy, BAFTA, and Peabody winner Sorious Samura is a widely respected African film and television journalist. Since his debut on the international stage with Emmy-winning Cry Freetown (2000), the Sierra Leone native has produced and presented more than a dozen powerful and innovative documentaries for major international broadcasters. Cry Freetown was followed by another Emmy-winning film, Exodus from Africa (2001), a story of young Africans migrating to Europe across the Sahara Desert. His film Cry Freetown led to the Oscar nominated Hollywood movie Blood Diamond with Leonardo DiCaprio. Sorious was consultant during the making of Blood Diamond and was also instrumental in helping Ed Zwick, the director in writing the script.

From 2004 to 2007, he presented the groundbreaking and Emmy-nominated ‘Living With...’ series. In 2010 and 2011, Sorious helped produce the One World Media Award-winning Africa Investigates series, featuring undercover investigations spearheaded by local investigative journalists across the African continent. In 2012, he was embedded with the Uganda People’s Defence Force in the Central African Republic to present a documentary for the BBC about the hunt for LRA leader Joseph Kony. He has worked all over the world for major broadcasters like PBS (America), CNN, Aljazeera, BBC, Channel4, CBC Canada and ABC TV (Australia). He is currently directing a 90 mins documentary film on Voodoo, featuring Beninese Hollywood star, Djimon Hounsou. The film is aimed at changing the western narrative on Voodoo while using this theme as an opportunity to help Benin rebrand itself but most importantly give the African continent a much bigger platform to tell its own story on Voodoo from the bottom up.
Jim Karani

Jim Karani currently works as an Attorney and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya as the Legal Affairs Manager for WildlifeDirect, a non-profit operating in Kenya to strengthen Kenya’s response to wildlife crime. He leads the Eyes in the Courtroom project that monitors the status of wildlife poaching and trafficking in Kenya. He has also been involved with the “Hands Off Our Elephants” campaign that is focused on the conservation of elephants in Kenya.

Jim graduated with a Master’s in Animal Law (LL.M) at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. He holds the title of the first and only attorney specializing in Animal Law in Kenya. He supports the arrest and prosecution of wildlife poachers and traffickers and facilitates best practice training to strengthen rangers, prosecutors, judges’ response to wildlife poaching and trafficking. He also is involved in public interest litigation that champions for environmental law compliance to protect wildlife habitats from destruction.

Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja

Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. She is a child rights and anti-human trafficking expert with extensive experience working with human rights organizations. In her work with the Klevis Kola Foundation in London, she focused on advocacy matters affecting refugee families and individuals. She has also worked with International Justice Mission in Kenya where she advocated for sexually abused children, and at The CRADLE as Executive Director where she spearheaded the enactment of the Victim Protection Act and the implementation and review of the Children’s Act, and the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act.

Ruth has been involved in capacity building trainings for various stakeholders, development of curriculums, lobby and advocacy, and spearheaded the drafting of various international reports linked to human right mechanisms such as the report to the UNCRC and the Universal Periodic Review. She was nominated to represent the civil society organizations working on Human Trafficking and was elected as the first Chairperson of the Advisory Committee established under the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act. Through her leadership the Committee developed the first National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (2013-2017), the National Referral Mechanism and the implementation regulations to the Counter trafficking in Persons Act, together with carrying out capacity building initiatives for law enforcement officers. She holds a Bachelors (LLB) and Masters in Law (LLM).
Ebelechukwu Enedah

Ebelechukwu Enedah is a partner in the firm of Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors and heads the Capital Market and Consultancy & Government Regulatory department. Her practice areas include: dispute resolution (expertise in litigation), privatization, legal & regulatory drafting, legal and transaction advisory, capital markets, probate & family law, estate planning & asset management, energy law (power), oil & gas, company law & practice, commercial Law, and insolvency.

She has extensive experience in Financial Services Law and Business Restructuring, and has advised and assisted various multinationals and companies in restructuring their credit facilities. Ebelechukwu’s expertise also spans Family Law, Probate Matters and Estate Planning. She is currently the Financial Secretary of Capital Market Solicitors Association. Her role as the head of training in charge of coordinating AGA-AAP projects in Nigeria has ensured highly successful training workshops and symposia in Nigeria. She has served on a pro bono basis as a member of various committees set up by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), which earned her an award by SEC in recognition of her contribution to the development of the Nigerian Capital Market. She is a member of Nigeria Institute of Management and was called to the Nigerian bar with upper credit in 2006.
Scott Blake is an Assistant Attorney General with the Office of the Arizona Attorney General. Scott has been a prosecutor for over twelve years and has been with the Attorney General’s Office for the past five years. He is currently assigned to the Fraud and Special Prosecutions Section. Scott primarily handles high-profile complex fraud cases. He is also assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Joint Terrorism Task Force. In 2017 he was named prosecutor of the year for the State of Arizona by the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council for his role in obtaining the first successful prosecution of a state-level terrorism charge under Arizona law. As an Assistant Attorney General, Scott works closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Before working at the Attorney General’s Office, he was a Deputy County Attorney with the Yavapai County Attorney’s Office in Prescott, Arizona. As a Deputy County Attorney, he handled the majority of the office’s drug prosecutions.

In 2013 Scott was named prosecutor of the year for the State of Arizona by the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council for his role in combating the sale of synthetic drugs by obtaining civil injunctions against stores that were openly selling these harmful substances. Scott began his prosecutorial career with the Greenlee County Attorney’s Office in Clifton, Arizona as a Deputy County Attorney. He handled a variety of cases while at that office. During his time with the Greenlee County Attorney’s Office he successfully prosecuted juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony matters. Scott obtained a B.S. in Marketing from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Upon graduating from Arizona State University, he attended law school at the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland.

Evan Malady is originally from Muskegon, Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University in 2012 where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. In 2017, he graduated from Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. While in Law School he was a law clerk at the United States Attorney’s Office and Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, where he worked on a variety of cases, including gangs, dangerous crimes against children, white collar, and appellate cases.

After Law School, he went to work for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office as a prosecutor in the Fraud and Identity Theft section where he worked mainly on identity theft, employee and employer theft, and organized retail theft cases. In February 2019, he moved over to the Arizona Attorney General’s Office and began working in the Fraud and Special Prosecution section. His caseload currently involves crimes related to complex Fraudulent Schemes and Practices, Money Laundering, Theft, and Internet Crime Against Children cases.
Jim Hennelly is currently assigned as a Special Agent with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office located in Phoenix, Arizona, US. Jim investigates financial fraud, public corruption and senior financial exploitation cases. Jim began his Law Enforcement career with the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Department (Illinois). During his time there he was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration Airport Interdiction group. This group conducted interviews of suspected drug smugglers and money launderers moving through the port hub of Chicago, Illinois. After being with this group for 3 years, Jim was transferred to the US Customs Money Laundering group where he conducted investigations into bulk cash smuggling and cargo related drug seizures. Jim worked on several long term money laundering investigations involving interstate and international drug related money movement.

Following his 3 year tenure with US Customs, Jim went back to his parent agency as a Detective working financial crime. During his time their Jim worked numerous cases involving credit card, mortgage, construction, insurance and medical fraud. Jim was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant and ran a squad of Detectives investigating financial crimes, public corruption and senior financial exploitation. Jim has been a frequent speaker to private, business and Law Enforcement groups on financial crimes, financial crimes investigations, money laundering investigations, asset forfeiture and senior crimes.

Hein van der Merwe

Hein van der Merwe is a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions attached to the Organised Crime Unit at the Director of Public Prosecutions in Pretoria. He is admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. He obtained his BJuris degree at the University of Pretoria and completed his LLB degree at UNISA. Hein joined the Department of Justice in 1991 after finishing his studies at the University of Pretoria. During his 19 years as a prosecutor he was attached to the offices of the Directors of Public Prosecutions in Johannesburg and Pretoria. He was also attached to the Head Office of the Directorate of Special Operations from October 2007 until November 2009 where he headed National Project prosecutions. During the year 2000 he started to focus on Organised Crime prosecutions and was one of the original members of the NPA Organised Component when it was officially launched in 2006. Hein has experience in a broad field of Organised Crime cases which amongst other include complex commercial fraud cases, public and company corruption matters, tax fraud syndicates, cyber crime matters, precious metals, drug syndicates, cash in transit heist syndicates, taxi violence matters, human smuggling syndicates and environmental law matters.
AUGUST

Livingstone, Zambia
11th - 16th
AGA-AAP Workshop on Anti-Wildlife Trafficking in collaboration with the National Prosecution Authority

Lusaka, Zambia,
13th - 16th
AGA-AAP Workshop on Trade-based Anti-Money Laundering in collaboration with

SEPTEMBER

Nairobi, Kenya
4th - 6th
AGA-AAP Workshop on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence in collaboration with the Judiciary Training Institute

Kigali, Rwanda
7th - 9th
AGA-AAP Participation in the Business Conservation Conference

Kigali, Rwanda
9th - 13th
Human Trafficking Workshop

Malawi
16th - 17th
AGA-AAP workshop in collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Unit / Judges

Malawi
18th - 19th
AGA-AAP workshop on Money Laundering in collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Authority
Partnering with us means, your organization will help build public awareness and increase both organizational and individual capacity to combat the cross-border crimes in Africa.

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Venue Hire
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Email: slustig@agaweb.org or info@agaaap.org