

## **PROFILE: HER LAYDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE GERTRUDE ARABA(ABA) ESAABA SACEY TORKORNOO**

Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo, is the 15th Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana having been sworn into office by HE the President on 12th June 2023. This position puts her constitutionally as the 4<sup>th</sup> in the line of the governance structure of Ghana.

### **Family Life**

Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo is the second child of the Late Mr. Abraham Kofi Sackey and Mrs. Comfort Aba Sackey, both educationists. She hails from Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana. She is a married woman, having fulfilled the customary and the civil marriage procedures with a very handsome and decent gentlemen who is an astute public servant in his own right Mr. Francis Torkornoo. They have four cute daughters, who have blessed them with three lovely grandchildren.

### **Education**

Her Ladyship, the Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo attended the Wesley Girls' High School, where she sat and conquered beautifully her Ordinary Level examination earning her the GCE O level Certificate. She decided to test the co-education system (it's always better that way) so she parked bag and baggage and found herself at the AKORAS compound: Achimota School. There, she obtained her Advanced Level Certificate. With these two certificates she was ready for an undergraduate course, this time she crossed few meters and ended at the Legon compound. [So you see how strategic she is? Wesley Girls the distance to Legon is too far so she played it safe}. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Law and Sociology, from the University of Ghana. This time she had no choice but to trek to Makola and graduated from the Ghana School of Law in 1986. In 2001, she obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in International Law and Organizations (ILOD) from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), [This is where our paths crossed for the first time, and I will always cherish this period.] now Erasmus University in the Netherlands. She also has an LLM in Intellectual Property Law from Golden Gate University in the United States. [Please permit me to keep the other education, training courses, seminars, conferences etc. where she has participated and delivered papers etc. on hold for now

## **Career**

Her ladyship the Chief Justice began her legal career as a pupil at Fugar & Co, a premier law firm in Accra. After her pupillage, she became an Associate, and later, became a director of the firm. Chief Justice Sackey Torkonoo also volunteered her time and other critical resources with the FIDA Legal Aid Services. Later on, she worked as an intern with Nabarro Nathanson in London as part of an IBA (International Bar Association?) Scholarship in the early years of her career. In January 1997, she co-founded Sozo Law Consult, where she served as Managing Partner until May 14th, 2004, when she was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Ghana by, HE President John Agyekum Kuffuor.

## **Experience**

With a judicial career spanning nearly 20 years, Chief Justice Sackey Torkonoo was among the pioneering justices of the Commercial Division of the High Court. She has actively contributed to the reform agenda and initiatives of the Judiciary and Judicial Service of Ghana since 2005. She has served as a faculty and board member of the Judicial Training Institute, Vice Chair of the Internship and Clerkship Committee, Chair of the E-Justice Oversight Committee, Chair of the Editorial Committee of the Association of Magistrate and Judges, Supervising Judge for Commercial Courts in the country and Law Reform Commissioner. She was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2012, and to the Supreme Court in December 2019, after going through Parliamentary screening. And in 2023 she was given the high office of the CJ by HE the President on a recommendation by the Judicial Council.

## **Passion**

Outside of her career, Chief Justice Sackey Torkonoo is a passionate minister in the body of Christ. She plays a keen role in the women's [Aglow International](#) fellowship and has served as a board member in [Theovision International](#), a ministry that has translated the Bible into several African languages for more than 25 years. For many years, she has had the privilege of serving as a faculty member of **Haggai Institute** – a world class leadership institute based in Hawaii and Thailand, which helps in the development of leadership skills.

Chief Justice Sackey Torkonoo is the founder of **Wishing Well Institute for Leadership Development**. She is an enthusiastic poet and playwright. Her published books of poetry are *The Child and the Rainbow* (2012) and *The Wise*

*Still Hear the Birds* (2012). She is also the author of 'Doing Business in Ghana' and 'Legislative Watch'.

Distinguished ladies (and gentlemen) could we have scouted for any other person than such a gem for this very important meeting? I guess your answer is No. With a standing ovation let us applaud our guest of honour my own alumni and confidant.... Her ladyship Chief Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey  
TORKONOO.