

PROFILE OF MRS. EFUA GHARTEY

Efua Gharthey has certainly made history as the newly elected President of the Ghana Bar Association, becoming the first female to hold this prestigious position since the Association's formal inception at independence. Her election, after twenty-five male presidents, signifies a groundbreaking moment not only for the Bar but also for the legal profession in Ghana.

Efua Gharthey is the Head of Chambers at Gharthey & Gharthey, a law firm she co-founded with her husband, Joe Gharthey in 1994. Since 2005, she has led the firm, guiding it through significant cases and corporate advisory work, focusing on corporate law, joint ventures, corporate restructuring, labour and employment law, company law, maritime law, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Her extensive litigation experience includes appearances before all courts in Ghana, including the Supreme Court, cementing her reputation as a formidable legal practitioner.

Beyond her responsibilities as Head of Chambers, Efua currently serves as a Member of the Governing Board of the Ghana Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre. She has also been recently nominated by Ghana to be designated as a Conciliator on the International Centre for the settlement of Investment Disputes (ISCID), Panel of Conciliators. Her legal expertise is further

demonstrated by her ongoing roles as Legal Advisor to Wesley Girls High School, her alma mater. Being a Methodist, she is a member of Legal Advisory Committee of the Methodist Church Ghana.

Her distinguished career is underpinned by a deep commitment to public and Christian service, exemplified by her past leadership as Chairperson of the Global Council of United Bible Societies, from 2016 to 2019; a board she served on for 10 years. She had the opportunity during that period to chair the World Assembly of the Societies with participants from over two hundred (200) countries and territories held in Philadelphia USA, in the year 2016 which happened to be the first time an African female was playing that role. Efua was the Chairperson of the Bible Society of Ghana from 2013 to 2019; a board she served on for 21 years. Additionally, she was the Chairperson of World Vision Ghana between 2019 and 2022, after serving on its board for 6 years. She also recently completed her term as a Board Member of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and the Trinity Theological Seminary Governing Council. Throughout her career, Efua has been deeply involved in legal advocacy and professional organizations and has been on not less than 20 boards relating to the media, industry, education, children and aviation.

Efua obtained a B.A. (Hons) from the University of Ghana in 1989 and earned her B.L. Solicitor's Certificate from

the Ghana School of Law in 1991. She was called to the Ghana Bar that same year.

Her commitment to continuing education saw her obtain a training in Basic and Advanced Securities from the Ghana Stock Exchange in 1998 and a Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the California State University, Sacramento Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, in collaboration with the University of Ghana, in the same year.

Efua began her legal career as a Legal Aid Officer with the Ghana Legal Aid Board in 1991, advocating for the underprivileged in society. She also joined the renowned law firm, Akufo-Addo, Prempeh & Co., where she worked as an Associate from 1991 to 1994. Building on the experience gained at Akufo-Addo, Prempeh & Co., she led Ghartey & Ghartey, to develop into one of Ghana's reputable law firms.

She has been a dedicated member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) since 1992, serving in various executive roles, including Public Relations Officer, Acting Treasurer, and Junior Executive Member. Her involvement with the Ghana Bar Association for a collective period of 16 years on its National Council is equally noteworthy, where she has held several key positions, including serving on numerous committees including being the Vice Chairperson of the Christian Lawyers Fellowship and the immediate past President of the Greater Accra Bar Association, a position she held for 6 years.

Mentoring the Youth has been of interest to Efua hence her involvement with the Chief Justice's Mentoring programme, an initiative of Ghana's first female Chief Justice Her Ladyship Justice Georgina Wood. She served as a facilitator/Speaker for the programme for 10 years.

Her legal expertise and passion for the profession extend internationally, with her active participation in the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association and the International Bar Association, where she has been involved in organizing and presenting at conferences. Efua has been a speaker at multiple international legal fora, such as the IBA Regional Forum in Accra, presenting on reorganizing bar associations for higher performance.

In addition to her professional and academic achievements, Efua Ghartey's personal life reflects a balance of family and community service. She is married to Hon. Joe Ghartey, a prominent Ghanaian politician and lawyer, and together they are blessed with five children. Her dedication to law, leadership, and service to society has made her a respected figure in both the legal community and beyond.