

Curriculum Vitae Mary Concilia ANCHANG

Mary Concilia ANCHANG is a seasoned practicing international lawyer at, ONAMBELE, ANCHANG & ASSOCIATES (OAALAW). She is partners with Mr. Joseph Antoine ONAMBELE, the senior and managing partner of the firm in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Married with two kids, her legal practice dates from 1990. More than a quarter of a century. She is also the founding President of The African Chamber of Trade & Commerce.

She is one of Cameroon's finest bilingual female lawyers. Pioneer African lawyer, accredited with the African organization of Intellectual & Industrial property (OAPI) her IP practice covers 17 member countries, extending into other African countries, where she works through co-counsel colleagues and local agents. Part of her renown resides in her unchallenged negotiating and drafting skills that led to the closure of some important contracts for the government Cameroon.

Appointed in 2006 to represent her country at the International court of Arbitration, of the International Chamber of Trade and Commerce ICC, also called The World Business Organization WBO in Paris, she was the first female African lawyer to serve in this position since the creation of the ICC court of arbitration in 1923.

Co-founder of the Cameroon National Committee of the ICC, she shares the view that, 'Success is when opportunity meets preparedness' implying that Africans need to be mentally prepared to appropriate, build, and transform their resources to enjoy the continent's economic potential.

She observes that, arbitration and ADR mechanisms used to resolve commercial and investment litigation or disputes offer a growing and highly profitable

avenue to be explored by lawyers given the increasing amount of investment efforts seen throughout the continent.

She thinks there is an unmatched potential for experts in Africa with the growing number of multinationals investing in African markets.

Considering her rich intellectual Propriety law and International Commercial Arbitration background, she offers a rare and rich combination of legal expertise added to her bilingual and Bi-Jurial law practice. She offers an unmatched ability to swing from one area of law to the other without stopping to think.

Very fluent in written and spoken English and French, she possesses admirable leadership skills, coupled with unique reconciliatory personal skills to dissolve and unravel complicated situations, with an agile and flexible mindset that often marvels her clients and friends. She is free spirited and lighthearted.

Greatly travelled through several parts of the world, she seamlessly taps into her professional experiences to influence competitive business habits and policies, as the need occurs with no complex nor bias. Her goal is to contribute towards building a highly attractive business environment for the economic empowerment of African businesses and institutions.

Her sharp and critical mind, urged her to observe the need to professionalize industrial activities in an effort to bridge the huge economic digital divide between the North and the South economies. She believes the key to competition resides in improved recognition and performance of SMEs in Africa. As signatories to the AGOA, APE, Madrid Protocol and the Paris Declaration trade laws and tools, she thinks Africa should be on her toes to match the competition in the world market. This Philosophy partly justifies the birth of The African Chamber of trade and Commerce.

Working with the OAPI, the WIPO and ICC's intellectual property commission on matters of IP ownership and IP rights enforcement for local institutions, isolated researchers and inventors, she understood the unequivocal need for Africans to be owners of their ideas and know-how. She notes that, if efficient policies and budgets for R&D are not put in place with the right expertise to validate search results for African discoveries, Africa will never be part of the wealth creation Chain in the world.

This explains the creation of the Foundation for the Promotion of Innovation /Inventions and Artistic Designs (FPI) in 1998. FPI in partnership with the Swiss mother branch sponsored some Cameroonian inventions/inventors to significant exhibition and invention trade Fares around the world to include the INPEX Pittsburg international Exhibition Fare, where she met Dr. Nakammatz the renown Japanese inventor for Viagra; BBC World Tomorrow's London Exhibition trade Fare in 1999 where she met John TREVORS inventor of the Touch light.

She further held several meetings at the World Bank in DC and the UN headquarters in New York to discuss R&D policies related to the valorization African research findings.

In 2002-2003 she had meetings at Professor GALLO'S *HIV/AIDS* research Institute in Baltimore. She also had a private meeting with President Taboo Mbeki in Pretoria in 2003 and President OBIANG NGUEMA in 2006 at the OAPI salon d'Invention in Bata. At these high level meetings, she discussed the possibility of an African solution to the *HIV/AIDS* disease(s) and other stubborn health hazardous diseases resulting from stubborn and virulent viruses that were massively killing Africans.

Owing to several efforts and challenges encountered, Mary was left with the ultimate choice of creating an economic innovative vector to provide more visibility for African businesses across the board. The need for crafting new ways of thinking and applying business tools or policies with efficient monitoring and adapted self-evaluation mechanisms to address African concerns, through a federated collective country approach seemed paramount.

Having observed the absence of an aggressive unified African trade vision converging towards a common agenda within African Nations, to network and birth competitive emerging markets for Africa's industrialization and renaissance to happen, the creation of "*The African Chamber of Trade and Commerce*"(ACC) became mandatory.

The Obstinate Question Mary Concilia ANCHANG keeps asking is, how do we become industrial and competitive markets, if we are not owners of our technology?. The trap she says," is real and must be addressed tactfully with Africa's development partners".

Lastly, Mary is a member of many professional and social groups. Some of which are INTA, ARBITRALWOMEN AAAIP, AMOAPI, ECTA MEMO ETC. INTA, ARBITRALWOMEN AAAIP, AMOAPI, ECTA MEMO ETC.
