

# Professor Annie Patricia G. Kameri-Mbote

---

## *Profile*

*"Leadership is not so much about position as it is about passion - and the obsessive pursuit of possibility" – Anonymous*

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote is an academic giant who lives by the philosophy that paths are made by walking. Indeed, she is an academic leader who is driven not so much about *position* but by *passion* and the *pursuit of possibility*. As John C. Maxwell states, she is a leader who not only *knows the way* and *goes the way*, but also *shows the way*.

She has published over fifteen books, written four theses, over twenty journal articles, more than twenty book chapters which have challenged dominant discourses in the environment, property and gender. She has supervised over 100 masters' theses and thirteen PhD theses. She has been cited 2212 times and according to Google scholar she has an h-index of 23 and an i10 index of 53. She has mentored many students in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, the United Kingdom as well as the United States.

She is a woman of many firsts. She is the first female professor in law in Kenya and also the first female Dean at the School of law. She broke the records by the number of PhDs developed during her tenure and the recruitment of many young academics that breathed life into the School of Law.

Patricia has contributed significantly to legal education in Kenya and Africa. She served as Dean of the University of Nairobi School of Law between 2012 and 2016 when she oversaw both the reinvigoration of the School's curriculum and refurbishment and modernization of the facilities leading up to the accreditation of the School's Parklands and Mombasa Campuses.

Prior to that she led the team that initiated, planned and implemented the Strathmore Law School between 2009 and 2012. She was also the Chair of the Inaugural Kenya School of Law Board when the Council of Legal Education and the School were separated by statute in 2012.

Patricia also contributed significantly to the establishment of the Southern and Eastern African Research Centre on Women's Law at the University of Zimbabwe in the early 2000s and is currently working with the Council of Legal Education in Zimbabwe to review their legal education curricula.

Patricia has been honoured professionally through conferral of the rank of Senior Counsel under the Advocates Act under which "the President may grant a letter of conferment to any person of irreproachable professional conduct who has rendered exemplary service to the legal and public service in Kenya conferring upon him the rank and dignity of Senior Counsel."

Nationally, she was honoured in the order of *Elder of the Burning Spear* (EBS) in December 2015 under Section 4 (b) of the National Honours Act No. 11 of 2013 covering persons who have ‘made an exemplary contribution to the country or a county in the economic, social, scientific, academic, public administration, governance, sports, journalism, business, security or other fields’.

She is a member of the Governing Council of the International Commission on Environmental Law (ICEL); a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law and the Kenya National Academy of Sciences .

She also serves on the editorial boards of the following journals: Malawi Law Journal; Journal of Law, Environment and Development (LEAD); Global Environmental Politics (GEP); Journal of Human Rights and the Environment; and the East African Journal of Peace and Human Rights.

Patricia is an engaged and public spirited global citizen who has served and currently serves on various national, regional and international boards such as: the Global Council of the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP); the International Development Law Organization (IDLO); Lewa Wildlife Conservancy; Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE-Uganda); the Kenya Land Conservation Trust; Chair, Kenya School of Law Board; Chair, Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB); Chair, Seeds and Plants Varieties Tribunal; and the Pell Centre for International Relations, Salve Regina University, Rhode Island among others. She is the chairperson of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities (ASSELLAU), which brings together scholars from 50 universities from across Africa and in that capacity has helped to establish the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in North Africa and the Middle East.

Patricia has been celebrated as a renowned thinker in the global environment and sustainable development field by the World Conservation Union (IUCN); as a renowned and innovative thinker and researcher by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on land rights and served as a Policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She has been a visiting Scholar at Cornell University under the Dorothea S. Clarke Chair in Feminist Jurisprudence; Harvard University Centre for African and African American Studies; the Institute of Natural Medicine at the University of Toyama; Waseda University in Tokyo; and Amazonas State University in Manaus Brazil.

Patricia’s research navigates diverse areas of law including gender; environment and natural resources; property (land and intellectual property); and science and technology. It is within these areas that her disquiet with formal law’s claims of objectivity, coherence and universal application was birthed and nurtured. Patricia’s research works have been synthesized to generate a thesis in law titled: *Contending Norms in a Plural Legal System: The Limits of Formal Law*.

Patricia has been the recipient of various awards including the University of Nairobi’s Research Award in 2018 and the Distinguished Visiting Research Scientist Award from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science in 2010. She has also received substantial research grants from different organizations including: German Technical

Cooperation (GIZ); Ford Foundation; Research Council of Norway; Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Open Society for Eastern Africa (OSIEA); and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Patricia was among the 2019 Harvard Law School International Women's Day honorees whose powerful voices are inspiring change globally. She was also awarded an honorary degree in law by the University of Oslo (UiO) in September 2017 for outstanding contribution in the cross-section of women's law, environmental law, law and development and original and ground-breaking research cutting across established fields such as Women's Law, Natural Resources Law, Human Rights and Law and Development.

Patricia is married to John Mbote who she met as a student at the University of Nairobi in the 1980s and they are blessed with two children – Ian Kamau and Chloe Elaine Wairimu.