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Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



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2025 LEGAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Key Developments in Ghana and Across the Globe

As we conclude another year of growth and change in the legal space, we reflect on key developments shaping Ghana's legal landscape and global shifts influencing policy, business, technology, and human rights, with reforms and challenges guiding the profession into 2026 and beyond.

By Stephanie Asare-Kodua

GHANA

Reform of Legal Education Structure

Ghana's legal profession is set for a historic transformation with the government announcing sweeping reforms to legal education. The centralised Ghana School of Law admissions system at Makola is slated for abolition. Under the new framework, all accredited universities offering LLB programmes will run a one (1) year Bar Practice Programme, after which graduates will sit a national

bar examination to qualify as lawyers. This reform aims to modernize legal education, expand training capacity, and make the pathway to becoming a lawyer more accessible and merit-based.

Anti-LGBTQ Legislation Reintroduced

Parliament has reintroduced a controversial anti-LGBTQ bill that would raise penalties for same-sex relations and criminalize LGBTQ advocacy, support, or promotion. Under the proposed legislation, same-sex sexual acts could

result in up to 5 years in prison, while support or promotion of LGBTQ+ identities or organisations may bring further prison terms.

The bill has drawn strong condemnation from local and international human-rights groups and diplomatic partners, who warn that it threatens fundamental freedoms, equality, and Ghana's global standing. With tensions rising, the bill remains one of the most scrutinised human rights issues in Ghana.

Overhaul of Mining and Natural Resource Regulations

The government took decisive steps to curb illegal mining and clean up the gold sector. From May 1, 2025, all foreigners were banned from trading locally mined gold. Only the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) is authorised to buy, sell, assay, or export gold from licensed small-scale and artisanal miners. This reform signals to improve traceability, enforce regulation, and reduce illicit trade. By centralising oversight, Ghana hopes to retain value locally, ensure environmental compliance, and safeguard the country's mineral resources for its citizens.

Tech, Digital, and Cyber Law Reform

Ghana advanced the most significant overhaul of its technology and electronic communications laws in decades. The proposed amendments aimed to modernize digital rights, enhance data protection, regulate online content, strengthen cybersecurity enforcement, and update e-commerce frameworks. With Ghana's digital economy



growing rapidly, these reforms sought to provide clearer protections for users, businesses, and online platforms while fostering digital inclusion and ensuring national security in an increasingly connected environment.

GLOBAL

Shifts in Global Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility Laws

EU policymakers moved to weaken and revise the bloc's sustainability due-diligence laws. The updated framework now applies only to huge corporations, those with at least 5,000 employees and €1.5 billion in turnover, narrowing the number of firms required to comply.

Reporting demands and supply-chain oversight obligations have been reduced, and climate-transition plans have been

dropped. Critics warn that these changes could undermine environmental and human-rights protections, especially for supply chains operating globally. Companies doing business with the EU may feel ripple effects in their compliance and reporting responsibilities.

International AI Governance Developments

Global discussions on AI governance gained significant traction, with policymakers and international organisations advancing proposals to regulate transparency, algorithmic fairness, and cross-border accountability. New and updated frameworks focused on ensuring the ethical and responsible use of AI, strengthening human-rights safeguards, and promoting standardized oversight mechanisms. As these initiatives progress, the emerging global norms are

expected to shape future compliance requirements, particularly for countries developing fintech systems, expanding digital services, or adopting automated governance tools.

Human Rights Legislation & Advocacy

International human rights organizations and global institutions redoubled calls for governments, including many in Africa, to uphold fundamental rights such as free expression, digital freedoms, gender equality, and minority protections. At high-level sessions and forums, advocates urged nations to renew commitments, strengthen accountability, and resist

policies that undermine civil and political freedoms. These global advocacy efforts influence diplomatic relationships, conditions for development assistance, and cross-border cooperation, highlighting how international scrutiny and standards shape domestic legal and policy landscapes.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR 2026?

Legal Education Reform could significantly expand entry into the legal profession, diversify legal expertise, and reshape academic-professional partnerships.

Natural Resource Policy Changes show a stronger stance on environmental inte-

-grity, state revenue protection, and local participation

Digital Law Reform suggests Ghana is preparing for a more regulated online environment, an important signal for businesses, fintechs, and content creators.

Human Rights and Social Policy Debates will continue to influence Ghana's global relationships and internal dialogue on constitutional freedoms.

International Legal Shifts remind Ghanaian institutions and businesses to monitor global standards, particularly on sustainability and technology governance.

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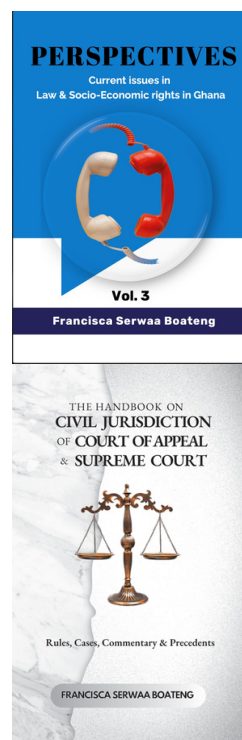
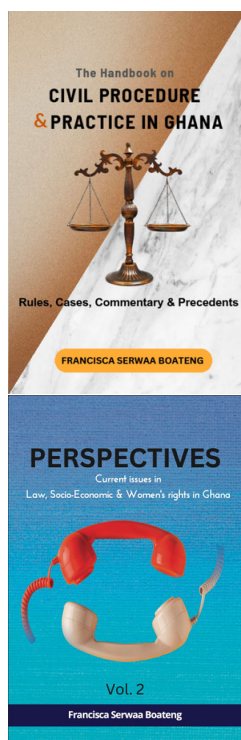
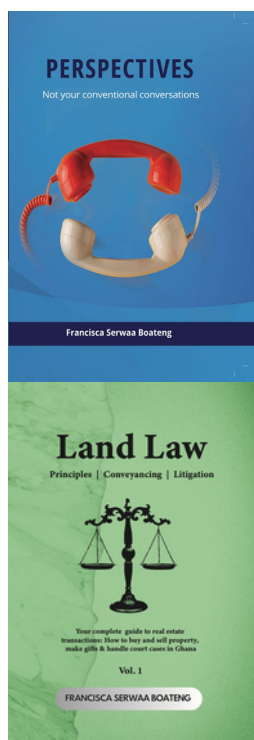
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ALL OUR READERS,
PARTNERS, AND CLIENTS A
JOYFUL AND PEACEFUL
FESTIVE SEASON.

THANK YOU FOR BEING
PART OF OUR 2025
JOURNEY.

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