

THE KYEREMA



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- Key Legal & Economic Updates – Ghana & Global
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Legal Pulse: Ghana and Global Highlights

Catch up on the biggest legal stories shaping Ghana and the world this January, from reforms and protests to economic pressures and global rule-of-law debates impacting everyday lives and future decisions.

The Legal Education Shift in Ghana

Ghana's **Legal Education Reforms Bill, 2025** promises a major overhaul of how lawyers are trained. Parliament is set to pass the bill, with implementation from **September 2026**, transferring legal education regulation from the General Legal Council to a new statutory body.

Accredited universities will teach both academic and professional components, ending the current bottleneck of centralised Law School entry, and introducing a **national bar examination** for qualification.

The reforms aim to broaden access, shorten training, and strengthen practical experience, addressing shortages of practising lawyers nationwide while ensuring quality through accreditation and oversight.

Judicial Capacity & Security Concerns

In January 2026, legal commentators and

analysts called on **Ghana's Chief Justice to strengthen judicial security and capacity**, highlighting risks judges and prosecutors face in high-risk and complex cases.

An open letter urged enhanced protection measures, including secure transport, improved surveillance at courts, and modern technology, alongside assigning specialised legal practitioners for extradition, criminal, and transnational cases to safeguard integrity and public confidence in the judiciary.

It stressed that robust coordination between security agencies and judicial services is essential to ensure justice is not only done but seen to be done, reinforcing the rule of law in Ghana.

Unpaid Teachers, Rising Tensions

Tensions escalated across Ghana in January 2026 as **prolonged salary arrears** pushed teachers to the brink of mass protest and legal action.



The Coalition of Unpaid Teachers issued an ultimatum after many teachers went 12–15 months without full pay due to administrative issues, including missing staff IDs and payroll integration problems.

Meanwhile, the Judicial Service Staff Association of Ghana (JUSAG) announced an indefinite strike starting January 19, demanding payment of eight months of arrears tied to delayed implementation of a 10 % base pay increase. Both actions underline growing frustration with government delays and risk disrupting education and justice delivery nationwide.

Cash Crunch Hits Cocoa Sector: Farmers at Risk

Ghana's cocoa industry came under mounting pressure in January 2026 as prolonged payment delays left many farmers unpaid for months, exposing cracks in the sector's traditional financing model. COCOBOD abandoned its long-standing reliance on **international syndicated loans**, which provided “seed money” for Licensed Buying Companies to

purchase beans leaving a **severe liquidity shortage**.

Without syndicated funding, advance payments have stalled, and international traders are reluctant to pay the required 60% upfront under the new model, delaying farmer payments and threatening livelihoods. The cash crunch has weakened COCOBOD's ability to pay farmers on time, risking future investment and harvests.

Macron Warns of a “World Without Rules” at Davos

In January 2026, global leaders highlighted serious concerns about the **erosion of the rules-based international order**.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, French President Emmanuel Macron warned that the world is shifting toward “a world without rules,” **where international law is increasingly ignored** and “the law of



the strongest” prevails, threatening multilateral cooperation and stability.

He urged respect for legal norms, sovereignty, and opposition to bullying in international relations. Macron’s remarks reflect broader geopolitical tensions, including disputes over tariffs and territorial issues that fuel fears of weakening global legal frameworks.

US Named Focus Country for Endangered Lawyers in 2026

The International Day of the Endangered Lawyer highlighted the United States, exposing increasing political pressure and risks for legal practitioners.

A global coalition of bar associations cited actions such as executive orders targeting law firms, public vilification of judges, and pressures on legal professionals involved in politically sensitive cases, warning these undermine judicial independence and the rule of law even in established democracies.

The designation aims to raise awareness,

support legal independence, and mobilise defence of access to justice, underscoring global concerns about threats to legal professionals’ safety and professional freedom.

UK Corporate Law Update

Between 17 and 23 January 2026, several key UK corporate law developments took effect or progressed.

Most notably, the **new regime for public offers of securities and admissions to trading** under the *Public Offers and Admissions to Trading Regulations 2024*, came into force on 19 January, replacing the EU-derived prospectus rules and introducing revised FCA prospectus standards.

Companies House delayed planned restrictions on document filings until at least November 2026, relaxing short-term compliance pressures. Meanwhile, the UK Government opened a consultation on streamlining

its competition/merger control regime, reflecting ongoing efforts to refine corporate regulation and enforcement.

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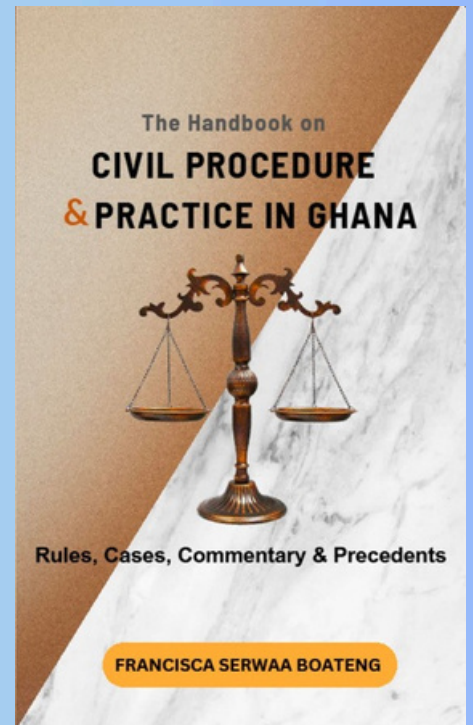
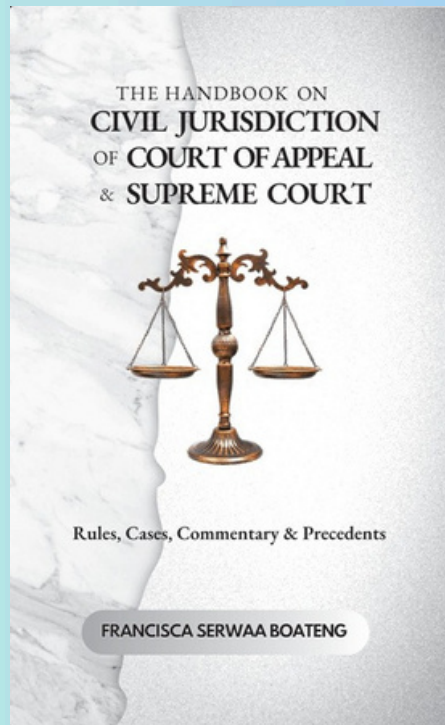
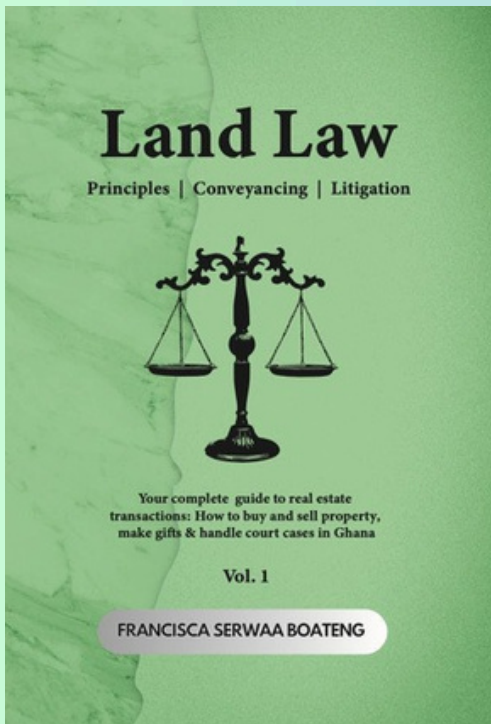
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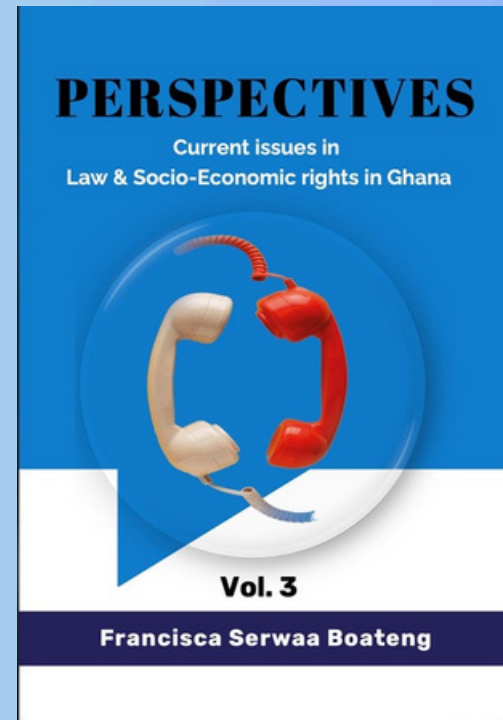
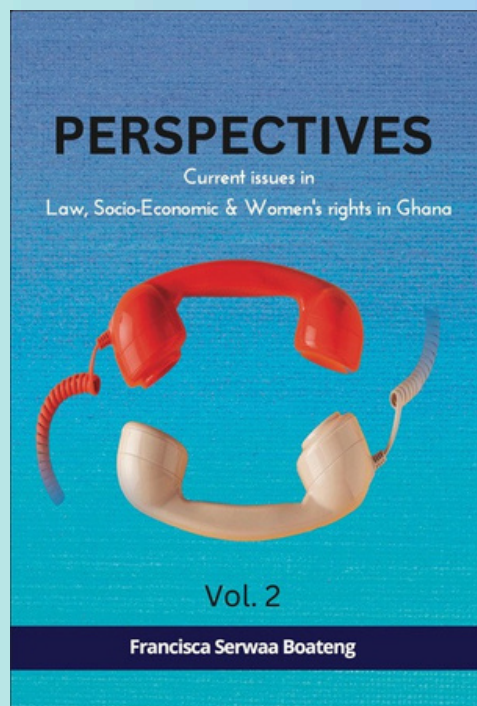
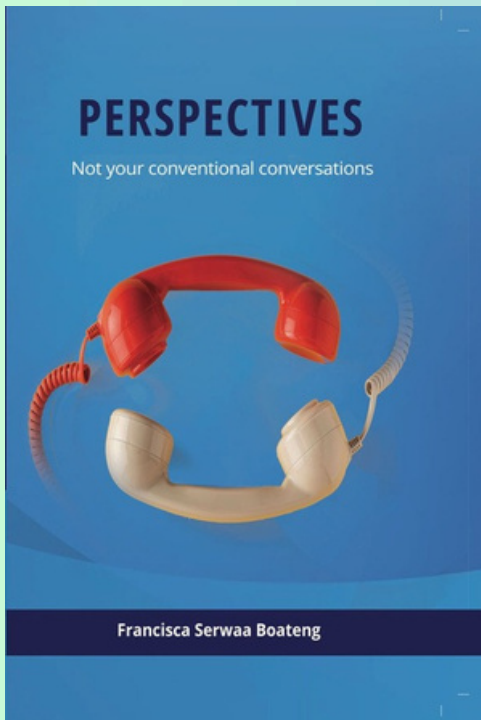
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Managing Counsel,
FSB Law Consult
Editor-in-Chief

Stephanie Asare-Kodua
Digital Community Lead,
FSB Law Consult
Editorial Assistant



Connect with Us!

Feel free to reach out to us for your enquiries!

- +233 (0) 30 281 8433
+233 (0) 50 798 0400
- www.fsblawconsult.com
- info@fsblawconsult.com
- No. BAC 34/3B, 11th Street,
Baatsona,
Spintex Road, Accra-Ghana



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