

**EAST AFRICA LAW STUDENT SYMPOSIUM: EXPLORING THE FUTURE  
OF FAMILY LAW  
1ST SEPTEMBER 2025 AT RIARA UNIVERSITY**

Time	Activity	Facilitator/Lead: MC:
8.30-9.00am	Registration	All
9.00-9.15am	Opening Remarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Dr. Victor Lando</i> <b>Dean Riara University, Law School</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Mussa Nthiga</i> <b>Student Leader, Riara University</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Belinda Mwende</i> <b>Chairperson, Wakili wa Watoto</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Ramadhan Abubakar</i> <b>President, East African Law Society</b>
9.15-9.30am	International Academy of Family Lawyers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Rachael Kelsey</i> <b>President, International Academy of Family Lawyers</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Pamela Sloan</i> <b>Partner, Aronson Mayefsky &amp; Sloan</b>
9.30-9.45am		<b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>Lady Justice Patricia Nyaundi</i> <b>Judge- High Court, Milimani</b>

**LEARNING SESSION**

9.45-10.45am	Presentation of Draft Journal Articles	<i>Moderator: Melanie Koin, Riara University, Law School</i>
10.45-11.15am	Health break/Tea Break	All
11.15-12.30pm	Panel Discussion: Panel 1	<b>Contemporary Issues Impacting Family Law</b> <i>Moderator: Youngreen Mudeyi, Kabarak University, Law School</i>
	Panel 2	<b>Child Participation: Nothing About Us Without Us</b> <i>Moderator: Belinda Mwende, Mount Kenya University, Law School</i>
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch & Networking	

**MENTORSHIP SESSION**

1.30-2.00pm	Opening remarks	<i>Youngreen Mudeyi- President LSAK</i> <b>Kabarak University, Law School</b>
	Mentor	<i>Rose Wachuka- Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Justice (pre-recorded)</i>
2.00-3.00pm	Breakout: 4 forums with Mentors	<i>All students and Mentors</i>
3.00-3.30pm	Feedback/Plenary	<i>Student Leaders</i>
3.30-4.00pm	Awards Ceremony & Closing remarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Ruth Juliet N Gachanja, Lecturer-Kabarak University,</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Patricia Mundia, Partner- PWM Advocates,</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Dr. Victor Lando, Dean- Riara University, Law School</i>

## SHOWCASING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

### PRESENTATIONS OF DRAFT JOURNAL ARTICLES - MELANIE KOIN (MODERATOR)

- 📄 **Eshirera Kimberly, Riara University** - NOT EVERY FAMILY DISPUTE NEEDS A JUDGE: THE PROMISE OF ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN FAMILY LAW
- 📄 **Muthoni Mwangi, Mount Kenya University** - CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND RESOURCE SCARCITY DISRUPT FAMILIES OFTEN INCREASE CHILD MARRIAGE RATES, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES
- 📄 **Elijah Mokoro, Egerton University** - RECONCEPTUALIZING FAMILY LAW IN EAST AFRICA: STUDENT-DRIVEN LEGAL INNOVATION IN RESPONSE TO SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES
- 📄 **Ian Dancan Ekisa, Kabarak University** - DIGITAL COMPANIONS AND THE EROSION OF CHILDHOOD: REGULATING AI AND ONLINE GAMING WITHIN KENYA'S FAMILY LAW FRAMEWORK

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

#### PANEL 1: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IMPACTING FAMILY LAW - YOUNGREEN MUDEYI (MODERATOR)

- 📄 **Bobby Dhiman, Riara University** - CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DISRUPTOR OF FAMILY STRUCTURES: ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF DISPLACEMENT AND SCARCITY
- 📄 **Shanise Kadenyeka, Kisii University** - DIGITALIZING FAMILY LAW IN KENYA: ENHANCING JUSTICE OR RISKING RIGHTS?
- 📄 **Darshni Chavda, Riara University** - DOMINANCE OF CULTURE OVER THE LAW
- 📄 **Skem George, Kabarak University** - RECONCILING TRADITION AND MODERNITY: NAVIGATING THE CLASH BETWEEN CUSTOMARY, RELIGIOUS, AND STATUTORY

**PANEL 2: CHILD PARTICIPATION: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US - BELINDA MWENDE (MODERATOR)**

- 📄 **Kennedy Odhiambo, Mount Kenya University - LIMITED CHILD PARTICIPATION (CHILD PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY LAW)**
- 📄 **Kavetsa Achanga, Kisii University - LIMITED CHILD PARTICIPATION: CHILD PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY LAW**
- 📄 **Gina Mulaku, Strathmore University - EVALUATING THE ENFORCEMENT OF SECTION 13 OF THE CHILDREN ACT 2022 IN DIVORCE-RELATED EDUCATION DISPUTES IN KENYA**
- 📄 **Dennis Onyango, Kabarak University - USING CHILD INCLUSIVE MEDIATION TO ENHANCE CHILD-CENTERED SOLUTIONS IN CUSTODY DISPUTES**