

Senior Partner, | Chair, Development Finance, Corporate Transactions and Regulatory Advising, Legislative, Policy and Government Relations Consulting Practice Groups. Merton & Everett LLP

Oliver is a governance advisor with significant law and policy expertise in various African countries, in the United States and within the United Nation's System. He has been frequently engaged to interface with private businesses, legislators, governmental ministries, agencies and departments in several countries, and in various capacities including in the law and policymaking process or to obtain regulatory or governmental approvals required for various international transactions. Oliver also has significant consulting experience with various international and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, UNDP, DFID, OSIWA, ClientEarth etc.

Oliver has worked on complex corporate and commercial transactions (including, secured lending, corporate and project finance, blended finance, and debt and equity financings), particularly in the infrastructure and renewable energy space, (ii) advanced knowledge of insolvency laws and regulations and restructuring options, (iii) advice to clients on structuring, innovation and policy matters and (iv) demonstrated leadership role in non-project assignments and initiatives and legal subject matters.

He has been directly involved in drafting over 200 pieces of legislation—including Acts of Parliament, Legislative Instruments, and key policy instruments—across Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, spanning sectors such as mining (including Minerals and Mining Act reforms and artisanal mining regulation), Development-induced Resettlement, Competition Law, petroleum local content, health insurance, forestry, environmental protection, financial services, corporate governance, and the digital economy (including data protection and fintech regulation).

Oliver held various roles in the Private Sector, in Government, and with the United Nations. Oliver has worked as a Diplomat in the Foreign Service of Ghana, Senior Legal and Policy Officer at the Office of the President in Ghana, Judicial Fellow to the Vice President of the International Court of Justice, Legal Officer at the United Nations Headquarters in New York USA, and as Global Law and Policy Advisor at the headquarters of the international law firm Covington & Burling LLP in Washington DC, USA. Between January 2010 to December 2011, Oliver was also engaged as a Constitutional Researcher and the Access to Justice Advisor to Ghana's Constitution Review Commission, which was appointed by the President of Ghana on the advice of the country's Attorney General to assess the strengths and weaknesses of Ghana's 1992 Constitution and to make recommendations for a possible amendment to the Constitution. Oliver's illustrious services to the Commission saw him awarded by the Commission for his "Extra-Ordinary Services as Researcher to the Constitution Review Commission".

At the Firm, Oliver serves as Chair of the Development Finance, Corporate Transactions and Regulatory Advising Practice Group, as well as the Legislative, Policy and Government Relations Consulting Practice Group. In this role, he leads major engagements across Africa and beyond, overseeing complex legal and policy mandates that cut across transactional, regulatory, and legislative domains. He is responsible for driving the Firm's strategic direction in these areas, providing high-level advisory support to clients, and ensuring that the Firm's work consistently meets the highest standards of legal excellence, institutional integrity, and impact.

He also plays a central role in client development, mentorship of junior lawyers, and shaping the Firm's thought leadership on public law, governance reform, and socio-

economic rights. Through his work, Oliver ensures that Merton & Everett LLP remains at the forefront of cutting-edge legal advocacy and transformative policy engagement across Africa and beyond.

Representative Transactions

- Frequently engaged as an expert witness in international arbitration proceedings, including recently serving as expert witness in a USD 300 million expropriation case brought against the Government of Ghana.
- Advised a Dubai/South Africa-based infrastructure investment firm on a USD 40 million cocoa factory financing in West Africa, including structuring security arrangements and advising on cross-border regulatory issues.
- Structured and negotiated a USD 35 million petroleum purchase financing transaction on behalf of a downstream oil trading company, including call-option features and secured lending arrangements.
- Acted for a regional infrastructure development group in its acquisition of a Ghanaian investment bank, including regulatory approvals and transaction structuring.
- Led the restructuring of a USD 25 million project finance facility in the renewable energy sector in West Africa, involving international DFIs and commercial banks.
- Advised on corporate governance and shareholder arrangements for a pan-African private equity fund investing in infrastructure assets.
- USD 225 million equity financing for the expansion of a major telecommunications company in Malawi, involving multiple regional and international investors and layered governance and exit structures.
- USD 5 billion long-term investment mechanism for a sovereign-backed infrastructure and telecommunications investment programme in Eswatini, structured over a 50-year horizon with layered risk participation and sovereign guarantees.
- Represented a leading development finance institution in structuring blended finance facilities for SME lending across multiple ECOWAS markets.
- Structured multi-layered escrow and fiduciary arrangements to de-risk infrastructure project financings in volatile jurisdictions.
- Acting as lead counsel in a high-profile class action and Ponzi scheme litigation representing over 120 clients against a major real estate developer in Ghana, involving claims of investor fraud and asset tracing.
- Led the drafting of over 200 pieces of legislation and policy instruments across Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone—including Acts of Parliament, Legislative Instruments, and sector-specific frameworks—covering mining (Minerals and Mining Act reforms, artisanal mining regulation), petroleum local content, health insurance, forestry, environmental protection, financial services, corporate governance, and digital economy regulation (data protection, fintech)

Policy, Trainings and Manual Development Consulting Experiences

1. Legislative Consulting Experience

- a. Consultancy Services for the Development of a Water Sector Legislation and an accompanying Memorandum for Sierra Leone, 2019
- b. Consultant, Review and Amendment of the Children's Act, Juvenile Justice Act and related laws, (Government of Ghana) 2019

- c. Consultant, Develop Legal Aid Policy (including Technical and Operational Manuals) for the Ghana Legal Aid Scheme, 2019
- d. Consultant, Develop Draft Legislation and chaperon enactment of the Fisheries Impact Assessment Regulations, for Ministry of Fisheries, Ghana, 2019
- e. Consultant, Legislative Audit of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ghana, (Government of Ghana) 2018
- f. Consultant, Policy and Legislative Audit of the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) and the Drafting of Regulations (Legislative Instrument) for SADA and the Northern Development Authority, 2018
- g. Consultant, Review and Update of By-Laws for 15 Municipal, Metropolitan Assemblies in Ghana, 2018
- h. National Plan of Action Against Human Trafficking in Ghana, (Government of Ghana, funded by UNHCR) 2017
- i. Consultant, Develop Competition Law and Policy for the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana, 2017
 - o Prepare desk review of all existing competition and consumer legislation and identification of gaps
 - o Compile Desk review of mandates of regulatory institutions over seeing consumer protection and identification of gaps
 - o Preparation of Final draft competition Policy to the Ministry of Trade and Industry
- j. Consultant, Development of a National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana for Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection, and support from UNICEF, 2017
- k. Consultant, Review and Amendment to the Births and Deaths Act of 1965 (Act 301), (Government of Ghana) 2017
- l. Consultant.
- m. Policy Advocacy Training to STAR Ghana Grant Partners Working in the Areas of Oil and Gas, Ghana, 2013
- n. Lead Consultant, Ghana-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) (2012)
- o. Consultant, Justice Sector Baseline Survey (2012) for United Nations Development Programme (Country Office: Ghana).
- p. Desktop Research, Compilation of a Database and Commentary on all Laws and Policies and of judicial, institutional and administrative architecture germane to relating to natural resource management. (2012) for Client Earth
- q. Consultant, Policy, Legislative and Institutional Review of the National Health Insurance Scheme; Drafting of Bills and chaperoning passage of Bills (2012) – National Health Insurance Scheme. (Ghana)
- r. Policy and Legislative Review of the Forestry and Wildlife Laws of Ghana (Government of Ghana) (2012)

2. Manuals and Guides

- a. **Drafting Paralegal Training Manual.** [Consultant, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative]
 - o Developed a training manual tailored for community-based paralegals, focusing on grassroots legal services, community mobilization, and local dispute resolution mechanisms.
- b. **Drafted Manual on Best Practices for Strategic Litigation.** [Consultant, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, 2024]
 - o Developed a comprehensive guide for lawyers and human rights activists on strategic litigation related to constitutional law and human rights issues.
- c. **Paralegal Training Manual for Paralegals working with Key Populations (WAPCAS)**

- Played a key role in developing a training manual for paralegals working within Ghana's criminal justice system, focusing on access to justice for key populations.
- d. **Paralegal Development Researcher, on University of Ghana School of Law Paralegal Curriculum Development for Accreditation in Paralegal Certifications**
 - As a Researcher for the University of Ghana School of Law's Paralegal Curriculum Development, I am contributing to the development of innovative course materials and assessment methods, ensuring the programme's relevance and efficacy.
 - I play a pivotal role in designing a curriculum that meets accreditation standards for paralegal certifications. My responsibilities include conducting extensive legal education research, collaborating with faculty and legal professionals, and aligning the curriculum with industry requirements.
- e. **Citizenship Briefing Guide for Ghana.** (Littorals Regional Initiative, USAID Project 2024)
 - Developing as part of the Littorals Regional Initiative to assist minority groups in understanding Ghana's citizenship rights framework and naturalization process.
 - Developing Advisory Notes addressing specific challenges related to citizenship, such as farmer-herder conflicts, intended to be included in the briefing guide.
 - Authored an analytical guide on the legal framework governing citizenship and naturalization processes in Ghana, aimed at clarifying complex legal provisions for non-lawyers
- f. **Operational Manual for the Legal Aid Scheme in Ghana.** [UNDP Consultancy, Law and Development Associates]
 - Led the Team on the creation of an operational manual aimed at standardizing practices and enhancing the effectiveness of legal aid services in Ghana.
- g. **Comprehensive Report on Statelessness in West Africa.** [A Research Report presented to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), (October, 2017)].
 - Produced a report identifying populations with indeterminate nationality and those at risk of statelessness in Ghana.
- h. **Standard Operating Procedures for Births and Deaths Registry.** [Births and Deaths Registry] 2023
 - Developed SOPs aimed at improving the legal framework and procedures for registration of births and deaths.
- i. **Development of a National Resettlement Policy and Operational Manual for Sierra Leone.**
 - Developed policy framework and operational manual for the development of a resettlement policy, addressing issues related to development-induced displacement.
- j. **Framework for Enhancing Ocean Governance in Ghana.** [University of Ghana School of Law]
 - Conceptualized a project to establish an Ocean Governance Centre at the University of Ghana School of Law, aimed at improving the law of the sea and ocean governance.
- k. **Developed Training Manuals for training Police Prosecutors.** [USAID Project]
 - Developed training manual for training forestry officers as Prosecutors of Forestry offences.
- l. **Developed Training Manual for Prosecutors of the Ghana Forestry Commission, 2012 to 2014.**

- Developed training manual for training forestry officers as Prosecutors of Forestry offences.
- m. **Best Practices Manual for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on Legal Advocacy.**
 - Compiled a manual detailing best practices for NGOs engaged in legal advocacy, covering strategic litigation, policy influence, and international advocacy strategies.
- n. **Operational Guidelines for Implementing Right to Information Laws.** [OSIWA Project]
 - Created comprehensive operational guidelines for public institutions on implementing right to information laws effectively, ensuring transparency and public access to information.
- o. **Manual on Legal Strategies for Protecting Indigenous Rights.** [Client Earth]
 - Produced a guide on legal strategies for protecting the rights of indigenous populations, focusing on land rights, cultural heritage, and participation in decision-making processes, in connection with Forestry Administration]

3. Trainings and Workshops

- a. **Regional Training Workshops on Legal Aid Service Operational Manual.** (UNDP funded - Consultant)
 - As Lead Consultant, I conducted nationwide workshops aimed at enhancing the capacity of legal aid providers, focusing on innovative service delivery models and best practices in legal aid; and in connection with the Legal Aid Operational Manual.
- b. **Training of Police Prosecutors [Training Program for Ghana Police Prosecutors] – [Sponsored by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), United States Department of State]**
 - Facilitator Training Program for Ghana Police Prosecutors’. Sponsored by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), United States Department of State.
- c. **Capacity Building for Law Enforcement on Gender-Based Violence.**
 - Designed and led training sessions for law enforcement agencies on handling cases of gender-based violence, emphasizing sensitivity, legal frameworks, and victim support.
- d. **Training Program on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy. [NORAD funded]**
 - Managed and led 2 training seminars for public sector officials on ocean governance, enhancing understanding and implementation of ocean-relevant conventions.
- e. **Capacity Building for COVID-19 Democratic Vigilance. [GIZ funded project]**
 - Directed a series of 19 seminars and training sessions focused on maintaining democratic governance and rule of law during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- f. **Workshops on Governance, Law, and Policy Reform. [Sierra Leone, Millenium Development Agency]**
 - Facilitated workshops aimed at building capacity among government officials, civil society, and legal practitioners on various aspects of governance and legal reforms.
- g. **International Humanitarian Law for Military and Non-State Actors. [KAIPTC]**
 - Conducted workshops aimed at educating military personnel and non-state actors on the principles of international humanitarian law, with a focus on the rules of engagement and the protection of civilians in conflict zones.
- h. **Legal Training on Refugee Rights and Asylum Procedures.**

- Organized training sessions for legal practitioners, government officials, and NGO workers on refugee rights, asylum procedures, and the legal framework governing statelessness.

4. Policy Development Work

- a. **Comprehensive Landscaping Research on Reparations and Healing Initiatives in Africa** for the Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF).
 - Aimed at enabling ATJLF to identify and decide on areas of strategic interventions in reparations and healing for historical crimes in Africa.
- b. **Development of a Policy Framework for Paralegal Education and Licensing** for the University of Ghana
 - Focused on implementing and managing protection, rule of law, and access to justice programming.
- c. **Legal-Citizenship Rights Initiative under the Littorals Regional Initiative (LRI) Legal-Citizenship Rights.**
 - A policy aimed at developing a comprehensive briefing guide on Ghana's citizenship rights framework and naturalization process.
- d. **Statelessness in West Africa Assessment.**
 - Conducted a comprehensive assessment of the legal, policy, institutional, and administrative frameworks impacting access to nationality in Ghana.
- e. **COVID-19 Democratic Vigilance Project.**
 - Led a project focused on rule of law and democratic resilience to guard against democratic regression amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- f. **Development of a National Resettlement Policy for Sierra Leone.**
 - Developed policy framework and for the development of a resettlement policy, addressing issues related to development-induced displacement.
- g. **Legislative Audit of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ghana.**
 - Conducted a legislative audit to review and propose improvements for the regulatory framework governing public utilities in Ghana.
- h. **Electoral Reform and Democracy Enhancement in West Africa.**
 - Led a multinational team to draft a comprehensive policy aimed at strengthening electoral integrity and promoting democracy across West African nations, focusing on inclusivity, transparency, and fairness in electoral processes.
- i. **Climate Change Legislation and Policy Framework.**
 - Spearheaded the development of a legislative and policy framework addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, emphasizing environmental justice and sustainable development goals.
- j. **Comprehensive Legal Framework for Digital Rights and Cybersecurity.**
 - Initiated a project to create a legal framework that balances cybersecurity needs with the protection of digital rights, including privacy and freedom of expression online.
- k. **National Policy on Combating Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.**
 - Developed a national policy for Ghana aimed at combating human trafficking and modern slavery, incorporating international standards and focusing on prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.
- l. **Comprehensive Legal Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.**
 - Spearheaded a strategic policy initiative aimed at integrating legal principles into disaster risk reduction and management, focusing on resilience building and community preparedness.
- m. **Framework for Legal Aspects of Renewable Energy Projects.**

- Led the creation of a policy and regulatory framework to support the implementation of renewable energy projects, addressing land use, environmental impact assessments, and community engagement.