

THE LAW SCHOOL OF TANZANIA

STUDENTS' DRESS CODE

A: INTRODUCTION

The Law School of Tanzania was established by the Law School of Tanzania Act 2007 (the Act) that came into force on 2nd May, 2007. This was an important milestone towards improving practical skills of aspiring lawyers in the country. Before the establishment of the School, aspiring lawyers were trained in practical skills through the internship programme run by the Attorney General's Chambers. Later on some Universities adopted the externship system to impart practical skills to aspiring lawyers. These systems have now been replaced by the Practical Legal Training Programme to be run by the School. The School operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

B: DRESS RULES

This Code makes reference to Government Notice Number 3 of 2007 which provides for Dress Code in public institutions, the School being one of them. The School believes that all its students should be groomed to become responsible citizens, well-mannered, self-directed and self-disciplined.

The objective of establishing this Code is to enable students to project the professional image that is in line with the needs of our society and their future clients. Appearance has much to do with the way one feels about himself or herself. Appearance affects the way in which other people respond to you. The way one dresses can help him/her command respect, inspire trust and convey polished professional image. Legal industry requires the appearance of trusted professionals. A professional lawyer must project the image of a trustworthy, knowledgeable business professional for the clients who seek guidance, input and professional services. As we all advocate for learning by doing and it is expected that students at all times appear in decent and respectable outfits.

It is therefore stated that:-

- On Monday and during field work students will appear in formal business attire that is **black suits with white shirt** for males or **white blouse** for females, both skirted and pantsuits are acceptable. On the rest of the days, business casual dressing is accepted with the conditions stated in C, D and E.
- During mock trial, moot court and other similar exercise as advised by the Course Coordinator for the particular course, students will also appear in the formal business attire.

C: FEMALE CLOTHING

1. Unacceptable clothes for female include:

- i. Tightly fitting clothes including but not limited to trousers, skirt and dress/gown,
- ii. Skin tights,
- iii. Gowns or skirts hanging above the knees, all clothes worn must be knee-length or below the knee,
- iv. Clothes with slits above the knees,
- v. Dresses exposing stomach, breasts, waist and thighs,
- vi. Transparent dresses of any kinds.

D: MALE CLOTHING

1. Unacceptable clothes for male include:

- i. Slovenly looking trousers,
- ii. Unbuttoned shirts and sleeveless shirts,
- iii. Clothing that reveals the torso,
- iv. Bandannas worn round the head,
- v. Male should not have plaited hair, dread-locks, earrings or ornamental beads,
- vi. Beards must be kept well. Shabby bears are not allowed.

E: General conditions for both male and female students:

- (i) Clothing that reveals too much cleavage, back, chest, feet, stomach or your underwear is not appropriate for a place of business,
- (ii) Pants and skirts must fit at the waist and be properly hemmed or cuffed at or below the ankle, but not dragging the ground ("slicing" or "ragging" not allowed). "Mlegezo/ "Kata K" type of dressing is strictly not allowed,
- (iii) Both casual and formal business attire should be clean, pressed, never wrinkled and without holes or frayed areas,
- (iv) Any clothing that has words, terms, or pictures that may be offensive to other people or group is unacceptable. Clothes with political messages are not allowed,
- (v) Shorts and jeans of any color and style are not allowed; jeans include "cadet " materials,
- (vi) Bare backs, off-the shoulder tops and t-shirts, midriff shirts and tops and cutoffs are not allowed,
- (vii) Sunglasses are not to be worn inside of buildings,
- (viii) Evening wears, sportswear, beach dresses are not allowed,
- (ix) Any other kinds of dress which the School will in the course of time find to be inappropriate or indecent, an official statement will be made concerning such dress.

F: Shoes and Footwear

Athletic shoes, tennis shoes, thongs, flip-flops, slippers and high heels are not acceptable.

G: Accessories and Jewelry

Heavy chains, spiked jewelry, heavy chain necklaces or other inappropriate types of jewelry/items are not accepted. Over-adornment with necklaces, bangles, earrings or other jewelry and make-up which make someone look showy are not allowed. Tasteful, professional ties, scarves, belts, and jewelry are encouraged. Jewelry should be worn in good professional taste.

H: Makeup, Perfume, and Cologne

A professional appearance is encouraged and excessive makeup is unprofessional. Remember that some people are allergic to the chemicals in perfumes and makeup, so wear these substances with restraint. Males shall not wear make-up. Females should not wear heavy or theatrical makeup.

I: Hair Styles

Hair color and style is one of the first details people notice about a person. Your hair color, cut and style communicates a lot about you. Students are encouraged to maintain neat and tidy hairstyle that embraces, and NOT disguises or sacrifices your personal identity as professional lawyer. Unnatural hair Color is unprofessional hence is prohibited.

J: Hats and Head Covering

Hats are not appropriate in School setting. Head Covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

K: Sportswear

Sportswear shall be worn only during appropriate events.

L: CONCLUSION

No Dress Code can cover all contingencies so students should exert a certain amount of judgment in their choice of clothing to wear. Students are highly advised to dress decently. The School shall deny entrance to its premises to any student that will dress contrary to this Code.

ISSUED ON 1ST MARCH 2015