## RE: PETITION TO THE SENATE CONCERINING ACCESS TO JUSTICE UNDER THE CORONA (CoVID-19) PANDEMIC AND THE APPOINTMENT OF COURT REPORTERS

- 29. The further requirement of fidelity to the reduction of oral evidence into typed text and the requirement that court reporters take and oath to uphold the rule of law make the need for trained and certified court reporters all the more direly needed.
- 30. I propose that the mission of the National Council for Law Reporting (Kenya Law) should be re-engineered to provide the justice system with these greatly needed trained and certified personel. This can be done by amending the the National Council for Law Reporting Act.
- 31. These proposed amendments can be infomormed by
  - a. 28 U.S. Code § 753 "Reporters" found at <a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/753">https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/753</a>
  - b. "Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 6: Court Reporting" found at <a href="https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/guide-volo6.pdf">https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/guide-volo6.pdf</a>, and
  - c. The Court Reporters Act, Chapter C-27.01 of the Laws of Prince Edward Island, Province of Her Majesties Dominion of Canada found at <a href="https://canlii.ca/t/52ked">https://canlii.ca/t/52ked</a>
- 32. In this endeavour, Parliament should allocate resources every year under the budget to provide for this expense under the Judiciary's budgetary allocation so that the Judiciary can take up the expense of employing the services of these trained and certified Court Reporters as they would be in reality providing an

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indelible judicial service that will provide durable and sound court records that would last many generations of the Republic.

- 33. The establishment of such a cadre within the judiciary, should be well regulated under the rules of civil proceedure/evidence by the enactment of a Court Reporters Act to Supplement the National Council for Law Reporting Act. This would greatly aid the availability of typed proceedings.
- 34. The use of such typed proceedings would also greatly increase.
- 35. Currently, it is only when a litigant/advocate is preparing for an appeal that such proceedings are needed as of law.
- 36. But when one is preparing submissions on a case, or preparing for cross-examination and re-examinination of witnesses, typed proceedings would be a great rescource to any litigant/trial advocate.
- 37. Further, the ready availability of officially prepared typed proceedings would greatly aid a judicial officer taking over a suit that was partly heard by a transferred/former colleague.
- 38. This would would also aid advocates who are taking over matters that have ran for many years before they come on record.

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- 39.On the latter point, an example can be made of succession matters where one comes on record on matters which began even before one was admitted to the bar as an advocate. Some trace back before some of the practicing advocates were born.
- 40. The poblem of missing handwritten pages, torn and unclear handwritting would be a thing of the past.
- 41. I have made the best efforts to have these matters addressed by the relevant authorities all of which have failed to give a satisfactory response.
- 42. None of the issues raised in this Petition is pending in any court of Law, Constitutional or any other legal body.
- 43. That there have been various rules issued by various judges without the participation of Parliament that have failed to address these challenges that have only gotten worse.

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Wherefore, your humble petitioner prays that the Senate;

1. Enacts amendments to the Civil Proceedure Act, the National Council for Law Reporting Act and enacts a Court Reporters Act with a view to delivering access to justice and remediating the delays and frustrations Citizens are facing in our courts.

DATED AT NAIROBI THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021

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