



Baraka Kanyabuhinya LLM '06

Next year, Baraka Kanyabuhinya LLM '06 of Tanzania will return to his home and his family to practice law and to teach classes at the University of Dar es Salaam, the oldest and largest university in Tanzania. He arrived in Concord last winter to enroll in Pierce Law's Master of Laws in Intellectual Property, Commerce and Technology (LLM/CT) program, joining students from around the globe for Pierce Law's unique degree program. His studies are fully funded by the William F. Sibley Foundation in Chicago.

"Initially I wasn't used to this kind of learning and the preparation necessary for class. It is difficult to study in a second language," says Kanyabuhinya. "Tanzania is a third world country. Everyone speaks Kiswahili, the country's official and national language. English is a medium of communication in secondary schools and institutions of higher learning," explains Kanyabuhinya who studied English in secondary school.

Kanyabuhinya, age 28, grew up in Minyinya, a small village in the Kigoma region, in western Tanzania. Before coming to Pierce Law, he worked as a legal officer while serving in an externship with Julius Chambers' advocates in Dar es Salaam. As an extern, he carried out legal research, provided legal opinion, drafted legal documents and official letters, and interviewed clients. He also helped to prepare files for court work and notices of legal appeal.

Kanyabuhinya holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University, where he was an outstanding student and the recipient of numerous University awards. These included the Sheikh Muhammed Zulfrullah Khar Prize for "Best Final Student in Law, 2002–2003," the Tanzania Breweries Prize for "Best Final Year Law Student, 2002–2003," the Law Prize for "Student with Highest Marks in Third Year Examinations," and the Family Law and Development Prize for "Student with the Highest Marks in Family Law."

As an assistant lecturer at the University, he will teach courses in intellectual property law, specializing in copyright and trademark law. Tanzania is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and according to Kanyabuhinya, "Tanzania has legislation governing intellectual property."

"I also hope to practice family law and land law," says Kanyabuhinya. "They are very good areas of law in my country."

When Kanyabuhinya returns to Tanzania, he will rejoin his family that includes his wife Agnes and two children, Boniface, age 6, and Brandina, age 4.

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