

Training for Constitutional and Human Rights Litigators in Angola

Issuing Organization: ORPE (Organization for Refugees and Poor Empowerment)

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Program Overview

- Purpose: Equip participants with practical skills to analyze, argue, and litigate constitutional and human rights cases in Angola using IRAC.
- Duration: 5 Modules (1-2 days per module; adaptable)
- Target Audience: Lawyers, paralegals, human rights defenders, law students, civil society advocates
- Delivery Method: Lectures, case studies, IRAC exercises, moot courts, ethical simulations, strategic litigation design

Module 1: Foundations of Constitutional and Human Rights Litigation

Learning Objectives:

- Understand Angolan constitutional doctrines protecting fundamental rights.
- Apply IRAC in legal analysis.
- Distinguish constitutional and statutory rights.

Session Plan:

9:00-10:00: Overview of Constitutional Doctrines (Lecture)

10:00-11:00: Case Study: Angolan Constitutional Rights in Practice (Group Discussion)

11:15-12:15: IRAC Writing Exercise (Individual Work)

1:30-3:00: Workshop: Local Case Memo (Group Drafting)

Case Study Example:

Scenario: Community challenges local government for failure to provide adequate housing, alleging violation of constitutional rights to housing and human dignity.

IRAC Example:

Issue: Does the local government's failure violate constitutional rights to housing?

Rule: Angolan Constitution guarantees fundamental rights including adequate housing.

Application: Examine facts against constitutional guarantees and precedent.

Conclusion: Violation occurs; government action is unconstitutional.

Practical Assignment: Draft a 1-page legal memorandum applying the Angolan Constitution to a local rights issue.

Module 2: Advocacy in Constitutional Litigation

Learning Objectives:

- Draft persuasive constitutional pleadings using IRAC.
- Develop advocacy narrative and oral argument skills.

Session Plan:

9:00-10:00: Drafting Petitions (Lecture)

10:00-11:30: Case Study: Executive Overreach (IRAC Exercise)

1:00-3:00: Moot Court Simulation (Role Play)

IRAC Example:

Issue: Did executive action exceed constitutional authority?

Rule: Constitution limits executive powers; courts ensure compliance.

Application: Compare executive action to constitutional provisions.

Conclusion: Action exceeds authority; unconstitutional.

Practical Application: Write a mock brief and perform a 10-minute oral argument.

Module 3: Evidence and Proof in Human Rights Litigation

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and apply evidentiary principles.
- Prepare factual and documentary evidence.

Session Plan:

9:00-10:30: Evidentiary Doctrines (Lecture)

10:45-12:15: Case Study: Right to Health (Discussion)

1:30-3:30: Evidence Workshop (Group Work)

IRAC Example:

Issue: Do restrictions violate constitutional right to health?

Rule: Constitution protects right to health and human dignity.

Application: Assess facts against legal protections.

Conclusion: Restrictions are unconstitutional.

Practical Exercise: Create an evidence matrix linking each fact to the constitutional issue.

Module 4: Ethical Responsibilities and Duties to the Court

Learning Objectives:

- Apply ethical rules in litigation.
- Recognize and manage ethical dilemmas.

Session Plan:

9:00-10:00: Rules on Candor & Confidentiality (Lecture)

10:15-12:00: Case Study: Advocacy Ethics (Group Discussion)

1:30-3:00: Simulation: Disciplinary Hearing (Role Play)

IRAC Example:

Issue: Did the advocate violate ethical duties?

Rule: Lawyers must not make false statements or conceal facts.

Application: Examine facts, client pressure, and duty to truth.

Conclusion: Violation; sanctions justified.

Practical Application: Draft an ethics memorandum for a potential conflict of interest.

Module 5: Strategic Litigation for Systemic Change

Learning Objectives:

- Identify impact litigation opportunities.
- Build advocacy coalitions.
- Develop post-judgment implementation strategies.

Session Plan:

9:00-10:00: Designing Strategic Litigation (Lecture)

10:15-12:00: Case Study: Access to Justice (IRAC Group Work)

1:30-3:30: Strategy Lab: Coalition Planning (Group Exercise)

IRAC Example:

Issue: Must the state provide legal aid to indigent defendants?

Rule: Constitution guarantees right to legal assistance.

Application: Analyze facts and constitutional obligations.

Conclusion: State must provide legal aid; failure is unconstitutional.

Practical Application: Design a strategic litigation plan addressing a systemic issue.

Assessment Rubric

Criterion | Excellent (A) | Good (B) | Fair (C) | Needs Improvement (D/F)

Legal Analysis (IRAC) | Clear, logical, rule-supported | Sound reasoning, minor gaps | Some disorganization | Lacks structure

Advocacy & Writing | Persuasive, well-organized | Competent but uneven | Weak transitions | Disorganized

Ethics & Professionalism | Exemplary reasoning | Good understanding | Partial awareness | Lacks clarity

Participation | Active, insightful | Regular contribution | Occasional participation | Passive

Facilitator Notes

- Encourage use of local constitutional and human rights law.
- Integrate mock trials and simulations.
- Allow participants to connect training to ongoing reforms.
- Include reflections on moral and social implications of justice advocacy.

Participant Worksheets

1. IRAC Template

- Issue: _____
- Rule: _____

- Application: _____

- Conclusion: _____

2. Evidence Matrix Template

- Fact | Evidence | Constitutional Provision | Notes

3. Strategic Litigation Plan Template

- Issue | Target | Strategy | Coalition Partners | Expected Impact

Certificate of Completion Template

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that [Participant Name] has successfully completed the professional training:

Training for Constitutional and Human Rights Litigators in Angola: Building Justice through IRAC
and Case-Based Learning

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Date: _____

End of Manual