OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

JOINT LAUNCH OF THE GHANA SUPREME COURT REVIEW AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW BOOK SERIES

ADDRESS BY:

PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO

VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
LEGON

His Lordship Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana and Special Guest of Honour;

Justices of the Superior Courts, serving and retired;

Ministers and Members of Parliament present;

Members of the University Council and University Management;

Professor Peter Atudiwe Atupare, Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law;

Distinguished members of the Bench and Bar;

Colleague academics, students, invited guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Ghana, and particularly to our School of Law, for this important occasion. I am delighted to chair the joint launch of the *Ghana Supreme Court Review* and the University of Ghana School of Law Book Series, which begins with the publication of *Administrative Law in Ghana*.

My Lord Chief Justice, let me extend a particularly warm welcome to

you. We are honoured by your presence, and grateful that you have made time to join us. Your participation underscores the important relationship between the judiciary, the legal profession and the academy, and our shared responsibility for strengthening Ghana's legal system.

I also welcome our distinguished guests from the Bench and Bar, our colleague academics, students and all who have joined us to celebrate this achievement.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am particularly pleased about today's event because it speaks to something I consider fundamental to

the mission of a university: our responsibility not merely to transmit knowledge, but to produce knowledge, interrogate established ideas and contribute to the development of our society.

Universities must be places where difficult questions are asked, assumptions are challenged and new perspectives are developed. And the knowledge we produce must not remain confined to our lecture halls, academic journals and conference rooms. It must find its way into

public policy, professional practice, institutional development and the lives of the people we serve.

This thinking is central to the University of Ghana's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan. One of our five strategic priorities is Impactful Research. We are committed to producing research and scholarship that advance knowledge while responding meaningfully to societal needs. Our Research Strategy also places considerable emphasis on knowledge democratisation, ensuring that the knowledge generated within the University is accessible, relevant and capable of making a difference beyond the academy.

Today's launch is a practical demonstration of that commitment.

The *Ghana Supreme Court Review* and the UGSoL Book Series are two new additions to our scholarly publications, but they signify more than scholarly outputs. They provide platforms for sustained intellectual engagement with questions that matter to Ghana's legal system, its institutions and its people.

The Supreme Court occupies a distinctive position in our constitutional

democracy. Its decisions interpret the Constitution, clarify legal principles and help define the relationship between citizens and the State. But judicial decisions should also be subjected to rigorous scholarly examination. This is one of the important contributions that universities can make to the development of the law.

I am therefore delighted that the School of Law has established the *Ghana Supreme Court Review* as a dedicated platform for critical engagement with the jurisprudence of our apex court.

My expectation is that it will become a respected forum in which scholars, judges, practitioners and students can examine judicial reasoning, debate legal principles and contribute constructively to the development of Ghanaian jurisprudence.

The second publication, *Administrative Law in Ghana*, is equally significant. Administrative law concerns the exercise of public power and the principles of legality, fairness, accountability and due process that should guide public institutions.

These are not abstract concerns. They affect the relationship between

citizens and public institutions and, ultimately, the quality of governance in our country.

I am especially pleased that this publication inaugurates the University of Ghana School of Law Book Series.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, there is something particularly important about producing scholarly works that are grounded in our own contexts. For many years, African universities have relied extensively on scholarly materials developed elsewhere. There is nothing inherently wrong with this. Knowledge is international, and comparative scholarship enriches our understanding.

But we must also recognise that our experiences, institutions and legal traditions deserve serious scholarly attention in their own right. We cannot always depend on others to interpret our realities for us.

If we want legal education and scholarship that speak meaningfully to the Ghanaian experience, we must invest in producing authoritative work that examines our laws, our institutions, our constitutional development and the challenges confronting our society.

This is not an argument for intellectual isolation. Rather, it is about ensuring that Ghanaian scholarship contributes confidently to national, African and global conversations. And that is why I consider the establishment of this Book Series an important step.

I hope it will grow into an enduring platform for high-quality scholarship, creating opportunities for established and emerging scholars to publish works that deepen our understanding of the law and its application in Ghana.

My Lord Chief Justice, Distinguished Guests,

Beyond our commitment to Impactful Research, today's event also speaks to two other strategic priorities of the University.

The first is Transformative Student Experience. We want our students to receive an education that develops their capacity for independent thought, critical inquiry and meaningful contribution to society.

For our law students, these publications should provide opportunities to engage with Ghanaian legal scholarship, examine competing interpretations of the law and develop the analytical skills that are essential to good legal practice. I hope our students will not simply read

these publications to pass examinations. I hope they will question the arguments, engage with the debates and, in time, contribute their own scholarship.

Indeed, I would be particularly delighted if some of the students sitting here today eventually become contributors to the *Ghana Supreme Court Review* or authors in the UGSoL Book Series.

The second strategic priority is Engagement and Partnerships. The University of Ghana cannot fulfil its mission in isolation. We need

strong relationships with the institutions and professional communities that engage with, apply and benefit from the knowledge we produce. The relationship between the academy, the Bench and the Bar is particularly important in this regard.

The academy brings the space for sustained reflection, critical examination and theoretical engagement. The judiciary and legal practitioners bring the experience of interpreting and applying the law to the realities of society. These perspectives should inform and enrich one another.

I therefore hope that the two publication platforms we are celebrating today will encourage even stronger engagement between legal scholars, judges, practitioners and policymakers. Let them become spaces where scholarship informs practice, and where the challenges encountered in practice generate new questions for scholarship.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**,** As Vice-Chancellor, I am particularly encouraged when our Schools and Departments take initiatives that strengthen their scholarly identity and contribute to the wider mission of the University.

I therefore commend Professor Peter Atudiwe Atupare, Dean of the School of Law, for his leadership and commitment to advancing the School's research and publication agenda. I congratulate the editors, contributing authors, reviewers and editorial teams whose efforts have brought these publications to fruition.

Academic publishing is demanding work. Behind every completed volume are hours, days and months of research, writing, critical review, revision and editorial coordination. We must never take this labour for

granted.

But I also want to issue a challenge to the School. Launching a publication is an achievement. Sustaining its quality, relevance and influence is the greater responsibility. My expectation is that the *Ghana Supreme Court Review* will develop a reputation for intellectual rigour, independence and relevance. It should be a publication that scholars want to contribute to, practitioners find useful, and judges and policymakers consider worthy of engagement.

Similarly, I hope that the UGSoL Book Series will not end with this first publication. It should become a sustained avenue for producing

and disseminating important legal scholarship. This will require commitment, strong editorial standards, effective partnerships and deliberate efforts to make the publications accessible to their intended audiences.

Ultimately, the success of these publications will not be measured by the ceremony we hold today, but by the extent to which they are read, debated, cited, taught and used to advance legal knowledge and

practice. That is the standard I would encourage the School to pursue.
My Lord Chief Justice, Ladies and Gentlemen, Let me conclude by reiterating how delighted I am that the University of Ghana School of Law has taken this important initiative. At a time when universities are increasingly being asked to demonstrate their relevance and societal impact, these publications offer a valuable reminder that rigorous scholarship is itself a form of public service. When we deepen understanding of the law, contribute to informed debate and strengthen the intellectual foundations of our institutions, we are serving society.
On behalf of the University Management, I congratulate the School of Law and assure it of our continued encouragement and support.

Once again, I thank His Lordship the Chief Justice for honouring us with his presence, and all our distinguished guests for joining us.
I look forward to the presentations and reflections that will follow, and to the important conversations that these publications will generate long after today's launch.
Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

October 20, 2026