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Burford Capital Names African Arbitrator To Board

By [Sue Reisinger](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (August 9, 2022, 3:33 PM EDT) -- [Burford Capital Ltd.](#), an asset management firm that focuses on litigation finance and law advisory services, has named a prominent African arbitration lawyer as an independent nonexecutive

director.

Rukia Baruti is the secretary-general of the African Arbitration Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting African arbitration practitioners. She is also an experienced independent arbitrator who is admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales, and previously practiced commercial and arbitration law in London.

She's an international speaker, author and contributor to In-House Lawyer, a publication in the U.K. for corporate counsel. She is frequently appointed by international arbitration institutions, including the [International Chamber of Commerce](#), as a sole arbitrator or member of a panel.



Rukia Baruti

Reached while traveling in Tanzania on Tuesday, Baruti told Law360 Pulse that she hopes to bring more diversity to the Burford board of directors, both ethnic and gender. Based in Kenya, she is the founder of Africa International Legal Awareness, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing African involvement in the international legal community.

"Having a diverse background and experiences, I bring a holistic way of looking at things," she said.

Baruti, 53, holds a bachelor's degree in law (first class) from Birkbeck College of the University of London, a master's degree from the University of Westminster and a doctorate from the University of Geneva.

A Burford statement said Baruti brings "a valuable perspective to Burford's business as an arbitration expert with deep international experience." It added that she will serve as a member of its nominating and governance committee.

She is the fifth nonexecutive director to join Burford's eight-member board since 2020, exceeding the company's goal of having a majority of independent directors by its 2023 annual meeting — a goal it achieved in May.

Burford also has stated that at least 30% of its board should be female members as soon as reasonably possible, which it hopes to achieve by the 2024 annual meeting. Baruti is its second woman director, putting it at 25% now.

--Editing by Rich Mills.

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