

## Jean Christian Kanyiki (Niki) Wa Tshibaka

**PROFILE** Harvard Law School graduate, ordained minister, social justice advocate, and political appointee with varied experience spanning education policy, private law practice, Department of Justice civil rights litigation, pastoring and church planting, international entrepreneurial initiatives, and directorship on life-transforming NGO boards. Advocate for people, initiatives, and/or corporate entities improving the human condition; effective developer of strategic partnerships; multi-lingual bridge-builder; and innovative change agent. Seeking executive level position in a public or private entity whose core values include social impact.

### EXPERIENCE

#### GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE

##### **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Jan. 2019 – Present

Assistant Commissioner/Education Policy Coordinator

Anchorage, AK

- Advise the Commissioner of Education on innovative policy initiatives, draft proposed legislation, develop proposals for improving education outcomes and safety & well-being of Alaska's 130,000+ students, including initiatives to combat sexual violence/sex trafficking and opioid addiction ("Operation Engage").
- Represent Commissioner of Education on boards, in meetings with senior executives of other departments and corporate entities, and at conferences. Serve on executive team that collectively oversees a department with a \$1 billion+ annual budget.
- Supervise tribal compacting in education initiative.
- Serve as State Equity Lead for the Council of Chief State School Officers. Appointed by Commissioner of Education.
- Testify before the State Board of Education & Early Development; conduct interviews with state media outlets.
- Spearhead collaboration with school districts, tribal organizations, non-profits, federal and state departments, and families to maximize students' educational opportunities, particularly for at-risk students and tribal communities.
- Co-led department's response to COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on at-risk youth. Secured donations of laptops and tablets for youth in domestic violence shelters, as well as 254,000+ units of hand sanitizer and other PPE for schools.
- Initiated interagency efforts that secured a federal U.S. HUD grant of almost \$1 million/yr in perpetuity to advance Alaska's efforts in reducing rural youth homelessness.
- Supervised a successful initiative to implement regulatory reform that will provide credit for high school students who complete Basic Combat or Advanced Individual Training with Alaska's Army National Guard.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE & NGO ENTREPRENEUR

##### **THE LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**

Nov. 2006 – Present

Founder, Senior Pastor (Nov. 2006 – Oct. 2017); Co-Pastor (Oct. 2017 – Present)

Alexandria, VA

- Founded, established and pastored a church; led teaching and preaching; oversaw curricula and program development for children and youth; helped launch several other churches; coached and mentored congregants into becoming licensed ministers and missionaries; and assisted refugees.
- Partnered with Africa New Day, an NGO, in social justice initiatives that aid and support women, orphans, and street children in the "world capital of sexual violence," eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Spoke at leadership conferences in the U.S, Africa, Europe, and South America.

##### **BISAWORLD, LIMITED (Chili Pepper Company)**

March 2014 – Nov. 2020

Co-Founder

Accra, Ghana

- Leveraged entrepreneurial skills to help establish Ghanaian company engaged in the mass production of powdered chili pepper. One of the few such companies to be licensed by Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority.
- Raised capital for the company and advised board members and executive team on business and HR issues.
- Collaborated in developing a business plan to address the pandemic problem of foodborne illness in Ghana, contribute to Ghana's agricultural development, and help raise thousands of rural farmers out of poverty.
- Awards: Africa's 2016 "Best Pepper Product of the Year" (Nigeria's Institute for Government Research & Leadership Technology); 2021 "Agrobrand of the Year" (Ghana Agriculture & Agro-Processing Awards).

**LEGAL PRACTICE**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**

Jan. 2004 - Nov. 2007

Senior Trial Attorney (GS-15), Employment Litigation Section

Washington, D.C.

- Lead attorney in various employment litigation matters, including a successful religious discrimination “pattern or practice” lawsuit against the State of Ohio.
- Investigated charges that state or local government employers had engaged in discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Represented the U.S. Department of Justice, and filed suit on its behalf, when such charges resulted in a finding of unlawful discrimination.
- Investigated service members’ complaints that private or public employers had violated their rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). Represented service members when a determination was made that they were entitled to USERRA’s protections or benefits.

**Honors:** *Sustained & Superior Performance Award* (2006)

**WILEY REIN LLP**

Fall 2002 - January 2004

Associate

Washington, D.C.

- Coordinating associate on a multi-million dollar telecommunications case. Advised partners on international law and government contract issues.
- Assisted in representing Zimbabwean farmers whose farms were forcibly expropriated by President Mugabe. Sought resolution of their grievances before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, *Bernardus Henricus Funnekotter and others v. Republic of Zimbabwe*.

**BOARDS, COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS**

<b>Serve Alaska</b> October 2019 – Present Board Member	Anchorage, AK	<b>Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH)</b> February 2020 – Present Board Member	Anchorage, AK
<b>Alaska State Emergency Response Commission</b> April 2019 – Present Ex-Officio Designee	Anchorage, AK	<b>Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault</b> August 2019 – Present Board Member	Anchorage, AK
<b>National Church Committee, Foursquare Denom.</b> 2015 – 2017 Member	Anchorage, AK	<b>Alaska Development Team (ADT)</b> April 2019 – October 2019 External Advisor	Anchorage, AK
<b>Richmond Justice Initiative</b> 2015 – May 2017 Board Member	Richmond, VA	<b>Rural Alaska Community Action Program</b> January 2021 – Present Board Member	Anchorage, AK
<b>Foursquare Mid-Atlantic Council</b> 2009-2014 Council Member	Amherst, OH	<b>Reset180 (formerly, Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative)</b> July 2014 – Dec. 2015 Board Member; Director of Policy & Legal Advocacy	Ashburn, VA

**EDUCATION**

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., June 2002**

Thesis: *The Cross and the Sword: Christianity and Capital Punishment*, Advisor: Professor William Stuntz

**AMHERST COLLEGE, B.A., Political Science, 1999**

Honors: *magna cum laude*; Densmore Berry Collins Best Thesis Award

Thesis: *A Nation Under God*, Advisor: Professor Hadley P. Arkes

Academic: Publius Fellow, The Claremont Institute, Summer 1998

Internship: Government Relations Intern, Heritage Foundation, Summer 1997

**PROFESSIONAL**

**Bar Associations:** Maryland (inactive) and District of Columbia (inactive)

**International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Ordained Minister**

**Federalist Society, Member**

## **PERSONAL**

Speak Spanish; understand French and Portuguese. Lived abroad for 18 years in Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Kenya), Brazil, and Spain. Enjoy public speaking.