

## Mary Wangari



Mary holds a Master's degree in Leading Innovation and Change from York St. John University, UK, a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi and a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law. She is a Certified Public Secretary (Kenya) and member of The Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK), Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Kenya Section of International Commission of Jurists and Women Corporate Directors (WCD).

She is a graduate of Advanced Management Program (Strathmore - IESE Business School, Barcelona Spain) and Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Gender and Development and has over 14 years private legal practice experience.

She joined Equity Group Holdings Plc (then Equity Building Society) a banking and financial Services Group in 2004 as Legal Services Manager and thereafter served as the Company Secretary and Director of Strategy from 2007. She served in this role until 2017 when she became the first Group Executive Director responsible for subsidiary oversight, a role she held until her retirement from the Group in June 2024.

In 2021 she won the Angaza Award which recognizes purpose-driven, women leaders in Banking and Finance who show exemplary leadership and commitment to the industry. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mary-wangari\\_angaza-awards-magazine-is-out-activity-7003626399752163329-MgHe?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mary-wangari_angaza-awards-magazine-is-out-activity-7003626399752163329-MgHe?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)

She also emerged the overall winner of the 2021 Women on Board Award held by the Women on Board Network (WOBN). The WOBN awards aim at recognizing exceptional

individuals and organizations who show outstanding leadership through promoting and impacting gender diversification and inclusion.

<https://www.businessquest.co.ke/equity-group-executive-director-mary-wamae-emerges-winner-of-the-2021-women-on-board-awards/>

In 2023, she received the Private Sector Lawyer of the Year award at the Nairobi Legal Awards. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nairobi-legal-awards-1b603522b\\_nla2023-activity-7131536514756308994-oWoj?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nairobi-legal-awards-1b603522b_nla2023-activity-7131536514756308994-oWoj?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

Mary was recognized for her efforts in demonstrating purpose, authenticity, resilience, innovation, and sustainable contribution in economic and social-impact initiatives within the Equity Group. She is also involved in mentorship programmes for young women, career mentorship for professionals, sponsorships for bright but needy students and environmental conservation, among other interests.

Mary is the author of the Book [THE VILLAGE GIRL: MY DREAM, LIFE AND LEGACY](#) which features her autobiography from a young village girl who starts with a dream for a bright future and grows into a successful mother and corporate leader. It offers a rare glimpse into her process of success, revealing that it is not just about achieving goals but also about experiencing the beauty and complexity of life. The book stands out for its unwavering optimism, showing that what we believe to be impossible is only limited by our imagination. This book is a profound reminder that life is a journey with many seasons, each with its valuable lessons that transcend time.

Find it here: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CCSPB4SM>

In addition in 2023 Mary Co- authored SHE LEADS with 17 other Women leaders. The book aims at improving the inclusion and participation of women in leadership and in the overall growth and development agenda across different sectors. She contributed two chapters one “Harnessing the Gem of Women Enterprise Leadership” and “Gender Inclusivity in the Board and Top Leadership”

Mary is a mother of 3 grown up girls and also committed to living true to Christian values in line with her upbringing as a committed Catholic.