

**A COMPENDIUM
ON THE JUDICIARY
IN NIGERIA**

**A Publication of the
Nigerian Bar Association
Ikeja Branch**

&

**GEM Communications
Resources**

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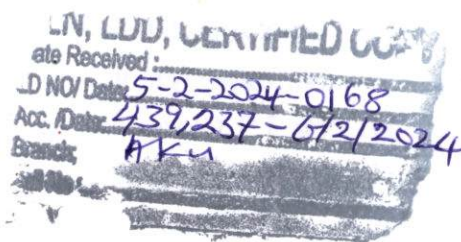
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FOREWORD

I feel elated that the greatly virile, progressive, articulate, quintessential, first among equals **Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch** invited me with the privilege and stupendous honour to write the foreword to their monumental and unique publication titled: **A Compendium On The Judiciary In Nigeria.**

The threshold issue and question is: what is compendium which word is defined in The New Oxford Dictionary 1998 page 374 as under:

"Compendium (noun): a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, especially in a book or other publication, a collection of things especially one systematically gathered ... out takes from out of the archives, a collection of similar items in one container; a package of stationery for writing letters.

Judiciary has rich and ancient origin as recorded in Exodus 18 Verses 13 -28 with the appointment of Judges dating back to Moses. See further: Christian Ethic, Judges and Lawyers in the Administration of Justice. Commentaries from the Bench part II. **By Onalaja (JCA as he then was) pages 43 48.**

As Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And they judged the people at all seasons, the hard cases they brought unto Moses. But every small matter they judged themselves. By judging over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens they created judicial divisions. By bringing hard causes to Moses whilst they judged small matters they laid the foundation of the hierarchical system in the judiciary by constituting Moses the appeal. This is reported and could be said to have eventually metamorphosed into Chapter 2, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, in particular Section 6 and its subsections as to the Judicial powers whilst chapter VII of 1979 Constitution provides for the Judiciary.

The next issue published in this book is the Judiciary, the composition, appointments and discipline under the hierarchical system after stating the historical antecedents and adoption with the set up of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, referred to as Federal Courts.

The Federal Courts are provided in Chapter VII of the 1979 Constitution in Section 230 of 269 and the subsections. Part II of Chapter VII of 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria covers State High Courts, by sections 270 to 284 and the subsections. Part III of the Judicature Section of Chapter VII by the 1979 Constitution in particular Section 285 and its subsections provided for Electoral Tribunal.

Judiciary is not defined in Section 318 of the Interpretation Provision of 1979 Constitution aforesaid.

It is in keeping with the adopted hierarchical system that the compendium, after treating historical comments from the colonial establishment progresses to the independent judiciary under the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judges of the High Courts, Judges of Federal High Court, Judges of the National Industrial Court and Judges of the High Courts of the States inclusive of the Sharia Courts of Appeal, Sharia Courts, Customary Courts of Appeal and Customary Courts, Sharia and Area Courts established in States that operate them. The judiciary therefore is a collection of all judges whether appellate or High Court to the lowest rung in the ladder of Justice in a democratic setting and adoption of the Rule of Law in governance of the people.

Apart from the above, the notable pronouncements which are watchwords to guide all persons and organizations connected in the administration of justice are reflected in this compendium on the Judiciary of Nigeria. For this reason, the notable pronouncement of Crampton J in **R v. O' Connel** (1844) 71 LR page 261 at 312 - 313 is apposite in this compendium having incorporated distinguished members of the rank of Senior Advocates of Nigeria thus:

"This court in which we sit is a temple of justice and the advocate at the bar as well as the Judge upon the Bench are equally ministers in that Temple. The object of all equally should be the attainment of justice. Slow and laborious and perplexed and doubtful in its issue that pursuit is a noble one and those are honoured who are the instruments engaged in it"

The compilation and inclusion of the rank of Senior Advocates of Nigeria being also Ministers in the Temple of Justice is very welcome and appropriate. I therefore appeal to all Nigerians to purchase this book which is illuminating, educative and informative about the judicial system of Nigeria.

In conclusion, I am extremely grateful to the editor and publisher to request me as capable in learning and character to write the foreword to this unique and epochal publication of **A Compendium On The Judiciary In Nigeria**. I pray for regular review and continuity of the Compendium by the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch and GEM Communications Resources, which have blazed the trail in this venture.

HON. JUSTICE M.O ONALAJA, OFR, JCA, LL.D (HONS) OOU, FNIALS,

PREFACE

In normal circumstances, Judges or the Judiciary (to embrace their totality and what they administer) do not make law. However, their pronouncements have in most civilized jurisdictions, formed the basis of reform of the law to bring it into conformity with the yearnings or aspirations of the ordinary man and woman in the community.

This publication is unique in that this is the first time that contribution to the development of the law in the various states of the Federation will be highlighted in a single compendium such as this. It shows the developments and under whose tenure they have taken place. We intend, from time to time, to use this as the medium for bringing to the notice of the public what successive civilian Administrations have been able to do to positively contribute to judicial administration during their four – year tenure.

This particular publication is the joint effort of Gem Communication Resources and the Ikeja Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association. We have not been able to fully cover the whole of the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja because of the non-response to our questionnaire by some states. It is our hope, that future editions will be fuller and much more comprehensive than this maiden publication.

Professor M. Ayo Ajomo FCIB, FCIARB, OFR
Joint Chairman, Editorial/Advisory Board

EDITORIAL COMMENT ABOUT THE BOOK AND ITS PUBLISHERS

This book – A Compendium on the Judiciary in Nigeria is one of the contributions of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch to the development of the law and justice administration in Nigeria.

It is a combination of both the pronouncements of some judges at different levels of our judicial system, and a detailed chronicle of the history, metamorphosis and achievements of the various courts.

This is done to document for posterity, the contributions of the judiciary, and the administrators especially as they affect the yearnings of Nigerians as a whole particularly under the present democratic dispensation.

The biography of the various judicial administrators as well as detailed historical facts on the various states' judicial systems and their Chief Judges are also featured in an in-depth manner. Although only 21 out of the 36 states of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, are featured in the first volume of the compendium, the others will be featured in subsequent editions.

Written in simple and flowing prose, the book is published by the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch in collaboration with GEM Communications Resources, a Publishing, Public Relations and Media Consultancy outfit with Professor M. Ayo Ajomo as Chairman. Other members of the Board are Dan Agbese, Dr. Job Adewunmi, Dare Babarinsa, Ovie Edomi and Yemi Adebisi who is the Managing Director.

We are grateful to the idea and the ability to satisfy the interest of lawyers, Judges and justice.

We wish to place on record everyone involved in and editing of this book.

We appreciate the contribution of **ESQ**, our legal adviser, **ALEBIOSU**, our Typist, the office with us even though the work is done and **M** intervention was huge frustrated our efforts. To everyone who may be in academic or research from our reservoir.

We do not claim to have a book of this name and commendable; considered embarked upon by a Nigeria.

NIYI IDOWU

Editor-in-Chief

&

Chairman, Nigerian Bar

COMMENT ITS PUBLISHERS

Judiciary in Nigeria is one of
Bar Association, Ikeja Branch
and justice administration in

Announcements of some judges
system, and a detailed chronicle
achievements of the various

Integrity, the contributions of the
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Special administrators as well as
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Therefore, the book is published by the
Branch in collaboration with GEM
Publishing, Public Relations and
Professor M. Ayo Ajomo as
Board are Dan Agbese, Dr. Job
Edomi and Yemi Adebisi who

We are grateful to the Almighty God for the conception of the idea and the ability to write this book, which we believe will satisfy the interest of everyone – students, non-lawyers, lawyers, Judges and those interested in the administration of justice.

We wish to place on record the assistance and co-operation of everyone involved in putting thoughts together at the writing and editing of this book.

We appreciate the contribution of **MR TOPE OLAOSEBIKAN ESQ**, our legal assistant and **MISS OLUWATOSIN ALEBIOSU**, our Typist/Computer Operator who had to stay at the office with us even on weekends to ensure that excellent work is done and **MRS NIKE ATEWOJAYE** whose timely intervention was hugely helpful when computer viruses almost frustrated our efforts.

To everyone who may find this book useful, especially as a guide in academic or research works, we remain grateful for drawing from our reservoir.

We do not claim to have answers to all that may be required of a book of this name and nature but, the value can not but be commendable; considering that no such venture have been embarked upon by any Bar Association or the academia in Nigeria.

NIYI IDOWU

Editor-in-Chief

&

Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch.

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Part I

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COURTS IN NIGERIA

The various communities that make up modern day Nigeria possessed various types of dispute settlement procedure of varying formality and structure. In the Monarchical societies for example, the Emirates of Northern Nigeria, the Kingdoms of Yoruba land, of present day Bendel (now Edo and Delta states), Cross River and Rivers states, administration of justice was relatively formal. The highest court was the Monarch's Court. In the Emirates, the system was quite elaborate. The zones or districts were ruled by district heads who had their own courts from which appeal lay ultimately at the Monarch's Court. In the acephalus political system of Ibo land. Things were quite informal. Disputes settlements generally took place at the level of family or community and ultimately at the clan level.

The customary laws and traditional machinery of justice were quite unable to cope with influx of European traders due to cultural incompatibilities and the absence of legal reliefs in such areas as, commercial law, agency, admiralty law and so on. The arbitral and informal nature of traditional dispute settlement procedure was also alien to the Europeans who were used to written or easily assertionable procedure, established procedure of rules of evidence as well as predictability of results.

Extra-Legal Courts

Court of Equity: These were set up by European traders in conjunction with prominent native traders. They composed of the panel of the chief European and native traders. It was an arbitral forum and had nothing to do with English Equity. In other words, it had nothing to do with English Equity. It was a Court properly speaking otherwise.

In 1854, the Court of Equity was in existence in Bonny. The court was concerned only with commercial disputes. The sanction was by imposing of fines on the guilty party. Those who refused to

participate were tabooe
By 1870, there were con
Calabar (Degema), Aka
The West Africa order-i
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Consular Courts

The first British Consul
Benin and Bonny to
legitimate trade within
British subjects.

In 1853, two consuls we
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administrative and ju
subjects.

In 1891, Lagos was an
machinery for political
Rivers was renamed th
Order in Council of 1899

1900 Development

Certain far-reaching
developments occurre
became the Southern I
The Northern areas wh
by the Royal Niger C
administration of the
Northern Nigeria.

Lagos was a Colony a

DEVELOPMENT OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

make up modern day Nigeria. The settlement procedure of the Monarchical societies for in Nigeria, the Kingdoms of (now Edo and Delta states), administration of justice was was the Monarch's Court. In quite elaborate. The zones or lands who had their own courts at the Monarch's Court. In the no land. Things were quite usually took place at the level of at the clan level. The judicial machinery of justice were of European traders due to absence of legal reliefs in such admiralty law and so on. The traditional dispute settlement Europeans who were used to mediate, established procedure stability of results.

set up by European traders in traders. They composed of the native traders. It was an arbitral English Equity. In other words, it was a Court properly

existence in Bonny. The court handled all disputes. The sanction was on the party. Those who refused to

participate were tabooed and boycotted.

By 1870, there were courts of equity in old Calabar (Bonny), new Calabar (Degema), Akassa, Brass, Opobo etc.

The West Africa Order-in-Council gave legal backing to the British Consul and the Court of Equity. The Consul was only empowered to recognize the Courts, make request for them and approve their decisions before execution. He was also allowed to extend their jurisdiction to all civil suits and disputes or cause between British subjects inter se and between British subjects and natives or non-British immigrants who submitted to the jurisdiction of the court. These Courts of Equity probably ceased to exist by 1887.

Consular Courts

The first British Consular was appointed in 1849 to the Bight of Benin and Bonny to supervise and regulate the growth of legitimate trade within that area and to oversee the interest of British subjects.

In 1853, two consuls were appointed, one for Lagos and the other for Old Calabar. The consuls however soon assumed some administrative and judicial powers even over non-British subjects.

In 1891, Lagos was annexed and the British Crown established judicial machinery for political and judicial administration while the Oil Rivers was renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria by an Order in Council of 1899.

1900 Development

Certain far-reaching constitutional and administrative developments occurred in 1900. The Niger Coast Protectorate became the Southern Protectorate by Order in Council of 1899. The Northern areas which were being administered for the Crown by the Royal Niger Company were brought under the direct administration of the Crown and renamed Protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

Lagos was a Colony and it had an English type superior court

known at different times as the Police Court, the Supreme Court and Chief Magistrate Court.

The judicial structure of the colony of Lagos was copied substantively by the Southern and Northern Nigeria protectorates. A basic feature of this system was the high degree of participation by the administrative officers, that is, the executive branch in the judicial system. Thus in 1900 there was a Supreme Court in each of the administrative units i.e Lagos, Northern and Southern Nigeria protectorates. There were also courts manned exclusively by administrative officers known in the Lagos colony and South protectorates of Nigeria as Commissioner Court and as Provincial Courts in the Northern Protectorates.

The Supreme Court of Lagos

The Supreme Court Ordinance of 1876 set up a Supreme Court for Lagos and empowered it to apply English common law doctrines of equity and common law and such other law in force in England on July 24, 1874. It was also empowered to apply such native law that was not repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience.

The court functioned through three organs.

Full Court: The full court was constituted by the Chief Justice and either one or two other judges. It was an appeal court and it had no original jurisdiction. Generally, the judges sat on appeals over the judgment.

Divisional Court: Each province of the colony had a divisional court. It was constituted by the Chief Justice or any other judge. The court had original and criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the province including appeal of jurisdiction over the district commissioners court. In other words, for each judicial division, a judge of the Supreme Court constituted a divisional court.

District Commissioners Court: This court was constituted by administrative officers known as District Commissioners. The District Commissioners had jurisdiction over the district or

administrative divisions p thus ex-officio commissioner had limited original civil cri limit for civil claims and involving 3 months imp magistrate of Lagos could l Supreme Court.

Variations

In the North instead of di provincial courts. This we reconstructed and cons proclamation in 1902. T assistant residents and a limited civil and criminal handled by the native cour Cantonment Courts: They proclaiming of Northern l protectorate court procial each cantonment and was made an ex-officio com handled civil suits involv summary criminal matter imprisonment or £25 fine c to court but the Chief Ju nominated by him could re

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administrative divisions placed under their charge. They were thus ex-officio commissioners of the Supreme Court. This court had limited original civil criminal jurisdiction (there was £25 value limit for civil claims and they could handle criminal matters involving 3 months imprisonment or £25 fine). The police magistrate of Lagos could be made an officio commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Variations

In the North instead of district commissioner court, there were provincial courts. This were first set up in 1909 and then were reconstructed and consolidated by the Provincial Court proclamation in 1902. They were manned by residents and assistant residents and all other justices of peace. They had limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. Native Law matters were handled by the native courts. Appeal lay to the full court.

Cantonment Courts: They were created by the protectorate court proclaiming of Northern Nigeria which was later replaced by the protectorate court proclamation of 1902. The court existed in each cantonment and was presided over by a magistrate who was made an ex-officio commissioner of the Supreme Court. It handled civil suits involving a value limit of £25 as well as summary criminal matters involving not more than 3 months imprisonment or £25 fine or 12 strokes of the cane. No appeals lay to court but the Chief Judge of the protectorate or any judge nominated by him could review any decision of the court.

NB: Whereas in Lagos, the divisional courts manned by Lagos had jurisdiction over the province and adjoining territories, in Northern Nigeria, the provincial court manned by administrative officers occupied this position. In other words, the fusion of the executive and judiciary was greater in the protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

The structure of the Supreme Court of Lagos was adopted in the Southern Nigeria protectorate.

Development in 1906

The colony of Lagos and protectorate of Southern Nigeria were merged to form the colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. A new Supreme Court authorized to apply the common law, doctrine of equity came in force on 1st January 1900. It was a copy of the old Supreme Court of the colony of Lagos

Native Courts Southern Nigeria

The Native Courts Proclamation of 1900 established two classes of native court:

- a. Minor Courts
- b. Native Councils

Minor courts were constituted by one or more members appointed by High Commissioner of the protectorate from the localities served by the court.

The native councils were constituted by the district commissioner as president as such other persons appointed by the High Commissioners from the locality of the court. It had appellate jurisdiction over the minor courts. Both courts had jurisdiction over natives and non-natives who had voluntarily submitted in writing to their jurisdiction. They (native and minor court) were empowered to administer native law and customs "not opposed to natural morality and humanity" as well as any relevant and applicable enactment. The native council had a £200 value limit (from £25 value limit for the minor court). Both courts had original and jurisdiction in land cases and matters. They also had criminal jurisdiction over a number of offences, petty assault, disobedience to the law, suit order of the head of the house etc.

Native Court In Northern Nigeria 1900

The system in operation before creation of the protectorate was retained. The principal towns of each province had a native court set up on the advice of the principal Emir of that province. It was composed of one or two persons appointed by the Emir or head

chief as approved by the nomination where no head

Development Of Native

South Nigeria – The native the laws of 1900 and 1901 pre-sitting native court i control and supervision provided that a minor co native council when it wa district or assistant district

Northern Nigeria

The native court proclama It established two grades Councils.

Alkali courts were presid were presided over by a president. The jurisdic application of the cust jurisdiction. Such law not humanity. In addition su involving torture, mutilati

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The Northern Protecto Protectorate of Southern l A Supreme Court was Provincial courts were ir district commissioner co original jurisdiction of t commercial towns and c Judge and other judges s appellate jurisdiction of t sitting in appeal over the

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eria 1900

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 each province had a native court
 ipal Emir of that province. It was
 s appointed by the Emir or head

chief as approved by the resident who could himself make a
 nomination where no head chief or Emir existed or was available.

Development Of Native Court 1906

South Nigeria – The native courts proclamation of 1906 repealed
 the laws of 1900 and 1901 but left the structure and powers of the
 pre-sitting native court intact. They were placed in the direct
 control and supervision of the Supreme Court. The law also
 provided that a minor court should exercise the jurisdiction of a
 native council when it was presided by a divisional or traveling or
 district or assistant district commissioner.

Northern Nigeria

The native court proclamation of 1906 made some modifications.
 It established two grades of courts. The Alkali Court and Judicial
 Councils.

Alkali courts were presided over by Alkali while judicial councils
 were presided over by an Emir or chief or district head-man as
 president. The jurisdiction of the court was invited to the
 application of the customary law prevailing in its area of
 jurisdiction. Such law not been repugnant to natural justice and
 humanity. In addition such law must not involve punishments
 involving torture, mutilation or grievous bodily harm.

1914

The Northern Protectorate and the colony and Southern
 Protectorate of Southern Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914.
 A Supreme Court was established for the whole country.
 Provincial courts were introduced in the south to replace the
 district commissioner court; native courts were retained. The
 original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court were restricted to
 commercial towns and centres and was exercised by the Chief
 Judge and other judges sitting alone. The full court exercises the
 appellate jurisdiction of the court. Also judges was barred from
 sitting in appeal over their own previous decision. The provincial

court ordinance of 1914 established a provincial court for each province. It was constituted by the resident or assistant resident of the province as president and other members styled or known as commissioner i.e resident or assistant residents in charge of province and all justices of place in the province. Any of these officials could constitute a provincial court. The resident of the province had ultimate civil and criminal jurisdiction whilst other officials had limited jurisdiction. A resident not in charge of a province, a district officer and justice of peace could respectively deal with suit of a value limit of £100, £50, £25 or with criminal cases involving imprisonment for not more than 5 years, 2 years and 3 months or a fine up to £100, £50 and £25.

However, all sentences beyond 6 months imprisonment or £50 fine required the confirmation of the governor-general who delegated his powers to the lieutenant governor.

A native court in the North was composed of an Alkali and in the south by a simple judge. They could also be composed or constituted by:

- a. A head Chief with or without some minor chiefs or
- b. Chiefs or other persons selected to represent the native community in the area of jurisdiction of the court.

Generally, four grades of courts viz A,B,C and D were created.

Grade 'A' courts normally had the head chiefs as president as well as other officials including an alkali in the court. The district officer supervised the work of the native courts.

1933

Major changes were introduced. The main aim of the reorganization asserted was the removal of the high degree of participation by administrative officers in the judicial process.

1. The territorial jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was restricted to the township of Lagos. It has jurisdiction over all persons and matters but exercised exclusive jurisdiction all over the country in probate, divorce and matrimonial

matters, proceeding the Companies Ordinance etc as Protectorate Adm

2. High Court re protectorate. The other judges sitting to hear a case on of the same sta exercised the s jurisdiction of the (high court) were new class of adm of the reforms intr

3. Magistrate Courts protectorate. The matters hitherto deal with civil cla cases where the £100 or in case of They could also he they were not em worlds, they hac Appeal lay to the f

4. The Native Court structure and orga their sentencing jurisdiction in ma inheritance, test Courts of Appeal magistrate court courts in the Easte

shed a provincial court for each
resident or assistant resident of
er members styled or known as
sistant residents in charge of
in the province. Any of these
cial court. The resident of the
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A resident not in charge of a
tice of peace could respectively
£100, £50, £25 or with criminal
not more than 5 years, 2 years
£50 and £25.

months imprisonment or £50 fine
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A, B, C and D were created.
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d. The main aim of the
the removal of the high degree
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agos. It has jurisdiction over all
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matters, proceedings arising from prescribed ordinance eg.
the Companies Ordinance, the Legal Practitioners
Ordinance etc as well as proceedings under the Nigeria
Protectorate Admiralty.

2. High Court replaced the provincial courts in the protectorate. They were constituted by the Chief Judge and other judges sitting alone. A resident could be empowered to hear a case on behalf of the court. The high courts were of the same status as the Supreme Court Lagos and exercised the same jurisdiction minus the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Surprisingly these courts (high court) were staffed not by legal professionals but by a new class of administrative officers contrary to the purpose of the reforms introduced in 1933.
3. Magistrate Courts were established in various parts of the protectorate. They exercised summary jurisdiction over matters hitherto handled by provincial courts. They could deal with civil claims or a value limit of £100 or criminal cases where the penalty to be imposed would not exceed £100 or in case of imprisonment not more than 12 months. They could also hear appeal from the native courts although they were not empowered to deal with land cases. In other worlds, they had no original jurisdiction in land cases. Appeal lay to the high courts.
4. The Native Court Ordinance of 1933 retained the existing structure and organisation of the native court but it reduced their sentencing power. They were given additional jurisdiction in matrimonial causes, in matters relating to inheritance, testamentary and administrative. Native Courts of Appeal were created to hear appeal although magistrate court had appellate jurisdictions over native courts in the Eastern Region.

In the Moslem areas, appeals went to the Chief Alkali court and from there to the Emir's Court or to the final Native Court of Appeal. Another line of appeal existed and it came from a native court through a district officer and the resident to the governor.

5. West Africa Court of Appeal : This court was made an interim court of appeal for Nigeria. It was established by an order in council of 1928. Although it was only in 1933 that its jurisdiction was extended to Nigeria. The court was constituted by the judge of the Supreme Court of the 4 British West Africa countries viz Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Gambia and Sierra-Leone. The court was validly constituted by 3 judges. Appeals lay to not from the Supreme Court of Lagos and the High Courts of the protectorates while appeals lay from it to the Privy Council.

1943

The High Court was associated and a new Supreme Court was established for the colony and protectorate of Nigeria. The Court had a Chief Justice and 5 grade judges who sat alone within special limits of territorial areas. The Supreme Court had unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction subject only to the jurisdiction of the native courts in matters relating to Land held under customary law, family status, guardianship of children and testamentary disposition of property under customary law. Appeal lay to West Africa Court of Appeal.

1954

In the 1954, the country's constitution became truly federal and the judiciary was recognized. Each region had its own magistrate and a high court. A high court and magistrate court were created for the federal territory of Lagos, and the Federal Supreme Court was created to replace the West African Court Appeal by S.138 of the 1954 Constitution. The Federal Supreme Court exercised

appellate jurisdiction over original jurisdiction in:

- a. Disputes between two regional or any two regions
- b. Matters arising under the constitution
- c. Matters affecting diplomatic relations
- d. Questions relating to the validity of any law
- e. Any application for a writ of injunction against a member of the supreme court

The new high courts replaced the High Courts of Lagos, 1956 and 1957

The native courts were replaced by High Courts in the Eastern (1956) and Northern (1956) Regions. Some modification was made in the Northern Region (1956) a change.

1960-63

The posting spelt out above in the 1960 Constitutions except that the Privy Council was expressly to privy was abolished. The Constitution of 1963 provided for the operation of a court of appeal.

1967-68

The Western State Court of Appeal was created. Section 52 of the 1963 Constitution provided that the Western Region were created.

1973 - Date

In 1973, the Federal Republic of Nigeria was created by virtue of Section 228 of the 1973 Constitution.

to the Chief Alkali court and the final Native Court of Appeal. It came from a native court sent to the governor.

This court was made an interim and was established by an order in 1933 that its jurisdiction was to Nigeria. The court was the Supreme Court of the 4 British territories, the Gold Coast, Gambia and Sierra Leone, and was originally constituted by 3 judges. The Supreme Court of Lagos and the Federal Court of Appeals while appeals lay from it to the Privy Council.

In 1960 a new Supreme Court was established for the Federation of Nigeria. The Court consisted of 5 Justices who sat alone within special chambers. The Supreme Court had unlimited civil jurisdiction and held under customary law, Islamic law, children and testamentary law. Appeals lay to West Africa.

The court became truly federal and the Western State region had its own magistrate courts. In 1967 magistrate courts were created in the Western State and the Federal Supreme Court was replaced by the African Court of Appeal by S.138 of the 1979 Constitution. The Federal Supreme Court exercised

appellate jurisdiction over the high courts and also exercised the original jurisdiction in:

- a. Disputes between the federal and any region or between regional or any two regions.
 - b. Matters arising under treaties
 - c. Matters affecting diplomatic or consular agents
 - d. Questions relating to the interpretation of the constitutions
 - e. Any application for an order of mandamus prohibition or injunction against any officer or authority of the federation
- supreme court

The new high courts replaced the Supreme Court of 1943-1956 and 1957

The native courts were reorganized and renamed customary courts in the Eastern (1956) and in the Western (1957) regions; some modification was made in the native courts system, Northern Region (1956) although the name of the court did not change.

1960-63

The posting spelt out above was retained by the 1960 and 1963 Constitutions except that by section 120 of the 1963 Constitution expressly to privy was abolished. The Supreme Court of Nigeria was created. The Constitution also empowered any region to operate a court of appeal.

1967-68

The Western State Court of Appeal was created in 1967 under Section 52 of the 1963 Constitution. In 1968, the native courts in the Western Region were converted into area courts.

1973 – Date

In 1973, the Federal Revenue Court (now the federal high courts) by virtue of Section 228 of the 1979 Constitution was created to

handle intermediate matters connected with the federal revenue. In 1976, the Federal Court of Appeal was created as an intermediate Court of Appeal for the federation; the native industrial constitution was established under the Trade Dispute 1976 for the purpose of dealing with trade disputation and collective agreements.

Under the 1979 Constitution, any state is allowed to have a Sharia Court of Appeal or the Customary Court of Appeal. Under the military regime, various tribunals were created eg. in 1984, the Recovery of Public Property Special Military Tribunals were created; as well as the Miscellaneous Offences Tribunal dealing with various criminal offences.

Also under the military, the Robbery and Firearms Tribunals were established to deal with armed robbery matters. In 1987, appealing tribunals were created for the recovery of public property tribunal and the miscellaneous offences tribunals.

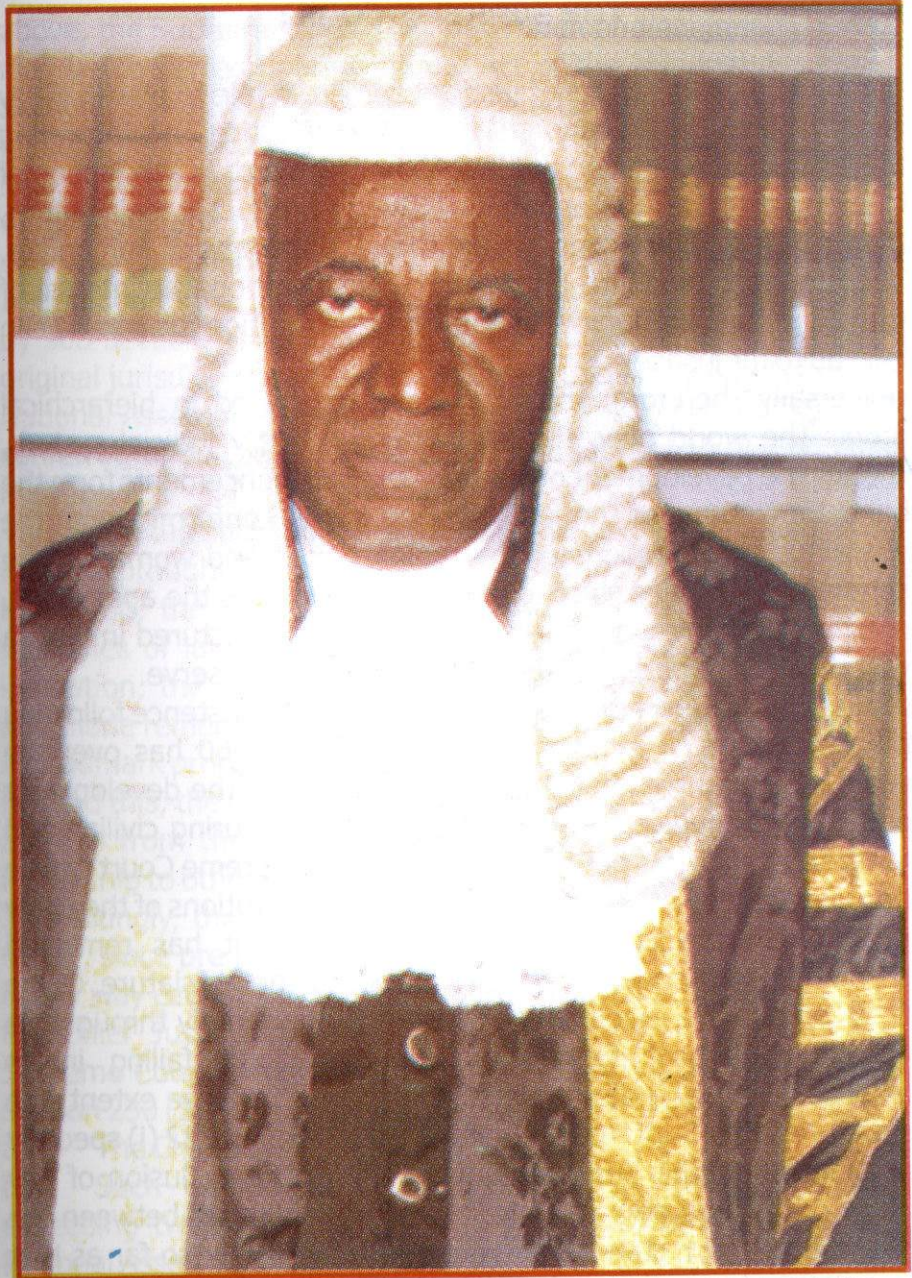


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HON. JUSTICE I. L. KUTIGI
Chief Justice of Nigeria

THE SUPREME COURT

The court as administrators of justice have great role to play in every society. The judiciary connotes and denotes justice. In interpreting the law and adjudication of justice, the law which is a reflection of the people's hopes and aspiration is also "a product of their culture, their religion, their economy and the ramifications of human life. Therefore the law in itself takes into consideration, the interest of the people and the judiciary remains the institution the people can look up to for justice.

Universally therefore, the courts are structured in hierarchical order. The world over, the apex court in every judicial system, shapes the development of law and "the pronouncements form the basis for reforms of the law, to bring it into conformity with the yearnings or aspirations of the ordinary man and woman in the community". Indeed the Supreme Court, which is the apex court, commands the respect of the people as it is structured in such a way that its rulings satisfy the people it is meant to serve.

In Nigeria, the Supreme Court which came into existence following the attainment of independence in October 1960 has over the years remained steadfast. Its capacity to shape the development of law and adjudicate in most stable manner during civilian and military regimes has not been in doubt. The Supreme Court can be described as one of the most stable judicial institutions of the polity since independence. In wielding its power, it has remained absolutely independent of the executive and the legislature. On no occasion has the executive or the National Assembly through the Act of Parliament found the Supreme Court failing in its responsibilities and discharge of its duties. To a large extent, the structure of the Supreme Court is such that section 232 (i) specially provided that "the Supreme Court shall to the exclusion of any other court have original jurisdiction in any dispute between the Federation and a state or between states if and in so far as that dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends." In addition to (i)

above, the Supreme Court may be conferred upon Section 233(i) states jurisdiction to the exclusive hear, determine appeals (Criminal Appeals). The State's enabling Law – Section In addition to the jurisdiction by sub-section (i) of section original jurisdiction as made National Assembly: provided conferred upon the Supreme matter.

This offers the apex court matters brought before institution, the Supreme principles of law especially institution, the Supreme and made remarkable judgments as landmark pronouncements. Beyond this, the role of the appeals from the Court leadership to other courts. Interestingly, the apex court stable, since pre and post in any way caused any still the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is well specified. Section 230 (2) states that

- a. The Chief Justice of
- b. Such number of exceeding twenty-one, as National Assembly.

Section 231 (2) stipulates office of a justice of the

THE COURT

have great role to play in every society. Justice denotes justice. In interpreting the law, the law which is a reflection of the culture, is also "a product of their culture, and reflects the ramifications of human life. In considering the interest of the people, the institution the people can

are structured in hierarchical form. In every judicial system, the pronouncements form the basis for bringing it into conformity with the needs of the ordinary man and woman in the society. The Supreme Court, which is the apex court, is structured in such a way that it is meant to serve the people.

Since the Supreme Court came into existence following the independence in October 1960, it has over the years been able to shape the development of the country in a desirable manner during civilian and military rule. The Supreme Court can be regarded as the judicial institutions of the polity. Despite its power, it has remained independent of the executive and the legislature. On no occasion has the National Assembly through the passage of a law, the Supreme Court failing in its duties. To a large extent, the Supreme Court has discharged its duties such that section 232 (i) specially provides that the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court in any dispute between the government and the people in so far as that dispute involves a question of law or fact) on which the right depends." In addition to (i)

above, the Supreme Court shall have such original jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by any Act of the National Assembly. Section 233(i) states that the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria to hear, determine appeals from the Court of Appeal (both Civil and Criminal Appeals). The Supreme Court derived its power from the nation's enabling Law – Section 230 of the 1999 Constitution.

In addition to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Supreme Court by sub-section (i) of section 232, the Supreme Court has such original jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by any Act of the National Assembly: provided that no original jurisdiction shall be conferred upon the Supreme Court with respect to any criminal matter.

This offers the apex court a singular privilege of adjudicating in all matters brought before it from time to time. Somehow, as an institution, the Supreme Court still draws inspiration from the principles of law especially in established cases. As a dynamic institution, the Supreme Court has provided leading judgment and made remarkable judicial pronouncements that are regarded as landmark pronouncements even in international jurisprudence. Beyond this, the role of the Supreme Court to hear and determine appeals from the Court of Appeal is to provide guidance and leadership to other courts in the judicial hierarchy.

Interestingly, the apex court of Nigeria, apart from being most stable, since pre and post independence, its composition has not in any way caused any stir. This is so because the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federation and other justices of the Supreme Court is well spelt out in the Constitution. For instance Section 230 (2) states that The Supreme Court shall consist of:

- a. The Chief Justice of Nigeria
- b. Such number of justices of the Supreme Court, not exceeding twenty-one, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

Section 231 (2) stipulates that the appointment of a person to the office of a justice of the Supreme Court shall be made by the

President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council subject to confirmation of such appointment by the Senate. As a body with the constitutional power to adjudicate on matters brought before it, by Court of Appeal or tribunal, the question as to whether the Supreme Court can entertain appeals brought before it based on decision of a legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, Okike V. Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, LPDC.

Curiously, the Supreme Court held that it was competent to hear and determine appeals from LPDC. It must be stated however that the Supreme Court came to the conclusion in spite of the absence of a specific constitutional provision in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution that authorizes the National Assembly to confer jurisdiction upon the Supreme Court to hear and determine appeals from any decision of any court of law or Tribunal apart from the Court of Appeal.

Other Services Provided By The Supreme Court

- i. Deciding on matters brought before it
- ii. Enrolment of Lawyers
- iii. Appointment of Notaries Public of Nigeria
- iv. Conferment of Senior Advocate of Nigeria
- v. Processing and recommending judges for appointment to the high Bench
- vi. Distribution of Supreme Court loose leaf judgment
- vii. Other numerous ad-hoc duties being performed by the Hon. Chief Justice, for instance swearing into office of President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, some of Chairmen of judicial and non-judicial panels and so on.

Past And Present Chief Justices Of Nigeria

Justice Adetokunbo Ademola, GCON	-	1958-1972
Justice Teslim Olawale Elias, GCON	-	1972-1975
Justice Darnley Arthur Alexander, GCON-		1975-1979
Justice Fatai Atanda Williams, GCON	-	1979-1983

Justice George Sodeinde SC
Justice Ayo Gabriel Irikefe,
Justice Muhammed Bello, C
Justice Muhammadu Lawal
Justice S.M.A Belgore, GCO
Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, C

Conclusion

It must be stated that in so power from the 1999 Const Court has been in existence to 1863, when the colonial Court Ordinance No. 11. The Court of the colony as a Cc Although, the primary re administer the English Law introduced into the Colony that the Supreme Court of equity with corresponding of England. "The Suprem Magistrate's Court of Her M over by a Magistrate assist the colony and his Execu appeal from the decision (When the British Colony o Gambia came under one g justice got established. I Magistrate's Court. Howev Lagos colony, Sierra-Leone under separate governme under the Gold Coast colo end the mandate of the co Supreme Court of Sierra-Le part.

With a separate governm Supreme Court was establ

of the National Judicial Council appointment by the Senate. As a member to adjudicate on matters before the court or tribunal, the question as to whether it can entertain appeals brought by legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee or Practitioners Disciplinary Committee,

and that it was competent to hear appeals before the Court. It must be stated however that the conclusion in spite of the absence of the provision in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution for the National Assembly to confer jurisdiction on the Supreme Court to hear and determine appeals from a court of law or Tribunal apart

The Supreme Court

before it

of the Republic of Nigeria
to adjudicate on matters before the Supreme Court of Nigeria
including judges for appointment to the Court

to hear and determine appeals from a court of law or Tribunal apart from the Supreme Court
cases being performed by the Hon. Justice Ayo Gabriel Irikefe, GCON
upon coming into office of President and Vice President of the Republic of Nigeria, some of the cases were heard by special panels and so on.

Justices of Nigeria

Justice Gideon Ogunlesi, GCON	-	1958-1972
Justice Ayo Gabriel Irikefe, GCON	-	1972-1975
Justice Gideon Ogunlesi, GCON	-	1975-1979
Justice Gideon Ogunlesi, GCON	-	1979-1983

Justice George Sodeinde Sowemimo, GCON	-	1983-1985
Justice Ayo Gabriel Irikefe, GCON	-	1985-1987
Justice Muhammed Bello, GCON	-	1987-1995
Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, GCON	-	1995-2006
Justice S.M.A Belgore, GCON	-	2006-2007
Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, GCON	-	2007-Date

Conclusion

It must be stated that in so far as the Supreme Court derives its power from the 1999 Constitution, before its birth, the Supreme Court has been in existence even in the colonial era. It dates back to 1863, when the colonial administration enacted the Supreme Court Ordinance No. 11. The Ordinance established the Supreme Court of the colony as a Court with Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction. Although, the primary reason for the establishment was to administer the English Law which Ordinance No. 3 of 1863 had introduced into the Colony of Lagos, one major significance was that the Supreme Court of that era was constituted as a court of equity with corresponding powers to those of the Lord Chancellor of England. "The Supreme Court was converted to the Chief Magistrate's Court of Her Majesty's Settlement of Lagos presided over by a Magistrate assisted by two assessors. The Governor of the colony and his Executive Council constituted the court of appeal from the decision of the Chief Magistrate in Civil cases." When the British Colony of Lagos, Sierra-Leone, Gold Coast and Gambia came under one government, a court of civil and criminal justice got established. It was later to supersede the Chief Magistrate's Court. However, in 1874, the government of the Lagos colony, Sierra-Leone, Gambia and Gold Coast was brought under separate governments. Lagos and the Gold Coast came under the Gold Coast colony, a development that brought to an end the mandate of the court of civil and criminal justice and the Supreme Court of Sierra-Leone to which the Lagos Colony was a part.

With a separate government under the Gold Coast Colony, a Supreme Court was established pursuant to the Supreme Court

Ordinance Act No. 4 of 1876. It was indeed an equivalent of the England High Court of Justice. Accordingly, it was presided over by a Chief Justice and assisted by judges who also were in charge of the Divisional Courts.

In 1886 owing to the establishment of a Lagos Colony, a new Supreme Court Ordinance was passed for Lagos and its protectorate.

However, the Supreme Court of Lagos Colony was later to extend its appellate jurisdiction to the Niger Coast protectorate, where it entertained appeals from the Consular Courts. As a matter of fact, the Niger Coast protectorate, which was also known as Oil Rivers protectorate, formed in 1885 consisting of Benin, Brass, Bonny, old and new Calabar and Opobo, consented to the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Lagos Colony having been empowered to entertain appeals from the consular courts under her territory.

Meanwhile, following the grant of a Royal Charter to Royal Niger Company, former National Africa Company in 1886, the Royal Niger Company made regulations and set up machinery for the administration of justice. Thus courts of district agents as well as a Supreme Court were established. The Supreme Court was based at Asaba where the company had its headquarters. The court entertained civil and criminal cases over the people; until the revocation of the Royal Charter in 1899 which brought to an end the power exercised by the Royal Niger Company Supreme Court lasting 1886-1899.

But the revocation of the Royal Niger Company Supreme Court led to the emergence of the protectorate of Southern Nigeria in 1900. Thus the protectorate new High Commissioner formed new system of courts. For the first time statutory native courts and a Supreme Court were established. However the Supreme Court was divided into three, namely – Full Court, Divisional Court and Commissioner's Court. Somehow the Supreme Court areas were now made into judicial divisions and each division, a judge of the

Supreme Court now ex-appeals from courts which entertained appeals consisted of two or more the Chief Justice. Though was later extended for Colony and the Protectorate sat in Lagos and the state 1914 when the Southern with the Northern Protectorate. However, before the appointment in charge of the Northern proclamations in 1900 Supreme Court being of the jurisdiction of the North to the entire courts Extension Ordinance. While Nigeria was spearheaded by Sir Douglas Provincial Courts. A Supreme 46 of 1933 though retained reform, section 10 of the No. 46 substituted the "Full Court" in section 27 appeals from the Supreme. In 1943, the Supreme Court in place of the pre-existing Protectorate, the new jurisdiction over the whole Civil and Criminal jurisdiction. However, before Nigeria Constitution established West African Court of Appeal. The Federal Supreme Court appeals from the regional

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Niger Company Supreme Court led torate of Southern Nigeria in 1900. High Commissioner formed new t time statutory native courts and a hed. However the Supreme Court y – Full Court, Divisional Court and ow the Supreme Court areas were ns and each division, a judge of the

Supreme Court now exercised its original jurisdiction in respect of appeals from courts within the division. It was only the full court that entertained appeals from the Divisional Court. This court consisted of two or more judges of the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice. Though the territorial jurisdiction of the court was later extended following the amalgamation of the Lagos Colony and the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, the full court sat in Lagos and the status of the Supreme Court did not alter until 1914 when the Southern Protectorate had to be amalgamated with the Northern Protectorate.

However, before the amalgamation, the High Commissioner in charge of the Northern Protectorate by two separate proclamations in 1900 established three types of courts, the Supreme Court being one. Sequel to the amalgamation therefore, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was extended from the North to the entire country – Nigeria – through the jurisdiction of courts Extension Ordinance 1915.

While Nigeria was under Colonial rule, a judicial reform spearheaded by Sir Donald Cameron led to the abolition of the Provincial Courts. A Supreme Court Amended Ordinance Act No. 46 of 1933 though retained the Supreme Court but as part of the reform, section 10 of the Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance No. 46 substituted the words "West African Court of Appeal" for "Full Court" in section 27 of the principal ordinance that dealt with appeals from the Supreme Court.

In 1943, the Supreme Court Ordinance No. 33 was enacted. Thus in place of the pre-existing Supreme Court and High Court of the Protectorate, the new law established a Supreme Court with jurisdiction over the whole of Nigeria with unlimited power over Civil and Criminal jurisdiction across the entire landmass.

However, before Nigeria became an Independent nation, the 1954 Constitution established the Federal Supreme Court to replace the West African Court of Appeal and was fully constituted in 1956. The Federal Supreme Court at this time became the court to hear appeals from the regional high courts as well as the High Court of

Lagos.

When Nigeria gained an imperial status, the 1960 Independence Constitution in section 104 established the Federal Supreme Court and vested it with jurisdiction on questions in relation to the interpretation of the constitution and so on. But the modern Supreme Court came into place when Nigeria became a republic in 1963 by virtue of the Constitution of the Federation, Act No. 20 of 1963; in which section 111 established the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Indeed the apex court in Nigeria is a product of many years, yet over these years it has remained progressive and positive.

Past Justices Of The Supreme Court

1. Justice Stafford Foster-Sutton
2. Justice Olumuyiwa Jibowu
3. Justice Nageon Delestang
4. Justice Mylus John Abbott
5. Justice John Verity
6. Justice Percival Cyril Hubbard
7. Justice Adetokunbo Ademola
8. Justice Lionel Brett
9. Justice Louis Nwacukwu Mbanefo
10. Justice James Henley Coussey
11. Justice Robert Yorke Hedges
12. Justice George Fredrick Dove-Edwin
13. Justice Thomas Algernon Brown
14. Justice Samuel Okai Quashie-Idun
15. Justice Wilfred Hugh Hurley
16. Justice Alfred John Ainley
17. Justice Alexander William Bellamy
18. Justice William Algernon Holwell Duffus
19. Justice Edgar Ignatus Godfrey Unsworth
20. Justice John Idowu Conrad Taylor
21. Justice Vahe Robert Bairmian
22. Justice Charles Dadi Onyeama
23. Justice Eugene
24. Justice Michael
25. Justice George F
26. Justice Chukwu
27. Justice Ian Lewi
28. Justice Charles C
29. Justice Udo Udo
30. Justice Atanda F
31. Justice George S
32. Justice Taslim O
33. Justice Dan Ibek
34. Justice Ayo Gab
35. Justice Darnley /
36. Justice Mohamn
37. Justice Mammarr
38. Justice Andrews
39. Justice Kayode E
40. Justice Anthony
41. Justice Buba Ard
42. Justice Augustin
43. Justice Boonyarr
44. Justice Dahunsi C
45. Justice A.G Karib
46. Justice Saidu Kav
47. Justice Chukwud
48. Justice Abdul Gar
49. Justice Philip Nna
50. Justice Abubakar
51. Justice Ebenezer
52. Justice Olajide Ol
53. Justice Ephraim I
54. Justice Uche Omc
55. Justice Bolarinwa
56. Justice Paul Kemo

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23. Justice Eugene Olufemi Adeyinka Morgan
24. Justice Michael Oguejiojo Adegbo
25. Justice George Baptist Ayodola Coker
26. Justice Chukwueike Idigbe
27. Justice Ian Lewis
28. Justice Charles Olusoji Madarikan
29. Justice Udo Udoma
30. Justice Atanda Fatayi-Williams
31. Justice George Sodeinde Sowemimo
32. Justice Taslim Olawale Elias
33. Justice Dan Ibekwe
34. Justice Ayo Gabriel Irikefe
35. Justice Darnley Arthur Raymond Alexander
36. Justice Mohammed Bello
37. Justice Mamman Nasir
38. Justice Andrews Otutu Obaseki
39. Justice Kayode Eso
40. Justice Anthony Nnemezie Aniagolu
41. Justice Buba Ardo
42. Justice Augustine Nnamani
43. Justice Boonyamin Oladiran Kazeem
44. Justice Dahunsi Olugbemi Coker
45. Justice A.G Karibi-Whyte
46. Justice Saidu Kawu
47. Justice Chukwudifu Akunne Oputa
48. Justice Abdul Ganiyu Olatunji Agbaje
49. Justice Philip Nnaemeka-Agu
50. Justice Abubakar Bashir Wali
51. Justice Ebenezer Babasanya Craig
52. Justice Olajide Olatawura
53. Justice Ephraim Ibukun Akpata
54. Justice Uche Omo
55. Justice Bolarinwa Oyegoke Babalakin
56. Justice Paul Kemdilim Nwokedi

57. Justice Michael Ekundayo Ogundare
58. Justice Emmanuel Obioma Ogwuegbu
59. Justice Shehu Usman Mohammed
60. Justice Uthman Mohammed
61. Justice Yekini Olayiwola Adio
62. Justice Anthony Ikechukwu Iguh
63. Justice Okay Achike
64. Justice Samson Odemwingie Uwaifo
65. Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola
66. Justice Muhammedu Lawal Uwais
67. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiwunmi
68. Justice Dennis Onyejife Edozie
69. Justice Ignatius Chukwudi Pats-Acholonu
70. Justice U.A Kalgo
71. Justice S.M.A Belgore

Current Justices Of The Supreme Court

NAMES	HONOUR	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Justice I.L. Kutigi	GCON	Niger
2. Justice S.U Onu	CON	Benue
3. Justice Katsina-Alu	CON	Benue
4. Justice Niki Tobi	CON	Delta
5. Justice Dahiru Musdapher	CON	Kano
6. Justice G.A Oguntade	CON	Lagos
7. Justice S.A Akintan	CON	Ondo
8. Justice A.M Murktar	CON	Kano
9. Justice N. Mohammed	CON	Yobe
10. Justice W.S.N Onnoghen	CON	Cross River
11. Justice I.F Ogbuagu	CON	Abia
12. Justice I.T Muhammad	CON	Bauchi
13. Justice F.F Tabai	CON	Bayeisa
14. Justice P.O Aderemi	CON	Oyo
15. Justice C. M Chukwuma-Eneh	CON	Enugu

HON. JUSTICE IDRIS .

His lordship is called justice indeed, a dignified justice judicial system is well ple goes, people welcome the honour of his contribution rule of law in Nigeria.

Beyond the shores of Niger number of those who community is enormous. society especially during Western State Local Gove 1970

Justice Idris was born in N school, Kutigi from 194 School, Bida between 1 education at Niger Provin He went further to Gove Zaria 1960-1961. Immediate admitted into Ahmadu Bel. 1962 and 1963. Rather t having attended the pre passion for education saw Studies, University of Lon Gibson and Weldon College called to the English Bar, Li demonstrate his love for i attend the Nigerian law Sci called to the Nigerian Bar 2 further studies, he went to for Commonwealth and Ov

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CON	Bauchi
CON	Bayelsa
CON	Oyo
CON	Enugu

HON. JUSTICE IDRIS .L. KUTIGI GCON IN FOCUS

His lordship is called justice by the young and the old. And he is indeed, a dignified justice. To say what he is the man in whom the judicial system is well pleased is an understatement. Wherever he goes, people welcome the 69-year old distinguished Hon. Justice in honour of his contributions to the legal system and sustenance of rule of law in Nigeria.

Beyond the shores of Nigeria, his views are highly respected. The number of those who seek his advice from the international community is enormous. He has brought great reforms into the society especially during his days as a member of the North Western State Local Government Reforms Committee from 1969 -- 1970

Justice Idris was born in Niger State, he was enrolled in elementary school, Kutigi from 1946-1951. He proceeded to Niger Middle School, Bida between 1952 and 1953. He had his secondary education at Niger Provincial Secondary School, Bida 1954-1959. He went further to Government College (Now Barewa College) Zaria 1960-1961. Immediately he finished his study in 1961, he was admitted into Ahmadu Bello University for a degree in Law between 1962 and 1963. Rather than terminate his educational pursuits, having attended the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, his passion for education saw him at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, from 1963-1964, he proceeded to Gibson and Weldon College of Law between 1964 and 1965. He was called to the English Bar, Lincoln's Inn, London on 20 July, 1965. To demonstrate his love for his country, he returned to his roots to attend the Nigerian Law School, Lagos October, 1965-1966. He was called to the Nigerian Bar 22 July, 1966. To satisfy his deep love for further studies, he went to the United Kingdom for a course meant for Commonwealth and Overseas Legal Officers (1970-1971).

Hon,Justice Kutigi commenced his working career as Pupil State Counsel from 1966-July 1968 in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria. He was also State Counsel, July 1968-July 1970 (North-western State, Sokoto). Justice Idris also served as a member of the North- Western State Local Governmen Reforms Committee appointed by the Government from 1969-1970. He later became State Counsel Grade 1, from July 1970-1971, Senior State Counsel Grade 1, 1971-July1973.He became Principal State Counsel between July 1973-july 1974.Expectedly, he became Deputy Solicitor-General from July 1974-1975.From there, he gracefully rose to become the Deputy Director of Public prosecution, April1975-October 1975, Chief Registrar, High court of Justice, North-western State from October 1975-March 1976. As a typical trait in his rapid growth, he became a Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Niger State from April 1976 – December, and Commissioner for Justice, Minna, Niger state from April 1976 – December, 1977. Also, Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Minna, Niger State from April 1976-December 1977. He became a High Court Judge on 1st of October, 1976 and was there until October 1980.He was made a Justice of the Court of Appeal from October 1980-February 1992 by the federal Government.

The dynamic Justice was a Justice, Supreme Court of Nigeria of Nigeria from February 1992 – January 2007 and was appointed the acting Chief Justice of Nigeria on 18th January, 2007.Hon. Justice Idris Legbo is currently the Chief Justice of Nigeria, a position he has held since January 2007 till date.

Hon. Idris L. Kutigi, GCON is a life Member/Bencher of the Body of Benchers, Nigeria. Former Chairman, Body of Benchers, Member, World Jurists Association and also a member, Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association. Hon. Justice Kutigi GCON is happily married with children.

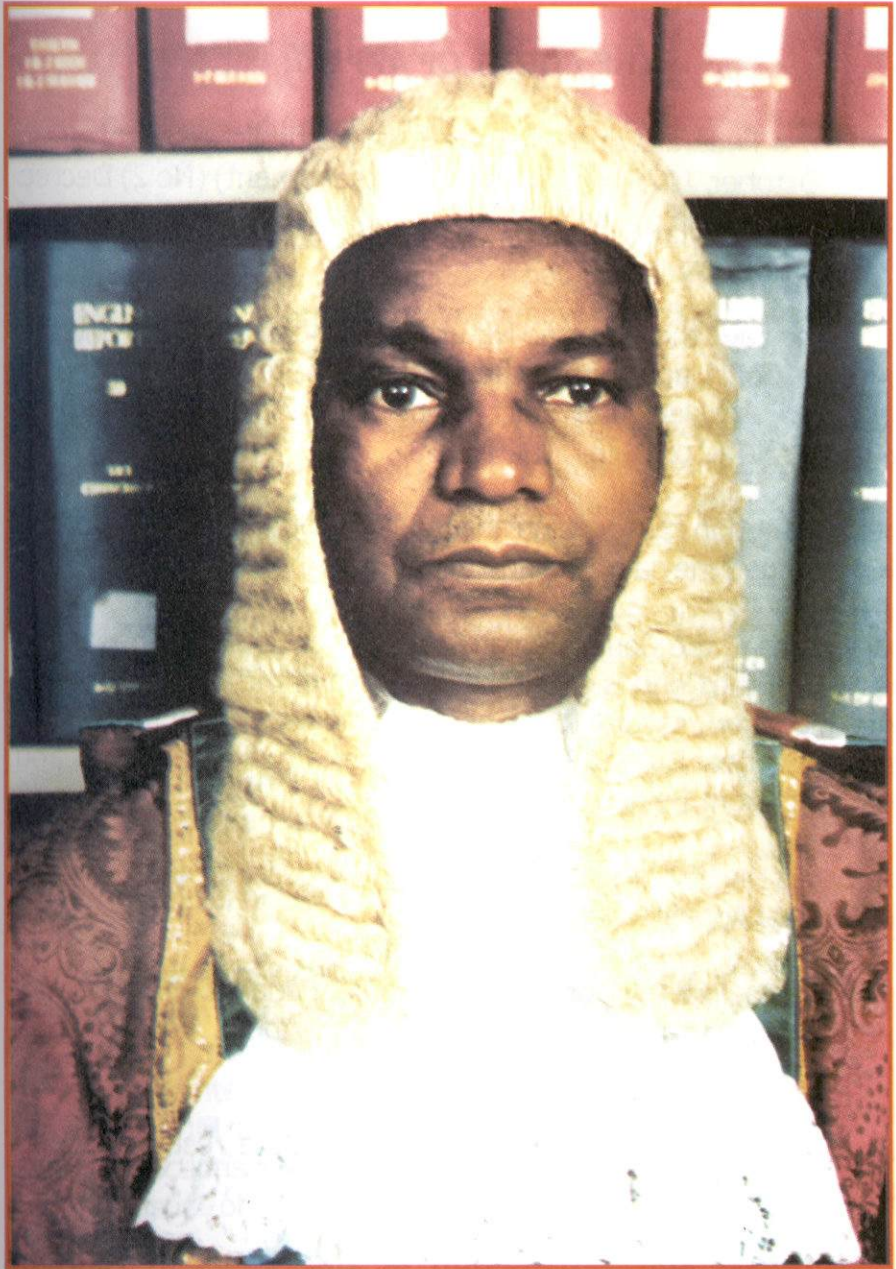


HON. JUSTICE
President

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HON. JUSTICE U. ABUDULLAHI
President, Court of Appeal

THE COURT OF APPEAL

In 1976, a Federal Court of Appeal was established with effect from 1 October, 1976 by Constitution (amendment) (No 2) Decree No 42 of 1976 and by the Federal Court of Appeal Decree No 43 of 1976.

Before the Law, there was no Natural Intermediate Courts and the Supreme Court apart from the Western State Court of Appeal which was established by Edict No 15 of 1967 and was abolished by Decree No 42 of 1976.

The Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree No 1 of the 1984 changed the name of Federal Court of Appeal.

The Judges of the Court are called Justice of Court of Appeal and the head of the Court is called the President of the Court of Appeal. Since inception, several Rules of the Court have been made. The Court of Appeal Rules 1981 was however amended in 1984 and took effect from 1 September, 1984.

There was the 2002 Rules of the Court of Appeal and subsequently the Court of Appeal Rules of 2004.

It has Ten Judicial Divisions namely Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Kaduna, Jos, Enugu, Port-Harcourt, Ilorin, Calabar, Abuja. Each Division has a presiding Justice.

The 1999 Constitution also deals with the establishment/ appointment of the Justices.

Constitution and Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal. Sections 237 – 248 of the 1999 Constitution:

- 237- (1) There shall be a Court of Appeal consisting of—
- (2) The Court of Appeal shall consist of—
 - (a) A president of the Court of Appeal;
 - (b) Such number of Justices as may be determined by the National Assembly, not exceeding forty-nine of which shall be learned in Customary Law and Islamic personal Law.
- 238- (1) The appointment of a Justice of the Court of Appeal shall be subject to the recommendation of the Council of the Court of Appeal and the confirmation of the President of the Supreme Court.
- (2) The appointment of a Justice of the Court of Appeal shall be subject to the recommendation of the Council of the Court of Appeal and the confirmation of the President of the Supreme Court.
 - (3) A person shall not be appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal unless he is a legal practitioner in Nigeria for a period of not less than ten years.
 - (4) If the President of the Supreme Court is a person holding the office of the President of the Court of Appeal, he shall perform the functions of the President of the Court of Appeal until the person appointed to and holding the office of the President of the Court of Appeal performs his functions, the President of the Supreme Court shall perform the functions of the President of the Court of Appeal.
 - (5) Except on the recommendation of the Council, an appointment to the office of a Justice of the Court of Appeal shall be subject to subsection (4) of this section.

APPEAL

It was established with effect from the 1999 Constitution (amendment) (No 2) Decree of the Court of Appeal Decree No 43 of 1999.

The Federal Intermediate Courts and the Federal High Court of Appeal in the Eastern State Court of Appeal Decree No 15 of 1967 and was abolished by the 1999 Constitution.

(Modification) Decree No 1 of the Court of Appeal.

Justice of Court of Appeal and President of the Court of Appeal. The Court have been made. The Court has however amended in 1984 and 1994.

Court of Appeal and subsequently

in Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Kaduna, Kano, Calabar, Abuja. Each Division

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Composition of the Court of Appeal.
9 Constitution:

237- (1) There shall be a Court of Appeal

- (2) The Court of Appeal shall consist of:
 - (a) A president of the Court of Appeal and
 - (b) Such number of Justices of the Court of Appeal not less than forty-nine of which not less than three shall be learned in Islamic personal Law, and not less than three shall be learned in Customary Law, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

238- (1) The appointment of a person to the office of the President of the Court of Appeal shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council subject to the confirmation of such appointment of by the Senate.

- (2) The appointment of a person to the office of a Justice of the Court of Appeal shall be made by the President on the recommendation of National Judicial Council.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified to hold the office of a Justice of the Court of Appeal unless he is qualified to practice as a legal practitioner in Nigeria and has been so qualified for a period of not less than twelve years
- (4) If the President of the Court of Appeal is vacant, or if the person holding the office is for any reason unable to perform the function of the office, then until a person has been appointed to and has assumed the functions of that office, or until the person holding the office has resumed those functions, the President shall appoint the most senior Justice of the Court of Appeal to perform those functions.
- (5) Except on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, an appointment pursuant to the provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall cease to have effect after

the expiration of three months from the date of such appointment, and the President shall not re-appoint a person whose appointment has lapsed.

239- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Court of Appeal shall, to the exclusive of any other Court of Law in Nigeria, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether-

- (a) any person had been validly elected to the office of President or Vice-President under this constitution; or
- (b) the term of office to the president or vice-president has ceased;
- (c) the office of president or vice-president has become vacant

(2) In the hearing and determination of an election petition under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, the Court of Appeal shall be duly constituted if it consists of at least three Justice of Appeal.

240. Subject to the provision of this constitution, the Court of Appeal shall have jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other Court of Law in Nigeria, to hear and determine appeals from the Federal High Court, the High Court of the Federation Capital Territory, Abuja, High Court of a State, Sharia Court of Appeal of state, Customary Court of Appeal of a state and from decisions of a court marital or other tribunals as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

241- (1) An appeal shall lie from decisions of the Federal High Court or a High Court to the Court of Appeal as of right in the following cases-

- (a) final decisions in any Federal High Court o
- (b) where the ground of decision in any civil o
- (c) decision in any civil c to the interpretation
- (d) decision in any civil c to whether any of Constitution has bee in relation to any per
- (e) decision in any crim High Court or a Hi death;
- (f) decisions made or gi Court-
- (i) where the liberty of concerned,
- (ii) where an injunction granted or refused,
- (iii) in the case of a decis the liability of a co enactment relating t or otherwise,
- (iv) in the case of a de decision in an admir

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- (a) final decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings before the Federal High Court or a High Court sitting at first instance;
- (b) where the ground of appeal involves questions of law alone, decision in any civil or criminal proceedings;
- (c) decision in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to the interpretation or application of this constitution;
- (d) decision in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to whether any of the provisions of Chapter IV of this Constitution has been, is being or is likely to be contravened in relation to any person;
- (e) decision in any criminal proceedings in which the Federal High Court or a High Court has imposed a sentence of death;
- (f) decisions made or given by the Federal High Court or a High Court-
 - (i) where the liberty of a person or the custody of an infant is concerned,
 - (ii) where an injunction or the appointment of a receiver is granted or refused,
 - (iii) in the case of a decision determine the case of a creditor or the liability of a contributory or other officer under any enactment relating to companies in respect of misfeasance or otherwise,
 - (iv) in the case of a decree nisi in a matrimonial case or a decision in an admiralty action determining liability, and

- (v) in such other cases as may be prescribed by any law in force in Nigeria
- (2) Nothing in this section shall confer any right of appeal –(a) from a decision of the Federal High Court or any High Court granting unconditional leave to defend an action;
- (b) from an order absolute for the dissolution of nullity of marriage in favour of any party who, having had time and opportunity to appeal from the decree nisi on which the order was founded, has not appealed from that decree nisi; and
- (c) without the leave from the Federal High Court or a High Court or of the Court of Appeal, from a decision of the Federal High Court or High Court made with the consent of the parties or as to costs only.
- 242- (1) Subject to the provision of this Constitution, an appeal shall lie from decisions of the Federal High Court or a High Court to the Court of Appeal with the leave of the Federal High Court or that High Court or Court of Appeal
- (2) The Court of Appeal may dispose of any application for leave to appeal from any decision of the Federal High Court or a High Court in respect of any civil or criminal proceedings in which an appeal has been brought to the Federal High Court or a High Court from any other court after consideration of the record of the proceedings, if the Court of Appeal is of the opinion that the interests of justice do not require an oral hearing of the application.
243. Any right of appeal of the Court of Appeal from the decision of the Federal High Court or a High Court conferred by this Constitution shall be-

- (a) exercisable in the case of a party thereto, of a Court or the High Court or other person having a right of appeal in a case of criminal proceedings or, subject to the provisions of this section, any powers conferred on the Court of Appeal or the Attorney-General and continue or to do so on the instance of such other person as may be prescribed;
- (b) exercised according to the provisions of the Constitution, the National Assembly and rules of procedure regulating the powers, functions and jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal.
- 244 –(1) An appeal shall lie from a decision of the Court of Appeal to the Court of Appeal in proceedings before the Court of Appeal to any question of law or fact if the Court of Appeal is competent to hear the appeal.
- (2) Any right of appeal conferred by this section shall be –
- (a) exercisable at the instance of the party or, subject to the leave of the Sharia Court of Appeal, at the instance of any other person who has a right of appeal in the matter; and
- (b) exercised in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the National Assembly and rules of procedure regulating the powers, functions and jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal.

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Federal High Court or a High
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court made with the consent of

of this Constitution, an appeal
to the Federal High Court or a High
Court with the leave of the Federal
Court of Appeal

dispose of any application for
reversal of the Federal High Court
decision in any civil or criminal
appeal has been brought to the
High Court from any other court
in the record of the proceedings, if the
court is of the opinion that the interests of justice
require the application.

Court of Appeal from the decision
of a High Court conferred by this

(a) exercisable in the case of civil proceedings at the instance of a party thereto, or with the leave of the Federal High Court or the High Court of Appeal at the instance of any other person having an interest in the matter, and in the case of criminal proceedings at the instance of an accused person or, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and any powers conferred upon the Attorney-General of the Federation or the Attorney-General of a State to take over and continue or to discontinue such proceedings, at the instance of such other authorities or persons as may be prescribed;

(b) exercised in accordance with any Act of the National Assembly and rules of Court for the time being in force regulating the power, practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.

244 –(1) An appeal shall lie from decisions of a Sharia Court of Appeal to the Court of Appeal as of right in any civil proceedings before the Sharia Court of Appeal with respect to any question of Islamic personal law which the Sharia Court of Appeal is competent to decide.

(2) Any right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of a Sharia Court of Appeal conferred by this section shall be-

(a) exercisable at the instance of a party thereto or, with the leave of the Sharia Court of Appeal or the Court of Appeal, at the instance of any other person having an interest in the matter; and

(b) exercised in accordance with an Act of the National Assembly and rules of Court for the time being in force regulating the powers, practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.

- 245.-(1) An Appeal shall lie from decisions of a Customary Court of Appeal to the Court of Appeal as of right in any civil proceedings before the Customary Court of Appeal with respect to any question of Customary law and such other matters as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.
- (2) Any right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of a Customary Court of Appeal conferred by this section shall be -
- (a) exercisable at the instance of a party thereto or, with the leave of the Customary Court of Appeal or of the Court of Appeal, at the instance of any other person having an interest in the matter.
- (b) exercised in accordance with any Act of the National Assembly and rules of court for the time being in force regulating the powers, practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.
- 246.(1) An appeal to the Court of Appeal shall lie as of right from -
- (a) decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal established in the Fifth Schedule to this Constitution;
- (b) decisions of the National Assembly Election Tribunals and Governorship and Legislative Houses Election Tribunals on any question as to whether -
- (i) any person has been validly elected as a member of the National Assembly or of a House of Assembly of a State under this constitution,
- (ii) any person has been validly elected as a member of the office of Governor or Deputy Governor, or
- (iii) the term of office of any person has ceased or the seat of

any such person has

- (2) The National Assembly may refer to the Court of Appeal to hear and determine any appeal from a decision of any other court or tribunal established by the National Assembly.
- (3) The decisions of the Court of Appeal arising from election

247.-(1) For the purpose of this section, the Court of Appeal shall be a court of appeal composed of three Justices of the Court of Appeal appointed by the President of the Republic -

- (a) a Sharia Court of Appeal, a Customary Court of Appeal, and three Justices of the Court of Appeal, and
- (b) a Customary Court of Appeal, a Sharia Court of Appeal, and three Justices of the Court of Appeal.

248. Subject to the provisions of this section, the President of the Republic may, by order, make rules for regulating the practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

1. The Late Hon. Justice M. M. M. M.
2. The Hon. Justice M. M. M. M.
3. The Hon. Justice M. M. M. M.
4. The Hon. Justice Um. M. M. M. M.

decisions of a Customary Court of Appeal as of right in any civil Customary Court of Appeal with Customary law and such other provided by an Act of the National

the Court of Appeal from the Court of Appeal conferred by this

of a party thereto or, with the Court of Appeal or of the Court of Appeal of any other person having an

with any Act of the National Court for the time being in force practice and procedure of the Court

appeal shall lie as of right from –

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Assembly Election Tribunals and ve Houses Election Tribunals on

ly elected as a member of the House of Assembly of a State

ly elected as a member of the y Governor, or person has ceased or the seat of

any such person has become vacant.

- (2) The National Assembly may confer jurisdiction upon the Court of Appeal to hear and determine appeals from any decision of any other court of law or tribunal established by the National Assembly.
- (3) The decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from election petitions shall be final.

247.-(1) For the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred upon it by this Constitution or any other law, the Court of Appeal shall be dully continued if it consist of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal and in the case of appeals from –

- (a) a Sharia Court of Appeal, if it consist of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal learned in Islamic personal law, and
- (b) a Customary Court of Appeal, if it consist of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal learned in Customary law.

248. Subject to the provision of any Act of the National Assembly, the President of the Court of Appeal may make rules for regulating the practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

1. The Late Hon. Justice D. O. Ibekwe (1976-1978)
2. The Hon. Justice M. Nasir GCON (178-1992)
3. The Hon. Justice M. M. A. Akanbi (1992-1999)
4. The Hon. Justice Umaru F. Abdullahi (1999-till date)

PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT

Hon. Justice Umaru Faruk Abdullahi was born on 30th November, 1939 in Katsina, Katsina State. He attended Kayalwa Primary School, Katsina from 1948 to 1952 and Malumfashi Senior Primary School/Katsina Middle School between 1953 and 1955. He had his secondary education at Provincial Secondary School (now Government College) also in Katsina and proceeded to the school for Arabic Studies, Abdullahi Bayero College, Kano from 1962 to 1963.

Next in line was Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where he completed the 1st Part of his Bar Exams in 1964.

After Completing his studies at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn London, Council of Legal Education, England, he was called to the English Bar in November, 1966 and the Nigerian Bar in June, 1968 after his success at the Nigerian Law School.

His career began at the Attorney-General's chambers, Ministry of Justice, Northern Nigeria, Kaduna in November 1966 - September, 1967. He was also a pupil state counsel, Kaduna for a year and was later appointed a Magistrate, Grade II between June 1969 and July 1973. He was made the principal State counsel of Kaduna state in August 1973 to October 1974. He was made the Chief Registrar of Kaduna High Court in 1974, Attorney-General from 1975 - 1977. He was made a High Court Judge in January 1977 and elevated to the Court of Appeal in January 1983.

In November 1987, he was seconded to Katsina State as the Chief Judge. He was there until November 1991 when he returned to the Court of Appeal. By 1992, he was appointed the presiding Justice of the Enugu and Kaduna Judicial Divisions of the Court of Appeal and the climax was his elevation as the President, Court of Appeal of Nigeria on February 1st, 1999, a position he still holds. He has also served as chairman of Commission of inquiring into the Affairs of the Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry by the Federal Government of Nigeria as well as being appointed to the office of Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Republic of the Gambia.

He is a member of various professional bodies: member, Body of Benchers, Nigeria, Life Bencher, 1998; Member, National Judicial Council; Member, Federal Judicial Service Commission; Member, Board of Governors, National Judicial Institute; Member, International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law; Member, Board of Governors, Katsina State Education Development Fund, and many others.

He has traveled widely for both judicial and non-judicial purposes to all the continents of the world. He has also contributed to books and journals and his hobbies include traveling, reading, writing, sports and caring for the needy.

He is a devout Muslim and is happily married with children.

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PRESIDENT

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Part II



HON. JUSTICE B. A ADEJUMO
President, National Industrial Court

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT IN PERSPECTIVE

In 1976, the National Industrial Court, NIC, came into existence under the Trade Disputes Decree No 7. The decree which is today referred to as Trade Disputes Act, Cap. T8 Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 provides in section 20, the core responsibilities of the court which cover settlement of trade disputes, the interpretation of collective agreements and all related issues. Other provisions of the Act include the appointment of the President of the Court and four persons who must be knowledgeable in employment matters particularly as it affects the economy, industry and trade.

However, the NIC did not officially take off until 1978 after undergoing the process of constitutional amendments. These amendments eventually led to the court's recognition by the 1999 Constitution as a "Superior Court of Record". Despite these giant strides recorded by the court during those formative years, the 1979 Constitution still excluded the NIC from the list of "Superior Courts of Record", a development that had threatened the very existence of the court.

But in May 2003 when Hon. Justice Babatunde Adeniran Adejumo assumed office as President of the NIC, he decided to address some of the vexed issues retarding the growth of the National Industrial Court. First, Adejumo played host to distinguished legal luminaries and experts in industrial relations at a stakeholders workshop aimed at charting a new course for the court. Entitled: **Nigerian Industrial Disputes Resolution System: Challenges and Prospects for the National Industrial Court**, the three-day conference brought together, such notable experts like Professor E. Uvieghara, Professor C. K. Agomo, Alhaji Gani Adetola Kazeem, SAN; Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, SAN and others.

Less than three years after, the conference yielded result when the NIC bill was passed into law by the National Assembly in June 2006. Shortly after, the then President, Olusegun Obasanjo

assented to the bill by making it an Act of the National Assembly. Today, the NIC is governed by section 7 of NICA, 2006 which states that the court shall have and exercise exclusive jurisdiction in civil matters relating to labour, environment and conditions of work, health, safety, welfare and labour matters.

The NIC Act also covers issues on collective agreement, any award made by an arbitral tribunal in respect of labour dispute, settlement of any labour dispute, trade union constitution and any award or judgement of the court.

It is interesting to note that the NIC is presided over by a President who controls and supervises the administration of the court. This is with the support of at least not less than twelve judges. In addition, the court, by virtue of section 21 (3) has jurisdiction throughout the entire length and breadth of Nigeria. For administrative convenience, the court is divided into eight Judicial Divisions. They include Abuja Judicial Division, which is the headquarters, Lagos, Enugu and Kano Judicial Divisions. Others are Ibadan, Calabar, Jos and Maiduguri Judicial Divisions.

In the last few years, the National Industrial Court has taken some remarkable steps towards achieving its objectives. The NIC has also recorded some major developments. It will be recalled that for nearly 30 years, the court operated under very difficult conditions apparently due to the visible defects inherent in the Trade Disputes Act that established the court. For instance, it was almost impossible for any litigant to approach the court directly, except through a referral from the Minister of Labour and this created the impression that the court was under the control of a ministry. This unfortunate development did not only question the principle of separation of powers but also cast doubt on the impartiality of the court.

Again, under the TDA, the court could not sit except when physically presided over by the president. The implication of this

was that in the absence of the president, the court must proceed on a recess until when the president was around. There were also conflicting areas of interest as there were no clearly defined roles between the High Courts and National Industrial Court in labour disputes.

But all these changed when Adejumo came to office. The workshop he inspired shortly after his appointment issued a communiqué that took far reaching decisions on the activities of the National Industrial Court. First, the conference demanded the inclusion of the NIC on the list of Federal Courts established by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Being a specialized court, the workshop sought exclusive jurisdiction on labour and industrial disputes for the NIC.

The conference further outlined the status and power of the court, composition and appointment, tenure, precedence, salaries and allowances, among other things affecting the court.

PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT

Adejumo was also the driving force behind the relocation of the NIC to a permanent court complex in Lagos. Before May 2004 when the court relocated from its former premises at No 20/22 Oju Olobun Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, the NIC offices had suffered from perennial flooding particularly during rainy season. This is now history as the court enjoys a serene atmosphere at its new offices at No 31 Lugard Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos. The new premises also houses modern court rooms and other offices that are helping in the overall administration of justice.

Born on October 1, 1954 in Ikaram/Akoko, Ondo State, Hon. Justice Babatunde Adeniran Adejumo obtained a degree in law from the Faculty of Law, University of Ife, Ile-Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife) in 1985. The following year, he was called to the Nigerian Bar.

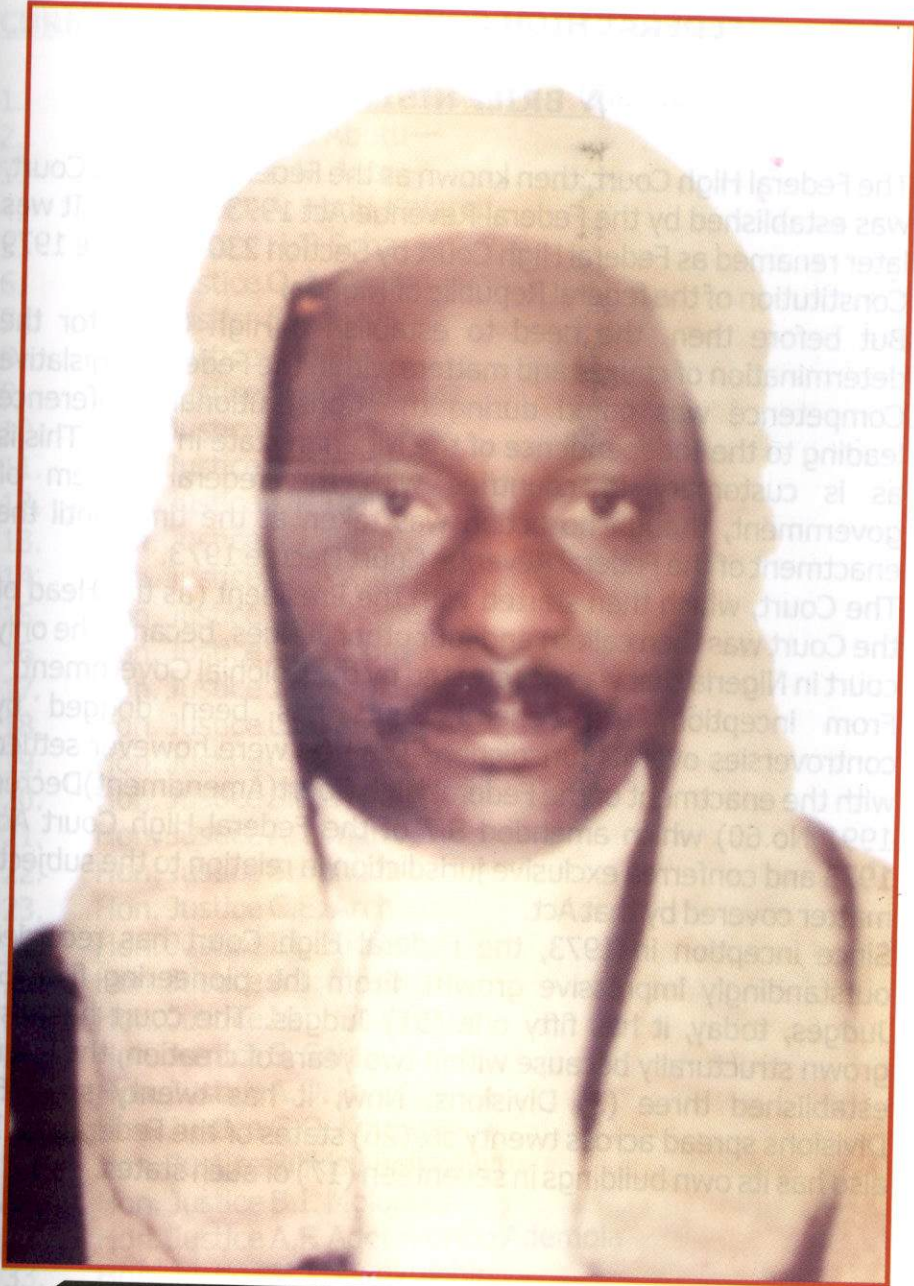
Between 1986 and 1991, he practised in the law chambers of J.

Osuolale Ojo and Co in Lagos. In 1992, he contested and won election into the Ondo State House of Assembly where he emerged as the chairman, House Committee on Judiciary, Justice and Public Petitions. He served in that capacity between January 1992 and November 1993. He was later appointed a Chief Magistrate in the Ondo State Judiciary.

Adejumo was appointed a Deputy Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1995, a position he combined with the secretaryship to the Advisory Judiciary Committee/Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee between December 1995 and November 1998. The same year, Adejumo was made a High Court Judge in the Ondo State Judiciary and held the position of administrative Judge in charge of Ondo State Judicial Division until 2003 when he was appointed the President of the National Industrial Court, a position he still holds today.

A widely traveled technocrat, Adejumo has attended many conferences both locally and internationally. He has also presented seminal papers on settlement of trade/labour disputes in Nigeria from the perspective of the National Industrial Court. Prominent among them include **Impact of National Industrial Court in the Administration of Justice in a Developing Economy like Nigeria**, presented at the annual public lecture of the Faculty of Law, University of Jos on 30th January 2007; **The National Industrial Court: Current Dispensation in Labour Disputes Resolution**, presented at the induction courses for newly appointed Judges and Kadis organized by the National Judicial Council in June 2007 and **The Role of the Judiciary in Industrial Harmony**, among numerous others.

A member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in the United Kingdom and Nigeria, Adejumo is a member of many professional and social organizations and a recipient of many awards.



HON. JUSTICE ABDULLAHI MUSTAPHA
 Chief Judge, Federal High Court

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Federal High Court, then known as the Federal Revenue Court, was established by the Federal Revenue Act 1973 (No. 13). It was later renamed as Federal High Court by Section 230 (2) of the 1979 Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria.

But before then, the need to establish a High Court for the determination of causes and matters within the Federal Legislative Competence was noted during the Constitutional Conference leading to the Independence of the Nigerian state in 1960. This is as is customary in countries with the federal system of government, though no action was taken at the time until the enactment of the Federal Revenue Court Decree 1973.

The Court, which then started with the President (as the Head of the Court was then called) and four other Judges, became the only court in Nigeria that was not created by the Colonial Government.

From inception, the Federal Court has been dogged by controversies over its jurisdiction. The rifts were however settled with the enactment of the Federal High Court (Amendment) Decree 1991 No.60) which amended S.7 of the Federal High Court Act 1973 and conferred exclusive jurisdiction in relation to the subject-matter covered by that Act.

Since inception in 1973, the Federal High Court has recorded outstandingly impressive growth. From the pioneering five (5) Judges, today, it has fifty one (51) Judges. The court has also grown structurally because within two years of creation, the Court established three (3) Divisions. Now, it has twenty six (26) Divisions spread across twenty six (26) states of the Federation. It also has its own buildings in seventeen (17) of such states.

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CURRENT JUDGES OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT

1. Hon. Justice Abduiahi. Mustapha Chief Judge
2. Hon. Justice D.D Abutu---
3. Hon. Justice I. N. Auta---
4. Hon. Justice A. Abdu-Kafarati
5. Hon. Justice H.T. Soba
6. Hon. Justice O. J. Okeke
7. Hon. Justice S. Yahaya
8. Hon. Justice A. Belio
9. Hon. Justice A. O. Ajakaiye
10. Hon. Justice F.F. Olayiwola
11. Hon. Justice Adamu Hobon
12. Hon. Justice J.T. Tsoho
13. Hon. Justice S.J. Adah
14. Hon. Justice Chukwura Nnamani
15. Hon. Justice G.C. Okeke
16. Hon. Justice G.K. Olotu
17. Hon. Justice J.E. Shakarho
18. Hon. Justice L. Akanbi
19. Hon. Justice C.M. Olatoregun
20. Hon. Justice Binta F.M. Nyako
21. Hon. Justice A. Liman
22. Hon. Justice S. Yahuza
23. Hon. Justice C.E. Archibong
24. Hon. Justice I.I. Ejiofor
25. Hon. Justice A.I. Chikere
26. Hon. Justice M.L. Shu'aibu
27. Hon. Justice S. Saidu
28. Hon. Justice A.O. Faji
29. Hon. Justice G.O. Kolawole
30. Hon. Justice Bilikisu Bello Aliyu
31. Hon. Justice B.I. Moiokwu
32. Hon. Justice A.F. Adetokunbo Ademola
33. Hon. Justice M.I. Awokuiehin
34. Hon. Justice Chudi Nwokorie
35. Hon. Justice R.N. Ofili-Ajumogobia

36. Hon. Justice A. Lewis Allagoa
37. Hon. Justice Ibrahim N. Buba
38. Hon. Justice A. O. Ogie
39. Hon. Justice Babs Kuewumi
40. Hon. Justice M.G. Umar
41. Hon. Justice A.R. Mohammed
42. Hon. Justice T. Abubakar
43. Hon. Justice R.M. Aikawa
44. Hon. Justice P.I. Ajoku
45. Hon. Justice S.M. Shuaibu
46. Hon. Justice A.A. Okeke
47. Hon. Justice Z.B. Abubakar
48. Hon. Justice I.M. Sani
49. Hon. Justice S.C. Evoh
50. Hon. Justice I.E. Ekwo
51. Hon. Justice M.B. Idris

PAST HEADS OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT

1. Hon. Justice S.O. Lambo
(November 1, 1973---1975)
2. Hon. Justice J.A. Phil-Ebosie
(February 1, 1976---December 1976)
3. Hon. Justice F.O. Anyaegbunam, CFR
President of Federal Revenue Court

(November 1, 1977October 1, 1979)
4. Hon. Justice M. B. Belgore

Chief Judge of Federal High Court
(September 22, 1987August 30, 2001)

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5. Hon. Justice R.N. Ukeje, OFR
Chief Judge of Federal High Court
August 31st 2001 January 5th 2008

CURRENT CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Abdulahi Mustapha Chief Judge
February 2008 till date

**ON THE WALL OF FULFILMENT:
HON. JUSTICE ABDULAHI MUSTAPHA, CHIEF JUDGE OF
THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT**

Hon. Justice alighted at the bus stop of the world on 4th September, 1944. His place of birth was Bida, Bida Local Government Area of Niger State. He was at North Primary School, Bida from January 1952 - December, 1955, Sabongida Primary School, Bida from January 1956 - December, 1958 and the Bida Secondary School (Government College) Bida in January 1959 - December 1964. He went to the Kaduna Polytechnic from February, 1965 - June, 1966.

His working career began with an appointment with the former Northern Nigeria Government as a Stenographer, Grade II. He was later at the Ministry of Works Headquarters in Kaduna. He was at the then Northern Nigeria Development Corporation (now known as New Nigeria Development Company Limited) in March, 1967 for a seven (7) months stint as the Company's Personal Secretary until 1971 when his unquenchable passion for scholarship led him to the pursuit of a degree in Law which made the company to grant him leave without pay. He went to the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He was called to the Bar on 20th June, 1975 after his success at the Law School. He immediately traveled to Rivers State for his part as a National Youth Service Corps member. He was deployed to a firm of Legal Practitioners known as ABINYE CHAMBERS where he was actively involved in litigation matters and other chambers' works.

After his national service, he took up an appointment with the North West State Government on 1st July, 1974 as an Associate Magistrate. He had formerly held the post of Inspector, Area Courts.

He rose to become a Magistrate, later Senior Magistrate, then Chief Magistrate, and Acting Chief Registrar, High Court of Justice, Niger State between 1976 and 1985.

He was appointed Niger State's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice on the 12th of November, 1988. His elevation as a Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria and swearing-in was done on 31st January, 1989.

His current appointment as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court took effect from Tuesday, 22nd January, 2008. He has served in Benin, Abuja, Kano, Port Harcourt and Lagos Judicial Divisions of the Federal High Court. He has attended many seminars and workshops either as a Participant, Presenter of papers and variously as Speaker.

He is a member of the Word Jurists Association and was nominated for the prestigious "Dr. Kwame Nkrumah Outstanding Merit Award" in 2005 among several honours and special national recognitions.

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Part III



HON. JUSTICE E. AZUBIKE NZEGWU
Ag. Chief Judge, Anambra State.

THE ANAMBRA STATE JUDICIARY

BRIEF HISTORY

The Judiciary of Anambra State came alive with the creation of the state in 1991 with the headquarters, like that of the seat of government, located in Awka, the state capital.

Upon the creation of the state, Hon. Justice A. I. Iguh became the pioneer Chief Judge while the Chief Registrar was B. N. Nwofor, now a retired Judge of the High Court of Anambra State. However, the headquarters of the Anambra State Judiciary has not always been at Awka, it was at Anambra town, Awka South Local Government Area. It was not long after his appointment as the Chief Judge that Hon. Justice A. I. Iguh was elevated as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Subsequently, Honorable Justice G. C. Uyanna became the Chief Judge of Anambra State in 1993, just two (2) years after the state's creation. Upon Hon. Justice G. C. Uyanna's retirement, a new Chief Judge was appointed in person of Hon. Justice Obiora Nwazota who was in the saddle until November 1999.

Honorable Justice G. U. Ononiba became the helmsman of the Judiciary when Hon. Justice Obiora Nwazota retired. The appropriate relocation of the headquarters of the Judiciary was done under Hon. Justice Ononiba. He ensured the present structure; the permanent site was prepared as a befitting seat of the Anambra State Judiciary.

After the retirement of Hon. Justice Ononiba, G. U. Hon. Justice C. J. Okoki was appointed the Chief Judge of Anambra State.

The culture of dynamism continued even when a new Chief Judge was appointed in 2007. The Chief Judge, Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi recorded meaningful progress. Hon. Justice Umegbolu Nri-Ezedi however retired on January 2nd 2008. On January 3rd 2008, the current helmsman who is the Acting Chief Judge of Anambra State, Hon. Justice E. A. Nzegwu, was appointed. He also has demonstrated great judicial powers in the administration of justice in the state.

ORGANISATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Anambra State Judiciary has a total of seven (7) Judicial Divisions nameiy:

1. Awka Judicial Division
2. Onitsha Judicial Division
3. Nnewi Judicial Division
4. Idemili Judicial Division
5. Otuocho Judicial Division
6. Ekwuobia Judicial Division
7. Ihiala Judicial Division

There are also thirteen (13) Magisterial Districts scattered in the different parts of the state. There are also thirty-four (34) Customary Area Courts with a whole of twenty-seven (27) Hon. Judges, thirty-seven (37) Magistrates of different cadres, thirty-four (34) Customary Court Presidents who are qualified Legal Practitioners as well as sixty-eight (68) members of the various Customary Courts.

The number of active judicial and non-judicial officers in Anambra State is a demonstration of how active the judiciary of the state is and how seriously the issue of human development is viewed. This is considered crucial in the continuous search for excellence by the Anambra State Judiciary.

The great deal of improvement in the infrastructural facilities in the Anambra State Judiciary is a pointer to the leadership's preparedness to provide a conducive environment, appropriate equipment and necessary tools to achieve the sole aim of bringing justice to Anambra people. The maturity of the judiciary has been shown by its stability and independence in the face of recent socio-political events in the state. Many other judicial arms would have crumbled under the crises that rocked the state since the beginning of the democratic dispensation. This has made it easy for pressmen to describe the state as a volatile one but the Anambra State Judiciary is still standing solidly on the ground and continues to achieve milestones of success.

The Judiciary of Anambra State, in spite of its young age, boasts of a befitting permanent headquarters in Awka. Added to this, is a modern

Judicial complex which has just been constructed at Nnewi.

Those of the Onitsha and Idemili Judicial Divisions are under construction. The construction of new complex buildings is also being done in various places along with the renovation of all the High Courts in the various Judicial Divisions.

A new High Court Civil Procedure Rules (2006) is now in force in Anambra state. This has helped tremendously in the quick and appropriate dispensation of justice in the state.

This is not an exhaustive outline of the innovative changes in the Anambra State Judiciary, as it is also one of the few states in the country that have their capital votes signed, approved and released 100% while the overhead costs are also released as at and when due.

JUDGES OF THE ANAMBRA HIGH COURT

1. Hon. Justice B. A Nwankwo - Chief Judge
2. Hon. Justice P. A. C. Obidigwe
3. Hon. Justice P.N.C. Umeadi
4. Hon. Justice C. E. Iyizoba
5. Hon. Justice C. O. Nweke
6. Hon. Justice G. N. Nbanugo
7. Hon. Justice F. C. Ofodile
8. Hon. Justice F. C. Nwizu
9. Hon. Justice V. N. Umeh
10. Hon. Justice J. C. Nwadi
11. Hon. Justice E. U. Uzodike
12. Hon. Justice I. Onwuamaegbu
13. Hon. Justice C.E.K. Anigbogu
14. Hon. Justice G. E. Ifeankandu
15. Hon. Justice O. M. Anyachebelu
16. Hon. Justice M. I. Onochie
17. Hon. Justice J. I. Nweze
18. Hon. Justice D. O.C. Amaechina
19. Hon. Justice P. C. Obiora
20. Hon. Justice V. N. Agbata
21. Hon. Justice J. C. Iguh
22. Hon. Justice A. C. Emembolu

23. Hon. Justice G. C. Anulude
24. Hon. Justice E. I. Ogu
25. Hon. Justice A. O. Okuma
26. Hon. Justice H. O. Ozoh

PROFILE OF THE HON. CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Emeka Azubike Nzegwu was born in Onitsha, Onitsha North Local Government Area of Anambra State on the 3rd of June, 1944.

After his primary education, he proceeded to the famous Government College, Umuahia from January 1966-December 1964.

He was admitted to the prestigious University of Nigeria, Nsukka from September 1966-June 1967 and February 1970-June 1972.

The Nigerian Law School was the next from October 1972-June 1973. He went to London for a postgraduate course in Legislative Drafting from September 1975-December 1976.

His Lordship began his career as a State Counsel, from where he rose to become a Director/Legal Draftsman.

His journey up the ladder saw him become the Solicitor-General/Director-General and later, a High Court Judge.

He was the Chairman, Robbery and Firearms Tribunal for Awka as well as Chairman, Plateau State Election Petitions Tribunal before his recent appointment as the Acting Chief Judge, Anambra State.

He has authored and contributed to many Journals and Research papers within and outside the country.

He is a devout Christian who strongly believes in the rule of law and is happily married.



HON. JUSTICE S. S. DARAZO OFR
Chief Judge, Bauchi State.

BAUCHI STATE JUDICIARY

The Bauchi State Judiciary came into being upon creation of the state in 1976 out of the former North-Eastern State. The State Judiciary which is over three (3) decades in existence has had four (4) Chief Judges up till now. They are:

1. The Honourable Justice Muhammad Buba Ardo (Late) who served as a joint Chief Judge of Borno, Bauchi and the old Gongola states
2. Hon. Justice Carly Ashton Piper
3. Hon. Justice Muhammad Abubakar Sambo (Late)
4. Hon. Justice Sabo Suleiman Darazo (OFR) (1991 till date)

The Judiciary has had nineteen (19) High Court Judges with seven (7) of them currently serving as a result of the creation of Gombe State from old Bauchi State in 1996 which led to some of the Judges moving to their home state, Gombe and the fact that many of the others had gone to the great beyond.

However, due to the efficient and conservative structure of the Bauchi State Judiciary, it has only one Judicial Division; the Bauchi Judicial Division and all the Judges are serving within this division. Plans are, however, in the pipeline to create additional Judicial Divisions to ensure a decentralisation of the structure which is aimed at opening other channels of seeking justice for the people.

Bauchi State Judiciary has a total of sixteen (16) Magistrate Courts of various grades – six (6) serving the State Headquarters while the ten (10) others are located in some Local Government Areas. Plans also abound for the creation of additional courts to ensure that there is at least a Magistrate Court in each of the 20 Local Government Areas of the state.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

COMPLETION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH COURT COMPLEX

The Headquarters of the Bauchi State Judiciary is located along Yandoka Road, Bauchi. The High Court Complex was to be built in two (2) phases. Phase 1 is completed and the incumbent administration has given its pledge to ensure the second phase is completed soon. The completion of the second phase is going to ensure the much needed expansion of Court halls and offices within the Court complex. The Bauchi State Government has, along with the construction of the 2nd phase of the High Court Complex, resolved to build Magistrate Courts and houses for Magistrates in the Local Government Areas where such are not in existence.

The existing courts in the state are also being renovated.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE

Computerised Audio/Verbatim Recording Machines have recently been installed in all the eight (8) Court halls of the High Court. This measure is being embraced to bring about a smooth and timely dispensation of justice in the State.

PROVISION OF VEHICLES

The nagging and persistent lack of official and utility vehicles that was being experienced by the state Judiciary has been addressed as brand new vehicles were allocated to the principal officers of the Judiciary. Allocated also along with those are 2 Double Cabin Hilux Pick-up Vans to serve as utility vehicles.

Bauchi State Judiciary has therefore become the envy of many others as there would no more be cases of lack of vehicles to convey inmates to courts from prisons, breakdown of vehicles which lead to adjournment of cases e.t.c.

GENERATION OF POWER

A 500 KVA sound-proof generating set, which would more than adequately cater for the electricity supply needed at the High Court Complex was recently installed. New 60 KVA and 40 KVA generators were also installed in the residence of the Chief Judge and Judges respectively.

EDUCATION UNLIMITED

All requests that have ever been made for the approval of funds for attending conferences, seminars and workshops have never been turned down by the executive arm of government since the advent of this administration. This ensures proper training and re-training as members of staff, Judges and Magistrates will be exposed to a very high standard of the profession since funds, which is the vehicle of such education, is not unavailable.

UPWARD REVIEW OF SALARIES/ALLOWANCES

Salaries and Allowances of Magistrates and Directors were recently reviewed upward while those of non-judicial members of staff from Grade Level 01-15 is currently being looked into by the government of the state and it is expected to come to fruition before the end of the 1st quarter this year.

Likewise, the overhead cost allocated to the Judiciary by the Executive arm has been reviewed upward, this time, by one hundred (100) percent to enhance and improve the quality of dispensation of justice in the state and strengthen the democratic system in Bauchi in particular and Nigeria in general.

Even a partial look at the structure, changes being implemented and achievement of the judiciary would naturally make one want to look at the person at the forefront of all the innovations in the Bauchi State Judiciary and it is no surprise at all that His Lordship, Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo (OFR) is the Chief Judge of Bauchi State.

JUDGES' ROLL CALL

1. The Hon. Justice Sabo Suleimman Darazo (OFR)
2. The Hon. Justice Bala Umar
3. The Hon. Justice Ibrahim Mohammed Zango
4. The Hon. Justice Haruna.M. Tsammani
5. The Hon. Justice Bitrus G.Sanga
6. The Hon. Justice Habibu Idris Shall
7. The Hon. Justice Musa Aliyu Liman
8. The Hon. Justice Rabi Mustapha Katagum

THE PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo is a legal luminary who knows his onions. He was born in Darazo in Darazo Local Government Area of Bauchi State on 29th January, 1946.

Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo had his primary school education at Kobi Primary School, Bauchi from 1954-1957 and moved to Darazo Senior Secondary School and the Provincial Secondary School, Bauchi between 1958-1960 and 1961-1965 respectively.

He then proceeded to the School of Hygiene, Kano in 1966-1967. His quest for more knowledge saw him go to the Ahmadu Bello University for further studies. From there, he obtained a Diploma in Law, Diploma in Islamic Studies and LL.B (Hons.) in 1969, 1971 and 1975 respectively in order to have a solid footing in Islamic Law, Common Law and other aspects of the Law profession.

He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1976 and had his NYSC at the Ministry of Justice, Abeokuta, Ogun State in 1976-1977.

Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo's first contact with the Bauchi State Judiciary (then North-Eastern State) was in 1969 when he served as an Assistant Registrar. The Bauchi State Government appointed him as Senior Magistrate in 1978 and Chief Magistrate in 1980. He

served in that capacity from 1980-1986 as well as the Chief Registrar, Bauchi State Judiciary from 1983-1986.

Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo was called upon by the Bauchi State Government to serve as Commissioner, Ministry of Social Welfare, Land and Survey in 1986 and later, he was transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 1986-1987.

He was appointed to the respectable office of a High Court Judge with the Bauchi State Judiciary in 1987 and served creditably until again, duty called and he was appointed the Chief Judge of the High Court of Justice as well as the Chairman, Judicial Service Commission, Bauchi State, a position he has held till date.

Apart from his normal duty of attending to his court cases and steering and piloting the slip of the Bauchi State Judiciary, Hon. Justice Darazo has, at one time or the other, been called upon to carry out more responsibilities by the National Judicial Council and Bauchi State Government and it is to his credit that he discharged all such duties creditably.

He was the Chairman of the state's Rent Tribunal, 1977-1980; member, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the Gombe Maitatsine Disturbances, May-June, 1985; Chairman, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the Billiri\Kadungo Communal Clashes, December, 1990.

Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo has attended various conferences, seminars and workshops within and outside Nigeria.

He is also the recipient of various awards and member of numerous associations including Distinguished Environmental Health Officers Award by the Professional Association of Environmental Officers of Nigeria (PAEHON); Certificate of Merit Award by the Nigeria Union of Journalists; Certificate of Merit

Award by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Bauchi State Council; Member, World Jurists Association; Life Member, Body of Benchers and was a Member, National Judicial Council. He was in 2006 honoured by the Federal Government with the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR)

Indeed, Hon. Justice S.S. Darazo's intimidating track record in service is that of hardwork, dedication to duty and integrity. However, his greatest legacy to the Judiciary and indeed Bauchi and Nigeria is the restoration of the culture and value of discipline by members of staff of the Judiciary and those in private legal practice.

In the area of private legal practice, it is a well-known fact that punctuality is the watchword of lawyers appearing in both the higher and lower Benches of Bauchi State Judiciary. This became possible because all the High Court Judges and Magistrates in the state have done well by emulating the Chief Judge's punctuality and any Lawyer that comes late to Court or that is unserious knows that he/she does so at the detriment of his or her case. Consequently, the private Bar in Bauchi State is one of the most serious in private practice in Nigeria.



HON. JUSTICE KATE ABIRI
Chief Judge, Bayelsa State.

THE BAYELSA STATE JUDICIARY

THE BEGINNING

Bayelsa State was created out of the old Rivers State on 1st October 1996. This means that the Bayelsa State Judiciary came into being as a result of the states creation exercise of the year 1996.

When the Bayelsa State Judiciary began, there were only six (6) High Court Judges. Hon. Justice K. D. Ungbuku was appointed the Chief Judge while L. M. Boufni (now Hon. Justice L. M. Boufni) was the Chief Registrar.

There were also eight (8) Magistrates of various grades and about thirty-four (34) members of staff of different grades and cadres as supporting staff. An interesting fact about the Bayelsa State Judiciary is that both Hon. Justice K. D. Ungbuku and L. M. Boufni Esq. were serving as the Honourable Chief Judge and Chief Registrar respectively in the old Rivers State before their services were transferred to Bayelsa State following its creation.

The High Court Judges whose services were transferred from Old Rivers State Judiciary to the Bayelsa State Judiciary were:

1. Hon. Justice K. D. Ungbuku
2. Hon. Justice F. F. Tabai
3. Hon. Justice K. S. Sagbe
4. Hon. Justice F. K. C. Peters-Aliman
5. Hon. Justice S. S. Alagoa
6. Hon. Justice E. J. Igoniwari

THE PAST CHIEF JUDGES

1. Hon. Justice K. D. Ungbuku – October 1996 – May 27th 2003
2. Hon. Justice E. J. Igoniwari – May 27th 2003 – May 4th 2007

With a total of three hundred and forty-one (341) members of staff comprising legal and non-legal officers, the Bayeisa State Judiciary is fully set out in the dispensation of Justice in a fair and timely manner devoid of fear or favour to the citizenry. The number of staff, however, was quite inadequate especially in the Administrative section where the Chief Judge had to engage contract officers to provide the needed leverage.

Other departments, however, were not short in supply of capable hands to man the various sections of the Judiciary.

The Bayeisa State Judiciary had, at its inception, three (3) Judicial Divisions which were Brass, Sagbama and Yenagoa Judicial Divisions as well as five (5) Magisterial Districts inherited from the Old Rivers State Judiciary. The customary courts were situated at Akassa, Brass, Ekowe, Kaiama, Sagabama, Ekeremor, Oloibiri and Onopa.

The Bayeisa State Judiciary showed flashes of greatness when within three (3) years of its creation, it appointed two (2) female Magistrates who were in the Old Rivers State and the Chief Registrar as High Court Judges. These appointments came as a result of the versatility of the individuals in question and the vacuum created by the elevation of a Justice to the Court of Appeal and the retirement of another.

As at this moment in her history, the Bayeisa State Judiciary has appointed fourteen (14) other High Court Judges.

THE HIGH COURT JUDGES

1. Hon. Justice Kate Abiri
2. Hon. Justice L. M. Boufimi

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MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL STRIDES

Along with this increase in Judicial Divisions, there has been corresponding increase in not only the Magisterial Districts and courts but also the Customary courts.

1. Oporoma Judicial Division
2. Amassoma Judicial Division
3. Nembe Judicial Division
4. Kaiama Judicial Division
5. Ekeremor Judicial Division
6. Ogbi Judicial Division
7. Brass Judicial Division
8. Sagbama Judicial Division
9. Yenagoa Judicial Division

It is noteworthy that in the last seven (7) years, the state Judiciary has created six (6) additional Divisions, bringing the total number of Judicial Divisions to nine (9) namely:

3. Hon. Justice T. A. Karoye
4. Hon. Justice G. S. Botei
5. Hon. Justice M. A. Ayemieye
6. Hon. Justice N. Aganaba
7. Hon. Justice T. I. Coodia
8. Hon. Justice M. A. A. Adumein
9. Hon. Justice D. A. Ayah
10. Hon. Justice D. E. Adokeme
11. Hon. Justice I. Eradiri
12. Hon. Justice B. M. Ugo
13. Hon. Justice R. A. Ajuwa

The tenure of Honourable Justice K. D. Ungbuku began at the inception of the Bayelsa State Judiciary and ended on 27th May,

2003. One of his major policies was the manpower development he embarked upon from the very beginning.

This saw him employing over three hundred (300) members of staff of various categories and deploying them to the various units of the state's judicial arm and empowering them with the necessary tools to work efficiently. In addition workshops, seminars and lectures were organised from time to time and interestingly, the welfare of the workforce was never toyed with, while the people of the state enjoyed adequate administration of Justice.

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Kate Abiri was born on 13th of January, 1958. She attended Apapa Methodist School in Lagos and proceeded to the famous Government College, Bomadi in Delta State. On the completion of her secondary education in Bomadi, she went on to the University of Jos, from where she obtained her LLB (Hons) in 1983. She attended the Nigerian Law School, Lagos in 1983 and was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar the following year.

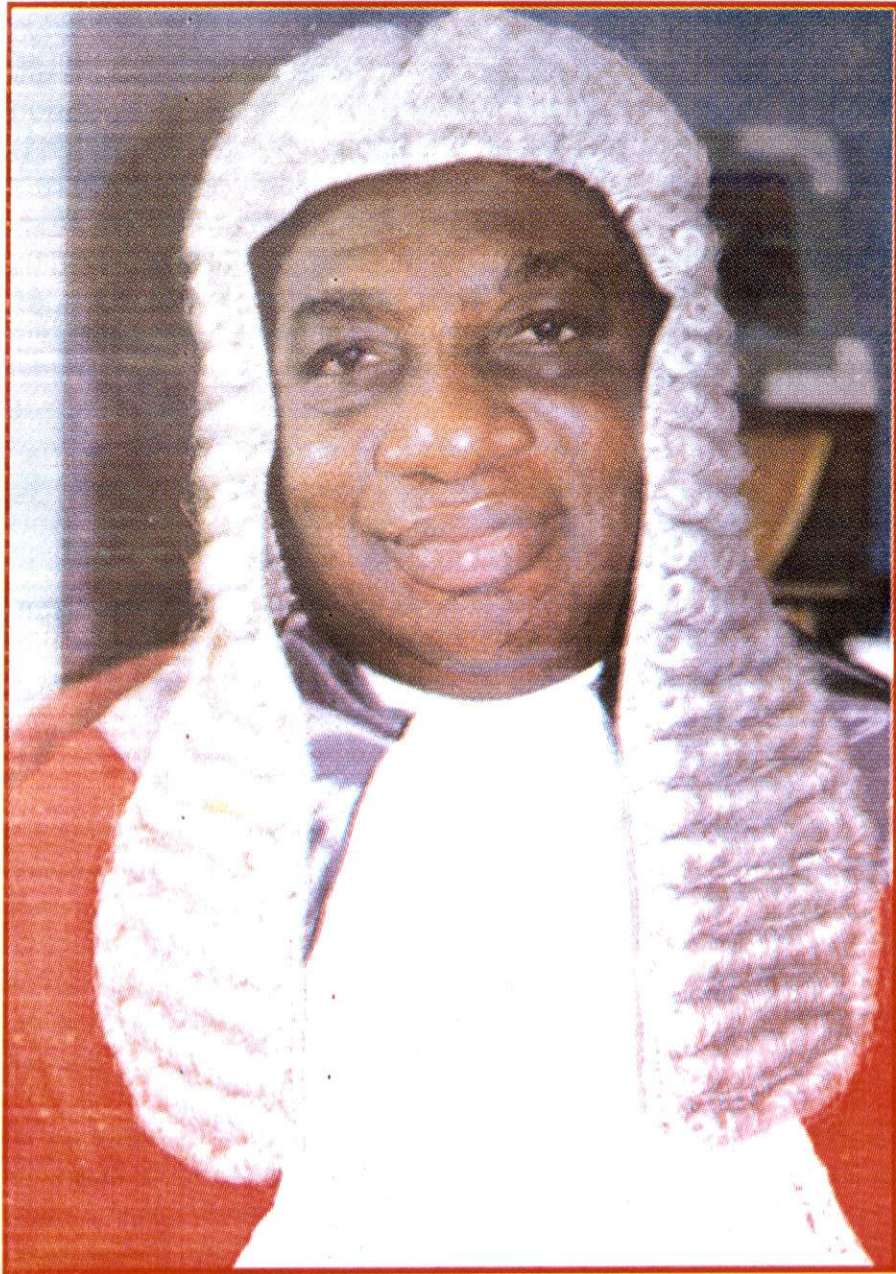
Hon. Justice Kate Abiri kick-started her career as a Principal State Counsel in the then Rivers State Ministry of Justice in 1985. She left for the Bench in 1992 when she was appointed as Chief Magistrate. In a comparatively short period but due to her high level of intelligence, commitment to service and profound ingenuity, she was appointed a High Court Judge in 1997, the first female to be so elevated in the state.

A versatile officer of the Judiciary and worthy model for the womenfolk, she has served on various committees, panels etc and chaired a host of others. She has served variously as a member of the Election Petitions Tribunals in Borno State 1998; Kwara State 1999; Edo State 1999; Imo State 2003 and Jigawa State 2007.

She has equally bagged several awards and honours. She is also the matron of some humanitarian and philanthropic organisations for example, the Boys' Brigade, Yenagoa. She was recognised by the Nigerian Bar Association, Yenagoa branch with the award of the Best Judge of the year 2006, an award that came at a time she had not been appointed as the Chief Judge. She also received the Woman of Distinction Award as the first female High Court Judge in Bayelsa State. She remains abundantly humble and modest in spite of these recognitions and overall achievements in life.

She has devoted over twenty (20) years of her life to the Judiciary and her illustrious career has seen her rise to the top in the Bayelsa State Judiciary.

She is happily married to Mr. Young Patrick Abiri, an Estate Surveyor by profession and they are abundantly blessed with responsible and intelligent children of both sexes. She was sworn in as the 3rd Chief Judge of Bayelsa State on 20th March, 2008. She enjoys reading, swimming and cooking.



HON. JUSTICE I. HWANDE
Chief Judge, Benue State.

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division into four (4) major phases, according to the present Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Iorhemem Hwande, is essential. The phases are that of J. M. Adesiyun which was the foundation stage of the Judiciary from 1976 to 1984; the Alhassan Idoko era which spanned 1984-1999 and the Hon. Justice Terna U. Fefa Puusu era. The current era is that of Hon. Justice Hwande and it began in April 6th, 2006.

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS

From the humble beginning as a touring court in 1973, the Benue State Judiciary has come a long way indeed. Today, it boasts of a total of fourteen (14) Judges of the High Court, five (5) Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal, thirty-three (33) Magistrate Courts, twenty-five (25) Upper Area Courts and fifty-nine (59) Grade I Area Courts. The expansion in manpower and infrastructural facilities are not mean achievements either.

Plans are on ground to increase the number of Judges in the Judiciary and a Bill is already before the Benue State House of Assembly for its ratification.

The Benue State Judiciary was perhaps, the first state in the three (3) geo-political zones of the Northern part of the country to appoint qualified Legal Practitioners to man its upper Area Courts and some Grade I Area Courts.

The Benue State Judiciary also phased out the Grade II Area Courts and upgraded them to Grade I Area Courts. Plans are on to appoint more Legal Practitioners to man the Area Courts so that the Benue people would have access to qualitative adjudication of justice.

The symbiotic relationship that exists between the Bench and Bar and other stakeholders is another major achievement of the Benue

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State Judiciary. This has made the onerous task of justice administration easy and fulfilling. To further cement this cordial and symbiotic relationship, a meeting between the Bench and Bar has been instituted in order to open a channel of cross-fertilization of ideas, a development that would further improve the smooth administration of justice in the state.

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No judicial arm of any state is worth its onions until its judgments are adjudged to be considerably satisfying of all constitutional criteria and ethical standards. This is the foundation on which the Benue State Judiciary is built. This is the reason the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and other courts in the country cite the judgments of this jurisdiction. This has become the norm and it lends credence to the fact that abundance of Judges with intellectual prowess, vibrancy and total commitment to qualitative judicial system abound in the state.

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The Benue State Judiciary has also been of tremendous help and service to other states and the Federal Courts.

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Hon. Justices S. U. Onu and A. I. Katsina-Alu who are now Justices of the Supreme Court were products of the Benue State Judiciary. At the Court of Appeal, Justices Ogebe and A. J. Ikongbeh (who left for the other side of existence last year while in active service) held forth. Justice Ogebe is presently a Justice of the Supreme Court. The Federal High Court is not left out as Hon. Justices J. T. Isoho, S. J. Adah and D. Abutu were also products of the Benue State Judiciary and they continue to do great exploits.

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The case of Hon. Justice Umaru Eri who is the present Chief Judge of Kogi State is also worthy of mention because he began his career in the Benue State Judiciary.

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The State Government has constructed Judges' Quarters in Makurdi to take care of the accommodation needs of the judicial

officers in the area. Each of the four (4) bedroom duplexes are of a high standard, well furnished with a stand-by generator that provides power supply in the face of incessant power failure.

Plans are also on ground to attract the establishment of a Court of Appeal in Makurdi with the state government having earmarked a place for the Court hall and accommodation of the Justices who will be posted there.

The state Government is working in tandem with the state Judiciary. It has recently improved the condition of service of members of the Judicial Service Commission to be at par with other statutory commissions in the state.

The structural changes which are credited to the foresight and intelligence of Late Hon. Justice Alhassan Idoko include the enactment of the now-repealed Decree No. 43 of 1988, which introduced the civil service reforms. These reforms resulted into the proper restructuring of the Benue State Judiciary into five (5) departments namely:

1. Litigation
2. Inspectorate and Area Courts
3. Finance and Supplies
4. Planning, Research and statistics, and
5. Administration.

His tenure also sounded the warning of stop-or-be-disgraced to all categories of members of staff as regards corruption in the judicial system. Infact, he had cause to deploy a Judge and another member from the Bench over corrupt tendencies.

Hon. Justice Alhassan Idoko described them as those who assassinate rather than do justice to the cases brought before them. Court halls, residential apartments e.t.c. were also

constructed during the period among other notable achievements by his successors.

In about two (2) years since the assumption of Hon. Justice Iorhemen Hwande, there have been great transformations in the Benue State Judiciary. The headquarters of the Judiciary has been hooked to the information super highway in order to be able to access information from all corners of the global village. This was done with the internet connection of the High Court Complex. The Legal Year was also celebrated for the second time in 2006 amidst pomp and pageantry as the crowd and indeed all guests witnessed the presentation of brand new cars to the Judges of the Benue State High Court and the Customary Court of Appeal.

This is not an exhaustive account of the landmark achievements and historically significant records of the Benue State Judiciary.

Any attempt at documenting all would mean preparing for a special publication. The Benue State Judiciary has come a long way, no doubt it has carved a niche for itself and asserted itself as a vibrant, dominant chapter of the judicial arm of government in the Nigerian nation.

The modest growth, achievements, challenges and prospects are documented in a paper presented at the event of a lecture organised by the Faculty of Law, Benue State University, Makurdi in 2007 by his Lordship, Hon. Justice Iorheme Hwande which was duly published by the faculty. The title is: "The Benue State Judiciary in the 21st Century: Problems and Prospects."

The Chief Judges since the establishment of the Benue State Judiciary are listed below:

CHIEF JUDGES SINCE THE BEGINNING

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice J.M. Adesiyun | 1976-1984 |
| 2. | Hon. Justice Alhassan Idoko | 1984-1999 |
| 3. | Hon. Justice Terna U. Fefa Puusu | 1999-2006 |
| 4. | Hon. Justice Iorheme Hwande | 2006-date |

LIST OF SITTING JUDGES

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice Iorhemmen Hwande | Chief Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice J.S. Ikyegh | Judge |
| 3. | Hon. Justice A.O. Onum | Judge |
| 4. | Hon. Justice J.T. Tur | Judge |
| 5. | Hon. Justice A. Kaka'an | Judge |
| 6. | Hon. Justice E.N. Kpojime | Judge |
| 7. | Hon. Justice S.J. Ogirij | Judge |
| 8. | Hon. Justice S.O. Itodo | Judge |
| 9. | Hon. Justice M.A. Ikpambese | Judge |
| 10. | Hon. Justice A.K. Baak | Judge |
| 11. | Hon. Justice T.A. Igoche | Judge |
| 12. | Hon. Justice W.I. Kpochi | Judge |
| 13. | Hon. Justice T.A. Akume | Judge |

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

His Lordship, Hon. Justice Iorhemmen Hwande was born in Gbem-Tsambe, Vandeikya Local Government Area of Benue State on the 15th December, 1952 to the Hwande family.

He began his early educational sojourn at Nkst Primary School, Mbaakon from 1960-1966.

Thereafter, he went to G.S.S, Otukpo and later, G.S.S, Kuru from 1972-1973, from where he obtained his 'A' level papers.

He later attended the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, from where he graduated in 1977 with an LL.B (Hons) degree.

He went for the gladiators' contest at the Nigerian Law School and as a result of his success; he was called to the Nigerian Bar on July 8th 1978.

His fulfilling career, spanning over three (3) decades is a reflection of his intellect, commitment and hardworks which began at the Ministry of Justice, Port-Harcourt in 1978. By the following year, he was made a Magistrate in the Benue State Judiciary. He eventually rose to the post of Chief Magistrate in 1986. In February, 1986, he was appointed the Chief Registrar, Benue State Judiciary and was in the saddle until his elevation to the High Court on the 20th February, 1989. It was while serving meritoriously here that he was appointed the Chief Judge in 2006 probably to crown a long span of meritorious service to the Judiciary on one hand and to his fatherland on the other.

He has also served variously as the Chairman, Commission of Inquiry on Benue State Landed Properties Outside Benue State in 1991; Chairman, Commission of Inquiry into Otukpo Local Government administration in 1994; Chairman, Election Petitions Tribunal in Osun State in 1997 and Member, Election Petitions Tribunal in Lagos State for 2003, Rivers State for 2004 and Cross River State for 2004, among others.

He has attended and participated in many judicial seminars and workshops within and outside the country from 1986 to date.

He has traveled to many places which include Britain, Israel, Germany, Ukraine and Mexico.

His Lordship is a committed Christian and he is happily married to Mrs. Esther Iember Hwande and they are blessed with responsible and resourceful children.



HON. JUSTICE ROSALINE P. I. BOZIMO
Chief Judge, Delta State.

THE DELTA STATE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is one of the three arms of Government in Nigeria as it is in many other countries of the world. In Nigeria, either at the federal or state level, the significance of the Judiciary is underscored by the fact that it is the most enduring and essential arm government. This explains why it remains, either under a military regime or civilian democratic dispensation as the hope of the common man as well as the most stable arm of government. The history of the Delta State Judiciary is vital to the history of the Nigerian Judiciary vis a vis the political and constitutional development of Nigeria. This has to do with the history of the courts from the advent of the Colonial British Administration in Nigeria.

Before the year 1862, there was only one court known as Court of Equity. It was only a commercial court.

However, when a British Protectorate was proclaimed over the "Niger District" in 1885, this changed because the Royal Niger Company was required to administer justice to the different people of the territories and thereby, put in place a system of judicial administration. This system created different District Agents whose decisions could be appealed at the court of an overall supreme judicial officer who was vested with such powers. These cases were mainly of customs, revenue questions, complete with all civil suits. A court of Justice was accordingly established at Asaba, which is, today, the capital of Delta State and the headquarters of the Delta State Judiciary.

The year 1899 was the time the Southern Nigeria Protectorate was formed and this brought the territories of the Royal Niger Company to the South under the decision powered by the British Order-in-Council of 1899 and it came into effect on 1st January, 1900. This led to the transformation into Nigeria later but then, the arrangement had the High Commissioner having powers to make

laws which were known as "proclamations". This brought into effect the Supreme Court of Southern Nigeria which had the entire Southern Nigeria as its area of jurisdiction.

Because of the indirect rule of the British Government, the laws applied were the customary laws of the people before the advent of the English courts and this continued until sometime around 1863 when the main body of English laws was introduced via Ordinance No. 4 of 1876. The Common Law, the Doctrine of Equity and the Statute of General Application which were in force in England were brought in on 24th July, 1874. These laws were proclaimed to be in force within the jurisdiction of the court in the Lagos Colony and the adjacent territories. The expansion of the British authority in the hinterland and the amalgamation of Northern & Southern Nigeria in 1914 expanded the court's jurisdiction. Then, the Supreme Court proclaimed with the Ordinance of 1914 the applicable laws in the Supreme Court

Three regions were created in Nigeria and these were: the Eastern Region, Western Region and the Northern Region. Each of the three regions was empowered by the constitution to establish its regional Legislature and Judiciary. Lagos was also empowered to have its own legislative and judicial arms.

This had to change when the Midwestern Region was carved out of the former Western Region, on 27th May, 1963. This was also altered when it was re-designated as the Midwestern State and again changed to Bendel State in February, 1976.

It all came to a head when Edo and Delta States were created out of the defunct Bendel State in 1991. This marked the beginning of Delta State as well as the Delta State Judiciary.

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The Delta State Judiciary renders very important services to the government and people of Delta State, the people of Nigeria and all and sundry. The crux of the services is the dispensation of justice and two categories of government functionaries are charged with the responsibility of dispensation of justice. The first category is known as Judicial officers while the other are supporting members of staff known as non-judicial officers. The Judicial officers derive their power from section 272 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1991 while the Court employees or non-judicial members of staff are those who run the offices, courts and all other cases of administration on behalf of the judicial officers.

The Delta State Judiciary is a pace-setter of scholastic enhancement and innovative tendencies. The Delta State Judiciary is one of those, albeit a few of them, who have statements of mission and vision.

The Judiciary of Delta State considers itself accordingly as one with a very special position and therefore, saddled with an important assignment. It places the strengthening of the integrity & capacity of the Judiciary as its major burden and it has a systematic strategy for achieving the purpose. A reflection of this is enshrined in its policy statement which has the semantic implication that effective administration of justice would bring about equity, transparency and fairness and thereby achieve the most important of the Millennium Development Goals –the eradication of poverty – which would create a springboard for all round development in Delta State. As an arm of government that desires growth and development, it sees as its vision the expeditious and profoundly extraordinary capacity to dispense justice devoid of bias, fear or favour.

The organisation of the Delta State Judiciary has the High Court at the apex, followed by the Customary Court of Appeal. The Judicial Service Commission of the state is also on ground.

The establishment of the High Court is mandatory in every state in Nigeria according to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, section 270. Section 275 however, spells as optional the establishment of a Sharia Court of Appeal in any state that requires it.

In the Delta State Judicial structure, the Chief Judge is the head of the Judiciary in the state. He holds his office in three capacities:

1. As the Chief Executive of the High Court of the State;
2. As the Chief Judicial Officer of the State; and
3. As the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission and Head of the state's judicial service.

The Chief Registrar is the administrative Head of the State High Court as well as the Chief Accounting Officer of the court, under the supervision of the Chief Judge. The Chief Registrar's office, a vital unit in the state judiciary, has a number of departments under it. These are:

- I. Department of Administration/ Personnel Management
- ii. Department of Finance and Accounts
- iii. Department of Planning, Research and Statistics
- iv. Department of Probate/Administration of Estate
- v. Department of Litigation/Legal Research
- vi. Department of Library Services
- vii. Department of Public Relations and Protocol.

Apart from this, there are a total of nineteen (19) Judicial Divisions and a total of thirty-four (34) High Courts and a total of forty-six (46) Magisterial Districts with a plethora of Magistrate Courts scattered across the state. There exist also about seven (7) Revenue Courts in the Delta State Judiciary.

The staggering number of High Courts, Magisterial Districts and Judicial Divisions in the Delta State Judiciary shows that Delta State is sure living up to its appellation of the Big Heart, putting under its feet what, in spite of its relatively few years of existence, some so-called bigger, richer and older states cannot undertake

LIST OF DELTA STATE CHIEF JUDGES FROM THE CREATION OF THE HIGH COURT TILL DATE

1. Hon. Justice J. O. Akpovi (August 1991 – October 1993)
2. Hon. Justice J. Omo-Agege (March 1994 – December, 1998)
3. Hon. Justice M.U.C. Odita (December 1998 – December, 2000)
4. Hon. Justice M. A. Okungbowa (November, 2001 – March 2003) and
5. Hon. Justice R. P. I. Bozimo (March 2003 till Date)

About the Delta State High Court:

The Delta State High Court came into being on 27th August, 1991 on the creation of the state by the States (Creation and Traditional Provision) (No. 2) Decree No. 41 of 1991.

There are 25 divisions of the Court today. This is so because each local government area in the state is a constituted division of the High Court. The actual number of Judges\courts in each division varies according to workload and need.

JUDGES OF THE DELTA STATE JUDICIARY

1. Hon. Justice R.P.I. Bozimo (Mrs.)
2. Hon. Justice Z.A. Smith
3. Hon. Justice S.A. Echiwario
4. Hon. Justice T.C. Makwe
5. Hon. Justice M. Umukoro

6. Hon. Justice E.U. Akporido
7. Hon. Justice R.N. Pemu (Mrs.)
8. Hon. Justice P.M. Okoh
9. Hon. Justice T.O. Draï
10. Hon. Justice P.O. Onajite-Kuejubola (Mrs.)
11. Hon. Justice G.B. Briki-Okolosi
12. Hon. Justice S.C. Oseji
13. Hon. Justice F.O. Ohwo
14. Hon. Justice G.E. Akperi (Mrs.)
15. Hon. Justice Odiete-Georgemann(Mrs.)
16. Hon. Justice P.J.O. Anigboro
17. Hon. Justice D.C. Maidoh
18. Hon. Justice K.O. Okpu
19. Hon. Justice I.E. Okogwu
20. Hon. Justice C.O. Ogisi (Mrs.)
21. Hon. Justice F.O. Oho
22. Hon. Justice G.E. Gbemre
23. Hon. Justice A.O. Akpovi
24. Hon. Justice A.A. Onojcvwo
25. Hon. Justice Ebuoweï Tobï
26. Hon. Justice A. Omamogho
27. Hon. Justice P.N. Obanor (Mrs.)
28. Hon. Justice C.E. Acielefu (Mrs.)
29. Hon. Justice E.I. Oritsejafor
30. Hon. Justice F.N. Osadebay-Akpunonu (Mrs.)

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Rosaline Patricia Irerefe Bozimo was born to the family of Late Chief Odeli Ofoluwa of Udu Local Government Area of Delta on 1st January, 1946. She began her elementary education at Convent School, Warri from where she went on to St Maria Goretti Grammar School, Benin City for her secondary education and finished in flying colours.

She had her higher education at Urhobo College, Effurun where she shone in all aspects of education.

She gained admission in September, 1970 to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where she obtained a degree in Law. She graduated from the University in 1973, winning the Nuhu Usman Prize for her brilliance as the best final year student in Jurisprudence. She proceeded to the Nigerian Law School and was subsequently called to the Bar in 1974.

She began her working career in Enugu and Onitsha in the then East-Central State where she went for her NYSC, after which she began her private legal practice as a founding partner of the law firm of Broderick Bozimo & Co., with her husband, Alaowel Broderick Bozimo.

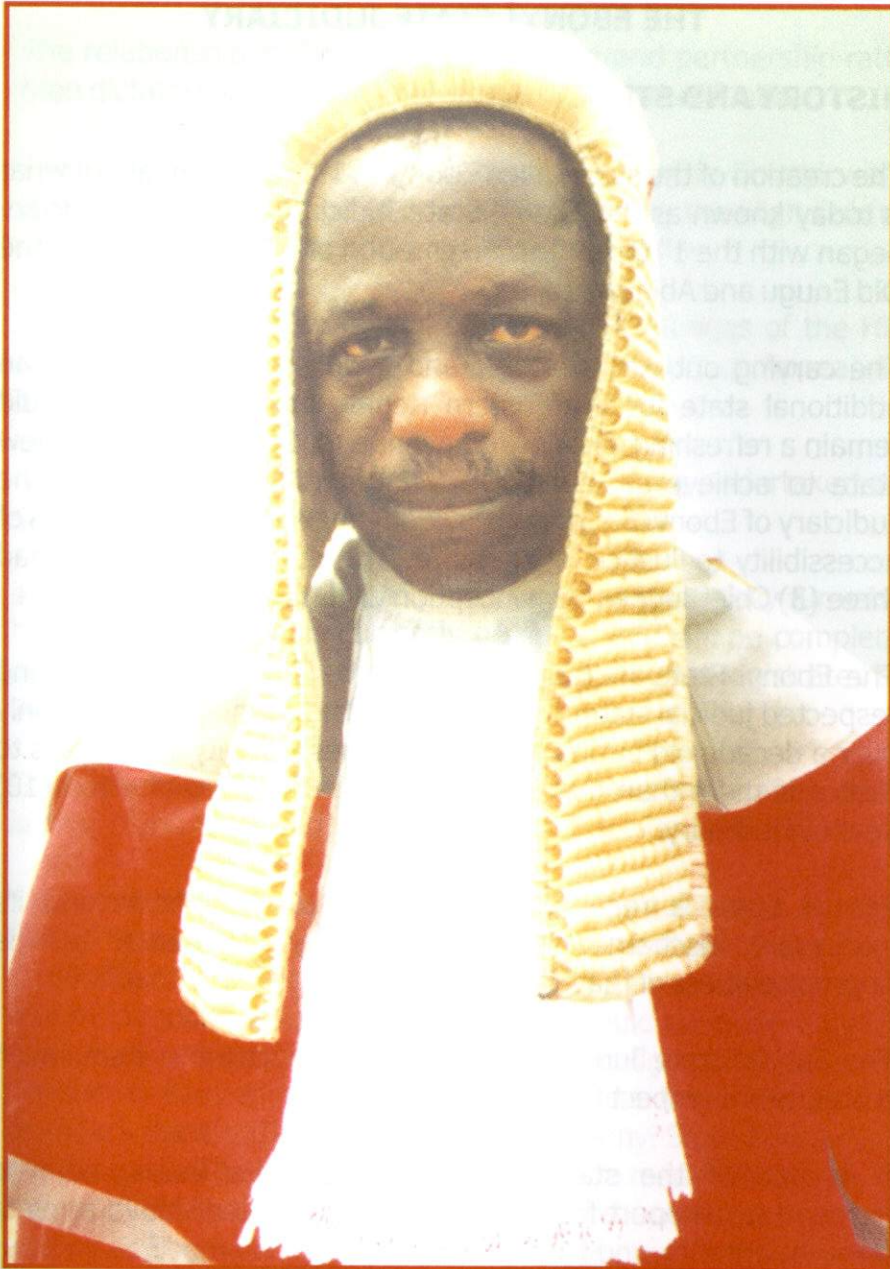
She was appointed a Magistrate Grade II in the Judiciary of the defunct Bendel State as a result of her distinguished private practice. She went back to private practice between 1978 and 1983. Her monumental success led to her recall to the Bench as a Magistrate Grade II with effect from 13th December, 1983, from where she rose to the post of Chief Magistrate Grade I. She was appointed the Deputy Chief Registrar, a post she held until 1991 when Edo and Delta states were carved out of the defunct Bendel State.

Following the creation of Delta State, she was made the first Chairperson of the Tenders Board of the High Court of Delta State. She also became the first Chief Registrar of the Delta State Judiciary in September 1991. Her elevation as a High Court Judge came on the 6th of December the same year.

Hon. Justice Bozimo's sterling qualities continued to show and in recognition of that, the Military Administrator then, Col. Bassej Asuquo appointed her Chairperson of the Armed Robbery and

Firearms Tribunal, Effurun, Delta State. Shortly after this, her ingenuity and astuteness was sought as she also chaired the Failed Banks Tribunal, Enugu zone. Subsequently, she served as the Administrative Judge of Effurun, Ughelli and later, Warri Judicial Divisions of Delta State.

Her appointment as the Chief Judge of Delta State took effect from April 3rd, 2003. She remains accessible to all and is still an active member of several professional bodies including National Association of Women Judges and Nigerian Institute of Management Auditors. She is usually seen as a personification of meekness, justice and kindness. Indeed, she performs her roles with finesse and a rare show of magnanimity. No wonder she is popularly called Mummy by all. A well-traveled, generous, hardworking, accomplished and trail-blazing woman, Hon. Justice Rosaline Bozimo is a devout Christian, devoted wife and mother.



HON. JUSTICE A. N. NWANKWO
Chief Judge, Ebonyi State.

THE EBONYI STATE JUDICIARY

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

The creation of the state called Ebonyi in 1996 brought about what is today known as the Ebonyi State Judiciary. The state judiciary began with the 1st October 1996 creation of Ebonyi State from the Old Enugu and Abia states.

The carving out was strategic and it does not only provide an additional state for the Eastern Region of those days but did remain a refreshing and desired avenue for the people of the new state to achieve sustainable development in all sections. The Judiciary of Ebonyi State has provided the answer to the prayers of accessibility to Justice in the state. The State Judiciary has had three (3) Chief Judges from inception till date.

The Ebonyi State Judiciary is one of the highly performing and respected judicial states in the whole of the country. It is truly only over a decade old but its pursuit of fairness, equity and access to justice is more than that which would be required of a ten (10) year old judiciary.

Ebonyi State is regarded as the Salt of the Nation and its exemplary discharge of duties has lent credence to the appropriateness of that appellation.

The Ebonyi State Judiciary has a strong structural system which has earned it respect from far and near.

It is one of the states that has, over the years, enjoyed tremendous support from the Executive and Legislative arms of government.

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The relationship is that of mutual respect and partnership rather than dictatorship, abuse of powers or starvation of funds.

There are a total of four (4) Judicial Divisions in Ebonyi with a respectable assemblage of courts ranging from the High Court to Customary Courts of Appeal and Magistrate Courts.

These are manned by a total of eleven (11) Judges of the High Court, four (4) Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal and nineteen (19) Magistrates.

Reforms in the Ebonyi State Judiciary are being undertaken and gradually, the results are becoming more visible.

The building of an adequately structured and tastefully furnished High Court complex is currently going on and will be completed anytime from now. The welfare of the Judges and Magistrates are taken seriously.

This is the reason there is an evidently high level of comfort, which is even being improved, for all Judicial and non-Judicial officers.

The issue of manpower development is central to the belief in Ebonyi State Judiciary that a trained and empowered official would be confident in passing judgment based on their merits and not for fear of favour. This is because he or she would have the requisite expertise, adequate measure of knowledge and relatively conducive environment. This point explains the never ending landmark decisions emanating from the Ebonyi State Judiciary on regular basis. These reforms are tailored with ready-made ease for the people to be able to get justice anywhere, anyday and anytime as long as Ebonyi State is concerned. The Ebonyi State Judiciary is headed by his Lordship, Hon. Justice Aloy Nweke Nwankwo.

LIST OF CHIEF JUDGES

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Justice Edward Isu-Ama | - | 1996 – 2000 |
| 2. Hon. Justice Paul Obi Elechi | - | 2000 – 2003 |
| 3. Hon. Justice Aloy Nweke Nwankwo | - | 2003 – till date |

THE HIGH COURT JUDGES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hon. Justice A.N. Nwankwo | Chief Judge |
| 2. Hon. Justice P.O. Elechi | Judge |
| 3. Hon. Justice Ede Nwali | Judge |
| 4. Hon. Justice E.E. Odanwu | Judge |
| 5. Hon. Justice F.C. Inya-Agha | Judge |
| 6. Hon. Justice Eze Udu | Judge |
| 7. Hon. Justice A.A. Nwaigwe | Judge |
| 8. Hon. Justice E.A. Ngene | Judge |
| 9. Hon. Justice Obande F. Ogbuinya | Judge |
| 10. Hon. Justice H.A. Njoku | Judge |
| 11. Hon. Justice B.A.N. Ogbu | Judge. |

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE, EBONYI STATE JUDICIARY

Honourable Justice Aloy Nweke Nwankwo was born in Ezzama, Ezza-South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State on the 14th of July, 1954.

He is a thorough legal expert who believes in leading by example and pointing the torch of leadership for people to follow.

He began his educational pilgrimage at Ezza High School, Amuzu, Ezza South in 1970 and he left in 1974, after obtaining his WASC Certificate. He continued to search for an avenue to quench his thirst for education and got admitted to St. Augustine's Grammar School, Nkwere, Imo State from 1974-1976.

He pressed on to the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) Ile Ife for his LLB (Hons), which he obtained in 1982 and proceeded to the Nigerian Law School, Lagos from 1982-1983. His call to Bar was consequently on the 8th day of July, 1983.

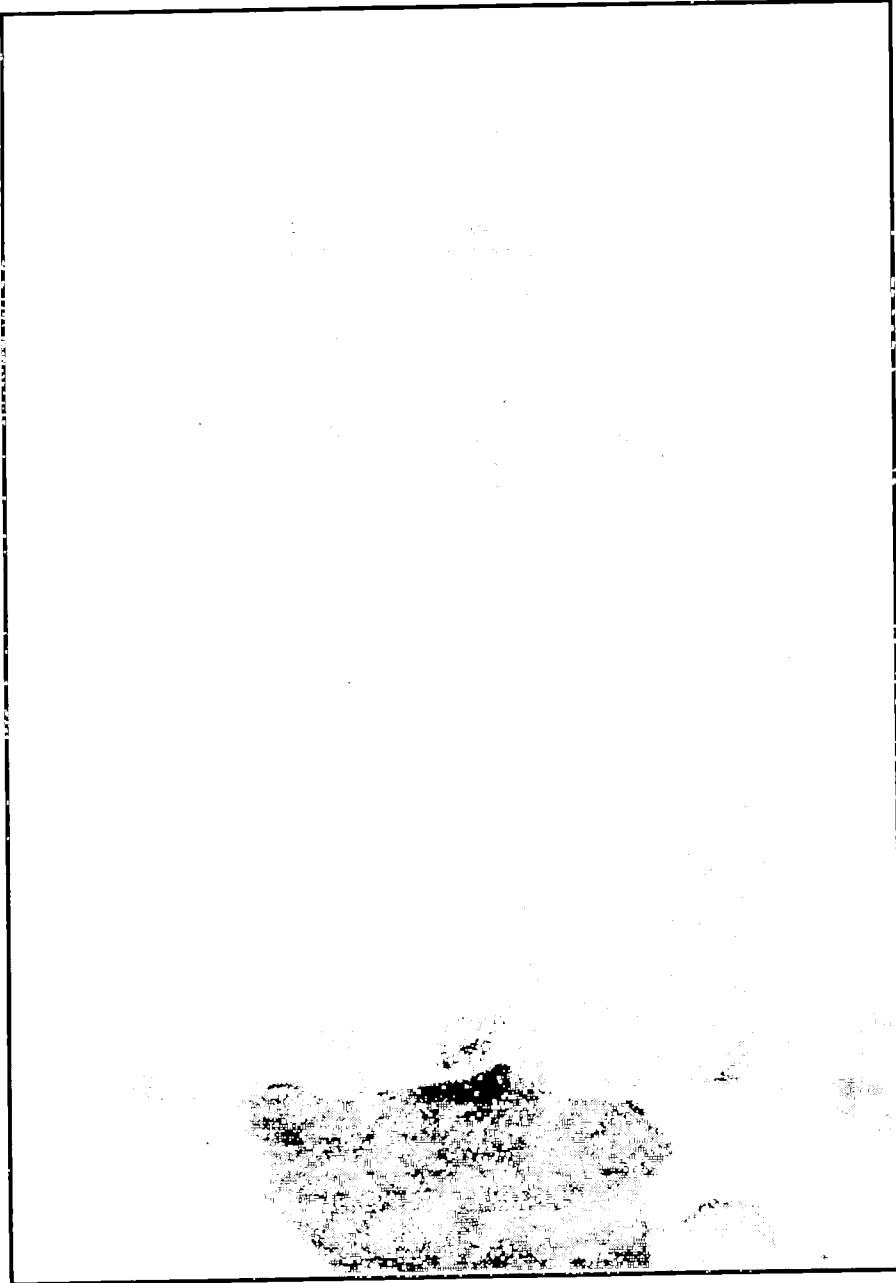
His work experience began at the Police Headquarters in Enugu from 1983-1984 which was his primary assignment post, during the compulsory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

He joined Mogboh Ibik & Co, a firm of Solicitors at 6, Chime Avenue, New Haven, Enugu, where he practiced from 1984 until 1990 when he founded his own law firm and was the Principal Partner, Aloy Nwankwo & Co Solicitors (Ezekuma Chambers at 32, Chime Avenue, New Haven, Enugu).

He was appointed into the office of the Honourable Chief Judge, Ebonyi State on the 10th January, 2005, a position he has held till date. Prior to that elevation, he had held numerous judicial and extra-judicial positions among which are as: Member, Governing Council, Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu from 1988-1992; Member, Constituent Assembly (1988-1989); Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Old Enugu State on Rural Development (1992-1993); High Court Judge (1995-2003); Member, National Judicial Council (NJC) from October 2006 till date among others. He was appointed the Chief Judge in 2006.

He is a widely-traveled man who has attended various conferences within the state, locally and internationally. He is an authority on legal issues as well as a frontline member of the Law Profession. His dynamism can be seen in the gradual but quiet transformations being witnessed in the Ebonyi State Judiciary.

The astute legal icon is happily married with high-flying children.



HON. JUSTICE MICHAEL I. EDOKPAYI
Chief Judge, Edo State.

The Edo State is unique in its office edifices has over the and rancorous outstanding series of intriguing a

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EDO STATE JUDICIARY

The Edo State Judiciary both in structures and organisation is unique in many respects. Apart from the imposing and gigantic office edifice on Sapele Road, Benin City, the Edo State Judiciary has over the years not only become a rock-solid structure, peaceful and rancour-free, it is one of the most crisis-free institutions and outstanding Judicial arms in the country. However, it went through series of challenges, though the history of its creation is as intriguing as it's interesting.

The Edo State Judiciary began in the year 1963 when the then Benin and Delta Provinces were amalgamated into a single entity known as the Midwest Region under the 1962 Federal Republic Constitution. As a result, there came to be the Judiciary of the Midwest Region and the first Chief Justice was Hon. Justice S.P. Thomas.

The Midwest Judiciary was faced with daunting challenges, principal among which were the lack of basic infrastructure, paucity of funds and inadequate manpower. It was quite a harrowing and agonising period for the Judiciary at the beginning. The pioneer members of staff were selfless, dogged, determined as well as ingenious with the meager and largely insufficient facilities on ground. They were able to overcome these seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The efforts and support of the then Western Region Government is also worthy of mention. These immense contributions helped the growth of the Judiciary. With a relentlessly visionary and futuristic leadership, the erection of a befitting High Court complex was embarked upon and they came up with an edifice that is today adjudged as not only one of the most spacious and imposing but one of the best.

However, the tranquil setting was disturbed in 1976 when, due to the states' creation exercise by the Federal Military Government, the Midwest Region was renamed Bendel State - a combination of the names: Benin and Delta. Consequent upon this, the Midwest Judiciary acquired a new name, Bendel State Judiciary. This arrangement seemed to suit the judicial arm because it thrived immensely during the period and the foundation for its eventual greatness was laid.

The final exercise which brought the state Judiciary to its present destination and name was carried out in 1991 when more states were created. Edo and Delta States were carved out of the Old Bendel State and since then, the Edo State Judiciary has assumed a tremendously positive and efficient dimension. The first indigenous Chief Judge in Edo State, Hon. Justice Jacob O. Akhigbe was appointed as the helmsman to reflect the industrious, unbending and dynamic character of the Edo People.

That the Edo State Judiciary has come a long way is not in doubt, so also is the fact that it has never lacked purposeful, competent and abundantly able leaders. Its landmark judgments reverberate in the whole of the Niger-Delta Region and beyond.

The Edo State Judiciary has been lucky to have a constant supply of brilliant leaders, courageous administrators and decisive individuals.

LIST OF CHIEF JUDGES FROM INCEPTION

1. Hon. Justice Stephen Peter J. Thomas
2. Hon. Justice Chukwunweike Idigbe
3. Hon. Justice M.A. Begho
4. Hon. Justice V.E. Ovie-Whisky
5. Hon. Justice E.A. Ekeruche
6. Hon. Justice J.A.P. Oki, OON

7. Hon. Justice J.O. Akpoyi
8. Hon. Justice J.O. Akhigbe
9. Hon. Justice C.A.R. Momoh
10. Hon. Justice A.O. Oni-Okpaku (Mrs)
11. Hon. Justice Michael Edokpayi

THE STRUCTURE AND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Edo State Judiciary has come a long way from the state it was after the several transformations and the eventual creation of Edo State from the haphazard and lopsided structure of the 1960's – 1970s. It now has a standardized and well-arranged structure. There are sixteen (16) Judicial Divisions with eleven (11) of them competently manned and a total of twenty-four (24) Judges including the Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Micheal I. Edokpayi.

The High Court was extensively renovated recently while four (4) Ultra Modern High Courts and Magistrate Courts were erected in Okada, Uromi, Auchi and Fugar. The installation of computers in all the High Courts was also done while the salaries of Magistrates, Area Court Presidents and other judicial workers were greatly enhanced.

The Edo State Judiciary added to its list of achievements and remarkable feats when the Chief Judge instituted an initiative through which deserving members of staff, be it judicial or non-judicial, will henceforth be honoured with awards of excellence. This is unprecedented in the annals of the history of the Edo State Judiciary.

This is even more remarkable when we take note of the nature of the award. It is not designed to be beyond the reach of any category of staff, either senior or junior; if you deserve it, you will get it.

Recently also, in keeping with the dictates of justice, equity and rule of law, His Lordship, the Chief Judge approved the release of thirty-one (31) prison inmates. This was done in conjunction with members of the Administration of Justice Committee which has visited the prison formations in the state. This included the release of ten (10) inmates from Oko Prisons, Six (6) from Central Prisons, Benin, two (2) from Ubiaja Prisons and two (2) juveniles from the Children Remand Home, Ugbekun.

For the remarkable steps which are aimed at the total development of the Edo State Judiciary, good service delivery and dispensation of justice in a timely and sound manner, encomiums have poured in from far and wide. The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) South-South led by its Chairman, Apostle J.D. Numbere, Deputy Controller-General, Prisons, Mr. Jinge and a team of prison officers, the Nigerian Bar Association, Benin Branch led by its Chairman, Solomon Odiase, Esq., Commissioner of Police, Edo State, the Legal Aid Council led by its Chairman, Mr. Olorogun K. Ogbaje and the Forum of Nigerian Women in Politics led by Mrs. E.O. Ijeoma are some of the bodies that have commended the Edo State Judiciary under the able leadership of Hon. Justice M.I. Edokpayi. The Students' Union Government of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma has launched an Essay competition in honour of the Chief Judge

THE JUDGES OF EDO HIGH COURT

1. Hon. Justice M.I. Edokpayi - Chief Judge
2. Hon. Justice D.E. Hayble
3. Hon. Justice V. Omage
4. Hon. Justice C.O. Idahosa
5. Hon. Justice C.A.R. Momoh
6. Hon. Justice M.O. Oyanna
7. Hon. Justice R.I. Amaize
8. Hon. Justice Tinu A. Wilson
9. Hon. Justice E.F. Ikponwen

10. Hon. Justice A.N. Ehigiamusoe
11. Hon. Justice Y. Itua
12. Hon. Justice L.V. Ojeaga
13. Hon. Justice F.O. Akinbami
14. Hon. Justice E.A. Edigin
15. Hon. Justice J.A. Osadiaye
16. Hon. Justice S.O. Oigbokie
17. Hon. Justice F. S. Erhonsele
18. Hon. Justice J.I. Aoha
19. Hon. Justice M. O. Ighodalo
20. Hon. Justice D.I. Okungbowa
21. Hon. Justice P.I. Imodembe
22. Hon. Justice A.E. Eruaga
23. Hon. Justice E. Ikponmwonba
24. Hon. Justice A.N. Erabor
25. Hon. Justice E.O. Ahamioje
26. Hon. Justice G.O. Imadegbelo
27. Hon. Justice J.A. Oyakhilome
28. Hon. Justice I.U. Erameh
29. Hon. Justice H.A. Courage Ogbemor.

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

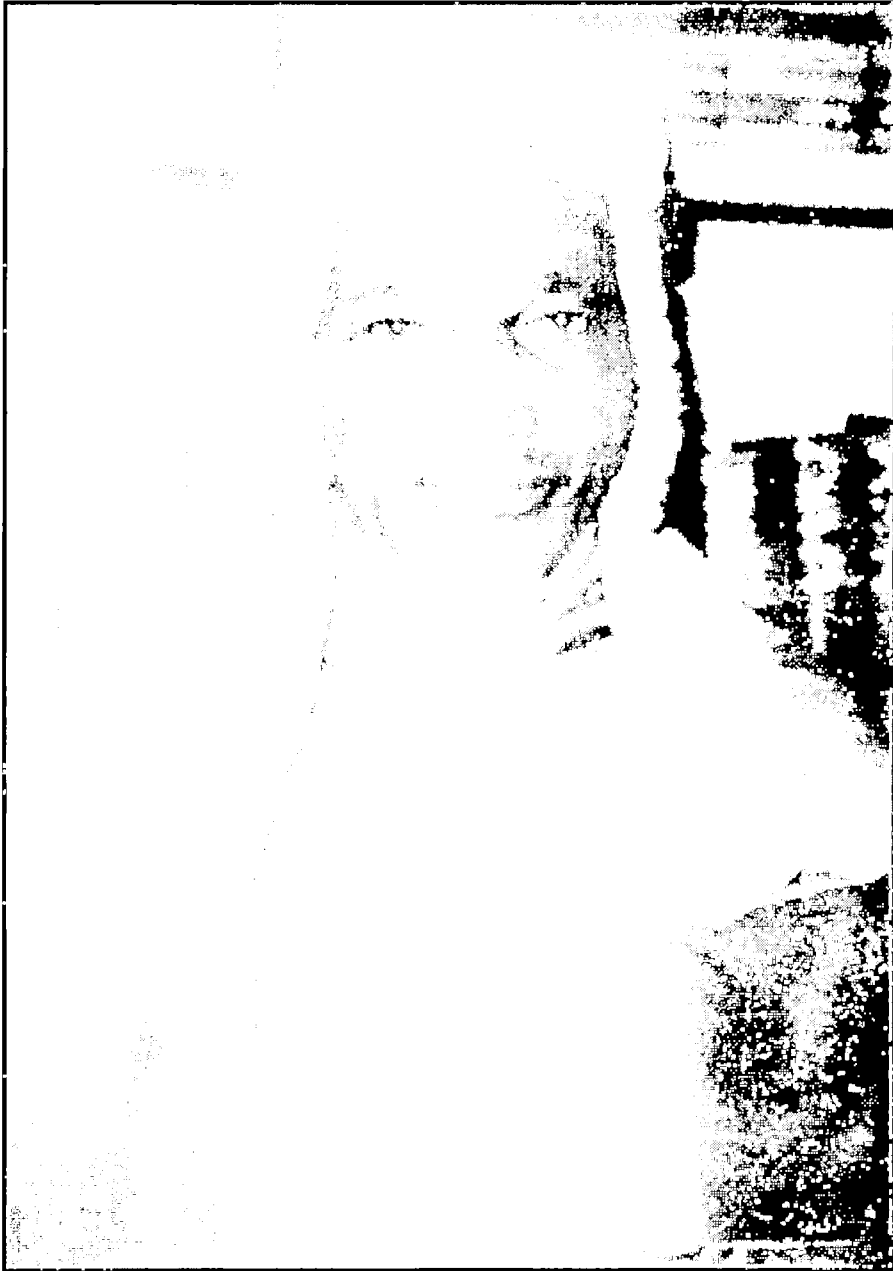
Hon. Justice Michael Edokpayi is an indigene of Edo State who was born on the 21st of June, 1949 into the family of Mr. Samuel Edobor Edokpayi and Noghemase Mary Edokpayi (both deceased). He attended District Council School, Ikeja-Lagos from 1955-1960 and St. Peter's Anglican School, Benin (1961-1962). He proceeded to the Immaculate Conception College, Benin City in 1963-1967 and the search for his LL.B (Hon.) took him to the University of Lagos, from where he graduated in 1979 and got his Barrister at Law from the Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

He has served in several capacities at different times. He was a member, Edo State Local Government Elections Appeal Tribunal, September-October 2004; a member of the Body of Benchers, Abuja and a distinguished Governor of the Board of Governors, National Judicial Institute, Abuja. He is presently the Chairman, Judicial Service Commission, Edo State. An avid reader and prolific scholar, he still finds time out of his ultimately busy schedule to deliver papers and quality keynote addresses at conferences, seminars and workshops.

His glittering career has seen him hold several positions, the climax of which was his appointment as the Chief Judge of Edo State by Chief Lucky Nosakhare Igbinedion, the former Governor of Edo State.

His Lordship is a devout Christian, highly respected judicial officer with a robust and dynamic leadership style and an unflinching commitment to service. He has an unyielding aversion for corruption, recklessness and lazy individuals.

He is married to Mrs. Felicia Ayo Edokpayi, a lawyer, and they are blessed with wonderful children.



HON. JUSTICE S. BAMIDELE OYEWOLE
 Ag. Chief Judge, Ekiti State.

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THE EKITI STATE JUDICIARY

Ekiti State is a relatively young state in South West Nigeria because it was created in the year 1996. As young as the state is, her indigenes are revered majorly for one thing: academic brilliance. If many Nigerians were asked what Ekiti people represent in their minds, they would readily tell you that the state accounts for the largest number of professors and academicians in the country. Besides the fact that Ekiti State has the highest number of professors, they are one of the few states with great, intelligent, vibrant and socially conscious men of the Bar and Bench

The Ekiti State Judiciary came into existence following the creation of Ekiti out of the old Ondo State in 1996 since there could not be a vacuum when judicial matters are concerned. Four Judicial Divisions were inherited from Ondo and they were Ado, Ikere, Ikole and Ijero. It was evident that the four divisions were inadequate considering the population, plethora of judicial issues, poor conditions of the roads and the knowledge base of the Ekiti people.

Consequently, and in line with the policy of the Government of Ekiti to bring justice and its accessibility to the people, His Excellency, the Governor of the state at that time, Otunba Niyi Adebayo approved the creation of four additional Judicial Divisions at Efon, Omuo, Ido and Ise/Emure. That brought the number of Judicial Divisions in Ekiti State to eight (8) and so it has been till date.

The present administration in Ekiti State attaches great importance to the administration of justice in the state. It is the desire of Government that the people of Ekiti, from Oye-Ifako, Ijelu-Ijan, Iluomoba-Iyin Ekiti, have access to justice everywhere they may be.

Talking about accessibility to Justice and timely dispensation, it is a

problem of the common man, everyday people in rural and urban areas. In this regard, plans have reached advanced stage on the establishment of a Federal High Court in the state.

Magistrate Courts have also been established in all the sixteen (16) Local Government Headquarters in the state. Each of the Local Government Headquarters has a Rent Tribunal which is presided over by a Chief Magistrate and two Lay Members.

At present, there are thirty-four (34) Customary Courts spread across the state as part of the efforts aimed at bringing justice nearer to the people.

The Ekiti State experiment is a unique one especially as allows everybody access to Justice. All a person needs to do is go to his or her Local Government Headquarters if the person is far from the towns, and justice would be one.

Looking at the Judiciary in Ekiti, a case is continually made for a financially-independent Judiciary. The thinking is that as the third arm of government, it is not the least important, rather, it could be viewed as the most important because of its role of check and balance of the excesses of the two other arms which occur quite frequently. It is also the strongest arm because of its stability. There are often intermittent changes and fluctuations in the Executive and Legislative arms but that is rarely seen in the Judiciary. Unlike in the executive and legislature where hasty decisions are taken and policy implementation is often questionable, any case brought to the Judiciary is thoroughly read, analysed and weighed on the strength of evidence before judgement is passed.

The Judiciary sustains the structure of governmental systems, ensures good governance and strict adherence to the provisions of the Constitution.

Having said that, the survival and vibrancy of a Judiciary is, to some extent, determined by its source of funding. To perform optimally, the Judiciary must be adequately and properly funded and provided with all the needed tools.

The Ekiti State Judiciary points to the constitutional provisions guaranteeing the financial autonomy of the Judiciary i.e. section 12 1(3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should be strictly adhered to by all tiers of government.

When this is enforced, the judiciary will be adequately strengthened to perform its constitutional roles. The Local Government Areas, States and the Country shall be strengthened and justice shall be duly administered without fear or favour. The citizens shall also be happy that truly, equity is the watchword.

The perfect example of such a system of optimal productivity, proper dispensation of Justice and the creation of a state or society where fairplay, equity and justice reign is Ekiti State where the Executive Governor recently approved financial autonomy for the Ekiti State Judiciary and they urge and enjoin other Governors of the other states to follow in like manner.

LIST OF JUDGES OF EKITI STATE

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|----|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice S. B. Oyewole - | Acting Chief Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice I. O. Akeju | |
| 3. | Hon. Justice A. S. Daramola | |
| 4. | Hon. Justice M. A. Agbelusi | |
| 5. | Hon. Justice D. O. Jegede | |
| 6. | Hon. Justice C. I. Akintayo | |
| 7. | Hon. Justice J. O. Adeyeye | |
| 8. | Hon. Justice M. O. Abodunde | |

PROFILE OF THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SILAS BAMIDELE OYEWOLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUDGE, EKITI STATE.

Hon. Justice Silas Bamidele Oyewole was born on the 11th day of January, 1947, to the family of Pa Chief Joshua Odeyemi Oyewole of blessed memory and Madam Eunice Ajayi Oyewole of Ijero Ekiti.

He attended St. Peter's Primary School, in his native community of Ijero Ekiti for his primary education between 1953 and 1959. For his secondary and higher secondary education, he attended Egbeoba High School, Ikole-Ekiti from January 1960–1964 and Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo from January 1965–December 1966 respectively. For tertiary education, he attended the famous University of Lagos where he studied Law between 1970 and 1973 and bagged his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons) degree in 1973. He was at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos between September 1975 and June 1976 for his Barrister at Law Certification programme.

Hon. Justice Oyewole was called to the Nigerian Bar on the 3rd day of July, 1976.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT/ WORK EXPERIENCE

As a budding Legal Practitioner, Hon. Justice Oyewole practised as a Junior Counsel in Chief Olajide Esan's Chambers in Lagos between July 1976 and October, 1977. Between November, 1977 and July, 1980, he was appointed Legal/Senior Legal Adviser to the National Provident Fund, Lagos.

To further demonstrate his love and passion for the development of Corpus Jurist in Nigeria and most especially in his state, the then old Ondo State, he took up appointment as Senior Magistrate Grade II in Ondo State Judiciary on 1st August, 1980. He became a Senior Magistrate Grade I on 1st December, 1982. Between

September, 1988 and October, 1996, he was Chief Magistrate Grade II/Grade I.

When Ekiti State was carved out of the old Ondo State on October 1st, 1996, Hon. Justice Oyewole became the pioneer Acting Chief Registrar in the Judiciary of Ekiti State. He functioned in this capacity until he was confirmed the Chief Registrar between 1st October, 1996 and September, 2000.

On September 18th, 2000, he was elevated to the High Court Bench of Ekiti State as a High Court Judge. He served as the presiding Judge in several Judicial Divisions in Ekiti State, the last being Ijero Judicial Division of Ekiti State. It was from this position that he was appointed and sworn-in as the Acting Chief Judge of Ekiti State on 15th February, 2008.

Hon. Justice Oyewole has attended several conferences locally and internationally in the development and administration of the Law, the latest being in Canada in September, 2007.

Hon. Justice Oyewole has equally served as Chairman of several National Election Petitions Tribunals where he distinguished himself as a courageous, fair and incorruptible jurist. Before his appointment as the Acting Chief Judge, he was Chairman, National Election Petitions Tribunal, Yobe State.

Hon. Justice Oyewole is a devout Christian and a family man. He loves farming, hunting, reading and traveling. He has visited many countries in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.



HON. JUSTICE I. A. UMEZULIKE OFR
Chief Judge, Enugu State.

THE ENUGU STATE JUDICIARY

HISTORY

The history of the Enugu State Judiciary is unique. It is an iconic product of change, futuristic outlook and developmental traits. This becomes appreciable when cognisance is taken of the status of Enugu. The modern day capital of Enugu State had been the capital of the Eastern Region from 1951-1967, and from 1967-1976 it had been the capital of old East Central State as well as the capital of the old Anambra State from 1976-1991. Perhaps, the cosmopolitan status of Enugu as the capital of the aforementioned regions and state made it easy for its name to be adopted for the new state in 1991. When the old Anambra State was split into two was the turning point in the story of Enugu State and the Enugu Judiciary. The only difference that may come to the fore in a further look is that internal developments of the Enugu State Judiciary may be different from that of the state as the state is tied more to political evolution and socio-cultural and economic existence.

The 1954 Constitution of Nigeria identified the country as a Federation which would comprise of three (3) regions, namely Eastern, Northern and Western Regions. Expectedly each of these regions had its independent judicial system. For the Eastern Region, the Magistrate Courts were for the various Magisterial Districts... and the Native Courts.

Out of this organisational structure, the Native Courts were restyled the 'Customary Courts' via the Customary Court Law of 1956. Since Enugu was the headquarters of the Eastern Region, it was only logical that the Regional Judicial Headquarters be located at Enugu.

The Eastern Regional Judiciary had at its head the Regional Chief

Justice. The first Chief Justice of the Eastern Region was a foreigner named Sir John Ainley, M.C. He was ably succeeded by the late legal icon, Honorable Sir Louis Mbanefo who was in the saddle until the creation of the East Central State out of the old Eastern Region in 1967. There were Judicial Divisions in each of the provinces that made up the region while Enugu was retained as the headquarters. Other Judicial Divisions were those of Onitsha, Owerri, Aba, Afikpo, Abakaliki, Nsukka, Okigwe and Umuahia. Each state Judiciary was headed by the Chief Justice of the state concerned and the East Central State Judiciary was headed by Late Hon. Sir Louis Mbanefo until 1967 and with Enugu also as the capital. The Republic of Biafra Judiciary was headed by the same Hon. Sir Louis Mbanefo as the Chief Justice and other Justices. This followed the declaration of the sovereign Republic of Biafra in 1967. However, after the cessation of hostilities in 1970, a return to the old East Central State was done and the Judiciary, this time, was headed by the Chief Justice of the East Central State in the person of Late Honorable Justice Moses Onuora Balonwu who held the office from 1971 until 1976.

In 1976, the East Central State was divided into two (2) states; Anambra and Imo states through the States (Creation and Transitional) Decree of 1976. The capital of Anambra was Enugu as well as the judicial headquarters headed by a Chief Justice and other Judges of the High Court with Judicial Divisions outside the Enugu metropolis.

The first Chief Justice upon the creation of Anambra State was Hon. Justice Anthony Nnaemmezie Anialogu, O.P.R., K.S.S., K.C., S.S.S., and he held the position until 1977 when his elevation to the Supreme Court was approved. His successor was Hon. Justice Emmanuel Oseloka Araka who held forth from 1977 – 1985 when he retired from service. Hon. Justice R.K. Nwokedi was the next Chief Judge from 1985 – 1991 when he was also elevated to the Supreme Court. Hon. Justice Anthony Ikechukwu Iguh succeeded

him in office and continued until October 10th, 1991 and as a result of the splitting of Anambra State into two, he moved over to Anambra and was later elevated to the Supreme Court.

When Enugu State was created, with Enugu as the judicial and state capital, the first Chief Judge of Enugu State was Hon. Justice Eze Ozobu who held office from 1991 until 1997 when he retired from service and became the traditional ruler of his community. The present Chief Judge is Hon. Justice Innocent Umezulike (OFR), an indefatigable and enormously respected Professor of Law.

Under his competent reign, the Enugu State Judiciary has undergone a tremendous and profound turn-around. His immensely astonishing reforms are positive and developmental in nature.

THE STRUCTURE

The organisation of the Judiciary is made up of the following:

1. The State High Court headed by the state Chief Judge, Hon. Justice J. A. Umezulike (OFR). There are twenty-three (23) other Judges in addition to the Chief Judge. There are seven (7) Judicial Divisions of the High Court viz - Agbani, Awgu, Enugu, Enugu-Wzike, Nsukka, Obollo-Afor and Oji River.
2. The Magistrate Court system is made up of seventeen (17) Magisterial Districts. There are fifty-two (52) Magistrates (with many of them being Chief Magistrates)
3. There exist one hundred and twenty-seven (127) customary courts, each presided over by a President and two other members, located in various communities but spread evenly across the state in a manner that allows the

people to have access to justice easily irrespective of who or where they are, what they do and why they want justice.

LANDMARK REFORMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Reforms are not new in the Enugu State Judiciary and unlike what obtains in many states where a new Chief Judge completely abandons or disregards the initiated or completed reforms of his predecessor, the case of Enugu is different as all officers, judicial or non-judicial, see themselves as partners-in-progress and continuity is, as such, entrenched in the administrative system of the Judiciary.

So it was that Hon. J. C. N. Ugwu (OFR) initiated reforms at the lower levels of the state Judiciary which were especially profound at the Magistrate and Customary courts' levels.

First, in conjunction with the DFID, he put structures in place to bring to the barest minimum delay in Justice Delivery and its accessibility. This was done by the revision of the Laws and the Rules covering those courts, in order to enhance justice delivery and increase the monetary jurisdiction of the Magistrates. This was the Magistrate Courts Law Cap. 112 Laws of Enugu State 2004 passed into law.

This increase in the monetary jurisdiction of a Chief Magistrate Grade 1 is up to N100,000.00 from what had hitherto been N20,000. As such a Chief Magistrate can now impose a fine of N100,000.

The Enugu State High Court Cap.92, Laws of Enugu State 2004 also increased the number of Judges of the Enugu State High Court to a maximum of fifty (50) Judges.

However, the coming of Hon. Justice I.A. Umezulike brought

innovation and unprecedented turn of events as all-encompassing reforms were introduced in the various areas of the Judiciary. The declaration on the occasion of his swearing-in by Hon. Justice Umezulike that he would dismantle all the structures that have been inhibiting the speedy dispensation of Justice in the state Judiciary showed many where his heart lies but even those that doubted it have had to change their mindset, having seen the comprehensive way he has gone in achieving his objectives.

The old rules that had brought untold hardship to the judicial officials, lawyers and even litigants have been expunged from the rules. In order to remedy the situation, a brand new High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules was brought into force on the 1st day of January, 2007 to show how serious he is about the situation.

A complete, new High Court Complex has been built and handed over to the Enugu State Judiciary comprising of about eighteen (18) court halls, the Chief Judges' court and the library of the Judiciary for both judicial and non-judicial members of staff. The old High Court complex which is also an imposing edifice is now used as the Magistrate's Courts for the three Magisterial Districts in the Enugu metropolis. All the fifty-two (52) Magistrates in Enugu State Judiciary were given brand new cars recently to enable them perform their duties optimally and with ease in transportation. This is all at the instance of his Lordship, Hon. Justice Umezulike's insistence that the environment must be conducive for officials and that their welfare must be enlisted in the priority list of the Enugu State Government.

Training, both local and international, has become order of the day in Enugu State Judiciary as manpower development is seriously thought of as a great avenue through which great strides can be made.

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More specifically, more than ten (10) Judges and three (3) Magistrates have attended international conferences outside Nigeria, one in Ghana, another in London and another in Canada under his leadership. These trainings are constantly organised for Judges, Magistrates and other members of staff of the Judiciary. In 2007 alone, about three (3) training workshops were organized for members of staff with support from DFID, apart from other zonal and national workshops organised by the National Judicial Institute (NJI) Abuja.

The Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Umezulike (OFR) canvassed and secured the appointment of two (2) new Judges for the Enugu State High Court and in 2007, he appointed a total of 381 Customary Court Judges (including 127 Presidents and 254 Members) for a total of 127 Customary Courts scattered all over the state. Also, in 2007, twenty (20) new Magistrates were appointed for the state Judiciary and each of the new Magistrates was sufficiently trained in a workshop organized for them and handed a brand new Toyota Corolla 1.8GLI car. These reforms were brought about to uphold the sanctity of the Judiciary and ensure the speedy and qualitative dispensation of Justice in the state.

The highest point of the success of these reforms is the total blackout of nepotism, favouritism and spherical corruption and the severe punishment of those who indulged in them sent the message home. This was done along with the entrenchment of transparency and meritocracy. To crown it all, the dynamism of the Hon. Justice Umezulike-led Judiciary was once again highlighted in the aim of securing executive approval for the upward review of the salary of the Magistrates which is currently on ground; the efforts of which have reached top gear.

HIS LORDSHIP'S VIEW ON CORE LEGAL ISSUES

The Chief Judge believes that the constitutional provisions should be the roadmap at all times and as such, should be given preference. This would guarantee the Constitutional rights of all citizens from being violated. The Rule of Law is the all-encompassing dictionary that his Lordship wants people to give credence even in awkward situations like the various impeachment exercises carried out in Oyo, Anambra, Ekiti and Plateau states.

The other is that property rights in Nigeria should be followed religiously in matters that concern the property rights of the citizens whether the properties are by inheritance, compulsory acquisition or revocation of rights.

JUDGES OF ENUGU HIGH COURT

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|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hon Justice I. A. Umezulike (OFR) – | Chief Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice V. N. Nebo | Judge |
| 3. | Hon. Justice M. O. Chidobem | Judge |
| 4. | Hon. Justice P. C. Akubuilu | Judge |
| 5. | Hon. Justice B. C. Nosike | Judge |
| 6. | Hon. Justice F. K. Ezekie | Judge |
| 7. | Hon. Justice B. E. Agbata | Judge |
| 8. | Hon. Justice N. P. Emehelu | Judge |
| 9. | Hon. Justice F. C. Obieze | Judge |
| 10. | Hon. Justice K. N. Udeh | Judge |
| 11. | Hon. Justice A. O. Onove | Judge |
| 12. | Hon. Justice R.N. Onuorah | Judge |
| 13. | Hon. Justice G.O. Anibueze | Judge |
| 14. | Hon. Justice R.N. Ozoemena | Judge |
| 15. | Hon. Justice R.O. Odugu | Judge |
| 16. | Hon. Justice I.S. Amanoh | Judge |
| 17. | Hon. Justice A.O. Anidi | Judge |
| 18. | Hon. Justice A.A. Nwobodo | Judge |
| 19. | Hon. Justice L.O. Okereke | Judge |

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|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| 20. | Hon. Justice E.C.N. Onyia | Judge |
| 21. | Hon. Justice P.I. Enejere | Judge |
| 22. | Hon. Justice F.I.N. Ngwu | Judge |
| 23. | Hon. Justice C.I. Nwobodo | Judge |
| 24. | Hon. Justice N.N. Nebo | Judge |

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Innocent Azubike Umezulike was born on the 21st September, 1953 in Brass, Bayeisa State.

For his primary education, he attended St. Mary's School, Port Harcourt and had his secondary education at St. Vincent's Secondary School, Agbogugu, Enugu.

He thereafter got admitted to the University of Lagos, Akoka-Yaba, Lagos State. He also possesses a Masters of Laws degree and Diploma in Conveyancing.

He started his working career as a Lecturer Grade II at the University of Ibadan in 1983 and was elevated to Senior Lecturer and later, an Associate Professor of Property Law at Nnamdi Azikwe University in 1989. It was in the same department that he also became a Professor at the Ebonyi State University in 2002.

He served as the Special Adviser to the Attorney-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 1992 – 1993 and was appointed a High Court Judge of Enugu in August 1993, a position he held till December 14th, 2004 when he became the Chief Judge.

He is a native of Mgbidi, Awgu Local Government Area of the state and has authored and edited various books, journals as well as delivered numerous papers at seminars, workshops and symposia. He has bagged various awards and honours including the national honour of Order of the Federal Republic (OFR). He has also been chairman or member of a staggering number of

students, governmental and non-governmental associations, committees and commissions including being a member of the Board of Governors, National Judicial Institute; Secretary, National Committee For Review of the Land Use Act; National Judicial Institute Academic Board; Body of Benchers; National Judicial Institute; and Chairman, Failed Banks Tribunal, Zone 6, Lagos (1998-1999) to mention only a few.

THE JIGAWA STATE JUDICIARY

The Jigawa State Judiciary was created in 1991. This was because Jigawa State was carved out of the old Kano State on the 27th of August, 1991 by the Ibrahim Babangida-led military administration.

The unique position of the Jigawa State Judiciary was underscored by its creation out of Kano, the commercial and judicial hub of the Northern part of the country. Not only that, but also as a result of the fact that there was no single High Court in the whole of the newly-created state. This means all other High Courts fell into Kano State. Only a proposed High Court Division of the then Kano State Judiciary in Birnin Kudu was, at that time, under construction.

Consequently, this building was made to house the temporary Headquarters of the state Judiciary in spite of the glaring fact that Dutse was chosen as the state capital where the High Complex was supposed to be located. From this location at Birnin Kudu, the state Judiciary began its productive journey into existence by deploying four (4) High Court Judges and two (2) Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of Jigawa State origin from the old Kano State.

However, as unpleasant as this beginning was, the Jigawa State Judiciary was able to overcome this lopsided arrangement in only a year and some months because by August 1998, the High Court Complex in Dutse, the state capital, was completed and this necessitated the movement of the headquarters of the Jigawa State Judiciary from Birnin Kudu to Dutse as appropriate. Birnin Kudu, therefore, became a Division because the state Sharia Court of Appeal which had six (6) Kadis at that time was also moved to Dutse. This exercise, however, came after the splitting of the High Court into three (3) Divisions with one in each Senatorial District: Birnin Kudu Division, two (2) Judges; Hadejia Division, one (1) Judge, and Kazaure Division, one Judge.

In January, 1994, the Jigawa State Judiciary continued its developmental stride with the appointment and swearing in of three (3) additional High Court Judges. This made the creation of two (2) more Divisions possible. As such, the state came to have five (5) Judicial Divisions. The two new Divisions were Ringim and Gumel. There came to be five (5) Judicial Divisions with only seven (7) Judges, one in each Division and two in Dutse which included the Chief Judge. In 1999 the number of serving Judges was altered because the Jigawa State Judiciary recorded the demise of an eminent Judge, Hon. Justice Modibbo Abubakar, reducing the number of Judges to six (6). This continued until December 2000 when the state Judiciary, in its characteristic responsiveness, appointed and swore in three (3) new Judges, bringing the number to nine (9).

In July 2004, the developmental strides of the Judiciary and exemplary performance of the Judges of Jigawa State was acknowledged as one of them, Hon. Justice Tijani Abdulahi was elevated to the Court of Appeal. This also reduced the number of Judges in the Jigawa Judiciary to eight (8) but the appointment of Hon. Justice Ubale Ahmed Taura in January 2007 reinforced the Judiciary to maintain its focus and resourcefulness. There are presently, nine (9) Judges serving in the state. They are:

1. Hon. Justice Tijani Abubakar (OFR) - Chief Judge
Headquarters.
2. Hon. Justice M.A. Nakulum
3. Hon. Justice Abubakar Sabo Talur
Gumei Division.
4. Hon. Justice Muktar Adamu
Headquarters.
5. Hon. Justice Umar Maigari
Kazaure Division
6. Hon. Justice Amina Sabo Ringim
Birnin Kudu Division

- 7. Hon. Justice Ahmed Isa Gumel
Headquarters
- 8. Hon. Justice Umar M. Sadiq
Birnin Kudu Division.
- 9. Hon. Justice Ubale Ahmed Taura
Hadeija Division.

There are also nine (9) Sharia Court of Appeal Khadis including the Hon. Grand Khadi, all based in Dutse, the capital. They are as follows:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hon. Munir Mustapha | Grand Khadi |
| 2. | Hon. Muhd Inuwa Ali | Khadi |
| 3. | Hon. Basher B/kudu | Khadi |
| 4. | Hon. Suleimon Abudulai | Khadi |
| 5. | Hon. Murtala Ahmed | Khadi |
| 6. | Hon. Umar Mulid Dutse | Khadi |
| 7. | Hon. Bashir I. Hussain | Khadi |
| 8. | Hon. Isa Jibrin Grantsa | Khadi |
| 9. | Hon. Umar Mulid Ahmed | Khadi |

DEVELOPMENTAL STRIDES

From the inception of the Jigawa State Judiciary in 1991, it has witnessed an appreciable level of progress, growth and developmental strides. Bearing in mind the fact that Jigawa State is a mainly rural state, it has grown from a Judiciary of only four (4) Judges to nine (9); from only two (2) Kadis to a total of nine (9); and from three (3) Judicial Divisions to five (5).

The Jigawa State Judiciary has also grown from having, at the lower rung of the ladder, seven (7) Magistrate Courts to nineteen (19). Also, from only forty-eight (48) Area Courts, it now has eighty-two (82) Sharia Courts. The abolition of the Area Court system of the Judiciary in 2001 and its replacement with the

Sharia Court system with full implementation of Sharia Law portrays the Jigawa Judiciary leadership's futuristic view and total commitment to the service of its people in the area of its constitutional roles.

The Chief Judge, His Lordship, Hon. Justice Tijani Abubakar, OFR, set up a very powerful, respectable and committed anti-graft committee under the purview of the Judicial Service Commission which has so far succeeded in sanitising the Judiciary of bad eggs and unwanted elements. This is indeed worthy of emulation. There are also the Criminal Justice Committee and Access to Justice Committee, which have improved service delivery in the whole state as far as judicial and justice matters are concerned. The DFID is into partnership with the Jigawa State Judiciary and they both set up a Security, Justice and Growth Programme (SJGP) which has triggered the responsive tendency in institutions and departments in the justice sector as far as the state is concerned.

Pursuant to the attainment of timely, quick and procedural justice delivery, the Justice Sector Reform Committee was transformed into an independent commission known as the Justice Reform Commission in 2006, with the Chief Judge as the ex-officio chairman.

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

The Hon. Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Tijani Abubakar was born in Gwaram, a place in Gwaram Local Government Area of Jigawa State on the 1st of January, 1945.

He began his foray into the world of education in 1953 at the Gwaram Junior Primary School, a place he left in 1956.

He proceeded to the Birnin Kudu Boarding S.P. School from 1957 –

1959. Birnin Kudu Secondary School was his next port of call between 1960 and 1965.

After his secondary education, he enrolled at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for a Diploma in Law and later, for his LLB Degree in 1971. He completed this in 1974 and obtained his B.L at the Nigerian Law School in 1976.

His work experience is an array of professional diversity as he was a Bank Clerk from 1966-1968, NYSC Legal Officer from 1975-1976 as well as a Court Registrar spanning 1970-1975.

He was appointed a Magistrate in 1976 and by 1978 became a Bank Secretary/Legal Adviser. In 1982, he was back in private legal practice. He later became a Judge of the Kano State Judiciary, a place he was from 1986-1991 and from where he was appointed the acting Chief Judge of Jigawa State on October 28th, 1991. He was however confirmed as the substantive Chief Judge of Jigawa State on December 18th, 1991, a position he has held till now.

He is a legal icon who pioneered the Jigawa State Judiciary as its Chief Judge and while in the saddle, he has overcome some otherwise insurmountable challenges. Jigawa State is indeed lucky to have such a diligent man at the helm of affairs.



HON. JUSTICE RAHILA H. CUDJOE, OFR
Chief Judge, Kaduna State.

KADUNA STATE JUDICIARY

BRIEF HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND REFORMS

The Kaduna State Judiciary is the third arm of Government in Kaduna State, just as in other states. It is responsible for the general administration of Justice in the state along with other stakeholders like the Police, the Bar, the civil society, and the prisons. It adjudicates between persons, establishments and government within its jurisdiction. The headquarters of the defunct Northern Nigerian Judiciary was based in Kaduna.

The creation of states and dissolution of the Northern Nigerian Government marked the beginning of Kaduna State Judiciary and all through the years, the state Judiciary has been able to maintain its pride of place among others states in the country. The sustenance of ethos such as integrity, leadership and diligence has been the exciting hallmarks of the Kaduna State Judiciary.

It is not in doubt that Kaduna was and is still the foundation on which the Judiciary of the three (3) geo-political zones of the Northern part of the country is built.

The Kaduna State Judiciary has always worked hard to improve the quality of justice delivery in the highly cosmopolitan state. The general administration of justice is constantly improved on, with the view to turning the state judiciary into a model for all other states in Nigeria. It is not in any doubt that these novel and laudable objectives have been overwhelmingly achieved, but as a Judiciary filled with dynamic and knowledgeable personalities, it continually seeks avenues through which it can institute positive changes in the system for a robust and all-round development. There are altogether 223 Courts spread all over the state. They comprise of the High Courts and Magistrate Courts; Sharia Court of

Appeal and Sharia Courts; and Customary Court of Appeal and Customary Courts. The year 2006\2007 legal year is a veritable pointer to how vibrant and alive the Judiciary in Kaduna State is to its responsibilities. In the year in focus, a total of 76,882 cases were before all the various Courts in the state and in spite of all unfavourable circumstances and odds, 49,884 of, or 62%, were disposed of. The new High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules were also brought into force on 17th April, 2007.

The Rules, before then, had not been revised since 1987, which was twenty years before that time.

In the area of construction works, the new Legal Reform Building was commissioned on 30th September, 2006. It consists of two blocks and each block has five (5) Court rooms, ten (10) Chambers and nineteen (19) offices, thereby making up a total of ten (10) Court rooms, twenty (20) chambers and thirty-six (36) offices occupied jointly by the High Court, Sharia Court of Appeal and Customary Court of Appeal.

The Courts, chambers and some offices are fully air-conditioned. The new building also has a 250 KVA power generating set. The Main Complex with the Annex also has a generating set. This is not limited to the High Court; other superior Courts outside the Headquarters have the same.

The recent water supply shortage in Kaduna metropolis exposed an inadequate area and just as soon as it was noticed, work began on tackling the problem and two boreholes were immediately sunk. They now supply the Main Complex, Annex and the New Building with adequate water supply.

As the Kaduna State Judiciary is always at the forefront of developmental innovations, an ultra-modern Conference room fitted with a full multimedia projector, screen and computer

workstation have been commissioned and are now being fully utilized.

It would surprise many other states to know that in Kaduna State all High Court Judges have state-of-the-art laptops and have all been trained on how to use the computers.

The installation of audio recording machines cannot be over-emphasized if quick dispensation of Justice is sought and again, Kaduna Judiciary has crossed that river long ago with the installation of such audio recording machines in all the High Courts, thereby decongesting the Courts.

Research has been made easy with Broadband Internet Access linked to all the chambers and administrative offices, both wired and wireless, and with network in the Main Complex of the High Court of Justice while a website for the dissemination of internal information to the World Wide Web has been hosted as far back as September, 2005.

It is worthy of note that Kaduna was chosen as one of the pilot Judicial states in the country by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the implementation of its Nigeria Rule of Law Assistance Project, through the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC) of the United States of America, a project that ran from 2001 to 2005.

Kaduna was also enlisted as one of the ten (10) states for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in conjunction with the National Judicial Institute (NJI) on the project: Support to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian Judiciary.

It was also one of the three (3) states chosen for the World Bank-Supported Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), an expansive

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mechanism for the strengthening of dispute resolution involving Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

All the above facilities mentioned as well as the full exploitation of collaboration with other regional, national and global institutions and organisations is aimed at equipping the judiciary with the most comfortable of environments as well as physical, human and technological tools to achieve a flawless and deeply-focused Judiciary.

LIST OF CHIEF JUSTICES AND CHIEF JUDGES OF KADUNA STATE FROM 1960 TO DATE

1. The Hon. Sir Thomas Algernon Brown KT
Chief Justice, Northern Nigeria
1955 – 1960
2. The Hon. Sir Hugh Hurley KT
Chief Justice, Northern Nigeria
1960 – 1968
3. Sir Nigel V. Reed
Chief Justice, Northern Nigeria and 6 Northern States
1969 – 1975
4. Hon. Justice Arthur W. A. Wheeler
Chief Judge, Kaduna State
1975 – 1979
5. Hon. Justice Shehu Usman Muhammed
Chief Judge, Kaduna State
1979 -1992
6. Hon. Justice S. A. Ibiyeye
Chief Judge, Kaduna State
1992 – 1996

7. Hon. Justice Rahila Hadea Cudjoe, OFR
Chief Judge, Kaduna State
1996 to date

JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT, KADUNA.

1. Hon. Justice Rahila Hadea Cudjoe, OFR - Chief Judge
2. Hon. Justice T. Zailani
3. Hon. Justice D. Mallam
4. Hon. Justice J. S. Abiriyi
5. Hon. Justice M. L. Bello
6. Hon. Justice M. L. Muhammed
7. Hon. Justice G. I. Kurada
8. Hon. Justice D. S. Wyom
9. Hon. Justice M. T. M. Aliyu
10. Hon. Justice H. A. L. Balogun
11. Hon. Justice E. Y. Inuwa
12. Hon. Justice B. U. Sukola
13. Hon. Justice A. A Othman
14. Hon. Justice I. Aliyu
15. Hon. Justice B. Isah
16. Hon. Justice H. T. D. Gwadah
17. Hon. Justice M. M. Ladan
18. Hon. Justice L. D. Aba

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

When the cry of a little baby was heard on 6th October, 1948 in Kaduna, nobody knew a legal colossus was being welcomed into the world. Rahila Hadea Cudjoe came to Fulani parents known as Venerable Archdeacon H.O and Mrs. R.B Mohammed, natives of Zaria, Kaduna State in Nigeria. Taught the essence of diligence and hard work in early life by her parents, she embarked on the journey for relevance early and quickly went through the primary and secondary stages of education. After secondary school, which she completed in flying colours, she got admission to read Law at the

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university. She graduated from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1972 and proceeded to the Nigerian Law School and was subsequently called to the Bar in 1973. She started her career in the Ministry of Justice, Kaduna State as a Counsel and rose to become the first woman Legal Draftsman in the state. She possesses a Commonwealth Certificate in Legislative Drafting and in 1979, she also attended an Attachment Programme with the First Legislative Counsel, Parliament of British Columbia, Victoria, Canada. On her return to Nigeria, she was briefed to set up the Legal Department of the Kaduna State House of Assembly. She performed this assignment satisfactorily and headed the department as the first legislative counsel, a position she held until her appointment as a High court judge in 1983.

She was sworn in as the Acting Chief Judge of Kaduna State in 1996 and as the Chief Judge of the state in 1997. Her firsts include being Kaduna State's first woman indigenous lawyer, first woman Legislative Counsel, first woman High Court Judge and the first woman to become the Chief Judge of Kaduna State of Nigeria.

As Chief Judge, she is the overall head of the Kaduna State Judiciary which has a total of 223 courts comprising the High Courts and Magistrate Courts; Sharia Court of Appeal and Sharia Courts; and Customary Court of Appeal and Customary Courts. Rahila Hadea Cudjoe has attended many conferences and workshops, both at home and abroad and made presentations at many conferences and workshops. She is widely traveled, having visited 25 countries. She is also a recipient of Awards, primary amongst them being her National Honour of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR). She is one of the founding members of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWOJ) and International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). She is also a member of the World Jurists Association (WJA), the National Association for Court Management (NACM) of the United States of America and a fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education

Institute (CJEI), Halifax, Canada. She has two children, Selene Binta Cudjoe and Charles Hallel Cudjoe. Her hobbies include sewing, reading, music and the movies.



HON. JUSTICE UMARU ERI OFR
Chief Judge, Kogi State.

THE KOGI STATE JUDICIARY

THE HIISTORY

The Kogi State Judiciary is a product of the creation of States in August 27, 1991. The State, Kogi, was created out of two states. These are Benue and Kwara Staes.

The challenges that faced the state upon creation at that time were critical and by far, the most important of these was the dearth of crops of dedicated, seasoned and experienced professionals to take charge and help in steering the course of the ship of the new state. The State Judiciary was not exempted from this circumstance and as one of the pillars of the State; there arose the need to urgently find a solution to this problem.

A seasoned, tested and competent legal luminary and outstanding administrator was needed to take charge of the Judiciary in order for the State Judiciary to find a perfect footing.

The onus of leading the Judiciary in the young State fell on none other than Hon. Justice Umaru Eri, an iconic legal expert with an intimidating track record and highly coveted credentials from close to two decades in the saddles of various departments and offices as a respected Judicial officer in the then Benue State Judiciary. He was, therefore, the most eminently qualified officer to be appointed to the exalted and esteemed position of the Chief Judge of the new state. Hon. Justice Umaru made history as the pioneer Chief Judge of Kogi State when he was sworn in by the equally pioneering Military Administrator of the State, Colonel Danladi M. Zakari.

This call to a higher duty with its challenges did not douse the confidence or morale of the Chief Judge. In fact, it fired his zeal and professionally, his ingenuity was inspired, the results of which

were soon to come to the fore in his relentless belief about the prospects of the Judiciary and irrepressible desire to make the Kogi State Judiciary the model in this part of the world.

At the time Kogi State was created, the young state could only boast of a non-descript judicial department with all its attendant inadequacies. This was bound to occur in a new state but with the co-operation of the Military Administrator, His Lordship, Hon, Justice Eri immediately began to put in place requisite human and physical infrastructure. A fact-finding tour of the new State in January 1992 made his Lordship discover that there were only sixty-two (62) Courts made up of four High Courts and thirty-eight (38) Area Courts of first and second Grades respectively in the whole state.

However, no matter how alarming and sad Kogi State indigenes may feel at such a discovery, it is today only a matter of statistics and history because Kogi State now boasts, as at December 2007, of a total of One Hundred and Ninety-Six Courts made up of twenty-two (22) High Courts; thirty-four (34) Magistrate' Courts; twenty-one (21) Upper Area Courts; and one hundred and eleven (111) Grade one(1) and two Area Courts with eight (8) Inspectorate offices.

This would surely make even some earlier created states grin with envy but that is the wonderful story of Kogi State. As such, the idea of always keeping the people in sight as the ultimate focus of the Judiciary as the issue of justice, equity and accessibility to justice is always in the mind of not only the Chief Judge but all other officers. The decentralisation of the Courts, which was a cardinal point in the priority list of the Hon. Umaru Eri-led Judiciary, has been achieved as there are Courts in the nooks and crannies of the State with at least a Magistrate and a High Court in every Local Government Area in Kogi State in addition to an avalanche of lower Courts. These measures have brought the Judiciary and its

liberating feeling of equity to the very doorsteps of the Kogi masses.

Those were not the only bold and far-reaching steps and measures put in place by the Kogi State Judiciary. It is on record that there was no single Sharia Court of Appeal in Kogi State as is common in the Northern Region before now. Only three Kadis which became domiciled in Kogi but used to be with Kwara State were available.

So, it became expedient for his Lordship to put a Sharia Court of Appeal in place and he wasted no time in doing that as Kogi State now has a Sharia Court of Appeal with a Grand Kadi and four other Kadis.

Apparently, Kogi State Judiciary is one where innovativeness and positive changes are garments and robes worn by all officers of the Judiciary. Indeed, leading and forward-looking officers and a competent Chief Judge abound in the state.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DEVELOPMENTS AND REFORMS IN KOGI STATE JUDICIARY (1991 – 2007)

The highlights begin with the Kogi State High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2006 which was geared towards fast-tracking Civil Justice administration in the state. These rules have banished the all-too familiar snail-speed adjudication to the abyss of oblivion forever. The rules have not only helped and are still helping in making civil proceedings dispensed with in a timely manner, they are being done properly and with the much needed results. While some states would rather not talk about the rules and many others adopted them much later, Kogi is a shining light as the rules have long been internalised in the Judicial System.

Another of the developmental strides is the phenomenal increase

in the number of Courts in Kogi State from a paltry sixty-two (62) in 1991 to one hundred and ninety-six (196) in 2007. This is intended to bring justice closer to the Kogi people. This is remarkable when one takes cognisance of the fact that Kogi State is the gateway to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the South-south and South-west geo-political zones of the country and that Kogi shares boundaries with about nine (9) states nameiy Edo, Anambra, Enugu, Niger, Kwara, Benue, Ondo, Ekiti, Nasarrawa and Federal Capital Teritory, Abuja.

Kogi State Judiciary has a unique structure where all the twenty-one (21) Upper Area Courts in the State are all manned by legally-qualified personnel. Not only that. Lawyers preside over a substantial number of the one hundred and eleven (111) Area Courts.

The Hon. Chief Judge also reduced the payable fees in court to enable more people have access to justice. And recently, in order to take care of the Muslim communities in the state, more Area Courts were created essentially to apply only Islamic personal Laws.

The Judiciary in the Confluence state has been one of the most interested in the essence of the National Judicial Institute (NJI) since the establishment of the institute. This is evident in the sponsorship of a larger number of Judicial Officers and even other supporting members of staff to attend various courses of the institute annually to improve and enhance their level of proficiency and productivity. Members of the judicial staff were also sent to the training programmess of Commonwealth of Magistrates and Judges Association (MJA) and other training institutions.

In an effort to ensure the tradition of continuous repositioning is maintained, the judiciary has created seven directorates for the

effective administration of the High Court. These are:

- a. Directorate of Management Department
- b. Directorate of Litigation
- c. Directorate of Finance and supply
- d. Directorate of Estate Management
- e. Directorate of Planning, Research, and statistics
- f. Directorate of Area Courts and,
- g. Directorate of Magistracy.

In the area of scholarship, the Chief Judge has written two (2) Books: "Comments on Kogi State of Nigeria Area Court Laws 1991, 2000" and "Law and Procedure in Area Courts 2000" respectively. This was necessitated by the fact that virtually nothing existed by way of documentation via notes, textbooks et cetera. In spite of the fact that the reformation of the Area court system was carried out in 1967! Area Courts however, in the nineteen (19) Northern states of Nigeria are considered as the original Courts of the people who hitherto operated Islamic and Traditional Courts. Now, the Courts are located nearer to the people with simple and easy-to-understand procedures as well as cheaper fees. The writing of those books is apt in order to provide a platform of information, study and education to all as far as the Area Courts are concerned.

Another breakthrough by the Kogi State Judiciary is the Chairmanship of the Law Report which had ceased since 1979, by Hon. Justice Umaru Eri. It is a remarkably notable feat that the Chief Judge of the seventeen (17)years-old state ensured the resumption of the Northern Nigerian Law Report publication with the efforts of himself and his colleagues in the nineteen (19) Northern States of Nigeria.

The reforms in the State Judiciary also ensure that only convicts and those standing trial are in the six Federal prisons in Kogi State. Towards this end, the Chief Judge has enjoyed the

tremendous support of all other Stakeholders in the Administration of Criminal Justice in the State.

The dynamic leadership of the State Judiciary ensures that the welfare of judicial Officers as well as that of the supporting members of staff is never taken with levity. The salaries and allowances of Magistrates, Inspectors of Area Courts and Area Court Judges were recently greatly improved to serve as a morale-booster while the state Executive arm is being persuaded to do the same for all categories of staff in the State Judiciary.

The Kogi State Judiciary has a strong and vibrant Magistrates Association of Nigeria (MAN), Kogi State Chapter which has produced national officers for the association.

The Chief Judge has been duly recognized and honoured with the Chairmanship of the Disciplinary Committee of the Body of Benchers and equally made a Life Bencher of the Body Benchers.

To crown it all, Kogi State Judiciary had the privilege of producing four (4) High Court Judges as Chairman and another set of four (4) High Court Judges as members of the National Assembly \Governorship and Legislative Houses Elections Tribunal in various states in the Country.

The Rent Control and Recovery of Residential Premises Law, 2007 which was sponsored by his Lordship to remedy the thorny issues of rent control and recovery of premises between landlords and tenants in Kogi State is also there. This became necessary because the Ministry of Justice had still not done anything regarding the creation of an enabling Law since 1991 when the state was created.

In recognition of all these ground-breaking achievements and excellent leadership qualities, the Federal Government conferred

on his Lordship, Hon. Justice Umaru Eri the National Honour of officer of the Federal Republic (OFR).

The Chief Judge set out to build an unequalled State Judiciary and that has well been achieved.

HON. JUSTICE UMARU ERI: A PROFILE OF COURAGE

Hon. Justice Umaru Eri was born in Koton-karfe of Kogi State in 1943. He hails from Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Hon. Justice Umaru Eri started his education pursiuts at R.C.M. Primary School, Idah from 1952 – 1956, then, St. John's Anglican Primary School, Akabe, 1957 – 1958. He attended Government College, Keffi between 1959 and 1963 and he has his High Certificate in Government College Keffi, 1964 – 1965. He proceeded to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and graduated in 1970. He attended the Nigeria Law School, Lagos in 1971 and was called to Nigeria Bar in June, 1971.

Justice Umaru Eri started his working career as a Teacher in Government College (now Barewa College), Zaria between January – June, 1966. He was later a press officer, Northern Nigeria Ministry of Iinformation, Kaduna (July 1966 – September 1968).

Justice Umaru Eri was appointed a Pupil State Counsel in Ilorin, Kwara State between 1971 – 1973, he became State Counsel, Grade I in Lokoja in 1975, Senior State Counsel II, Lokoja \Otukpo 1976 and Senior State Counsel I, Otukpo \Makurdi 1977. He rose to the position of an Acting Principal State Counsel for Makurdi in 1978. His schedule of duties covered the duties of Deputy Director of Public Prosecution. Justice Eri was appointed a substantive Chief Magistrate in July 1978, a Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Benue State in 1980 and a High Court Judge in 1981.

Justice Umaru Eri also served as Chairman of many Panels \Commissions of Inquiry; among which are the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Okura Farm Industries Limited, 1979, the Otukpo Land Dispute Tribunal of Inquiry, July 1980. The Administrative Panel of Inquiry into Ozongulo Chieftancy in Bassa Local Governemnt of Benue. The Benue State Contracts Review Commission of Inquiry, 1984, Task-force on Essential Commodities Commission of Inquiry 1987 and Local Government Elections Appeal Panel-in-Chief of Gboko Zone, Benue State.

Hon. Justice Umaru A. Eri became the Chief Judge of Kogi State in 1991. He has attended top management course in Cambridge, United Kingdom in 1981 and various judicial administrative courses organized in conjunction with the National Judicial Institute.

Hon. Justice Umaru Eri, OFR, within his very tight schedule still finds time to write articles for publication in Law Journals and for presentations in Conferences. Below are some of his legal expositions:

- (i) "Constitution of Permanent Secretary under a Presidential System" – published in Journal for Top Management of Cambridge University, United Kingdom.
- (ii) Presented papers at the Induction Course for New Appointed Judicial Officers in Nigeria organized by the National Judicial Institute at Abuja 2001.
- (iii) Presented paper at the All Nigeria Conference in Nigeria at Abuja in November 2001.

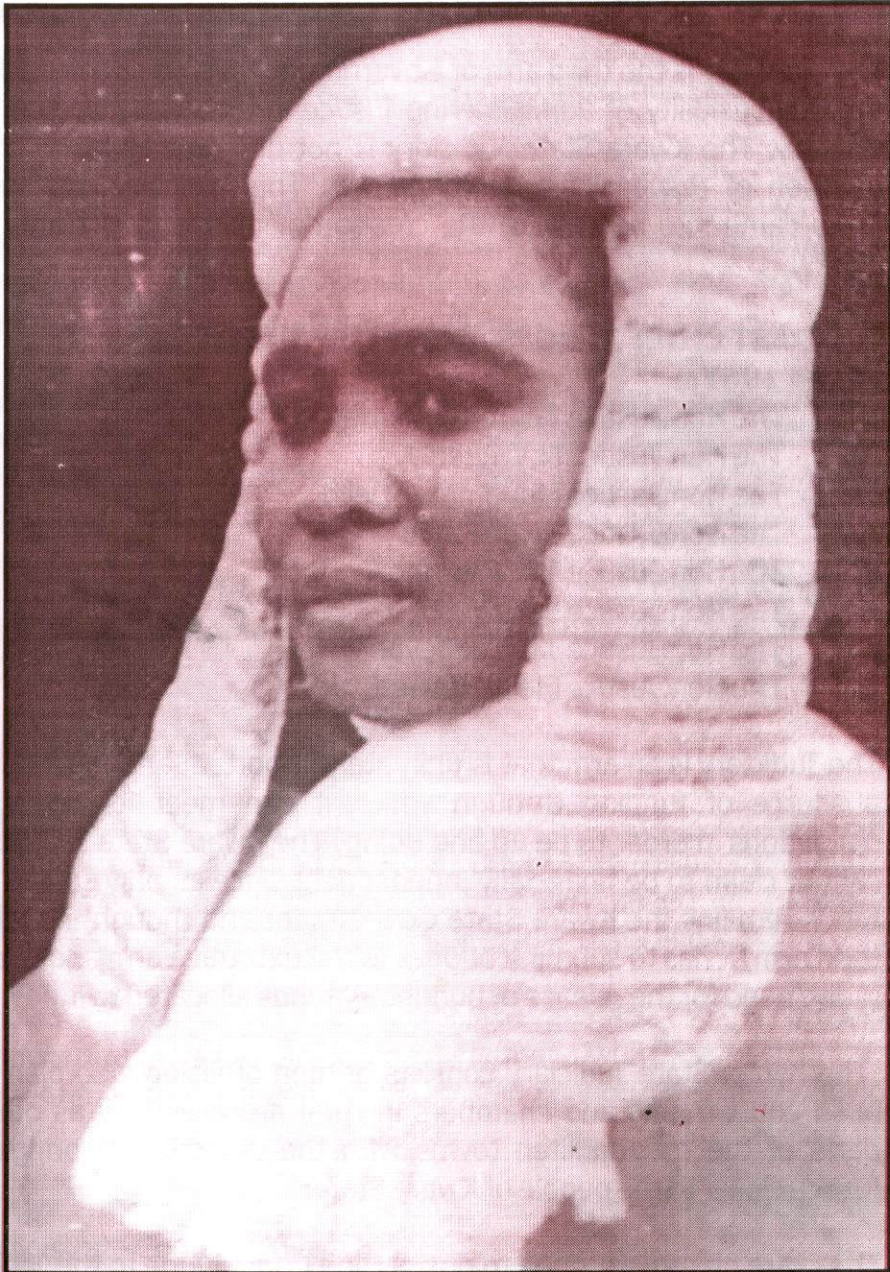
Hon. Justice Umaru Eri as a jurist has a track record of exemplary success as some of his decided cases are reported as authoritative case studies in Law Reports. The contribution of Hon. Justice Eri to the sacred justice is not only extensively vast; his several landmark judgments speak volumes of his robust intellectual vigour. Indeed his incisive, brilliant, and courageous judicial pronouncements and

rulings have become authoritative cornerstone references in Law.

On the 10-January, 2007, his lordship was appointed as Chairman of the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee of the Body Benchers in Nigeria. This is in recognition of his Lordship's wealth of experience as an erudite lawyer and a courageous judge.

Also, in April, 2007, his Lordship was appointed as a Life Bencher of the Body of Benchers in Nigeria. The appointment was based on his immense contributions to the development of the Legal Profession in the Country.

Hon. Justice Umaru A. Eri, OFR is happily married and blessed with great children. He enjoys sports, especially horse-riding.



HON. JUSTICE R. O. ELELU-HABEEB
Chief Judge, Kwara State.

THE KWARA STATE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is the third arm of Government which is saddled with the responsibility of administering justice in any State, region or Country. The Kwara State Judiciary is not different as far as this tradition of responsibility is concerned. The Judiciary of Kwara State came into being with the creation of twelve (12) states in 1967.

THE PAST CHIEF JUDGES AND CHIEF JUSTICES FROM 1967:

1. The Hon. Justice Wilfred H. Hurley
2. The Hon. Justice N.V. Reed
3. The Hon. Justice Mohammed Bello
4. The Hon. Justice Saidu Kawu
5. The Hon. Justice T.A. Oyeyipo
6. The Hon. Justice Saka Yusuf
7. The Hon. Justice J.F. Gbadeyan
8. The Hon. Justice Elelu-Habeeb

The Judiciary is an arm that is ultimately important and must have a source of funding through which it can meet its financial obligations in order to be up and doing. The Kwara State Judiciary cannot claim to be financially independent since its only source of funds remains the Kwara State Government and though, it is the third arm, it has to submit a budget to the executive arm and there is dire need for the release of budgetary funds allocated to it.

The Kwara State Judiciary consists of men of vision who plan to build court rooms and chambers in rural areas as well as other parts of the metropolitan towns with the objective of bringing justice closer to the people of Kwara State.

There are plans on ground to post a High Court Judge to the Jebba Judicial Division which will bring into force full Judicial operations in

the town. Also, the provision of a modern library with current up-to-date law reports and journals is expected to be put in place. The aim of this is proper administration of justice and good delivery of judgments.

The State Government has just approved a series of improved conditions of service for Magistrates. This is the tonic for improved performance, a re-invigorated judicial arm and high-level productivity of Magistrates and Judges.

Along this line, the new High Court Civil Procedure Rules came into being, putting an end to the former rules which had been in existence for almost two (2) decades providing for innovative changes and ideas like ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) etc.

The High Court of Kwara State has nine Judicial Divisions which are the Ilorin, Omu-Aran, Offa, Jebba, Pategi, Kaiama, Erinle, Afon and Osi Divisions.

MAGISTRATES

Before the creation of states, there were Magistrates for Ilorin and Kabba provinces sitting at Ilorin and Kabba respectively. After states were created in 1967, the judiciary added an additional Magistrate Court at Lokoja and later at Idah, Offa and Omu-Aran.

However, before the creation of Kwara State, the 1st Resident Magistrate then was Mr. Sham-UI-Haque, a white man sitting then at Ilorin. With the creation of states, indigenous Magistrates were appointed and so it has been since.

There are presently 28 Magistrates presiding over various Magistrate Courts in Kwara State.

Area Courts come after Magistrate Courts in Kwara State Judicial

structure. Before the creation of states in 1967, these courts were known as Native Courts and were presided over by Emirs, Obas and Alkalis in the then Northern Region. Now, legally qualified officers who hold LL.B Hons (BL) and Diploma-in-Law certificates preside over the Area Courts and the Head of the Area Courts later became known as Chief Inspector of Area Courts.

However, in communities where Islam is very dominant, the Area Courts located in such areas are presided over by officers learned in Islamic Law which are the edicts by which such areas are governed. Additionally, these officers are also learned in Common Law, Native Law and Customs and can adjudicate on such.

The administration of the Kwara Judiciary is presently headed by Her Lordship, Honourable Justice Raliatu Habib-Eledu, the Chief Judge of Kwara State.

JUDGES OF KWARA STATE

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice | R.O. Elelu-Habeeb - Chief Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice | J. F. Gbadeyan |
| 3. | Hon. Justice | B. Orilonise |
| 4. | Hon. Justice | A.O. Bamigbola |
| 5. | Hon. Justice | S.D. Kawu |
| 6. | Hon. Justice | M.A. Folayan |
| 7. | Hon. Justice | M.O. Adewara |
| 8. | Hon. Justice | M.A. Akoja |
| 9. | Hon. Justice | S.T. Daibu |
| 10. | Hon. Justice | A.A. Adebara |
| 11. | Hon. Justice | H.O. Ajayi |
| 12. | Hon. Justice | M. AbdulGafar |
| 13. | Hon. Justice | I.B. Garba |
| 14. | Hon. Justice | Ibrahim A. Yusuf |
| 15. | Hon. Justice | H.A. Saleeman |
| 16. | Hon. Justice | S.M. Akanbi |
| 17. | Hon. Justice | E.B. Emiworogi |

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE OF KWARA STATE

On. Justice Raliat Elelu Habeeb is the first woman to be appointed a Chief Judge in the history of Kwara State, the State of Harmony.

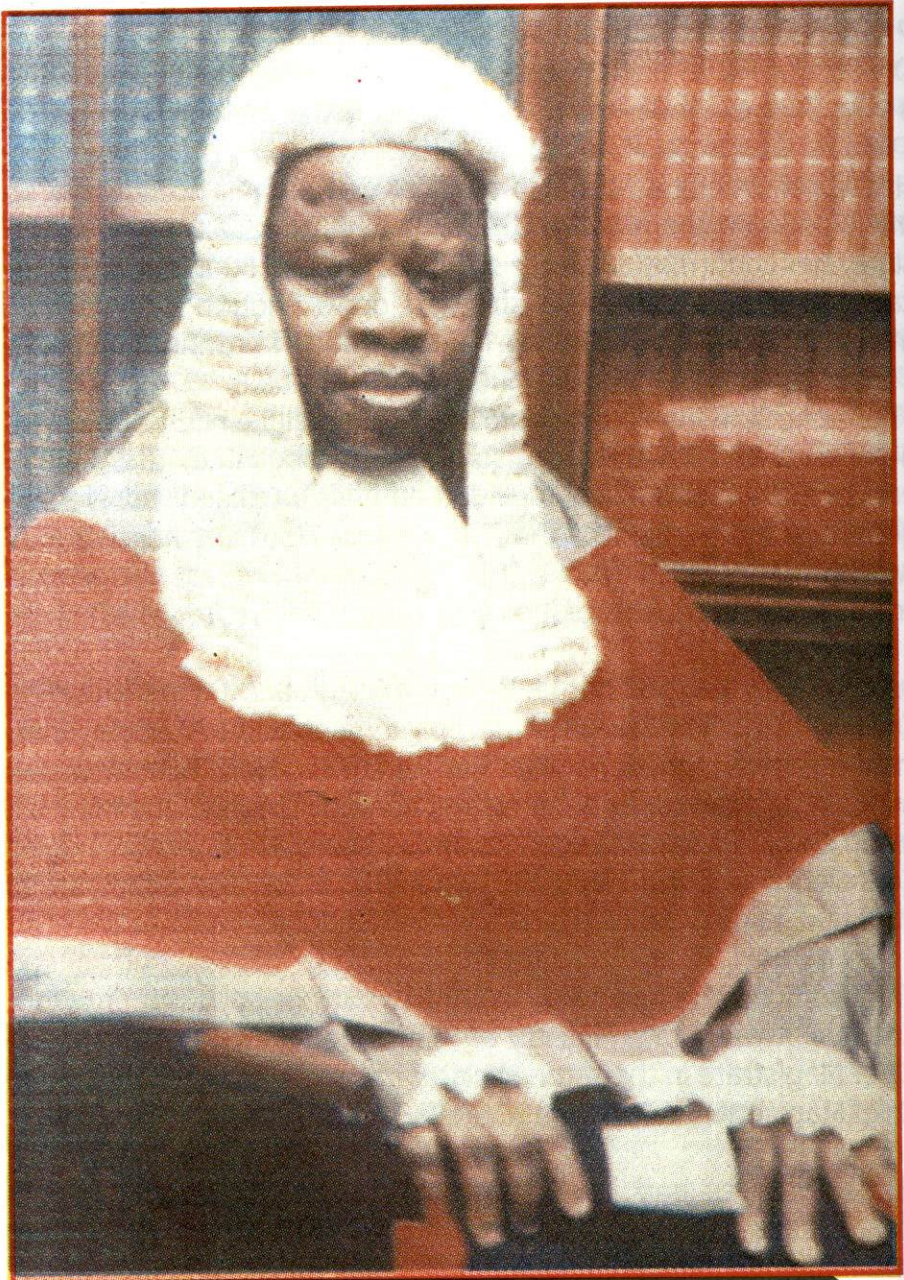
Her appointment as the acting Chief Judge was no surprise to many because she is indeed one of the highly rated Judges in the state. Her confirmation as the substantive Chief Judge also did not cause raised eyebrows as she had done enough in three (3) months in an acting capacity to have justified the confirmation.

The monthly visits to prisons by the Criminal Justice Committee, her desire and drive that prisons are decongested, the plan to ensure more facilities are provided and her intelligent answers to questions on the floor of the Kwara State House of Assembly as well as interviews with the press portray her as one who is competent and capable of justifying the confidence reposed in her.

Justice Raliat bagged her LL.B from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1972. The daughter of a prominent and respected Ilorin indigene was called to the Bar in 1973. She has attended numerous conferences at home and abroad. They include Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Lagos; All Nigerian Judges' Conference in 1983, 1984, 2001 and 2003 in Nigeria. She has also attended some organised by the United Nations.

The positions she had held before her current appointment were Counsel, Kwara State Ministry of Justice between 1973 and 1975, Chief Magistrate in the same Ministry between 1975 and 1986 and Chief Magistrate, Yola from 1986-1988.

Her astuteness and intelligence are bearing positively on the Kwara State Judiciary as she is committed to taking it to a higher level.



HON. JUSTICE ADETULA ALABI
Chief Judge, Lagos State.

THE LAGOS STATE JUDICIARY

The Lagos State Judiciary comes across as the most active judiciary in Nigeria. That is a fact that no one can dispute.

However, that is not all that the Lagos Judiciary is meant for. It is the oldest judiciary in Nigeria and the springboard for other States. This is not as a result of being the former Federal Capital Territory, nor is it because Lagos remains Nigeria's centre of commercial activities. It is simply because it was the first place in Nigeria where a western form of judiciary was established.

Lagos State Judiciary was established as the Colony Province Judiciary, following the cession by the British Government.

The first to be established among the courts was the Magistrate court; this was followed by the establishment of the High Court which was then called the Supreme Court, owing to its identification as the highest Court in the land with jurisdiction, however limited to Lagos. At the beginning of the self-government administration in Nigeria, the systems of courts inherited by the Federal Capital Territory were two: the Magistrate court and the Supreme Court of Lagos were later changed to the High Court of the Federal Territory due to the creation of the Federal Supreme Court.

When the former Western, Southern and Northern Regions were dissolved and states were created by virtue of the provisions of the State (Creation and Transitional Provisions) Decree no. 4 of 1967, Lagos was one of the twelve (12) States created. This necessitated the merging of the High and Magistrate Courts of the Federal Territory with the High and Magistrate Courts of the former Western Region, which was then located at Ikeja. This turned out to be the Lagos State Judiciary and it had as its pioneer Chief Justice, Honorable Justice Conrad Idowu Taylor. The title of Chief Justice was thereafter changed to Chief Judge.

The Lagos State Judiciary is a highly structured one and its organisational structure places courts in an ordered hierarchy. This starts from having the High Court as the highest in the State, the Magistrate courts scattered in different areas follow while the customary courts occupy the rear. Each of these courts has its own district rule guiding its affairs.

The Chief Judge is the professional head as well as the Chief Executive of the Judiciary. There are presently a total of forty-six (46) Judges under the control of the Chief Judge, Honorable Justice Augustine Adetula Alabi.

The Judiciary in Lagos has five Judicial Divisions. These are:

1. Ikeja Judicial Division
2. Lagos Judicial Division
3. Epe Judicial Division
4. Ikorodu Judicial Division, and the newly created
5. Badagry Judicial Division

The Ikeja Judicial Division covers the whole of the former colony province while the Lagos Judicial Division covers Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Apapa, Victoria Island and Ikoyi. The Epe Judicial Division on its own covers the whole of Epe Areas as well as the Ikorodu Judicial Division covers Ikorodu areas and the newly-created but highly functional Badagry Judicial Division covers Badagry Area of Lagos. These divisions are headed and supervised by the Secretariat, the High Court of Lagos State.

LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION

GENERAL CIVIL DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice I.E. Akande (Mrs) Hon. Admin Judge
2. Hon. Justice O.O. Oke (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice A.M. Nicol Clay (Mrs)
4. Hon. Justice Y.A. Adesanya (Mrs)
5. Hon. Justice O.A. Taiwo (Mrs)

LAND DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice B.O. Shitta-Bey (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice Y.O. Idowu (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice T. Ojikutu Oshode (Mrs)
4. Hon. Justice A.A. Oyebanju (Mrs)
5. Hon. Justice B.A. Oke Lawal (Mrs)

CRIMINAL DIVISION.

1. Hon. Justice D.O Oluwayemi (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice I.O. Kasali (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice O. A. Williams (Mrs)

COMMERICAL LAW DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice D.T. Okuwobi (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice A. Olateru- Olagbegi
3. Hon. Justice S.O. Ishola
4. Hon. Justice J.O. Pedro (Mrs)
5. Hon. Justice W.A.E. Ayo (Mrs)

FAMILY AND PROBATE DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice A.O. Kayode Ogunmekan (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice E.A. Lufadeju (Mrs)

REVENUE AND MORTGAGE DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice R.I.B. Adebisi (Mrs)

IKEJA JUDICIAL DIVISION**GENERAL & CIVIL DIVISION**

1. Hon. Justice L.G.A. Marsh – Hon. Admin Judge
2. Hon. Justice A.A. Philips (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice K.O. Alogba
4. Hon. Justice G.M. Onyeabo (Mrs)
5. Hon. Justice A.J. Coker (Mrs)
6. Hon. Justice J.E. Oyefeso (Mrs)

LAND DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice A.O. Adefope – Okojie (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice T.A.O. Oyekan Abdullai (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice O.A. Ipaye (Mrs)
4. Hon. Justice S.B.A. Candide – Johnson
5. Hon. Justice L.A. Okunnu (Mrs)

CRIMINAL DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice M. Olokoba
2. Hon. Justice M.A. Dada (Mrs)
3. Hon. Justice M.O. Obadina (Mrs)
4. Hon. Justice J.O.K. Oyewole

COMMERCIAL LAW DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice F.O. Atilade (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice O. Gbajabiamila
3. Hon. Justice S.A. Onigbanjo
4. Hon. Justice A.O. Opesanwo (Mrs)

FAMILY & PROBATE DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice E.O Williams – Dawodu (Mrs)
2. Hon. Justice S.O. Nwaka

REVENUE AND MORTGAGE DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice O.H. Oshodi

IKORODU DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice H.A.O Abiru

BADAGRY JUDICIAL DIVISION

1. Hon. Justice E.A. Adebajo

The Magistrate courts in Lagos State are courts of summary jurisdiction and therefore, handle an enormous number of cases on daily basis. Divided into Magisterial sub-districts, there are

seven (7) main districts in Lagos State which are Lagos Island, Yaba, Ikeja, Apapa, Epe, Badagry and Ikorodu Magisterial Districts. Every one of these districts has between one and two sub-divisions under it. These sub-divisions in turn oversee several other courts.

The Magisterial districts are headed by a Chief Magistrate Grade I (C.MI Admin) who handles all administrative matters such as the assignment of Criminal and Civil matters, processing judgments for execution and overseeing the Registries.

In addition to the regular Magistrate courts, there exist also specialised Courts and departments such as the juvenile Courts, special offences court, Rent Tribunal and the Land Registry.

Customary Courts are the courts that are located at the grass root levels. These are spread all over Lagos State and are easily identified among the people. The Customary Court System has two grades: Grade A and Grade B

The Customary Courts are usually manned by a panel consisting of one President and not less than three (3) other Judges which are usually called members. They are not proficient or qualified legally but are experienced men and women whose appointment, control and discipline are the prerogative of the Judicial Service Committee.

The salaries of such Presidents and Members of the Customary courts' panels are paid by the Local Government councils in which they are located and the revenue which accrue from fines, levies and seizure of properties of offenders are ploughed back into the councils' coffers. The rule which guides them is enshrined in the Customary Court Rules of Lagos State.

The Judicial Service Commission of Lagos State is the body saddled with the responsibilities of appointing, promoting, disciplinary control e.t.c. of all judicial and non-Judicial members

of staff of the Lagos State Judiciary. The commission is headed by the Honorable Chief Judge as the Chairman. It is equally composed of four (4) other members duly appointed by the Governor. The Secretary of the commission is chosen by one of the four (4) other members and usually, is an Administrative officer.

ETRA-ORDINARY SCORECARD.

It has not always been rosy for the Lagos State Judiciary in terms of infrastructure, manpower development, and adequate facilities and so on.

The State Judiciary had suffered tremendous neglect overtime but all these changed when Asiwaju Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the Governor of Lagos State.

His partnership with Hon. Justice Ade Alabi has brought innumerable, positive results for the Lagos State Judiciary. Today, achievements that are remarkable, notable and rare abound in every area. If the Lagos State Judiciary does not have a long list of remarkable achievements, who would? Therefore, only a few of such will be examined here.

The Automation and Computerisation of the Judiciary was put in place with all the facilities fully operational. Despite the relative success that has been achieved, the Judiciary in Lagos still presses forward and soon, every manual operation will be banished into the forests of oblivion. This will no doubt bring about unprecedented changes in the operational areas of the Lagos State Judiciary. It is being extensively done to the extent that litigants will be able to fill, file and down load submitted forms on line, thereby reducing the duplicity that comes with filing cases in different Judicial Divisions and the slow and almost everlasting nature of serious cases.

The automation and full computerisation is being done as a co-ordinated effort between the British Council and the Lagos State Government.

Costs of operations will reduce and as well, an increase in revenue

accruing to the Judiciary would be witnessed.

Automatic Recording Machines were also recently bought and installed in almost all the High Courts in the State. This has brought a revolution as Judges no longer record in the primitive longhand, a development which slows down the system, causes delays in judgments and makes the recording of evidence tedious and uninteresting.

These days, as a result of the revolutionary embrace of technology, a litigant who gives evidence in the court can be assured of having a copy of the record of the proceedings the following day.

The new High Court Civil Procedure Rules have been integrated into the system for a long time. This has reduced significantly, the time between filing of Court processes and date of judgments. The first step of the process is called **front loading** which makes it easy to expunge what is called **Trial-By-Ambush** and the second step is **Pre-trial conference**.

Apart from these, the establishment of a special court system to take care of the yearnings of Head of Commercial Banks as regards peculiar commercial cases involving large sums of money. The interesting note about the special fast-tracked courts is that there will be no room for adjournments once a case starts.

The Lagos State Judiciary has also carried out a massive recruitment of the Sheriff Corps to replace and take over the duties of bailiffs. These Sheriff Corps members who are graduate of varied disciplines are currently undergoing training in services of processes, execution and enforcement of judgments and orders as well as physical training.

Their introduction to members of the public will be done any moment from now.

The issue of touts who carry out various negative activities around court premises is a critical one for the Lagos State Judiciary. These touts have caused untold embarrassment to the Judiciary but his Lordship has declared a total war on them and their collaborators.

as many of them have been arrested and will soon face prosecution.

The state judiciary would sustain this tempo so as to eradicate all their activities.

The Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Alabi has appointed professionals to head appropriately, the various departments. This experiment is yielding indescribably heart-warming results and about seven (7) legally qualified offices were recently deployed to the various sections in furtherance of this laudable vision.

All Magistrate Courts in the State, which were hitherto abandoned, dilapidated and in lack of adequate facilities before the appointment of Hon. Justice Alabi have been brought back to life and appropriately equipped. It was so bad that some magistrates had no tables and chairs but all that is now a thing of the past as air conditioners, refrigerations, rugs, functional and respectable chairs and tables have been provided in about three (3) Magisterial Districts and the project would continue in others districts.

The Chief Judge's passion for prison decongestion is revealed in the steps being taken to reduce the length of time a person stays in prison while awaiting trial.

Within a short period of being in office, five hundred (500) inmates were released to different non-governmental organizations (NGOS) for rehabilitation, counseling and proper integration into the society. The number is that high because some have been in prison for upward of five (5) years. Others were arrested on environmental sanitation days and were dumped in prison, and tagged as awaiting trial persons for armed robbery offences because they refused or do not have the money to pay fines.

Women empowerment can not be said to be more prioritised in any other state than Lagos. The number of active, functional female members in the Lagos State Judiciary attests to this fact.

The last to be recorded here is the setting up of a body known as Public Complaints and Training Committee (P.C.T.C). This is the

body that investigates Judges and Magistrate on charges of corruption and gross misconducts. The body has a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on board and is presided over by a Senior Judge. Presently, it is headed by Hon. Justice Dotun Adefope Okojie and members of the public are advised to drop their complaints in the Complaints Boxes installed in many locations all over the State Courts.

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Augustine Adetula Alabi was welcomed into the world on 8th August, 1944 in Idoani, Ondo State. He was born into the respectable family of Late Pa David Omoniyi Alabi and Madan Esther Iyalola Alabi.

He attended the Holy Trinity School, Idoani between 1951 and 1958. In its desire to have the best of educational foundations, he proceeded to Imade College, Owo, Ondo State from 1959-1963. He thereafter secured admission into the Law Faculty of the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) where he left in 1969 and was at the Nigerian Law School, between 1969 and 1970.

His Lordship began his professional career at the Lagos Ministry of Justice as a State Counsel in 1973. His dexterity was remarkable and quick that it soon became known that a young genius was in the Ministry.

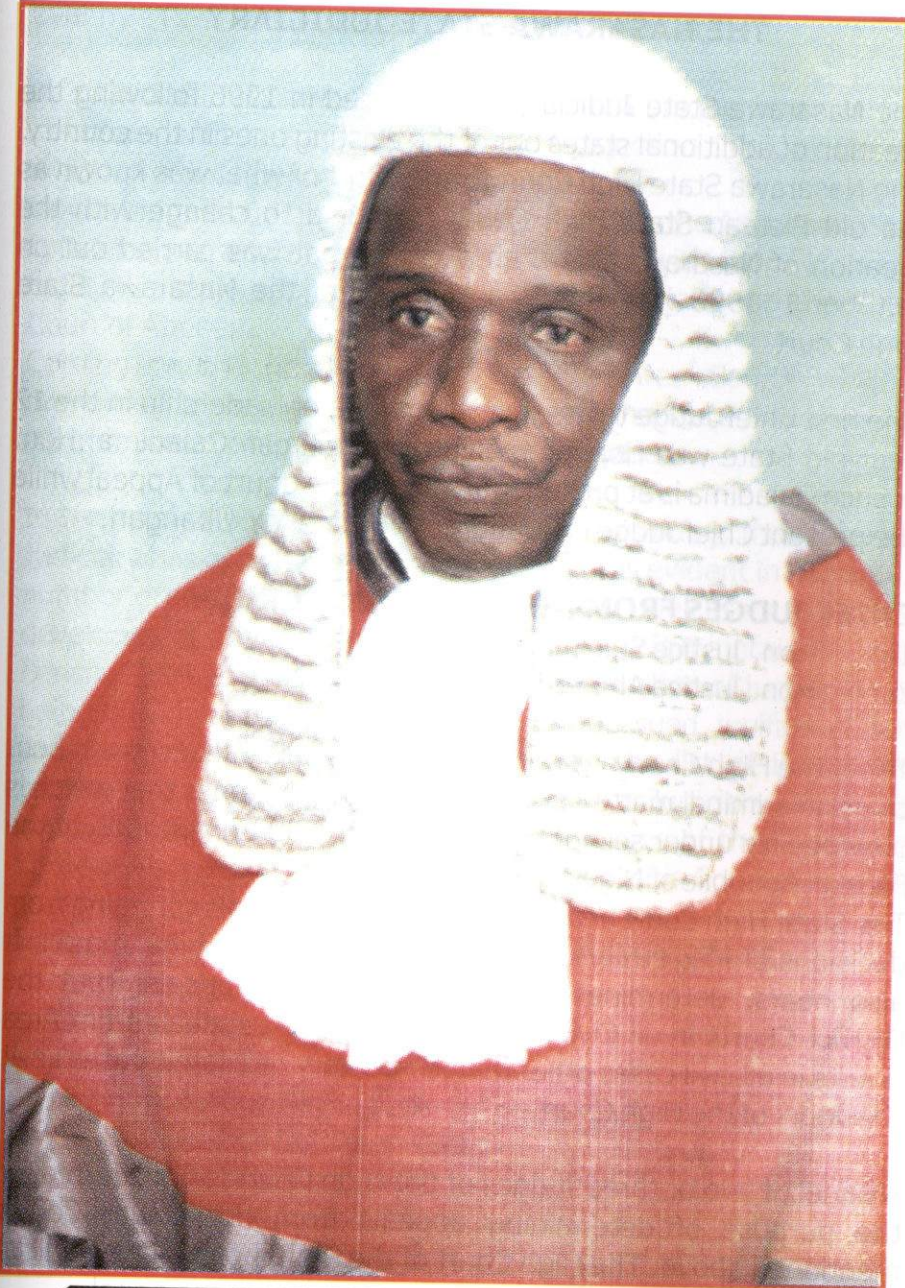
In no time, he rose through the ranks and was eventually appointed Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary. His elevation to the position of a High Court Judge was not too long in coming; it was on the 18 of November, 1986.

He was posted to the Ikeja Judicial Division as the Administrative Judge in 2002. He was later transferred to the Lagos Judicial Division as an Administrative Judge.

His appointment and subsequently swearing-in as the Chief Judge of Lagos State was on the 8 day of July 2004.

Before the call to higher duty, he was the Chairman, Editorial Board of the monthly Journal - Newsletter of the Lagos State Judiciary. He is a member of the Holy Trinity Church, Ebute-Ero, and the Island Club, Lagos.

His Lordship is married to Mrs. Oluwayemisi Olalade Alabi, a businesswoman whom he got married to on December 1st 1973 and they are blessed with six (6) children.



HON. JUSTICE AHMED Y. UBANGARI
Chief Judge, Nasarawa State.

THE NASARAWA STATE JUDICIARY

The Nasarawa State Judiciary was founded in 1996 following the creation of additional states out of the existing ones in the country. The Nasarawa State High Court formed part of what was known as the old Plateau State High Court. This had to change with the creation of Nasarawa State, an exercise that was carried out on October 1, 1996 with the establishment of the Nasarawa State High Court.

The first Chief Judge to assume the mantle of leadership in the 12 year-old State was Honourable Justice Suleiman Galadima. Hon. Justice Galadima is at present a Justice of the Court of Appeal while the present Chief Judge is Honourable Justice A.Y. Ubangari.

CHIEF JUDGES FROM THE BEGINNING

1. Hon. Justice Suleiman Galadima
2. Hon. Justice Ahmed Y. Ubangari

The State High Court has original and appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters. Originally, its jurisdiction is that which is provided for under section 272 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The State High Court hears and determines appeals springing from decisions of Magistrates and Area Courts in all criminal matter. It also hears, determines and adjudicates on appeals from the District Courts in all Civil Matters. In addition, appeals from Area Courts in all civil cases other than customary or Islamic cases lie at the doors of the High Court.

A panel of two or three Judges of the High Court is Constituted for the purpose of determining appeals from the Lower Courts mentioned above. The High Court of the State has a single Judicial Division, with four (4) High Courts at Lafia, the State Capital. For the purpose of convenience for litigants, a High Court, presided

over by a Resident High Court Judge is situated at Keffi.

As such, the Nasarawa State Judiciary has a unique organizational structure with a single but evidently function Judicial Division which covers the whole state.

However, in its unique characteristic fashion, the Nasarawa State Judiciary has a total of five (5) High Courts with four (4) serving Lafia, the state capital and one (1) serving Keffi and the Sharia Court of Appeal.

Coming on the heels of these are the Area Courts which is numerous in number and spread all over the state and then, the District Courts which hear and rule on civil cases.

In terms of development, though relatively young, the Nasarawa Judiciary has grown in leaps and bounds as is evident in its present number of the High Courts and the others as well as its manpower development drive which ensures that quality is maintained on the Bench. This has paid off because the dispensation of justice is now being quickly done, prison decongestion pursued, welfare of both Judicial and Non-Judicial officers top on the list of issues that continue to take pride of place in the State Judiciary. There are eight (8) High Court Judges, three (3) Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal and three (3) Khadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal.

JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT, NASARAWA STATE.

1. Hon. Justice A.Y. Ubangari
2. Hon. Justice Badamasi Maina
3. Hon. Justice Isa Ramalan
4. Hon. Justice Haruna Loko
5. Hon. Justice Suleiman Dikko
6. Hon. Justice John Vikko
7. Hon. Justice James Abindaga
8. Hon. Justice Maiwada

PROFILE OF HON. JUSTICE AHMED Y. UBANGARI

Honourable Justice Ahmed Ubangari was born on the 31 December, 1945 at Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State.

He attended the Senior Primary School, Wamba, for his primary education from 1959- 1961.

From the Senior Primary School, Wamba, he proceeded to the Teacher's College, Toro in the year 1962. He completed his education there in 1966 by obtaining a Grade II Certificate.

His eventual admission into the famous Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria was the next in 1971. In 1973, he succeeded in obtaining a Diploma in Law. He went back in 1975 to pursue a Degree in the same course and graduated in 1978.

He went on to the Nigerian Law School, Lagos in 1979 and was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar in the same year. His quest for more knowledge led his Lordship to the University of Lagos in 1990, from where he obtained a certificate in Advanced Legal Studies.

The working career of Hon. Justice Ubangari began when he joined the defunct Benue-Plateau State Judiciary in 1973 as a Registrar of Courts and was posted to Katsina Ala.

He was later appointed as the Registrar, Sharia Court of Appeal, Benue/Plateau and North Eastern State between the years of 1975. He was made Senior Registrar, High Court of Jos in 1978, a position he held until 1979.

He was appointed a Magistrate Grade II in 1980, Senior Magistrate II between 1981 and 1983 and as Chief Magistrate I from 1983-1985. He was elevated to Chief Magistrate I in 1986.

In 1987, he became the Deputy Chief Registrar, High Court, Jos and was in the same post until 1989. He later rose to the rank of Chief Registrar in 1990 and left in 1993 due to his elevation to the position of a Judge of the High Court, Jos on 1 of October, 1993. The creation of Nasarawa State out of the Old Plateau State led to

his re-appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Nasarawa State in March 1997 and his latest which is yet the climax of his illustrious career so far was his appointment as the Chief Judge of Nasarawa State on 4 May, 1999. He is married with children and his undying passion is the total embrace of rule of law at all levels of government and the engendering of equality and accessibility to justice for everyday Nigerians.

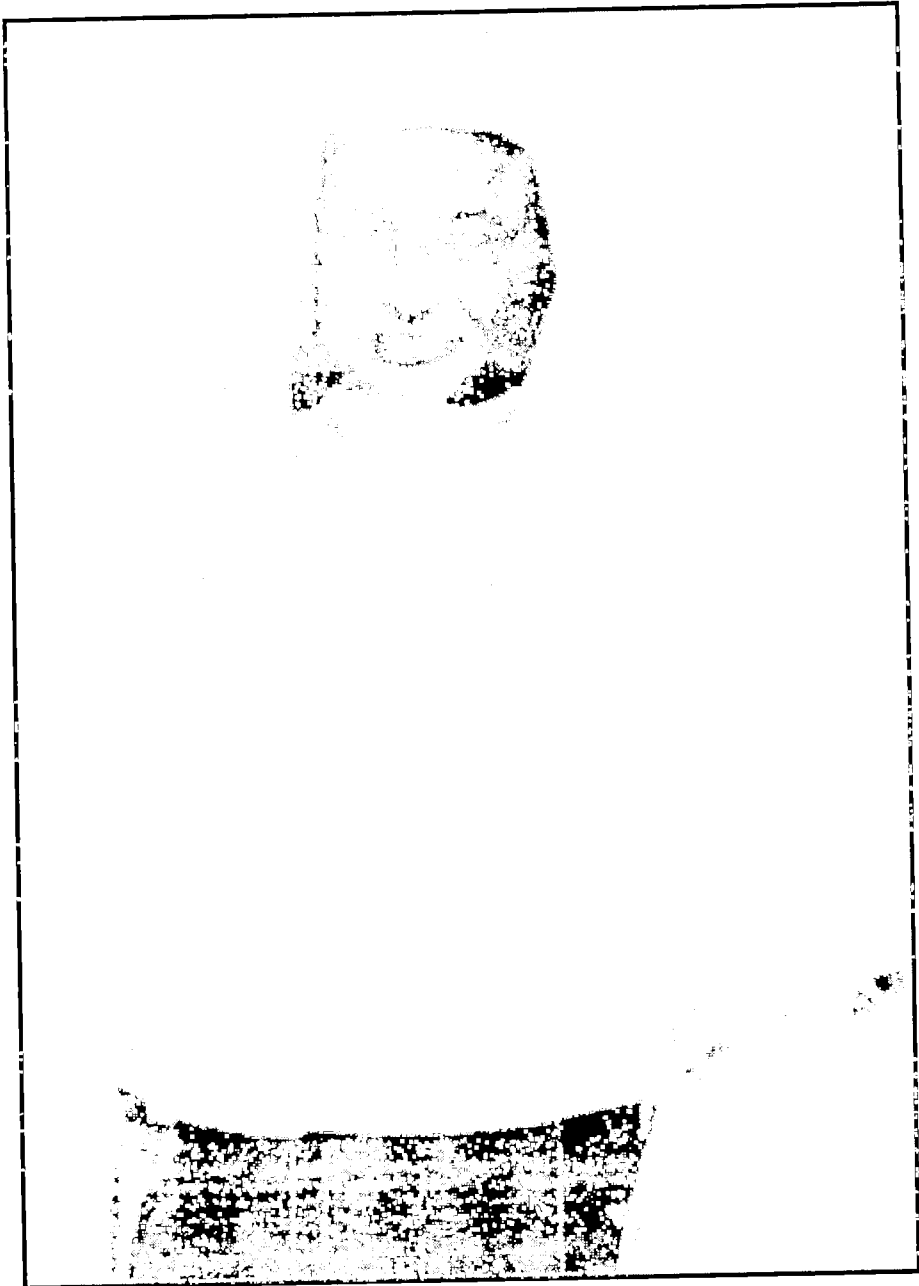
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HON. JUSTICE J. N. NDAJIWO OFR
Chief Judge, Niger State.

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THE NIGER STATE JUDICIARY

The Niger State Judiciary came into being with the states' creation exercise of the year 1976. It was carved out of the then North Western State on 3rd February, 1976.

The Niger State Judiciary took off with a High Court, which was located in the area that was known as the Niger Province. The court had been established in April 1973 with Honourable Justice Mu'azu Muhammad as the Acting Judge. He was appointed a substantive Judge two years before the creation of Niger State in April 1974.

Following the creation of the state, three (3) Judges were appointed. They are:-

1. Hon. Justice Ma'azu Muhammad as the Chief Judge
2. Hon Justice Idris L. Kutigi (now the Chief Justice of Nigeria), and
3. Hon. Justice L.A. Awoniyi (of blessed memory).

His Lordship, Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi also served as Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice side by side with his position as Judge of the High Court. He was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 1981 and later, the Supreme Court before assuming the current position of Chief Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The present Chief Judge is Honourable J.N. Ndajiwo who was appointed the acting Chief Judge on 18th November, 1991 and later confirmed as the substantive Chief Judge on December 18th of the same year.

The Niger State Judiciary has five (5) Judicial Divisions which are as follows:-

1. Minna Judicial Division
2. Bida Judicial Division
3. Suleja Judicial Division
4. Kontagora Judicial Division
5. New Bussa Judicial Division

There are also several courts which operated as Area Courts prior to the introduction of the Sharia Law in 2001, these courts were transformed into Sharia Courts and merged with the Sharia Court of Appeal.

The Magistrate Courts, the other arm of the High Court, are spread in the nooks and crannies of the Local Government Areas of the state. There are presently thirty-seven (37) of them in the state.

The state Judiciary boasts of competent personnel in the Sharia Courts and Magistrate's Courts. Apart from those, there are thirteen (13) Judges in the High Court and the Judicial Divisions. The courts are busy throughout the year in the divisions and hold appeals on rotational basis.

Under the Chief Judge is the Chief Registrar of the High Court who handles the administrative department and other policies of the Chief Judge. There have been ten (10) Chief Registrars from inception till date.

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS

The landmark achievements of the Niger State Judiciary are indeed many. However, for the purpose of this publication, we will choose a few of them. In the history of the Judiciary, before we come to the outstanding performance of Judges in Niger State, it is pertinent to point to the fact that out of the ten (10) Chief Registrars, three (3) have gone on to become Judges of the High Court, Niger State. One also became a Judge of the High Court,

Kano State; one became a Judge of the Federal High Court and another, a Judge of the Court of Appeal. It is gratifying to note also that the present Chief Justice was a Chief Judge from 1981-1982.

This interesting story of manpower development of the Niger State Judiciary also boasts of having a pioneer Judge of the state as the current Chief Justice of Nigeria in the person of his Lordship, Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi.

The time of Hon. Justice Jibrin N. Ndajiwo as the Chief Judge has not only continued this trend, it has developed other avenues of developmental growth and expansion.

This can be seen in the computerisation of the State High Court and the adequate empowerment of its members of staff with the requisite training needed to handle these equipments in April 2002.

The procurement of automatic recording machines was also done. This has tremendously eased the recording of cases which were hitherto done in long hand. The recording in long hand had brought untold hardship to Judges before this time.

With these changes and quest for expansion and growth, the ultimate aim of which is to bring justice closer to the people of Niger, the Power State, the Niger State Judiciary, with a robustly talented Judicial Commission will strengthen the Nigerian State more than ever before by carrying out perfectly, its constitutional roles.

JUDGES OF NIGER STATE

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice J.N. Ndajiwo OFR | Chief Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice Oseni Oyewo | Judge |
| 3. | Hon. Justice Adamu Gado | Judge |

4.	Hon. Justice Fati L. Abubakar	Judge
5.	Hon. Justice Abubakar S. Abuja	Judge
6.	Hon. Justice Maria S. Zukogi	Judge
7.	Hon. Justice Chistopher I. Auta	Judge
8.	Hon. Justice Tanko Yusuf Usman	Judge
9.	Hon. Justice Idris M.J. Evuti	Judge
10.	Hon. Justice Ahmed A. Bima	Judge
11.	Hon. Justice Aliyu M. Mayaki	Judge
12.	Hon. Justice Aisha A.L.B. Bwari	Judge
13.	Hon. Justice Amina A. Wambai	Judge

Hon. Jibrin Ndatsu Ndajiwo, OFR was born on 29th March, 1948. He began his primary education at Doko Junior Primary School and completed it at Ndayako Senior Primary School, Bida. He was at Government College, Bida for his WASC and Higher School Certificate in 1967-1969.

He was admitted to study Law at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 1970-1973.

He went to the Nigerian Law School, Lagos in 1974 and was called to the Bar the same year.

His working career began as a Teacher in W.T.C. Minna in January, 1970.

He was appointed Inspector of Area Courts, Grade II on July 1st 1973. He was also a State Counsel in the Ministry of Justice, East Central State for his National Service. He has risen through the ranks to become the Honourable Chief Judge of the Niger State Judiciary.

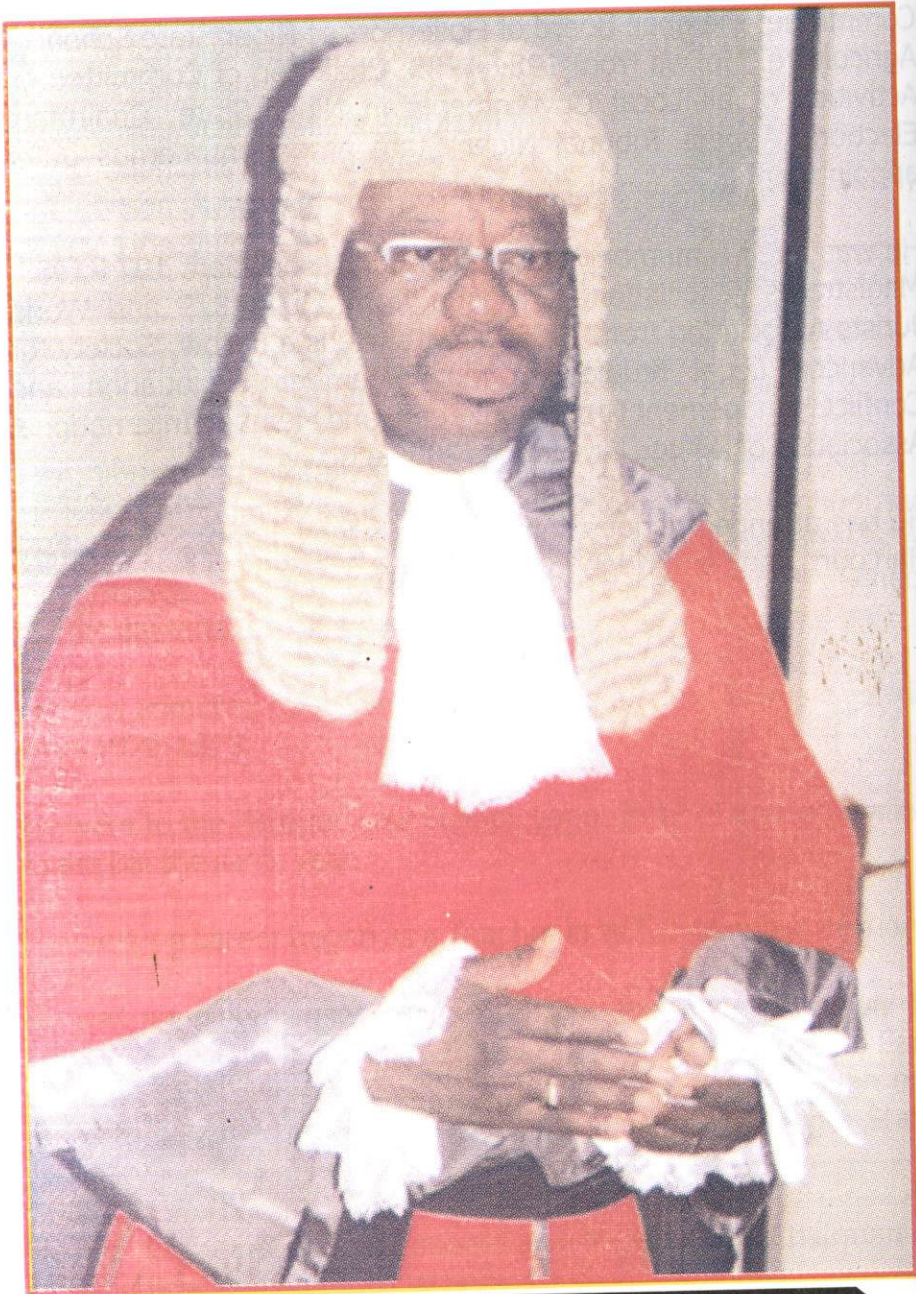
He has held various appointments as a Member and Chairman of many judicial and non-judicial bodies and organizations.

He was a member, Niger State Committee for Conducting Local Government Elections in 1997; Niger State Development Fund

Committee; member, Board of Governors of Niger State School of Agriculture, Mokwa from 1984-1985; Chairman of Committee on Activities of all Local Governments in Niger State; Chairman, Elections Appeal Tribunal Niger State among numerous other appointments.

He was been a member of Nigerian Bar Association, 1974-1985, Magistrates Association of Nigeria from 1978-1979 and World Jurists Association from 1992 till date. He is a Fellow, Society for Advanced Legal Studies, London; Member, Negotiation and Conflict Management Group 2007- date and Member, International Association of Refuge Law Judges 2006 e.t.c.

He has attended various seminars in Sydney, Kano, Sokoto, Port Harcourt, and Cambridge to name a few.



HON. JUSTICE C. OLUREMI JACOBS
Chief Judge, Ogun State.

THE OGUN STATE JUDICIARY

The Ogun State Judiciary is, by any standard, a pride to the judicial arm in Nigeria going by its trail-blazing and pace-setting precedents as well as its relentless entrenchment of great values. The fact that Ogun State has been blessed with visionary leaders, seasoned professionals and outstanding technocrats leaves no one surprised that the state has continued to record these achievements.

The story of the Judiciary in the Gateway State began with the creation of Ogun State in 1976. This was a juicy fruit of the States (Creation and Transitional Provision) Decree 14 of 1976. Like a child destined for greatness, Ogun State Judiciary instantly began impacting on its environment.

The state maintains six (6) Judicial Divisions with a plethora of courts in the nooks and crannies of the Gateway State. The Chief Judge, His Lordship, Hon. Justice Charles Oluremi Jacobs sits at the Headquarters, the Abeokuta Judicial Division, and leads other Judges who sit at the five (5) other Judicial Divisions in the state. The Judicial Divisions are Abeokuta, Sagamu, Ijebu-ode, Ota, Ijebu-Igbo and Ilaro.

Down the rung of the ladder are Magistrates of various cadres which range from Chief Magistrate Grade I and II, Senior Magistrates Grade I and II, to Magistrates Grade I. All these officers are legally qualified for the job. Added to them are Presidents of Customary Courts created all over the state.

Being a state that prides itself as the Gateway State, added to its proximity to Lagos, Oyo and Ondo, Ogun State is open to increased urbanisation, commercialisation and development. As good as these are, they come with attendant increase in population, crime rate and litigations.

As such, the judiciary is constantly faced with the challenge of broadening its vision and widening its tentacles in order to cope with such circumstances. This is the reason for the recent creation of three (3) Magisterial Districts of Ado-Odo, Ago-Iwoye and Odogbolu.

The Magisterial Districts of Ishara, Abigi and Agbara are in the pipeline to fast-track the dispensation of justice in those areas as the state becomes more cosmopolitan on a regular basis.

These decisions have really paid off because in terms of crime rate, Ogun is not a notable state as the crime rate is low, while the people extensively have access to justice.

The policy thrust of the state judiciary is to bring justice closer to the people of Ogun State and this is aptly captured in the mission statement: The Ogun State Judiciary of our dream. A cathedral of Justice, truly independent, transparent, committed to upholding the rule of law, equity and restoring hope to all manner of men.

The State Judiciary kicked off with the Hon. Justice E. B. Craig as the pioneer Chief Judge. He worked tirelessly while in the saddle with other judges to establish a solid foundation for justice administration in Ogun State and this has led to the phenomenal growth being witnessed today with special focus on timely and proper administration of justice and unbending desire for personal development.

HIGHLIGHTS OF REFORMS

The creation of new Magisterial Districts and Judicial Divisions with the sole aim of taking Justice closer to the people puts Ogun State in the driving seat of Judicial arms that take their roles seriously.

The establishment of mobile courts in the state to adjudicate on issues that require quick dispensation like sanitation, local government offences etc. is not only innovative but commendable because it eliminates the usually slow and long winding complexities of a court case.

Since Ogun State cannot afford to lag behind in any area, the New Civil Procedure Rules are currently being worked on and anytime from now, its integration into the State Laws is sure to take place.

The Ogun State Judiciary is endowed with outstanding individuals who chart pathways for others to follow. This is helped by the industry, knowledge base and aspirations of the Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel who ensured the complete and up-to-date computerisation of the Judiciary. This is reinforced by the provision of Laptops and computers for all Honourable Judges and their secretaries respectively. The State Government also ensured they are trained, along with typists, on how to operate the computers at the South West Resources Centre under the auspices of the state government. The State Judiciary, in tandem with the desire of the state government that all government establishments everywhere in the state become citadels of IT education, is on the way to being information technology-compliant. What with the hosting of a website, www.ogunstatejudiciary.org from where information can be sought about the Ogun State Judiciary.

The Ogun State Law Report not only gives Lawyers, administrators and judicial officers materials to work with, it ensures that records are adequately documented for publics far and near.

The setting up of the Ogun State Judiciary Library Committee is another milestone recorded by Ogun State Judiciary.

The issue of manpower development cannot be over-emphasised in Ogun State. This explains the mandatory, regular and consistent

training and re-training of officers of the Judiciary as well as supporting members of staff. In collaboration with the National Judicial Institute, Ogun State Judiciary exposes its entire workforce to new trends, patterns and the necessary workshops, seminars and symposia to arm them with requisite tools to work effectively and efficiently; the results of which are being positively felt.

The area of probity and accountability is not taken lightly in the Ogun Judiciary as various checks and balances are constantly put in place in order to block or expose loopholes and leakages in the system. There is also a standardised method of ensuring transparency in the system.

Regular prison visits are organised to ensure that deserving inmates are released. The major criteria are: (1) Long period of awaiting trial, and (2) Health-related grounds.

This is embarked upon in conjunction with the other stakeholders. The relationship that exists between the Bench and Bar can only be described as symbiotic. This is because it creates no room for distrust on the two sides of the coin. This is also the case with other agencies like the Police, Customs, Immigrations, Nigerian Army, NDLEA, Journalists etc.

The Ogun State Judiciary does not joke with the welfare of all officers and supporting members of staff just as it does not joke with their working environment and tools. To this end, a Staff Welfare Committee of the Judiciary has been set up, to which members can apply for assistance in cases of illness and other unforeseen circumstances. This has not only brought management closer to the members of staff, it has inspired and planted confidence in them to give their best at all times.

The Ogun State Judiciary also has a JUDICIARY STAFF CO-OPERATIVE, THRIFT AND CREDIT SOCIETY which has been in existence for over thirteen (13) years and has all members of staff including his Lordship, Hon. Justice Oluremi Jacobs as members.

This is headed by a winning team of dynamic and seasoned Executive members presided over by Mrs. H. I. Majekodunmi.

THE JUDGES

1. Honourable Justice O. O. Olopade
2. Honourable Justice A. O. Lokuio-Sodipe
3. Honourable Justice N. I. Saula
4. Honourable Justice O. A. Ogundepo
5. Honourable Justice O. A. Adesida
6. Honourable Justice P. A. Onamade
7. Honourable Justice M. A. Dipeolu
8. Honourable Justice O. Mabekoje
9. Honourable Justice M. A. Ojo
10. Honourable Justice O. A. M. Onafowokan
11. Honourable Justice A. A. Akinyemi
12. Honourable Justice O. O. Majekodunmi
13. Honourable Justice N. I. Agbelu
14. Honourable Justice H. O. Solanke
15. Honourable Justice E. O. Osinuga
16. Honourable Justice O. S. Olusanya
17. Honourable Justice A. O. Asenuga

PROFILE OF HON. JUSTICE CHARLES OLUREMI JACOBS, HON. CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Charle Oluremi Jacobs was born on 19th September, 1946. He started his educational pursuit at Saint Paul's Catholic Primary School, Ebute Metta, Lagos. From there, he proceeded to the famous Baptist Academy, Obanikoro, Lagos and he finished his secondary education eventually at Olivet Baptist High School, Oyo.

On obtaining his Higher School Certificate/G.C.E. 'A' level in 1970, he secured admission to the Law Faculty of the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife) where he bagged his LL.B (Hons) in 1974. His call to the Nigerian Bar was in 1975 and since then, he has not looked back.

He was a State Counsel in the Ministry of Justice, Kaduna in 1975-1976 after which he opted for private practice in the Chambers of Odunlade & Co., Ibadan from 1976-1977. From there, he moved on to Olatunde Odubiyi & Co., in Abeokuta, where he was for six solid and productive years.

He left the chambers of Olatunde Odubiyi to start his own, C. Oluremi Jacobs & Co. as the Principal Partner. This was located in Abeokuta and between 1983 and 1991, he was engaged in distinguished law practice. This explains why he was nominated a member of the Governing Council of Ogun State Polytechnic in 1983 and he remained so until 1985.

He was also a member, High-powered Panel of Inquiry, Collapsed Reservoir of Iberekodo Water Project, Ogun State, in 1985.

In 1983, he was appointed Solicitor and Legal Adviser, Methodist Church of Nigeria, Egba/Egbado Diocese of Wesley Estate from 1983-1991.

The year 1989 can be said to be the year of exemplary recognition for his Lordship as he was appointed Solicitor, Wema Bank Plc, Ogun State, a position he held from 1989-1991. He was also the Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Abeokuta Branch in the same year. Also, he became a member of the International Bar Association.

In 1991, Hon. Justice Oluremi Jacobs was also appointed Chairman, Elections Tribunal, Ilaro Judicial Division and also appointed a Judge, Ogun State Judiciary. Next in his call to service

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was Chairman, Robbery and Firearms Tribunal, from 1991-1994.

He was a member, Local Government Elections Tribunal, Bauchi State in 1999. His exemplary career continued with his appointment as member, State and National Assembly Elections Tribunal in Bauchi State, in 1999.

He was the Chairman of Ogun State Elections Tribunal from 2000-2001. His elevation as the Chief Judge of Ogun State took effect from 2001 to cap four decades of exemplary track record.

He is a member of the Body of Benchers and Board of Governors, National Judicial Institute as well as Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee and the National Judicial Institute. He has attended a host of local, national and International Conferences including but not limited to:

1. Commonwealth Law Conference, Lagos: 1980
2. World Jurists Association Conference, Spain: 2002
3. World Jurists Association Conference, Italy: 2004
4. World Jurists Association Conference, China: 2005

His hobbies are playing Table and Lawn Tennis, Golf and Music



HON. JUSTICE (DR.) G. O. OLATERU-OLAGBEGI
Chief Judge, Ondo State.

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THE ONDO STATE JUDICIARY

The Ondo State Judiciary is one of the power houses of the judicial arm not only in the South West but in the whole of the country. The Ondo State Judiciary was created on the 3rd of February 1976, following the creation of the state.

It was one of the states that emerged following the creation of states in 1976. The two other states which were carved out of the defunct Western Region were Ogun and Oyo states. Together, they formed what is today known as the South West geo-political zone along with Lagos.

The Ondo State judiciary began with three (3) judicial Divisions which were:

1. Akure Judicial Division
2. Ondo Judicial Division
3. Ado Ekiti Judicial Division

Five (5) pioneer Judges were in service at that time. These were Hon. Justice (Dr.) Akinola Aguda, Hon. Justice Olakunle Orojo, Hon. Justice C. Piper, Hon. Justice O. Olatawura and Late Hon. Justice M. E. Ogundare.

These pioneer Judges co-operated with other supporting members of staff to lay a solid foundation for the Ondo State Judiciary.

The Judges believed that without the Sheriffs, Clerks, Typists, Secretaries etc they (the Judges) would be like Generals without troops and today, the consideration of that fact has brought indescribable success to the state Judicial arm.

In November 1976, just a few months on after the inception of Judicial activities, the leadership identified and filled the need of an additional hand with the appointment of Hon. Justice S. F. Adeoye.

Now, after about three (3) decades of excellent performance in its constitutional roles, the Ondo State Judiciary has a total of eight (8) Judicial Divisions which are Akure, Owo, Ikare, Ondo, Okitipupa, Ifon, Oka and Ore Judicial Divisions.

It must be borne in mind that some Judicial Divisions were conceded to Ekiti State, which was created out of the old Ondo State in 1996.

There are fourteen (14) Magisterial Districts with twenty-four Magistrates sitting in different parts of the State.

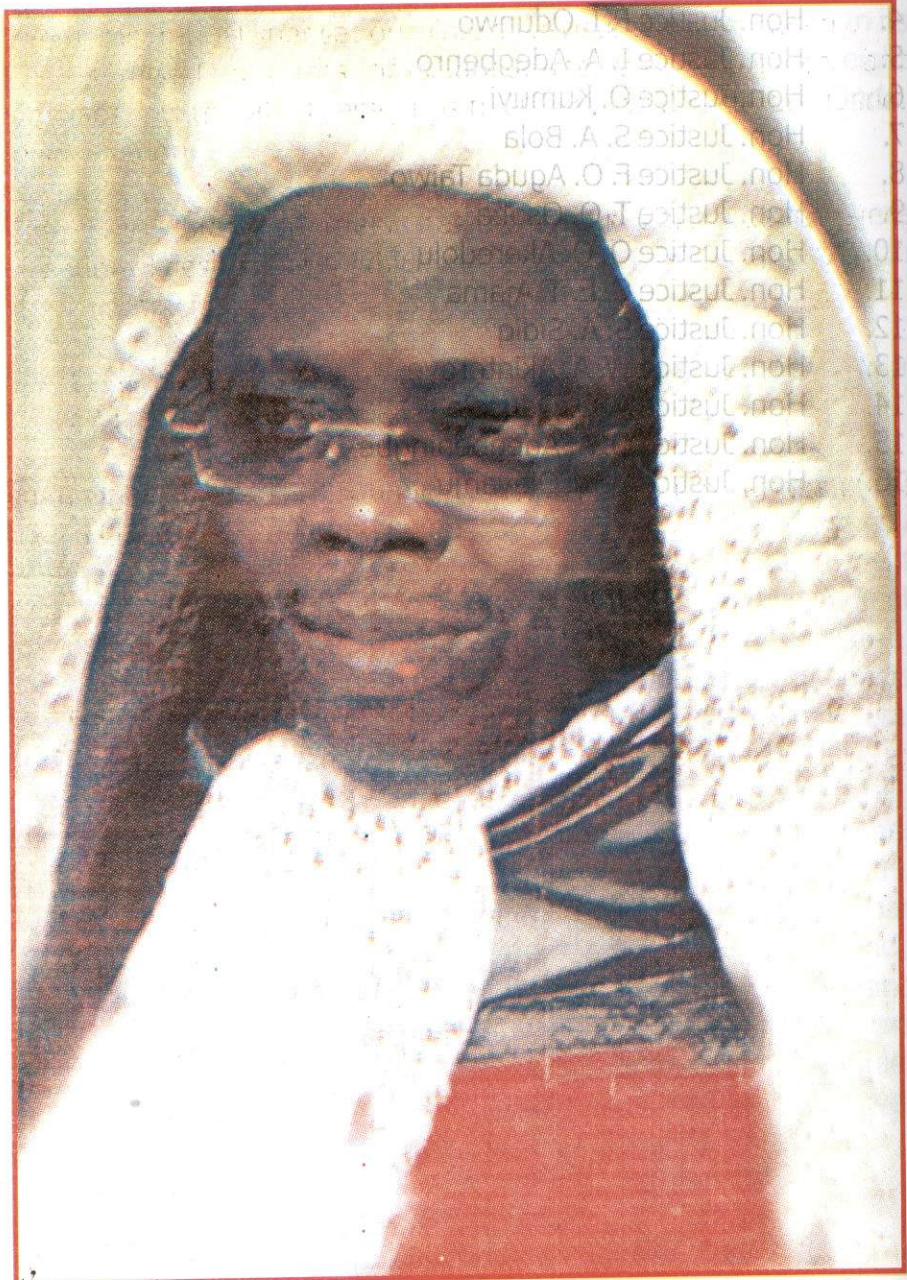
There are ten (10) Rent Tribunals spread all over the eighteen (18) Local Government Areas of the State. These are presided over by competent, qualified Legal Practitioners. The State Government set up the Revenue Court in 1997 to adjudicate on all government revenue related matters. The Revenue Court is located in Akure, the state capital of the Sunshine State. The state Judiciary boasts of an abundance of Customary Courts which are located in a total of thirty-six (36) towns in the state.

The Ondo State Judiciary has an objective which overrides all other sentiments. That is to bring Justice which is free and fair to the doorstep of the people and this, without sounding immodest, has been largely achieved but a gratifying characteristic of the Ondo State Judiciary is that it will never rest on its achievements and notable success. What with the state Judiciary manned by the copiously experienced, abundantly versatile and dynamic Chief Judge, Honourable Justice (Dr.) G. O. Olateru-Obagbegi, the awe-inspiring daughter of the Olateru-Olagbegi Royal Family of Owo.

OTHER JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT

1. Hon. Justice E. A. Komolafe
2. Hon. Justice A. O. Akinwalere
3. Hon. Justice O. Fagbe

4. Hon. Justice P. I. Odunwo
5. Hon. Justice I. A. Adegbenro
6. Hon. Justice O. Kumuyi
7. Hon. Justice S. A. Bola
8. Hon. Justice F. O. Aguda Taiwo
9. Hon. Justice T. O. Osoba
10. Hon. Justice O. O. Akeredolu
11. Hon. Justice C. E. T. Ajama
12. Hon. Justice S. A. Sidiq
13. Hon. Justice W. A. Akintoroye
14. Hon. Justice A. O. Odusola
15. Hon. Justice O. A. Adegbehingbe
16. Hon. Justice Yemi Olayanju



HON. JUSTICE F. O. OGUNSOLA
 Chief Judge, Osun State.

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THE OSUN STATE JUDICIARY

The Osun State Judiciary is one of the youngest in the country. This is because it was created along with the likes of Ekiti, Ebonyi etc in 1996. Since then, the Osun State Judiciary has found its footing and has really demonstrated maturity beyond its young age.

The Osun State Judiciary has the same organizational structure as can be found in many states. It has the High Court with a total of fifteen (15) High Court judges including the Chief Judge, and thirty (30) Magistrate Courts.

There are seven (7) Judicial Divisions in the states. These are:

1. The Ilesa Judicial Division
2. The Oshogbo Judicial Division
3. The Ile Ife Judicial Division
4. The Ikire Judicial Division
5. The Ikirun Judicial Division
6. The Iwo Judicial Division
7. The Ede Judicial Division

The Osun State Judicial also boasts of a vibrant and problem solving Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN)

There is the Justice dispensing machinery heavily laced with credible, intelligent and knowledgeable officials.

Since the creation of the Osun State and the setting up of the state judicial arm with the aim of bringing justice closer to the people, the judiciary has discharged its duties creditably. What with numerous Courts and administrators sitting in both urban and rural areas of the state.

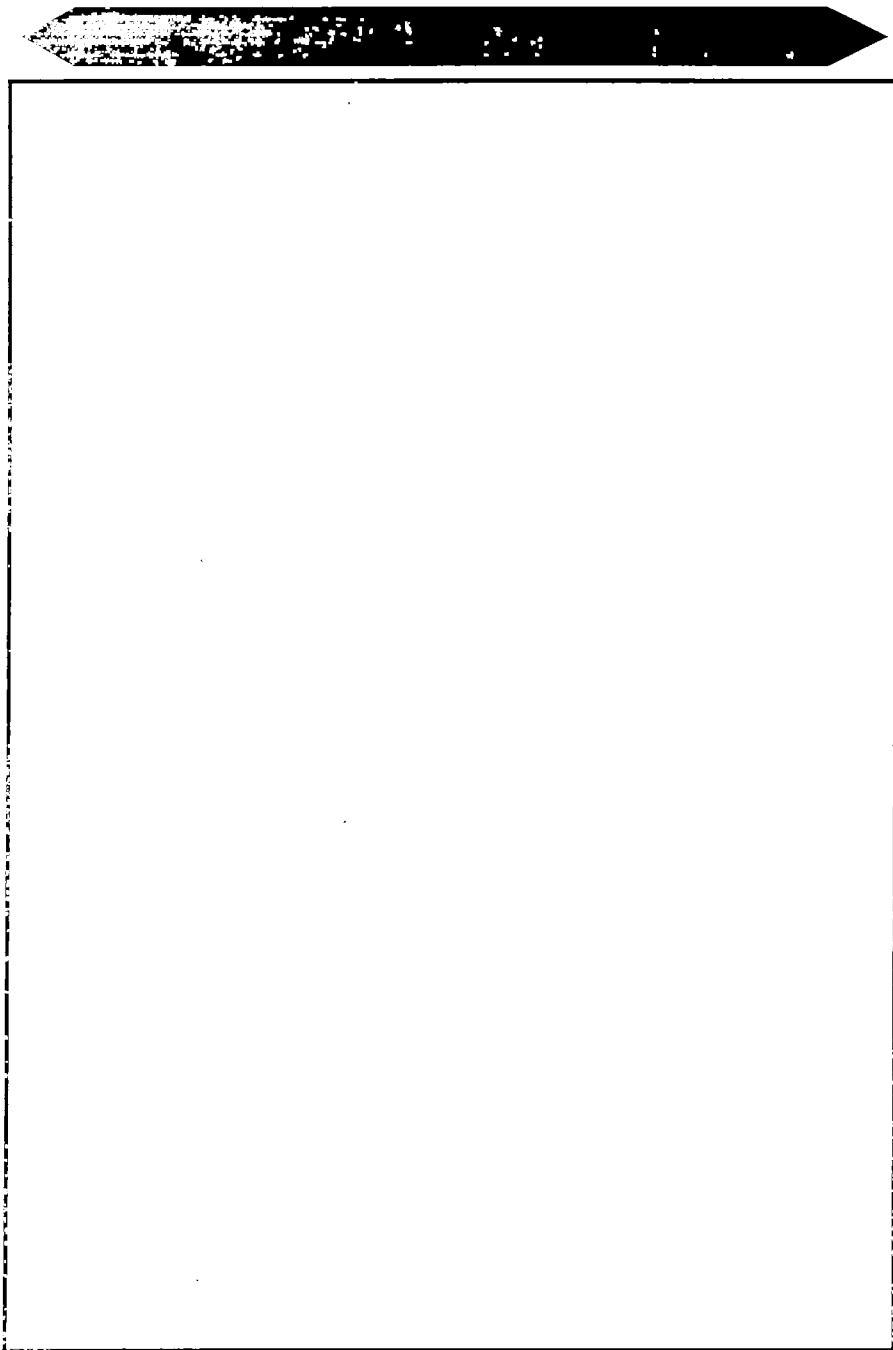
Notable pronouncements have emerged from the hallowed chambers of the Osun State Judiciary and the state has been lucky to have at the helm of affairs, those who know what it takes to have a settled and vibrant Judiciary with its multiple benefits to

the democratic dispensation. This has ensured that regularly, the bar is raised in terms of salaries, facilities, equipment and vehicles, with all these positively rubbing off of justice dispensation.

The Osun State Judiciary has had four Chief Judges since creation. These are as follows:

1. Hon. Justice Aparo
2. Hon. Justice Sijuwade A. A.
3. Hon. Justice Oluborode
4. Hon. Justice F. O. Ogunsola

Hon. Justice F. O. Ogunsola is currently piloting the affairs of the Osun State Judiciary.



THE OYO STATE JUDICIARY

The Oyo State Judiciary is the forerunner of Judicial activities in the five (5) of the states that make up the South West Geo-Political Zone of the country and even some other parts like Edo, Delta etc. This is because Ibadan was the capital of the old Western State inaugurated in the year 1955, precisely on the 1st of July.

Even at that time, the Western Region had an organized, standard Judicial System which had the High Court, the Grade 'A' Customary Courts, Grade 'B' Customary Courts and also the Grade 'C' Customary Courts.

The Grade 'A' & 'B' Customary Courts were presided over by not just legally qualified lawyers but those with at least five (5) years experience at the Bar while the Grade 'C' Customary Courts were headed by equally competent but non-legally qualified Lawyers.

The system was operated in such a way that the appeal cases resulting from the Grade 'C' Customary Courts were handled by the Magistrate Courts while those from Grade 'A' & 'B' were taken to the High Court for hearing.

The organization was therefore, such that had High Court as the apex, with the Magistrates Courts following and the Grade 'A', 'B' and 'C' Customary Courts following in their wake respectively. The likes of Chief A. L. Obisesan, Prince Isikalu, Chief Adekunle, Chief Orayemi Orafidiya, Chief S. A. Adekoya and Chief Bolarinwa were officers appointed for the 'C' Grade level of the Customary Courts.

All these were as far back as 1970 as there were few High Courts and one Western State Court of Appeal in the early years of the 1970's.

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There were a total of eleven (11) High Court Judges including Honourable Justice Olujide Shomolu who was the Chief Justice of Western State. A total of fourteen (14) Judges were added to the number of the Judges in the late 70's. The depth of manpower in the Western Judiciary was highlighted in the year 1973 when Honourable Justice T. A. Aguda was seconded to Botswana as the Chief Judge (on-contract).

The good story of the Judiciary was however blighted by the action of the Military Governor of Western State in 1975 as he compulsorily retired several Judges. At the same period, Hon. Justice T. A. Aguda completed his contract appointment in Botswana and on his return, he was appointed the Chief Justice of Western State of Nigeria which incidentally made him go into the history books as the last Chief Justice of Western State as he held the post from 1975-1976.

Following the creation of states in 1976, Hon. Justice Kayode Eso, the famous, iconic and respected legal luminary also became a subject in history as the 1st Chief Judge of Oyo State. Two notable facts are that he was the first Chief Executive of the newly created Oyo State and that the title of Chief Justice was changed to Chief Judge of Oyo State.

The other states created in the same year were Ogun and Ondo States which later played the roles of springboards for Osun and Ekiti States from Oyo and Ondo states respectively.

In 1978, Hon. Justice E. O. Fakayode was made Chief Judge. He instituted several positive changes before he left the position in 1985 and was replaced by Hon. Justice S. O. Agbaje-Williams.

One of the major changes brought about by the Oyo State Judiciary under Hon. Justice E. O. Fakayode was the appointments of Judges from time to time. This ensured vibrancy and adequate

human capital in the system.

However, it was under his successor, Hon. Justice S. O. Agbaje-Williams that the historical commissioning of the 1st phase of the High Court Complex at Ring Road, Ibadan was done. This was on the 24th of July, 1985 by Lt. Colonel Oladayo Popoola who was then the Military Governor of Oyo State. The Judges from the 1st to 6th Court were sitting at Ring Road Court 1-6 while 7-12 were at Iyanganku.

The Oyo State Judiciary is one that has never had to contend with paucity of funds, lack of support and co-operation from other arms and agencies of government and the likes. This is because its independence had been engendered and strengthened from inception.

Following the creation of the Oyo State Judiciary in 1976, the Oyo State Judicial Service Commission was established in 1978 and the Judiciary, which had been under the Western State Civil Service Commission before the creation of states, was brought under the Judicial Service Commission headed by the then Chief Judge. The appointment, promotion and other issues were, therefore, passed to the Commission as regards Judicial and non-Judicial members of staff.

The second phase of the High Court, it must be mentioned, was not commissioned until 1st June 2000 when his Excellency, Chief Lamidi Onaolapo Adesina, the then Governor of Oyo State declared it open. The Chief Judge under which this was done was Hon. Justice N. O. Adekola.

The Oyo State Judiciary, apart from being the oldest in the South West with the exclusion of Lagos, is a vibrant Judiciary blessed with visionary and futuristic leaders from inception till the present and surely, the future looks very bright.

The Oyo State Judiciary has had a total of thirteen (13) Chief Judges from 1976 until now, beginning with the tenure of Hon. Justice Kayode Eso to that of Hon. Justice I. O. Olakanmi, the Chief Judge as at the time of this publication.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES AND CHIEF JUDGES, WESTERN AND OYO STATES

Hon. Justice Olujide Somolu	1967-1972
Hon. Justice M.O. Oyemade	1972-1975
Hon. Justice T.A. Aguda	1975-1976
Hon. Justice Kayode Eso	1976-1977
	(1 st Chief Judge of Oyo State)
Hon. Justice E.O. Fakayode	1978-1985
Hon. Justice S.O. Agbaje-Williams	1985-1991
Hon. Justice Akin Apará	1991
Hon. Justice T.A. Ayorinde	1991-1993
Hon. Justice Lekan Lajide	1993-1995 (Acting Chief Judge)
Hon. Justice N.O. Adekola	1995-2000
Hon. Justice M.O. Adio	2000-2001
Hon. Justice R.G. Oyetunde	2004-2005 (Acting Chief Judge)
Hon. Justice A. Adeniran	2005-2007 (Acting Chief Judge)
Hon. Justice J.O. Ige	2007 (Acting Chief Judge)
Hon. Justice I.O. Olakanmi	2001-2004 & 2007-?

The organisation is that which consists of the High Court with a plethora of functional Magisterial Districts. The Ibadan, Sagamu, Ijebu Ode, Abeokuta, Oyo and Ilaro Magisterial Districts were there in the Old Western State but now, there are:

1. Ibadan Municipal Magisterial District
2. Ibadan Less City Magisterial District
3. Kisi Less City Magisterial District
4. Igboho Less City Magisterial District
5. Eruwa Less City Magisterial District
6. Shaki Less City Magisterial District

7. Iseyin/Okeho/Oje Owode Less City Magisterial District and the Ogbomoso Magisterial District with well over 40 Magistrates.

There are five (5) Judicial Divisions in the Oyo State Judiciary, namely:

1. Ibadan Judicial Division
2. Oyo Judicial Division
3. Ogbomoso Judicial Division
4. Eruwa Judicial Division
5. Shaki Judicial Division

The Iseyin Judicial Division will soon come into being.

The Oyo State Judiciary is indeed a model because of its outstanding history, excellent performance as well as its pace setting record over the years.

Its High Court Complex at Ring Road, Ibadan is not only imposing and well structured architecturally, it has abundant offices, buildings and space which make it one of those worthy of the tag High Court Complex.

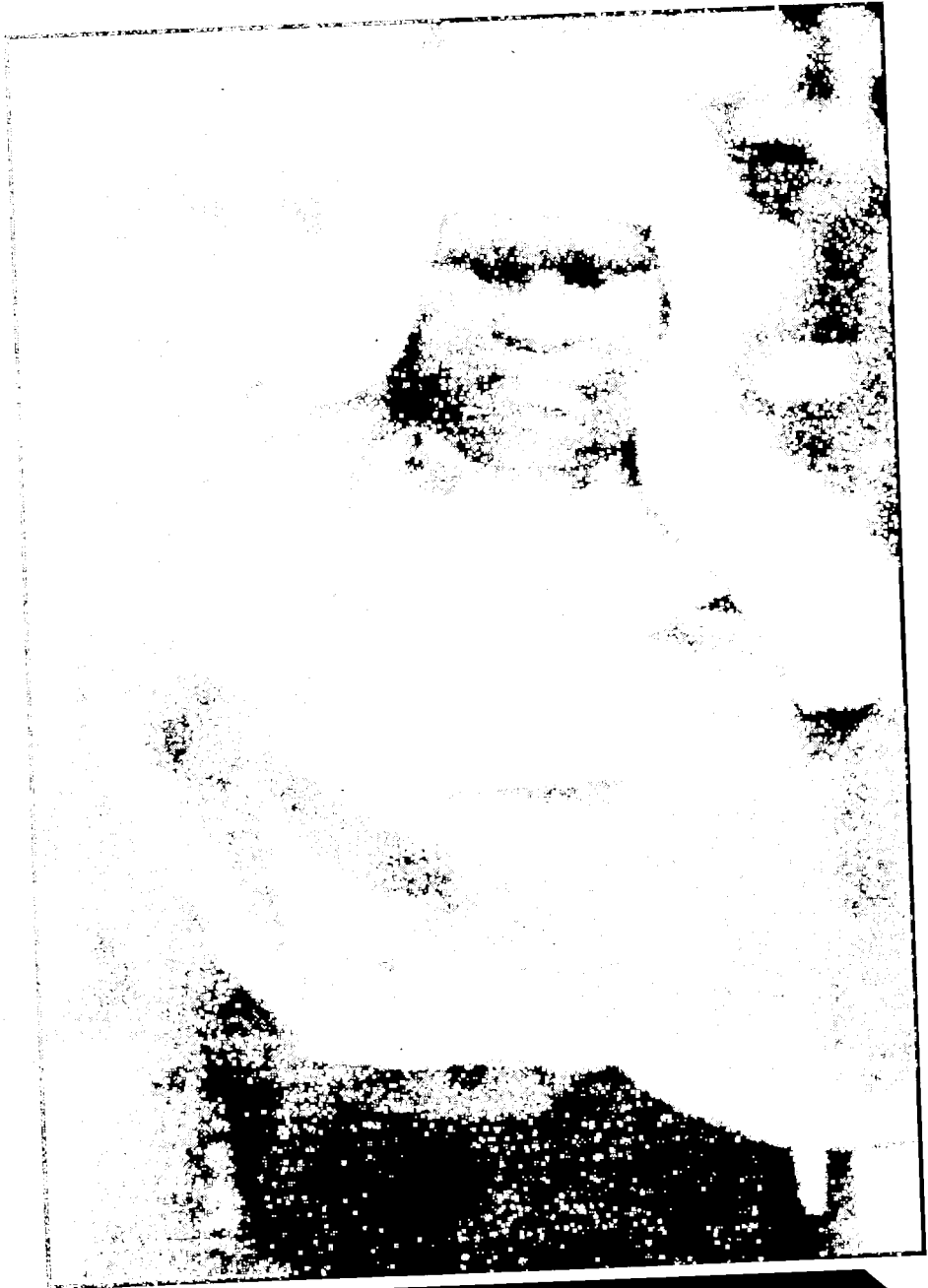
Its personnel and manpower development culture is also a gratifying characteristic of the Oyo State Judiciary. Most of its past and present Judges have made the nation proud with their pronouncements, intellectual opinions on issues and monumental success as chairs of various commissions in various sectors of the socio-economic and political divide of the country.

This is underscored by the fact that almost all the past Judges and Chief Judges are household names in the country, not forgetting the secondment of a Judge, Hon. Justice T. A. Aguda who later became the Chief Justice of the Western State in 1975 to a whole country, Botswana as the Chief Judge on contract.

The futuristic view of the leaders and officials of the Oyo State Judiciary was also highlighted when a gigantic and befitting High Court Complex project was embarked upon by the Oyo State Judiciary as far back as the 1980's.

HONOURABLE JUDGES OF OYO STATE

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|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Hon. Justice I.O. Olakanmi | Judge |
| 2. | Hon. Justice J.O. Ige | Judge |
| 3. | Hon. Justice B.O. Adeniji | Judge |
| 4. | Hon. Justice E.C.A. Lufadeju | Judge |
| 5. | Hon. Justice O.A. Boade | Judge |
| 6. | Hon. Justice M.L. Abimbola | Judge |
| 7. | Hon. Justice M.O. Bolaji Yusuff | Judge |
| 8. | Hon. Justice S.O. Akinola | Judge |
| 9. | Hon. Justice M.F. Oladeinde | Judge |
| 10. | Hon. Justice S.A. Akinteye | Judge |
| 11. | Hon. Justice Eni Esan | Judge |
| 12. | Hon. Justice W.K. Olaifa | Judge |
| 13. | Hon. Justice F.I. Oyelaran | Judge |
| 14. | Hon. Justice A.A. Aderemi | Judge |
| 15. | Hon. Justice P.O. Ige | Judge |
| 16. | Hon. Justice M.A.A. Abass | Judge |
| 17. | Hon. Justice I.S. Yerima | Judge |
| 18. | Hon. Justice R.B. Akintola | Judge |
| 19. | Hon. Justice M.O. Olagunju | Judge |
| 20. | Hon. Justice M.A. Adegbola | Judge |
| 21. | Hon. Justice A.A. Gbolagunte | Judge |
| 22. | Hon. Justice O.I. Aiki | Judge |
| 23. | Hon. Justice A.L. Akintola | Judge |
| 24. | Hon. Justice M.O. Ishola | Judge |



HON. JUSTICE L. C. DAKYEN
Chief Judge, Plateau State.

THE PLATEAU STATE JUDICIARY

The Plateau State Judiciary is one of the most vibrant and most prominent judicial systems in the country. It is noted for its independence and intellectual depth over the years, qualities that not many others are gifted with across the country. This has ensured it a cherished place as the last hope of the common man.

HISTORY OF THE PLATEAU STATE JUDICIARY.

The Plateau State Judiciary dates back to 1956 when the then Jos High Court was created under the then Northern Region of Nigeria. At the time it was under the operations of Northern Nigeria Judiciary headquartered in Kaduna. Until 1967 when Benue-Plateau State was created, the Jos and Kaduna High Courts remained the only two courts serving the entire Northern Nigeria. Following the creation of Benue-Plateau in 1967, the Benue Plateau State Judiciary found its proper footing. It then was made up of courts of records, namely the High Court and the Sharia Court of Appeal. In 1980, another court of Records, the Customary Court of Appeal was established. This was to handle the ever-increasing appeal cases emanating from the Area Courts on land and other customary matters.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLATEAU STATE JUDICIARY

The Plateau State Judiciary is headed by the Honourable Chief Judge, who is as well the Chairman of the State Judicial Commission.

Under the High Court structure, there are five judicial zones namely, Jos, Mangu, Pankshin, Langtang and Shendam. Each zone has a presiding Judge. Today, across the nooks and crannies of the state, Magistrate, Area and Upper Courts have been established. Magistrates of various grades, Area Court Judges and sole Judges as well as competent judicial staff have been posted to man the various courts. The Chief Registrar is the Administrative Head of the High Court. He is ably assisted by principal officers including

the DCR (Admin), DCR (Special Duties and Protocol), and DCR (Magistrates) among others.

Prior to the creation of Plateau State in 1976, the state Judiciary was administered by two Chief Judges, namely Justice J.A Smith and Justice D.L. Bates (both Europeans). Subsequently, all the others that have been in charge have been indigenous judges.

They are listed below:

1. Honourable Justice SMA Belgore (1972-79)
2. Honourable Justice A. Obi Okoye (1979-85)
3. Honourable Justice G. I. Uloko (1985-2002)
4. Honourable Justice J. S. Atsi (2002-2004)
5. Honourable Justice L. C. Dakyen (2004-date).

Hon. Dakyen was appointed an Acting Chief Judge later in 2004 and confirmed as substantive Chief Judge in 2007.

THE PLATEAU STATE SHARIA COURT OF APPEAL

The Plateau State Sharia Court of Appeal was established during the creation of the Benue-Plateau State in 1967. This arm of the judiciary is headed by the Grand Khadi. The Court has four other Khadis while the Chief Registrar remains the administrative head.

The following are the Grand Khadis of the Plateau State Sharia Court of Appeal since its establishment:

- Hon. Justice Ahmadu Arabi (1967-73)
- Alhajji Yahaya Kanam (1973-99)
- Alhaji Ismaila Adamu (1999-2000)
- Hon. Justice Adamu S. M. Kanam (2001-date)

THE CUSTOMARY COURT OF APPEAL

Established in 1980, the Customary Court of Appeal has a President as the Head of the Court. It also has four other Honourable Judges. Hon. Justice Yusufu Yakubu was the first president and headed it until 1997 when Nassarawa State was carved out of Plateau State..

The Chief Registrar is the administrative head of this court and is assisted by a Deputy Chief Registrar.

The three arms of the Judiciary in the state enjoy a harmonious working relationship, with the various heads of the courts usually reaching out to the various departments of the courts through the Chief Registrar's office.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL \ REFORMS IMAGE MAKING MACHINERY

The Plateau State Judiciary gave approval for the establishment of a Public Relations and Protocol Department under the office of the Deputy Chief Registrar. It is the image making organ of the judiciary and also takes responsibility for all protocol matters of the judiciary. This department is headed by a Protocol/Public Relations Officer.

TAKING JUSTICE CLOSER TO PEOPLE

For administrative convenience and to bring justice closer to the people, Plateau State Judiciary has created Judicial Divisions across the state. Before now, all the High Courts were in the Jos, the state capital. However, in bringing justice closer to the people, High Courts have been established in places like Bukuru, Barakin, Ladi, Pankshin, Lantang and Shendam. In addition, Magistrate Courts have been established in every Local Government headquarter of the state.

PRISONS DECONGESTION

Among the greatest accomplishments of the current leadership of the Plateau State Judiciary is the decongestion of prisons across the state. The methods were quite outstanding and effective. The Criminal Justice Committee, headed by the Honourable Chief Judge, also has Plateau State Director of Public Prosecution and other principal officers of the Ministry of Justice. The committee has worked assiduously to ensure that prison inmates are not unduly detained without trial. It organises periodic visits to prison formations across the state in the course of its duties.

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

In order to bring about an efficient workforce, staff members are sent on training workshops, periodically organised by the National Judicial Institute. This is because the Plateau State Judiciary views continuing education as a vital instrument of improving staff performance and overall productivity. As a mark of encouragement, Area Court Judges who have obtained LL.B and BL are usually paid allowances similar to those paid to Magistrates and this has paid off tremendously.

REVIEW OF FILING FEES

Before now, rates of filing fees were considered on the high side. However, they have since been reduced drastically to allow for easy access to justice on the part of the common man. The result is that more cases are now being filed on a daily basis.

PRACTICE DIRECTION

In a bid to ensure speedy disposal of cases before the courts, the Honourable Chief Judge issued a Practice Direction which came into effect on November 1, 2007.

THE JUDGES OF PLATEAU STATE

1. Hon. Justice L. C. Dakyen - Chief Judge
2. Hon. Justice T. D. Naron
3. Hon. Justice P. D. Damulak
4. Hon. Justice Y. B. Nimpar
5. Hon. Justice H. A. Othman
6. Hon. Justice Y. G. Dakwak
7. Hon. Justice D. G. Mann
8. Hon. Justice P. L. Lot
9. Hon. Justice R. K. Sha
10. Hon. Justice M. I. Sirajo
11. Hon. Justice C. L. Dabup
12. Hon. Justice D. D. Longji
13. Hon. Justice A. N. Dandam

PROFILE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

Hon. Justice Lazarus C. Dakyen was born on the 31st day of January 1949 in Lardang, Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State.

After his primary school education, he attended the prestigious St. Joseph's College in Vom. After he secured employment with the Plateau State Judiciary, he went to the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria first for a Diploma in Law and immediately after that, he enrolled for his LL.B. He graduated, went to the Nigeria Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1979.

He served in so many capacities including Clerical Officer, Chief Inspector of Area Courts and Chief Magistrate among others.

He was made the Chief Registrar in 1985, a position he held until he was elevated to the High Court as a Judge on 10 April, 1990 and sworn-in on 7 May, 1990.

He was appointed the Acting Chief Judge of Plateau State in 2004 as a result of the compulsory retirement of Justice J.S. Atsi. His confirmation as the substantive Chief Judge was on the 14th day of December, 2007. He is happily married and blessed with great children.

Part IV

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NOTABLE PRONOUNCEMENTS

1. ON THE PROPER USE OF LAW REPORT BY COUNSEL

"It is not desirable or ideal for a counsel to rely on and cite holdings or editors' summary of a case. That is a lazy counsel's approach. A counsel who is serious must devote his time and attention to go deep into the judgment of a Court in order to arrive at the exact holding of that Court." Per **MUHAMMED JSC** in **DAIRO V U. B. N. PLC, MJSC 2007 VOL. 11 PAGE 74.**

2. ON WHETHER A COURT CAN GRANT A CLAIM OR RELIEF NOT SOUGHT BY EITHER PARTY

"It is settled and elementary law that a court of law is not allowed to grant what is not asked for or claimed. The Court is neither charitable institution nor father Christmas. Its duty in a civil claim is only to render unto a party according to his proven claim". Per **DAHIRU MUSDAPHER JSC** in **AGBI V OGBEH (2006), VOL. 7 M.J.S.C PAGE 1.**

3. CHIEFTANCY INSTITUTIONS' COMMERCIALIZATION AND INFILTRATION BY STRANGE ELEMENT IN RECENT TIME

"Although Chieftaincy has been commercialized in recent times resulting in infiltration by strange elements, the institution remains and maintains a class of its own.....

Royalty is a most revered and orderly institution. We can only change the guards at the appointed time. We cannot change the guard when it is convenient for us." Per **NIKI TOBI JSC** in **ADESHOYE V ADEWOLE (2006), M.J.S.C. Vol 10 Page 1.**

4. ON NOTORIETY OF POLICE OFFICERS RELYING ON DEFENCE OF ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

"Let me observe here that it is becoming very notorious and most disturbing these days when police use guns purchased for them with public money and meant for the protection of the citizenry

freely to mow down innocent citizens of the country with careless and reckless abandon and in each case rely on accidental discharge. I think it is enough I suppose that when a gun is properly locked stray bullets and accidental discharge syndrome will not occur. Invariably accidental discharge always occur when some of the drivers are unwilling and refuse to pay the N20:00 (twenty naira) or such money being extorted by the police at every checkpoint." Per **OGBUAGWU JSC** in **2006 M.J.S.C. VOL 10 PAGE 107.**

5. ON NEED FOR COURTS TO TACKLE STRICTLY THE PROBLEM OF UNDUE DELAY OF TRIAL OF CASES

"It is a notorious fact that trial of cases in our court are unduly delayed as a result of numerous requests for adjournments made by counsel and granted by the courts. It is a problem which in my view needs to be seriously looked into and tackled strictly by our courts." Per **AKINTAN JSC** in **2005, M.J.S.C. VOL 3 PAGE 125**

6. ON THE DIFFICULTY OF PROVING SUBSTANTIAL IRREGULARITY IN AN ELECTION PETITION CASE.

"The very long obstacle that anyone who seeks to have the election of the President or Governor overturned is the very large number of witnesses he must call due to the size or respective constituency. In a country like our own he may have to call about 250,000 – 300,000 witnesses. By the time the court would have heard from all of them with the way our present law is covered, the incumbent would have long finished and left his office and even if the petitioner wins, it will be an empty victory bereft of any substance ... while the main appeal has failed due to what I ascribe as the impossibility of satisfactorily proving widespread ineptitude, violence, intimidation and other acts of terrorization as well as other barefaced acts that literally chill the bones and as William Shakespeare said in Macbeth 'make the sitheth heavy knock at my ribs against the use of nature'. Some of the revelations where the few evidence was led and proved are blood cuddling" per **PAT ACHOLONU JSC** in **BUHARI**

V OBASANJO (2005), MJSC VOL 8 PAGE 1

7. ON THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW -

"Executive lawlessness tantamounts to a deliberate violation of the Constitution when the executive is the Military Government which blends both the executive and the legislative together and which permits the judiciary to co-exist with it in the administration.... The essence of the rule of law is that it never operates under the rule of force or fear. To use force to effect an act while under the marshall of that force, seek the court's equity is an attempt to infuse timidity into court and operate a sabotage of the cherished rule of law. It must never be." Per **ESO KAYODE J.S.C.** in OJUKWU V MILITARY GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE (1986), 1 N.W.L.R. PT 18, PAGE 621, 634.

8. ON THE ISSUE OF SLAVERY IN NIGERIA

"It is rather sad, very sad indeed that 20th Century Nigeria moving majestically to the 21st century in a matter of nine years or so from now is still battling with the issue of slavery and all that. It is even sadder that Nigeria which attained independence a little over three decades ago is still facing this social malady and stigma. I feel bad that the courts of this land are still worried with slavery matters" Per **NIKI TOBI J.C.A.** (as he then was) in UZOUKWU V EZEONU (1991), 6 NWLR PT 200 PAGE 708, 785

9. ON THE DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION OF A COURT IN THE CONDUCT OF A CASE

"Taking the case of customary court, the law is precise on the degree of participation of a court in the conduct of a case. It is however wrong for a judge to descend into the arena and give the impression of acting as an advocate." Per **CHIGBUE JAMES JCA** in EKANEM V AKPAN (1991), 8 NWLR PT 211 PAGE 616, 633.

10. ON DUTIES OF COUNSEL AS AN OFFICER OF COURT

"Perhaps it is apt to restate and emphasise once more the abounding duties counsel owes to the court. In *RENDEL V WORSLEY* 1996, 3 ALLER page 657 at 665 – 666, it was observed as follow: 'As an advocate he is a minister of justice equally with the judge, he has a duty to the court which is paramount, he owes allegiance to a higher cause. It is the cause of truth and justice'. His duties include to assist the court to administer justice." Per **CHIGBUE JAMES JCA** in *EKANEM V AKPAN (1991) 8 NWLR PT 211 PAGE 616, 634.*

11. ON IMPROPRIETY OF RESORTING TO SELF-KEEP

"The conduct of the applicant in regaining possession of the premises by force by changing the locks of the doors of the premises is most reprehensible particularly when he himself is a legal practitioner. This action is viewed with utmost disgust. He resorted to the use of force to the detriment of all concerned. He failed to obey the law which he practises. This is to say the least is a brutal behavior." Per **BABALAKIN JCA** in *EMESHIE V ABIOSE (1991), 12 NWLR PT 172 PAGE 192, 199*

12. ON SHORT-CUT TO JUSTICE

"Before I conclude, I wish to state that this case is no doubt the clearest illustration of what Lord Evershed had in mind when he said in *Windsor Refrigerator co. Ltd Vs Branch Nominees Ltd (1961) Ch 375 at 396:*

'My experience has taught me (and this case emphasises the teaching) that the shortest cut so attempted turns out to be the longest way around'. The suit in a land case was dismissed without a hearing in 1980. In 1991 it has been sent back for a hearing on the merits. This puts a big question mark on such short-cut to justice." Per **NNAEMEKA-AGU J.S.S.** in *USIKARO V ITSHEKIRI LAND TRUSTEES, NWLR PT 172 PAGE 150 AT PAGE 178.*

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13. ON THE NEED FOR SERIOUSNESS IN LEGAL PRACTICE

"I have taken into consideration the issue of substantial justice which is balanced with the need to arrest the current embarrassing trend in legal practice ... Legal practice is very serious business that is to be undertaken by serious minded legal practitioners particularly as both legally trained minds and those not so trained always learn from our examples. We therefore owe the legal profession the duty to maintain the very high standard require in the practice of the profession in this country". Per **ONNOGHEN** J.S.C. in **EMMANUEL OKAFOR AND 2 ORS V AUGUSTINE NWEKE (2006), 19 W.R.N. PAGE 1.**

14. ON DUTY ON COURTS AS GUARDIAN OF JUSTICE AND THE NEED TO ENSURE A JUST AND ORGANIZED SOCIETY THAT IS BUILT UPON A CONCEPT OF NATURAL JUSTICE, EQUITY AND GOOD CONSCIENCE.

"The said phenomenal principle is in-built and enshrined in the foundational framework existing and forming the basis of our Constitution. If the courts as our guardian of justice should neglect to discharge the very purpose for which they have been set up, their failure by abdicating the sacred duty would amount to defeating their very function, thus bringing them into disrepute and therefore [rendering them]good for nothing." Per **CLARA BATA OGUNBIYI JCA** in **AWUSE V ODILI (2005), 16 NWLR PT 952 PAGE 541 – 542.**

15. ON FALLLIBITY OF COURTS AND HOW MISTAKES MADE BY COURT CAN BE CORRECTED

"Courts of law are human institutions in which mistakes are made from time to time. Some of these mistakes can be corrected as the cases progress from the trial court through the appellate courts. Others can only be corrected in future cases by avoiding such blunder or error." Per **JAA'FARU MIKAILU JCA** in **UKACHUKWU V UBA (2005), 18 NWLR PT 956 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 64.**

16. ON CLASS OF PERSONS WHO SHOULD NOT SEEK POLITICAL ELECTIVE OFFICES IN NIGERIA.

"Anyone without a profession except politics must have nothing to do with politics in whatever form. Above all, let budding politicians leave jobless people who now turn into thugs as supporters alone so that more harm will not be done to the electoral processes." Per **PATS ACHOLONU JSC** in **BUHARI V OBASANJO (2005) 13 NWLR PART 941 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 301.**

17. ON DANGERS OF USING ILL-TRAINED POLICE OFFICERS FOR ELECTION SECURITY DUTIES

"It is scary to send policemen to election places when they have not been properly tutored that in the exercise of their duty to maintain law and order in election area their allegiance is to the Constitution. Some of the evidence elicited are so disquieting that one would wonder whether we have learnt or in fact can learn a lesson." Per **PATS ACHOLONU JSC** in **BUHARI V OBASANJO (2005), 13 NWLR PART 941 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 302.**

18. ON HOW TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND ELECTION MALPRACTICE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

"To ensure the non-repeat of what happened in some parts of the country in 2003, there must be massive education of the electoral officers who will take part in future elections. There must be state-wide enlightenment programme educating the masses as to their rights as to how the citizens who are sovereign can exercise their franchise freely, unmolested and undisturbed. There must be de-emphasis on money. It is important to demonstrate to the citizenry what incalculable harm corruption has done in this country so that at election time they should learn to shun people who try to buy their votes. More importantly, our security men should have series of workshops to learn that their allegiance is to the Constitution and should learn to practise what police in developed Nations do. Politics in Nigeria should not be a do or die affair." Per **PATS ACHOLONU JSC** in **BUHARI V OBASANJO (2005), 13 NWLR**

PART 941 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 301.**19. ON NEED FOR POLICE AUTHORITY TO CURTAIL THE EXCESSES OF TRIGGER-HAPPY POLICEMEN**

"The appellant and the two other convicts, all policemen, turned their guns on defenceless proletariat, a people they are to protect. The attack was ferocious and indiscriminate, absolutely appalling and indescribable, clearly a wicked and despicable act. It is about time something was done to curtail the excesses of trigger-happy policemen. The police authorities must go the extra mile to ensure that constant checks are carried out on policemen who carry guns and these should include constant examination by a psychiatrist".

PER RHODES-VIVOUR JCA in OYAKHIRE V STATE (2005), 15 NWLR PART 947 PAGE 154 AT 180

20. ON IMPROPRIETY OF RESORTING TO SELF-KEEP

"In the area where rule of law operates, the rule of self-help by force is abandoned. Nigeria being one of the countries in the world – even in the third world – which proclaim loudly to follow the rule of law, there is no room for self help by force to operate. Once a dispute has arisen between two persons and the Government or authority and the dispute has been brought before the Court, thereby invoking the Judicial Powers of the State, it is the duty of the government to allow the law to take its course or allow the legal and Judicial process to run its full course. The action the Lagos State Government took can have no other interpretation than to show the intention to prompt the decision of the Court. The Court expects the utmost respect of the law from the government itself which rules by the law." **ANDREW OTUTU OBASEKI J.S.C** in GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE V CHIEF EMEKA OJUKWU (1986), 1 NWLR PT 18 page 621, 636

21 ON THE NEED TO DO SUBSTANTIAL JUSTICE

"The Court should see to it that justice is never defeated by technical rules of procedure. These rules should be seen as

subservient handmaids to justice not as omnipotent masters at war with justice" **NWACHUKWU V STATE (2004), ALL FWLR (PART 206) 535.**

21. ON THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO ACT ACCORDING TO PROVISIONS OF THE LAW

"Unless the land was acquired compulsorily in accordance with the provisions of the Act e.g for overriding public interest, or for public purpose by the Local Government or State Government. See section 28(1)(2)(3) and (4) whereby compensation must be paid. Nobody shall be deprived of his land. The State has no right to dispossess a person of his property lawfully acquired without reason and that reason shall be in the public interest with adequate provisions made in the enabling statute to pay compensation, that is just, so has the Land Use Act done. The respondent never secured any revocation notice, and no gazette or letter divested him of his right, Customary right of occupancy which he was deemed to have. The purported right of occupancy issued by the Governor of Oyo State in 1983 is void and all the appellant has in his hand is a piece of paper having no value".

S.M.A. BELGORE JSC in **OGUNLEYE V ONI (1990), 2NSCC 86**

22. ON THE NEED TO ORDER A RETRIAL WHERE THE RECORD OF THE COURT IS NOT COMPLETE

"Where all diligent efforts to procure the missing part of the record fails, the Court should take the most painful decision of ordering a retrial if the matter of the missing portion of the record is material to the appeal. This must be a decision of last resort which must be taken after all efforts at locating the missing portion of the record fails. Although the decision to order a retrial will protract the litigation, an appellate Court has no option in the matter. It is better evil, if I may use the expression unguardedly, for the litigation to protract and do justice at the end of the day than doing injustice by hearing an appeal on incomplete record." Per

NIKI TOBI JSC in **OKOCHI VS ANIMKWOI (2003) 2-3 SC 72-73.**

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23. ON DUTY OF GOVERNMENT TO OBEY THE LAW ALWAYS

"The government must not only respect the law, it must in fact submit to the law in total. The government may not rightly choose which law to abide by and which law to flout or when to abide by the law and when not to abide by the law and when not to be abiding. The executive ought at all the time to respect the law and follow legal procedures. It is the challenge of government to govern by example". Per **Denton-West Sotonye JCA [2006] 16 NWLK pt 1004 page 1 at page 127-128**

24. ON THE NEED TO AMEND ELECTORAL ACT TO PRESCRIBE FOR DETERMINATION OF ELECTION PETITION BEFORE CANDIDATE IS DECLARED ELECTED IS SWORN INTO OFFICE

"Secondly, there are lessons to be learnt from the facts of this appeal. This is a petition that was filed on 16/5/03 following the result of the gubernatorial election conducted on 19/4/03. It hung in the balance until 12/8/05 when judgment was delivered by the lower tribunal. This appeal came up for hearing on 23/1/06 and judgment was delivered today [15-03-06]. It has taken all of 35 months for the respondent to receive justice in a court of law. 35 months is a very considerable portion of a four-year term of office.

Although in common parlance no journey is too far or too long if one gets what he seeks, I think the time has come for the Electoral Act to be amended so that election petition may be held not less than four months and not more than six month to the date on which the term of the office of the last holder of an office expires as the case may be." Per **OMOKRI JEAN JCA** in **NGIGE V OBI (2006), 14 NWLR 999 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 241.**

25. ON IMPROPRIETY OF PLEA BY INEC FOR NULLIFICATION OF ELECTION IT CONDUCTED AND DECIDED BEFORE AN ELECTION TRIBUNAL

"I shall be failing in my duty if I do not comment on the appeal brought by Independent National Electoral Commission along with some of its officers... Everything pertaining to the election was under the absolute control of INEC by force of law.

The results of the election published by it are its own making. It is self-discrediting for the same INEC to now invite this court in its notice of appeal to hold that the April 19th 2003 gubernatorial election held in Anambra State was invalid and to order a fresh election on the ground, according to it, that same was marred by widespread irregularities and malpractices and therefore was conducted in substantial non-compliance with the Electoral Act 2002.

This somersaulting must necessarily erode the confidence which the generality of the populace must have in a body like INEC. It was the commission that voluntarily announced the result which became the subject of contest at the tribunal below; the results are now being discredited by the same commission. It is a shame! Let it be said loud and I do hope that INEC will ponder sincerely and seriously on it, that no sane person who claims to be a part of or charged with performing serious function of conducting an election in a decent society shall be allowed to go whimsically against his own deed as was done here... By this appeal INEC has shot itself in the leg. For the sake of the well being of this great country of ours I pray and do hope that INEC will from now on allow truth, integrity and above all fear of God to have absolute impact in the discharge of its all importance function." Per **PIUS ADEREMI JCA** (as he then was) in **NGIGE V OBI (2006), 14 NWLR PAGE 999 PAGE 1 AT PAGE 196-197.**

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26. ON PROBABLE EFFECT OF INDISCRIMINATE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS ON DEMOCRACY

"The spate of impeachment under the present democratic dispensation have assumed frightening dimension which if not properly handled will throw this country into a state of anarchy." Per **AKAAH KUNAL JCA IN ADELEKE V O.S.H.A (2006), 16 NWLR PAGE 1006 PAGE 608, 676.**

27. ON DUTY ON COUNSEL TO ESCHEW ATTACK ON PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF OPPOSING COUNSEL

"Finally a few words must be said about the use of language employed by learned counsel for the respondent in the counter-affidavit. Paragraphs 8,9,15,16 and 26 of the counter-affidavit are an attack on the professional competence of opposing counsel... They do not reflect well on our profession which is built inter alia on ethics, etiquette and decorum. Per **KUDIRAT KEKERE-EKUN JCA** in **A.N MOHAMMED PET LTD VS AFRIBANK NIG PLC (2006), 17 NWLR PG 1007 PAGES 131, 161.**

28. ON NEED FOR COUNSEL TO BE COURTEOUS AND EMPLOY TEMPERATE LANGUAGE IN ADDRESSING JUDICIAL OFFICER

"Let no counsel properly so called and who will like to carry the tag of a 'veritable officer in the citadel of justice' on his head desecrate the seat of justice by such an abuse of the kind gesture of a judex as was done in the instant case. The legal profession is no doubt the only honourable profession given its impact on the society of men. Those who are privileged to be admitted to this executive club of gentlemen must not only uphold the ethnics laid down for the profession, they must always be seen to be doing so." Per **ADEREMI PIUS JCA** (as he then was) in **USANI V DUKE 2006, 17 NWLR PT 1009 PAGE 610 AT P 647**

29. ON NEED FOR JUSTICE, FAIRNESS AND ORDERLINESS IN NIGERIAN POLITICS

"Except where it is meant to say that a member of a political party has no right at all in election matters, I cannot see why a political party shall be permitted once it has given its commitment or mandate to a candidate whom it had already nominated whether wrongly or rightly to bulldoze its way to rescind that mandate for no justifiable cause. Politics is not anarchy; it is not disorderliness, it must be punctuated by justice, fairness and orderliness." Per **TANKO MUHAMMED JSC** in **UGWU VS ARARAUME (2007) 12 NWLR PG 1048 PAGE 367 AT P511**

30. ON LEVEL OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA AND NEED TO TACKLE SAME

"Corruption is not a disease which afflicts public officers alone but society as a whole. If it is therefore to be eradicated effectively, the solution to it must be perverse to cover every segment of the society." Per **MUHAMMED UWAIIS CJN (AS HE THEN WAS)** in **A-G ONDO V. A-G FED (2002), NWLR PAGE 306**

31. ON NEED FOR NIGERIAN PUBLIC OFFICERS TO BE PATRIOTIC

"It is a notorious fact that at times this country employs expatriates with expert knowledge but the 3rd and 4th descending are not expatriates but a daughter and son of the soil who can even on patriotic grounds offer their services free of charge in the interest of their fatherland. They should have declined offer of such a high salary in foreign currency which they know or ought to know is a violation of the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the country." **PER ABOKI ABDU JCA** in **FAWEHINMI V PRESIDENT F.R.N. (2007), 14 NWLR PG 1054 PAGE 275 AT 341.**

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32. ON NEED TO EXTEND THE FRONTIERS OF LOCUS STANDI TO ENFORCE OR PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION

"In our present reality the Attorney-General of the Federation is also the Minister of Justice and a member of the executive cabinet. He may not be disposed to instituting an action against the government in which he is a part as it may amount to the federal government suing itself. Definitely he will not perform such a duty... Since this country attained independence from the British colonial administration almost forty-seven years ago, I know of no reported case of any superior court in Nigeria where the attorney-general of the federation has instituted an action against the Federal Government or an attorney-general of a state suing his own state government on account of a violation of the provision of the constitution or a legislation contrary to the provision of the constitution ...It will be appropriate at this point to proffer that for this country to remain governed under the rule of law and in view of the controversies the problem of locus standi has generated especially in constitutional matter, it is suggested that any future constitution amendment should provide for access to court by any Nigerian in order to preserve protect and defend the constitution." PER **ABOKI ABDU JCA** in *FAWEHINMI V PRESIDENT F.R.N.* (2007), 14 NWLR PG 1054 PAGE 275 AT 334-336 and 343.

33. ON DUTY ON LEGISLATURE TO UPDATE ITSELF ON CURRENT DECISIONS OF COURTS

"It looks to me that by the 2005 Act an essential ratio in A.G Ogun State has been nullified. The whole affairs looks to me like a vicious circle and it is bad that it is so. This is not the best practice of democracy. I do not intend to say more. While I come to this conclusion, I take solace in a possible fact that the National Assembly may not be aware of the decision in A.G Ogun State. If the National Assembly was aware of our decision, it could not have enacted so much of the Act. I say this because members of that

assembly are men and women of great learning, integrity and understanding ... They are a disciplined lot who respect the judiciary as the third arm of government. They being traditionally known and named as the first. But in the event that the national assembly did know of the existence of Attorney-General of Ogun State [case], I will suggest the establishment of a legal department which should among other things, update the legislature of current decisions of this court. If such department already exists I would suggest that it should be beefed up for a more challenging job." Per **NIKI TOBI JSC** in **A-G ABIA V. A-G FED (2006), 16 NWLR PG 1005 PAGE 265 AT PAGE 374**

34. NEED FOR ALL PARTIES IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL TO HAVE ACCESS TO FACTS AND LEGISLATIONS

"Let it be said that it is especially important for the healthy development of our criminal jurisprudence that there is the assurance that the doors that may lead to the truth remain unlocked to all the parties. Indeed in our adversary system of determining guilt and innocence, it is rarely justifiable for the prosecution to have exclusive access to a storehouse of relevant facts or legislations, it is even a travesty of justice for the judex or adjudicating body to have exclusive access to the relevant facts as it would appear in this matter, such endangers continued public confidence in the impartiality of the judex or adjudicating body, something which is essential to the continuance of the rule of law. It is commonly agreed that impartiality is the first essential in any judex. And that means not only that he must not appear to descend into the arena and fight the cause of one against another." (2000) 13 NWLR Pt 684 pg 209

35. ON THE NEED FOR COURT TO WEIGH PROPERLY BALANCE OF CONVENIENCE BETWEEN PARTIES

"As submitted by the learned Defendant Counsel, there is nowhere under the Electoral Act 2002 where it is provided that where a candidate withdraws his candidature the whole Election for that

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Local Government Area has to be postponed. It is my considered view that to postpone this Election will not be in accordance with the spirit of our constitution. It will amount to caving in or submitting to the tyranny of a single candidate over the democratic disposition of the majority (all other councillorship candidates). Furthermore by paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Counter-Affidavit, every machinery has been put in place and a lot of money expended in preparing for Elections into the Local Government Councils on 10/1/2004 including Rafi Local Government. The Civilian and Security Personnel have also been mobilized for the exercise and any change of date will cause a lot of loss and hardship to the Defendant. These facts as disclosed in paragraphs 16 and 17 have not been countered by the Plaintiff. To suspend tomorrow's Local Government Election in respect of Rafi Local Government will not be in accordance with the principles of common sense." Per **JIBRIN NDAJIWO CJ NIGER STATE** in **PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION PARTY V NIGER STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION, NSHC/MN/1/2004. (UNREPORTED)**

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE BENCH

* First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court – Hon. JUSTICE SIR STAFFORD FOSTER-SUTTON *

* First indigenous Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court - HON. JUSTICE OLUMUYIWA JIBOWU *

Date of Appointment - 29th March, 1955 *

* First indigenous Chief Justice of the Supreme Court - HON JUSTICE SIR ADETOKUNBO ADEMOLA *

Date of Appointment - 28th April, 1958 *

* First President of Court Appeal - HON. JUSTICE DANIEL ONWURA IBEKWE *

Date of Appointment- 1st of December 1976. *

* First President of the Western State Court of Appeal - HON. JUSTICE ADEJUMO KESTER. *

Date of Appointment - 1st June 1967 *

* First indigenous Nigerian Judge
Hon JUSTICE OLUWAMUYIWA JIBOWU *

Date of post Appointment 14th November, 1938 (As acting judge)

* First female Judge - HON. JUSTICE (MRS) MODUPE OMO-EBOH *

Date of first Appointment – 12th July, 1976.

* First female Justice of Court of Appeal and Supreme Court - HON. JUSTICE ALOMA MARIAM MUKHTAR *

Date of appointment to the Court of Appeal – 24th September, 1987 *

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Date of appointment to the Supreme Court – 8th June, 2005.

- * First President of the Federal Revenue Court (Now Federal High Court) - HON. JUSTICE SIGISMUND OLARENWAJU LAMBO

Date of appointment – 1st November 1973.

- * First Northern Nigerian Judge - HON. JUSTICE MOHAMMED BELLO

Date of first appointment 15th March, 1966

- * First Western Nigerian indigenous Judge - HON. JUSTICE OLUMUYIWA JIBOWU

Date of first appointment - 14th November 1938

- * First Eastern Nigerian indigenous Judge - HON. JUSTICE SIR LOUIS MBANEFO

Date of first appointment-15th September 1958

- * First Mid-Western Nigerian indigenous Judge - HON. JUSTICE CHUKWUNWEIKE IDIGBE

Date of appointment - 20th May 1961.

FIRST CHIEF JUDGE OF EACH STATE HIGH COURT

- * FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA - HON JUSTICE MOHAMMED DAHIRU SALEH

AKWA IBOM

- * HON JUSTICE MBATIDIIONG UDOFIA USORO

ANAMBRA

- * HON JUSTICE ANTHONY NNAEMEZIE

BAUCHI

* HON. JUSTICE MUHAMMED BUBA ARDO

BENUE

HON JUSTICE JAMES MORADEYO ADESIYUN

BORNO

* HON JUSTICE MUHAMMADU BUBA ARDO

CROSS RIVER

* HON JUSTICE DARNLEY ALEXANDER

OLD BENDEL (NOW EDO AND DELTA STATE)

* HON JUSTICE PETER S.J QUAS THOMAS

OLD GONGOLA (NON ADAMAWA AND TARABA STATE)

* HON JUSTICE CARLYLE ASHTON PIPER

IMO

* HON JUSTICE CHUKWUDIFU AKUNNE OPUTA

KADUNA

* HON JUSTICE G.W.E WHEELER

KANO

* HON JUSTICE JEFFREY RICHARD JONES

KATSINA

* HON JUSTICE UMAR ABDULAH I

KWARA

* HON JUSTICE SAIDU KAWU

LAGOS

* HON JUSTICE JOHN IDOWU CONRAD TAYLOR

NIGER

* HON JUSTICE MU'AZU MOHAMMED

OGUN

- * HON JUSTICE EBENEZER BABASANYA CRAIG

ONDO

- * HON JUSTICE TIMOTHY AKINOLA AGUDA

OYO

- * HON JUSTICE KAYODE ESO

PLATEAU

- * HON JUSTICE D.L BATE

RIVERS

- * HON JUSTICE SIR MICHEAL HOLDEN

SOKOTO

- * HON JUSTICE KHALID HASSAN

FIRST INDIGENES OF EACH STATE TO BECOME THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE STATE HIGH COURT**AKWA IBOM**

- * HON JUSTICE MBATIDIONG UDOFIA USORO ANAMBRA -
HON JUSTICE ANTHONY NWAEMEJIE

BAUCHI

- * HON JUSTICE MUHAMMED ABUBAKAR

OLD BENDEL (NON EDO AND DELTA STATE)

- * HON JUSTICE CHUKWUEIKE IDIGBE

BENUE

- * HON JUSTICE ALHASSAN IDOKO

OLD BORNO (NOW BORNO AND YOBE STATES)

- * HON JUSTICE KAUMI MUHAMMAD KOLO

CROSS RIVER

* HON JUSTICE EDEM KOOFFREH

OLD GONGOLA (NOW ADAMAWA AND TARABA STATES)

* HON JUSTICE MUHAMMADU BUBA ARDO

IMO

* HON JUSTICE CHUKWUDIFIU AKUNNE OPUTA

KADUNA

* HON JUSTICE MOHAMMED SHEU USMAN

KANO

* HON JUSTICE DAHIRU MUSDAPHER

KATSINA

* HON JUSTICE UMARU ABDULLAHI

KWARA

* HON JUSTICE SAIDU KAWU

LAGOS

* HON JUSTICE JOHN IDOWU CONRAD TAYLOR

NIGER

* HON JUSTICE MU'AZU MOHAMMED O.F.R

OGUN

* HON JUSTICE EBENEZER BABASANYA CRAIG

ONDO

* HON JUSTICE TIMOTHY AKINOLA AGUDA

OYO

* HON JUSTICE KAYODE ESO

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PLATEAU

* HON JUSTICE GEORGE ADENYI ULOKO

RIVERS

* HON JUSTICE AMBROSE EZEOLISA ALLAGOA

SOKOTO

* HON JUSTICE UMARU ATA KALGO.

**FIRST INDIGENES OF EACH STATE TO BECOME JUDGES
IN NIGERIA**

AKWA IBOM

* HON JUSTICE SIR UDO UDOMA

ANAMBRA

* HON JUSTICE SIR LOUIS NWACHUKWU MBANEFO

BAUCHI

* HON JUSTICE MUHAMMED ABUBAKAR SAMBO

OLD BENDEL (NOW EDO AND DELTA STATES)

* HON JUSTICE CHUKWUNWEIKE IDIGBE

BENUÉ

* HON JUSTICE SYLVESTER UMARU ONU

BORNO (BORNO AND YOBE STATE)

* HON JUSTICE KAUMI MUHAMMED KOLO

CROSS RIVER

* HON JUSTICE PETER ODO EFFIONG BASSEY

OLD GONGOLA (NOW ADAMAWA AND TARABA STATES)

* HON JUSTICE MUHAMMADU BUBA ARDO

IMO

* HON JUSTICE CHUKWUDIFU AKUNNE OPUTA

KADUNA/KATSINA

* HON JUSTICE MOHAMMED BELLO

KANO

* HON JUSTICE ABUBAKAR BASHIR WALI

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LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE NIGERIAN BAR**THE FIRST INDIGENOUS MALE LAWYER IN THE FEDERATION**

CHRISTOPHER SAPARA WILLIAMS

Date of Enrolment 30th January, 1888**THE FIRST INDIGENOUS FEMALE LAWYER IN THE FEDERATION**

MRS STELLA JAMES MARKE (Nee Thomas)

Date of Enrolment 16th November, 1935**THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

ALHAJI JUBRIL MARTINS

Date of Enrolment 6th December, 1926**THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

MR. G. N. A. OKAFOR

Date of Enrolment 15th March, 1952**FIRST INDIGENOUS ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION**

DR. TASLIM ELIAS

Date of Enrolment 15th December, 1951**FIRST SENIOR ADVOCATES OF NIGERIA**

CHIEF FRA WILLIAMS

Date of Enrolment 26th October, 1943

DR. NABO BEKINBO GRAHAM-DOUGLAS

Date of Enrolment 26th October, 1943

FIRST FEMALE SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA

CHIEF MRS FOLAKE SHOLANKE

Date of Enrolment 31st May, 1963**FIRST FEMALE STATE ATTORNEY-GENERAL**

MRS VICTORIA ONEJEME

Date of Enrolment 30th July, 1965**FIRST NIGERIAN LAW PROFESSOR**

PROFESSOR. TASLIM ELIAS

Date of Enrolment 15th December, 1951**FIRST NIGERIAN FEMALE LAW PROFESSOR**

LATE PROFESSOR JADESOLA DEBO-AKANDE

Date of Enrolment 21st January, 1966**FIRST LAWYER TO HEAD A NEWSPAPER LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN NIGERIA**

DR. OLUSHOLA ONAGOROWA

Date of Enrolment 29th October, 1971

He headed the Legal Department of Daily Times of Nigeria from February 1972 to January 1981.

PATHFINDING MALE LAWYERS IN EACH STATE OF THE FEDERATION**AKWA IBOM STATE**

Late DANIEL EKANEM ESIN ESA

Date of Enrolment 17th September, 1924**ANAMBRA STATE**

SIR LOUIS MBANEFO

Date of Enrolment 13th August, 1937**BA**

HC

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BAUCHI STATE

HON. JUSTICE MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR SAMBO

Date of Enrolment 13th July, 1963**EDC STATE**

MR. ASIFO EGBE

Date of Enrolment 23rd April, 1925**BENUE STATE**

MORGAN-UJOR OGBOLE ESO

Date of Enrolment 18th November, 1924**BORNO STATE (NOW BORNO AND YOBE)**

ALHAJI SHETTIMA AHMED MUKTAR LIBERTY

Date of Enrolment 3rd July, 1964**CROSS RIVER STATE**

MR. ASUQUO ETIM INYANG

Date of Enrolment 1st August, 1924**GONGOLA STATE (NOW ADAMAWA AND TARABA STATES)**

HON. JUSTICE MUHAMMADU BUBA ARDO

Date of Enrolment 5th March, 1963.**IMO STATE**

MR. JAJA WACHUKWU

Date of Enrolment 25th October, 1947**KADUNA \KATSINA STATES**

HON. JUSTICE MOHAMMED BELLO

Date of Enrolment 24th September, 1965**KANO STATE**

HON. JUSTICE ABUBAKAR BASHIR WALI

Date of Enrolment 15th January, 1965

KWARA STATE

ALHAJI ABDUL GANIYU FOLORUNSHO RASAQ (SAN)

Date of Enrolment 1st April, 1955

LAGOS STATE

KITTOYE AJASA

Date of Enrolment 14th August, 1893

NIGER STATE

HON. JUSTICE MURAZU MOHAMMED

Date of Enrolment 13th July, 1963

OGUN STATE

CHIEF OLAWOLE ERIC MOORE

Date of Enrolment 10th February, 1903

ONDO STATE

MR. SHITTU ADEMUYI ADEOBA

Date of Enrolment 27th March, 1947

OYO STATE

CHRISTOPHER SAPARA WILLIAMS

Date of Enrolment 30th January, 1888

PLATEAU STATE

HON. JUSTICE LAWAL DANYAYA ABDULLAHI

Date of Enrolment 21st October, 1968

RIVERS STATE

HON. JUSTICE LAMBERT BELL-GAM

Date of Enrolment 10th January, 1947

SOKOTO STATE

HON. JUSTICE OMARU MAIDAMA

Date of Enrolment 22nd January, 1965

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**PATHFINDING FEMALE LAWYERS IN EACH STATE OF THE
FEDERATION****AKWA IBOM STATE**

MRS ENO HANSON OUT (NEE AKPABIO)

Date of Enrolment - 12th July, 1969**ANAMBRA STATE**

MRS. RITA SHEILA EGUWUATA

Date of Enrolment - 10th March, 1950**ADAMAWA STATE**

HON. JUSTICE (MRS) HANSINE DONLI

Date of Enrolment - 28th June, 1974**BAUCHI STATE**

MRS ZAINAB YAYA ALIYU

Date of Enrolment - 3rd July, 1976**BENUE STATE**

MRS REKIYA E. OKPANACHI

Date of Enrolment - 23rd July, 1973**BORNO STATE**

HON. JUSTICE (MRS) CLARA BATA OGUNBIYI

Date of Enrolment - 3rd July, 1976**EDO STATE**

MRS GRACE E. OGBEMI

Date of Enrolment - 17th September, 1924**CROSS RIVER STATE**

MRS NKOYO MAETE LOLADE ISIKALU

Date of Enrolment - 22nd June, 1959

IMO STATE

MRS MARGARET STITEH

Date of Enrolment - 9th August, 1963

KADUNASTATE

MRS RAHILA HADEA CUDJOE

Date of Enrolment - 23rd June, 1973

KANO STATE

HON JUSTICE MARIAM ALOMA MUKHTAR

Date of Enrolment - 26th June, 1967

FIRST FEMALE JUDGES, COURT OF APPEAL & SUPREME COURT

HON. JUSTICE ALOMA MARIAM MUKHTAR

PROMINENT FEMALE JURISTS

KATSINA STATE

BINTA FATIMA REMAWA

Date of Enrolment - 24th July, 1982

KWARA STATE

HON JUSTICE R. O. GAMBARI

First Indigeneous female Lawyer from the State

LAGOS STATE

KAFAYAT AUGUSTO

Date of Enrolment - 28th February, 1953.

NIGER STATE

HON. JUSTICE FATI ABUBAKAR

Date of Enrolment - 14th July, 1976

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OGUN STATE

MRS STELLA JANE MARKE

Date of Enrolment - 16th November, 1935**OYO STATE**

HON. JUSTICE ATINUKE OMOBONIKE IGE

Date of Enrolment - 18th May, 1959**ONDO STATE**

MRS. MODUPE OLADUNNI EBOH

Date of Enrolment - 14th March, 1953**PLATEAU STATE**

MRS MATILDA OGHOGA

Date of Enrolment - 18th November, 1978**RIVERS STATE**

HON. JUSTICE SOTONYE DENTON WEST

Date of Enrolment - 18th June, 1971**SOKOTO STATE**

MRS TAI YUSUF IMAM

First Indigenous female Lawyer from the State

SENIOR ADVOCATES OF NIGERIA

NAME	DATE OF CONFERMENT
1. Chief F.R.A. Williams, S.A.N. (Deceased)	3/4/75
2. Dr. N.B. Graham-Douglas, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
3. Chief Obafemi Awolowo, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
4. Chief R.A. Fani-Kayode, S.A.N (Deceased)	12/1/78
5. Mr. T.A. Bankole-Oki, S.A.N	"
6. Mr. E.A. Molajo, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
7. MR. Kehinde Sofola, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
8. Chief R.O.A. Akinjide, S.A.N	"
9. Mr. G.O.K. Ajayi, S.A.N	"
10. Chief Olisa Chukura, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
11. Dr. Nwakanma Okoro, S.A.N	"
12. Dr. Mudiaga Odje, S.A.N	"
13. Mr. P.O. Balonwu, S.A.N	"
14. Professor B.O. Nwabueze, S.A.N	"
15. Dr. Augustine Nnamani, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
16. Mr. G.C.M. Onyiuke, S.A.N.	25/1/79
17. Chief B. Olowofoyeku, S.A.N	"
18. Mr. H.A. Lardner, S.A.N	"
19. Mr. Chike Ofodile, S.A.N	"
20. Professor A.B. Kasumu, S.A.N	"
21. Mr. F.O. Akinrele, S.A.N	6/3/80
22. Chief Adebayo Ogunsanya, S.A.N	"
23. Dr. Okoi Arikpo, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
24. Mr. G.R.I. Egonu, S.A.N	"
25. Mr. J.B. Mayiyagbe, S.A.N	"
26. Chief Bayo Kehinde, S.A.N	"
27. Chief M.O. Akpofure, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
28. Chief Sobo Sowemimo, S.A.N	"
29. Dr. Arthur Nylander, S.A.N.	"
30. Mrs. Folake Solanke, S.A.N	"
31. Mr. A.N. Anyamene, S.A.N.	28/1/82
32. Mr. H.T.O. Coker, S.A.N	"
33. Chief Efiom E.O. Ekong, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
34. Mr. Gally Brown-Peterside, S.A.N.	"
35. Mr. Abdullahi Ibrahim, S.A.N.	"
36. Mr. Akin O. Sikuade, S.A.N	1983
37. Chief P.G.E. Umeadi, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
38. Mr. Babatunde O. Benso, S.A.N	"
39. Mr. A.B.C. Iketuonye, S.A.N (Deceased)	"

40.	Mr. Abayomi O. Sogbesan, S.A.N (Deceased)	25/3/83
41.	Chief M.A. Aggamuche, S.A.N (Deceased)	13/4/84
42.	Mr. M.A. Agbamuche S.A.N (Deceased)	"
43.	Mr. T.I. Onafowokan, S.A.N	"
44.	Mr. Fidelia Nwadialo, S.A.N	"
45.	Mr. K.S. Okeaya-Inneh, S.A.N	"
46.	Alhaji A.G.F. Abdul Razaq, S.A.N	31/7/85
47.	Mr. Ladpsu Ladapo, S.A.N	"
48.	Mr. Clement O. Akpambgo, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
49.	Hon. Prince Bola Ajibola, S.A.N.	5/6/86
50.	Chief Akinola Adaramaja, S.A.N	"
51.	Chief Chimezie Ikeazor, S.A.N	"
52.	Chief Debo Akande, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
53.	Mr. Solomon Asemota, S.A.N.	"
54.	Mr. Anthony D. Mogboh, S.A.N	25/2/87
55.	Chief Afe Babalola, S.A.N	"
56.	Mr. Aliyu Salman, S.A.N.	"
57.	Mr. T.J.O. Okpoko, S.A.N	"
58.	Chief A.A. Fadayiro, S.A.N	3/5/88
59.	G.A. Graham-Douglas	"
60.	Chief C.O. Ihensekhien, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
61.	E.O. Sofunde, S.A.N.	"
62.	L.N. Mbanefo, S.A.N.	"
63.	N.N. Anah, S.A.N.	5/6/89
64.	Y.A.A. Agbaje, S.A.N.	"
65.	Idowu Sofola S.A.N.	"
66.	B.A. Ibronke, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
67.	Mrs. P.C. Ajayi-Obe, S.A.N	"
68.	Chief T.O.S. Benson S.A.N (Deceased)	16/7/90
69.	Barrister Webber G. Egbe, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
70.	Otunba Adeniran Ogunsanya, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
71.	Dr. F.A. Ajayi, S.A.N	"
72.	Mr. Ben Ekigwe Nwazojie, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
73.	Mr. Bandele A. Aiku, S.A.N	"
74.	Mr. J.A. Taiwo Ajala, S.A.N.	"
75.	Chief S.M. Olakunri, S.A.N.	19/7/91
76.	Jerome H.C. Okolo, S.A.N	"
77.	Chief A. Akinbesehin, S.A.N.	"
78.	Dr. D.D. Mowoe, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
79.	Chief M.P. Ohwovoriole, S.A.N.	"
80.	Dr. Chief F.E.O. Ume, S.A.N.	"
81.	Oluwole O. Olanipekun, S.A.N	"

82.	Alhaji Olufemi Okunnu, S.A.N	20/7/92
83.	Prof. C.O. Okonkwo, S.A.N.	"
84.	Chief Babashola Orobiyi-Rhodes, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
85.	Dr. Samson Sani Ameh, S.A.N	"
86.	Mr. Johnny Chukwunweike Okonkwo, S.A.N.	"
87.	Chief Mike Ikenna Ahamba, S.A.N.	"
88.	Mr. Adegboyega Solomon Awomolo, S.A.N	"
89.	Mr. Godwin Ekwusiaga Ezeuko, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
90.	Chief George Nwokocha Ona Uwechue, S.A.N.	"
91.	Dr. Jacob Ogbonnaya Ibik, S.A.N.	"
92.	Chief P.A.O. Olorunnishola, S.A.N.	7/6/93
93.	Chief Funso Akinyosoye, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
94.	Mr. Olajide Ayodele, S.A.N.	"
95.	Prof. Aaririyu Abiodun, S.A.N.	"
96.	Otunba (Mrs) C.O. Ajayi-Ikunnua, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
97.	Mr. Enechi Onyia, S.A.N	"
98.	Mr. I.N. Umczuruike, S.A.N.	"
99.	Prof. G. Ezejiofor, S.A.N	"
100.	Chief Boin Nwakama Ksc, S.A.N	24/4/95
101.	Chief Niyi Oshe, S.A.N.	"
102.	Mr. Tunji Ayanlaja, S.A.N.	"
103.	Chief Ladi Rotimi-Williams, S.A.N	"
104.	Mr. A.O. Eghobamien, S.A.N.	"
105.	Mr. Kayode S. Sofola, S.A.N.	"
106.	Chief Makanjuola Esan, S.A.N	"
107.	Dr. Ilochi A. Okafor, S.A.N.	24/4/95
108.	Mr. O.C.J. Okocha, S.A.N	"
109.	Mr. J.B. Daudu, S.A.N	"
110.	Chief James Ajibola Adegoke Ige, S.A.N. (Deceased)	9/9/96
111.	Chief Akinwande Delano, S.A.N	"
112.	Chief Chukwukammadu Ohiri Njemanze, S.A.N	"
113.	Mr. Akpan Ekong Basse, S.A.N.	"
114.	Mr. Emmanuel Jada John Toro, S.A.N.	"
115.	Chief Udechukwu Nnoruka Udechukwu, S.A.N.	"
116.	Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, S.A.N.	"
117.	Chief Emmanuel Akwiwu, S.A.N.	15/9/97
118.	Mr. Mikhali Adisa Bashua, S.A.N.	"
119.	Chief Adeboye Adejumo, S.A.N.	"
120.	Tochukwu Onwugbufo, S.A.N.	"
121.	Chief Chuks Muoma, S.A.N.	"
122.	Mr. Kanu Godwin Agabi, S.A.N.	"
123.	Mr. Olujimi Olajide Oduba, S.A.N.	"
124.	Mr. Gabriel Ofodile Okafor, S.A.N.	"

125.	Mr. Bankole Olumide Aluko, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
126.	Dr. Theophilus Osanakpo, S.A.N	"
127.	Charles Akinlolu Olujinmi, S.A.N	"
128.	Mr. Yusuf Olaolu Alli, S.A.N.	"
129.	Abimbola Williams (Mrs), S.A.N	1-1/9/98
130.	Professor I.E. Sagay, S.A.N.	"
131.	Chief O.B. Onyali, S.A.N.	"
132.	MR. B.M. Wifa, S.A.N.	"
133.	M.A.O. Okulaja, S.A.N.	"
134.	Professor G.A. Olawoyin, S.A.N.	"
135.	Murtala A.O. Sanni, S.A.N	"
136.	C.O.I. Joseph, S.A.N.	"
137.	Chief E.L. Akopfure, S.A.N	"
138.	Olisa Agbakoba, S.A.N.	"
139.	Oluwarotimi O. Akeredolu, S.A.N.	"
140.	Mr. Joe Kyari Gadzama, S.A.N.	"
141.	Chief Chidube Ezebilo, S.A.N.	20/9/99
142.	Professor J.A. Omotola, S.A.N (Deceased)	"
143.	Kola Awodein, S.A.N.	"
144.	Bayo Ojo, S.A.N.	"
145.	Seyi Sowemimo, S.A.N	"
146.	P.O. Jimoh-Lasisi, S.A.N	"
147.	Emmanuel C. Ukala, S.A.N	"
148.	Livy Uzoukwu, S.A.N.	"
149.	Ademola Akinrele, S.A.N.	"
150.	Dr. Eyimofe D. Atake, S.A.N.	"
151.	Yunus Ustaz Usman, S.A.N	"
152.	Alex A. Izinyon, S.A.N	"
153.	Mr. J.K. Jegede, S.A.N	3/8/2000
154.	Mr. Bayo Aluko-Olokun, S.A.N.	"
155.	Dr. M.E. Ajogwu, S.A.N.	"
156.	Mr. Tanimola Aderinola Molajo, S.A.N.	"
157.	Mr. Awa U. Kalu S.A.N.	"
158.	Dr. Olukonyinsola Ajayi, S.A.N.	"
159.	Chief Chike Chigbue, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
160.	Mr. Felix O. Fagbohunbe, S.A.N.	"
161.	Mr. A.I. Idigbe, S.A.N.	"
162.	Mr. Jibola A. Olanipekun, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
163.	Mr. Charles Uwensuyi-Edosomwan, S.A.N.	"
164.	Mr. Rickey Tarfa, S.A.N.	"
165.	Chief Gani Fawehinmi, S.A.N.	25/7/2000
166.	Albert Ojo Akanle, S.A.N (Deceased)	"

167.	Chief Theodore A. Ezeobi, S.A.N.	"
168.	Mrs. Olufunke A. Adekoya, S.A.N.	"
169.	Nnamdi Ibegbu, S.A.N	"
170.	Abubakar B. Mahmoud, S.A.N.	"
171.	Albert Akpomudje, S.A.N.	"
172.	Adetokunbo Kayode, S.A.N.	"
173.	Amaechi Nwaiwu, S.A.N	"
174.	Mohammed D. Belgore, S.A.N.	"
175.	Micheal Adeniyi Akintola, S.A.N.	"
176.	Damian D. Dodo, S.A.N.	"
177.	Rob Iweka, S.A.N.	"
178.	J.O. Aghimien, S.A.N.	"
179.	Bambo Adesanya, S.A.N.	"
180.	Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, S.A.N.	"
181.	B.A.M. Fashanu, S.A.N.	"
182.	Gani Adetola-Kaseen, S.A.N.	"
183.	Prof. Taiwo Osipitan, S.A.N.	"
184.	Dr. B.O. Babalakin, S.A.N.	"
185.	Prof. I.A. Ayua, S.A.N.	"
186.	Dr. Onyechi Ikpeazu, S.A.N.	"
187.	Emeka Ngige, S.A.N.	"
188.	Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, S.A.N.	"
189.	Prof. Joseph Ogbonmayo Irukwu, S.A.N.	8/8/2003
190.	Alh. Fatai Aremu Oso, S.A.N.	"
191.	Mrs. Anayo Justina Offiah, S.A.N.	"
192.	Mr. Henry Odeiu Ajumogbia, S.A.N.	"
193.	Mr. Peter Oluwafemi Atoyebi, S.A.N.	"
194.	Mr. Ighodalo Emmanuel Imachegbelo, S.A.N	"
195.	Chief Chris Uche, S.A.N.	"
196.	Mr. Jude Thadoeus Nnodun, S.A.N.	"
197.	Mr. Paul Usoro, S.A.N.	"
198.	Mr. Tokunbo Aniola Williams, S.A.N.	"
199.	Mr. Ericson Omotayo Oyetibo, S.A.N.	"
200.	Mr. Charles Adeyemi Candide Johnson, S.A.N.	"
201.	Mr. Obiora Akinwunmi Obianwu S.A.N.	"
202.	Mr. Micheal Afolabi Fashanu S.A.N.	"
203.	Olasemi Aaron Okunloye, S.A.N. (Deceased)	"
204.	Mamman Mike Osuman, S.A.N.	2/8/2004
205.	Victor Ndoma-Egba, S.A.N.	"
206.	Deji Sasegbon, S.A.N.	"
207.	Alade Agbabiaka, S.A.N.	"
208.	Lucius Ezeaka, S.A.N.	"
209.	Olayiwola Muronmubo Babatunde, S.A.N.	"

210.	Chief Ajibola Anthony Aribisala, S.A.N.	"
211.	Micheal Ifeanyichukwe, S.A.N.	"
212.	Omoruyi Augustine Omonuwa, S.A.N.	"
213.	Dafe Akpedeye, S.A.N.	"
214.	Patrick Ifeanyi Nwankwo-Ikwueto, S.A.N.	"
215.	Beluolisa Emmanuel Ikechukwu Nwofor, S.A.N.	"
216.	Fidelis Oditah QC, S.A.N.	"
217.	Adetunji Adetokunbo Oyeyipo, S.A.N.	"
218.	Babatunde Raji Fashola, S.A.N.	"
219.	Kola Adeniji Abayomi, S.A.N.	16/8/2007
220.	Donald Ibezim Udogu, S.A.N	"
221.	Bernard Iyoriyam Hom, S.A.N.	"
222.	Emmanuel Oludele Akinsola Idowu, S.A.N.	"
223.	Amos Agbe Akinsola Idowu, S.A.N.	"
224.	Cyprian Okafor Anah, S.A.N.	"
225.	Ifedayo Adam Adedipe, S.A.N.	"
226.	Assam Ekanem Assam, S.A.N.	"
227.	Gbolahan Olabukola Akintunde Elias, S.A.N	"
228.	Titus Olasupo Ashaolu, S.A.N.	"
229.	Pius Ademou Akubo, S.A.N.	"
230.	Mobolaji Olukayode Ayorinde, S.A.N.	"
231.	Eric Oba Nsugbe, Q.C. S.A.N.	"
232.	Ezekiel Adebayo Adenipekun, S.A.N.	"
233.	Oluwakemi Adekunle Athman Pinheiro, S.A.N.	"
234.	Nwobidike Nwanodi, S.A.N.	18/7/06
235.	Ijalaye David Adedayo, S.A.N.	"
236.	Micheal Iyiola Jegede, S.A.N.	"
237.	Chief Sir, Charles Abinye Benson Akparanta, S.A.N.	"
238.	Ogunwole Richard Akinropo, S.A.N.	"
239.	Clark Robert Isaac, S.A.N.	"
240.	Markus Yarkasuwa Saleh, S.A.N.	"
241.	Ibrahim Isiyaku, S.A.N.	"
242.	Epiphany Chigbo Azinge, S.A.N.	"
243.	George Anthony Ikoli, S.A.N.	"
244.	Chief Ugoio Okwuchukwu, S.A.N.	"
245.	Adebayo Oba Adelodun, S.A.N.	"
246.	Nathaniel Oladipo Oladiran Oke, S.A.N	"
247.	Adekunle Babatunde Kalejaye, S.A.N.	"
248.	Joe Odey Agi, S.A.N.	"
249.	Oladejo Oluesyi Lamikanra	"
250.	Saka Abimbola Isau, S.A.N.	"
251.	Duro Adeyele, S.A.N	"

252.	Michael Kaase Aondoakaa, S.A.N.	"
253.	Otaru Roland Itoyah, S.A.N.	"
254.	Mohammed Bello Adoke, S.A.N.	"
255.	Olawale Adeola Akoni, S.A.N.	"
256.	Olasupo Shasore, S.A.N.	"
257.	Adedolapo Adesola Akinrele, S.A.N.	"
258.	Oluyele Obafemi Delano, S.A.N.	"
259.	Ocholi Enoyo James, S.A.N.	30/10/2007
260.	Anachebe Benbella Ahizechukwu, S.A.N.	"
261.	Fakunle Olagoke Oluyemi, S.A.N.	"
262.	Paul Erokoro, S.A.N.	"
263.	Uchenna Gregory Nwokedi, S.A.N.	"
264.	Olorundare Okunade Israel, S.A.N.	"
265.	John Olusola Baiyeshca, S.A.N.	"
266.	Ofodile Francis Chukwuemeka, S.A.N.	"
267.	Miannaya Aja Essien (Mrs), S.A.N.	"
268.	Julius Oladele Adesina, S.A.N.	"
269.	Babatunde Ademola Ajibade, S.A.N.	"
270.	Solomon Ukaegbu Akuma, S.A.N.	"
271.	Augustine Oyareke Alegeh, S.A.N.	"
272.	Sunday I. Ameh, S.A.N.	"
273.	Okechukwu Emmanuel Wali, S.A.N.	"
274.	Prof. Musa Yakubu, S.A.N.	"
275.	Prof. Charles Udenze Ilegbune, S.A.N.	"