

CHAPTER SEVEN



APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES

Justices of the Court of Appeal are appointed by the President of Nigeria, on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council. The Council is one of the Federal Executive bodies charged with the responsibility of exercising control over all courts of record and judicial officers in the country. The appointment of the President of the Court is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The appointment of Justices is spread across the thirty-six states of the Federation. In other words, Justices are drawn from all thirty-six states in line with the Federal Character practice.

At the inception of the Court in 1976, two Justices of the Supreme Court were appointed Justices of the Court of Appeal. They were:

1. Hon. Justice Dan O. Ibekwe
2. Hon. Justice Maman Nasir

On January 1, 1977, a second batch comprising eleven new justices were appointed to the Court, bringing the total number at that time to thirteen. They were:

1. Hon. Justice J. A. Phil -Ebosie
2. Hon. Justice O. Akinkugbe
3. Hon. Justice S. O. Ogunkeye
4. Hon. Justice J. Omo-Eboh
5. Hon. Justice B.O. Kazeem
6. Hon. Justice S. J. Ete
7. Hon. Justice D. G. Douglas
8. Hon. Justice A. I. Aseme
9. Hon. Justice B. O. Coker
10. Hon. Justice M. M. A. Akanbi
11. Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais

A third batch of six Justices of the Court were appointed in July 1977:

1. Hon. Justice K.O. Anyah
2. Hon. Justice Uche Omo
3. Hon. Justice G.O. Agbaje
4. Hon. Justice Adenekan Ademola
5. Hon. Justice R.O Okagbue
6. Hon. Justice Philip Nnaemeka Agu

FOUNDATION JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL



Hon. Justice D. Ibekwe



Hon. Justice M. Nasir



Hon. J ustice J. A. Phil Ebosie



Hon. Justice O. Akinkugbe



Hon. Justice S. O. Ogunkeye



Hon. Justice J. O. Omo Eboh

FOUNDATION JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL



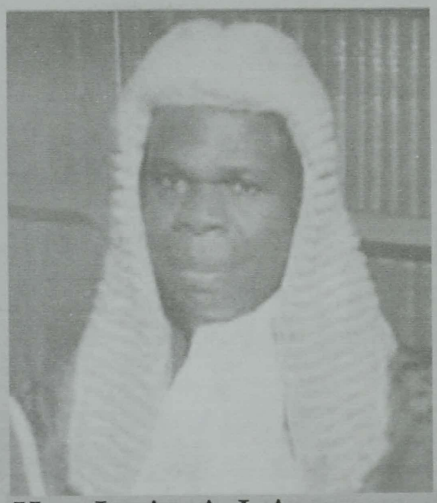
Hon. Justice B. O. Kazeem



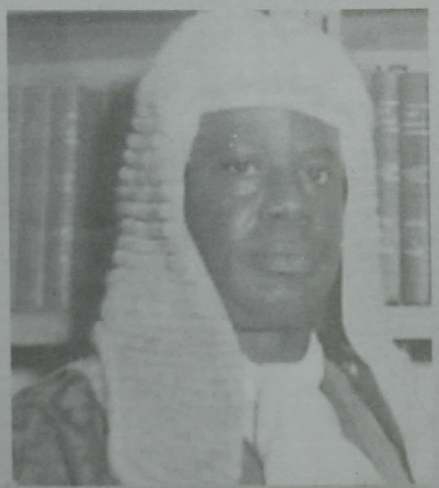
Hon. Justice S. J. Ete



Hon. Justice G. Douglas



Hon. Justice A. I. Aseme

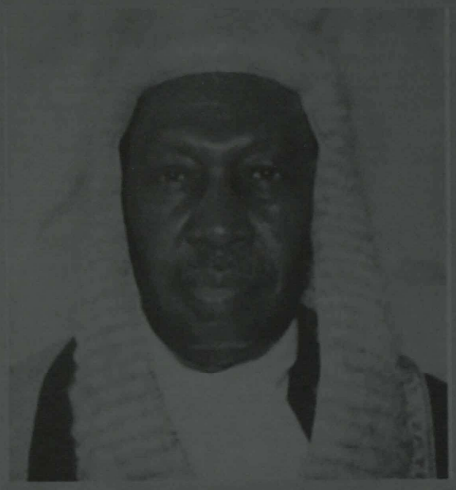


Hon. Justice D. O. Coker



Hon. Justice M. M. A Akanbi

FOUNDATION JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL



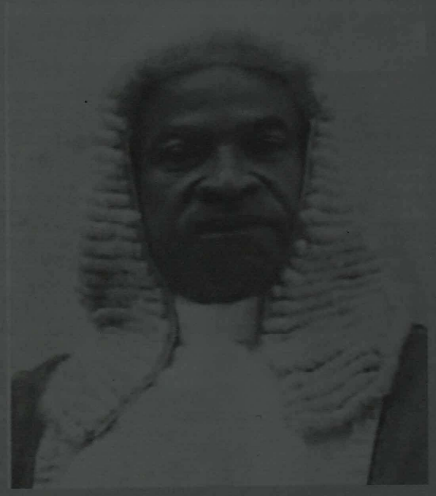
Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais



Hon. Justice K. O. Anyah



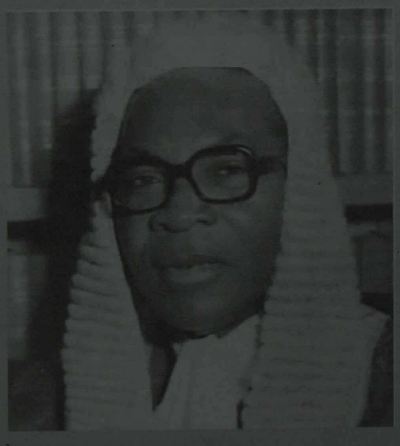
Hon. Justice Uche Omo



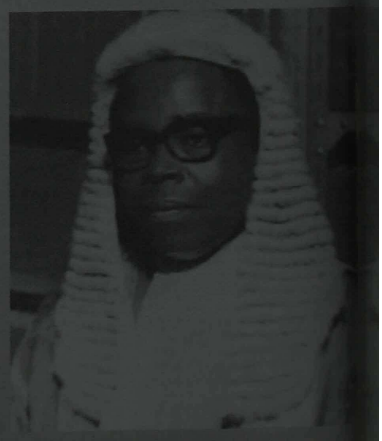
Hon. Justice G. O. Agbaje



Hon. Justice A. Ademola



Hon. Justice R. O. Okagbue



Hon. Justice P. N - Agbu

A TYPICAL SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF JUSTICES

Most swearing-in ceremonies are held in the late mornings. In the Supreme Court of Nigeria where all swearing-in ceremonies of appellate court justices are conducted, you do not want to turn up late. While the court premises teems with security operatives, the area is alive with impatient drivers as well as visitors trying to conjure up parking spaces out of the already overflowing car parks. Around are gaily dressed well wishers arrayed in different colours, women in bright, beautiful uniformed traditional outfits, and sometimes traditional dancers and cultural troupes from a particular judge's birthplace performing at the entrance of the court building as people troop in.

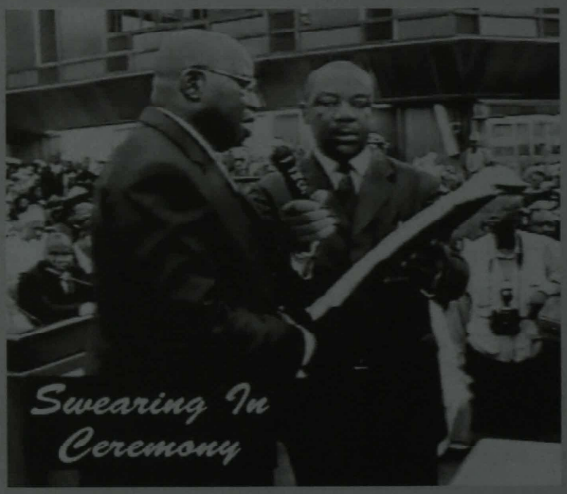
Meanwhile, you cannot miss the happy faces holding up congratulatory placards by the staircase leading to the entrance hall of the court. On occasions as this, the ceremonial hall of the apex court is a world of its own, particularly when more than one judge is being sworn in. The court is filled to capacity; relations, friends, colleagues, lawyers, journalists, curiosity seekers and the like fill the space. Noisy banter could be heard all over. Cameramen struggle to get better shots. Persons that have not met in years reunite. In the meantime, the newly appointed justices waiting to be formally initiated into the higher bench sit on front row seat often reserved for them facing the bench. In regular court sittings, this front row known as the inner bar is exclusively meant for Senior Advocates and Attorneys-General. The men dress in dark suits with a tie while the women appear in dark skirt suits or dress and a black headgear.

Amidst the banter and friendly chatter a voice rings out, C-O-U-R-T!!!! and everyone stand as justices of the Supreme Court file in, in order of seniority. The Chief Justice comes in first and sits on a seat directly below the rows of justices' seats. The justices on this occasion do n wear their ceremonial robes. They appear in dark or gray suits. As soon as they are all seated, everyone sit and the Chief Registrar of the Court calls out the name of the most senior judge on the list or the name of the justice to be sworn in if it is only one person. The judge comes forward, stands in front of the Court facing the Registrars and the Justices while the Chief Registrar hands him/her a copy of the constitution from where he takes two oaths. First, he/she takes the Oath of Allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, then, he/she takes the d lastly he/she signs the oath register. When this is done, the newly sworn-in judge stands in-front-of the bench, takes a bow and sometimes gets a handshake from the Chief Justice before returning to his/her seat or moving up to join the justices on the bench if the appointment is to the Supreme Court bench. That done, the Chief Justice makes a brief speech and brings the ceremony to a close. Again the justices file out in order of seniority with the most junior justice leaving last.

Swearing In Ceremony Of Justices

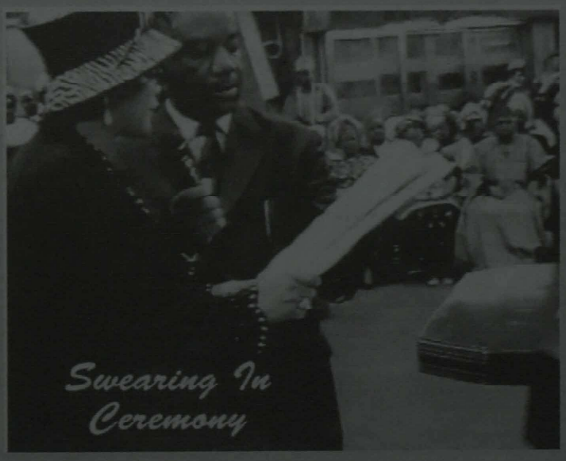








CJN, I. L. Kutigi congratulating a new JC



Constitution of the Federal republic of Niger 1999 provides that:

290. (1) A person appointed to any judicial offi shall not begin to perform the functions of th office until he has declared his assets and liabiliti as prescribed under this Constitution and h subsequently taken and subscribed the Oath Allegiance and the Judicial Oath prescribed in t seventh Schedule to this Constitution.

(2) The oaths aforesaid shall be administered the person for the time being authorized by law administer such oaths.

MODE OF APPOINTMENT

Justices are selected with consideration to Federal Character specifications. In other words, Justices are taken from all parts of the Federation. Nigeria is for this purpose divided into six geo-political zones and the process of appointment ensures that all these geo-political zones are represented.

Deference to geographical balance is a major issue. Justice Oguntade once noted the shortcomings of this zoning. In his opinion, the appointment of professionals expected upon assumption of office to display knowledge, a grasp of and an understanding of the rudiments of the law, should not be based on Federal Character and state of origin. He explained:

> *'It's like when a person falls ill and needs medical treatment; you don't begin checking out the state the doctor comes from. What is done is that you look for the best doctor that can cure the sickness. When you are looking for judges, you look for the best brains, those with a firm grasp and a tested understanding of the law. That is the only way to strengthen the court, particularly since it is from that base that Justices of the Supreme Court are finally recruited. The Court of Appeal will be better strengthened if improved methods for the appointment of judges are devised. It is the second highest court in the land and, therefore, appointments ought to be taken with the seriousness they deserve."*
>
> *In some states in the country, there are probably not more than five or six Judges of the state high court. In a few others, there may be seven or eight. On the other hand, some state judiciary have thirty, forty or more. In Lagos State Judiciary, there are up to eighty or more high court judges and the reason why these states have such high number of judges is because of the quantity and diversity of cases coming to the courts. The judges are exposed to greater experience in wider areas of the law. When a high court judge is appointed to the Court of Appeal from a state where the practise of complex cases on shipping law, maritime law, banking practice and serious corporate matters for instance is not a regular occurrence, you find that the Justice of the Court of Appeal who is expected to know more would probably be found to know less because he has not been exposed.*
>
> *" If at all events, it is perceived that Federal Character should be reflected in the appointment to the Court of Appeal, judges from disadvantaged states - that is states where the practice of law is not wide and varied -*

should be first exposed to practice in diverse areas since those are the kind of matters they would have to contend with regularly in the Court of Appeal. They could be sent on secondment to states handling multifaceted areas of law so as to broaden their understanding of otherwise unfamiliar matters. This method would strengthen the judicial system, strengthen the appellate system in the country and ultimately, the Supreme Court itself.

" Appointing judges from states where the nature of development is such that they aren't exposed to such diverse practices, is in fact a way to weaken adjudicatory work in the Court because they become learners at the appellate level. It is the level where experience is brought to bear on cases as well as correcting the errors of judgment. Nigeria is in the modern age and most of the judges in other jurisdictions of the world are those specially trained and skilled in their areas of adjudicatory practice. We must borrow a leaf and ensure that only round pegs are put in round holes. This is not a way of saying that judges from the areas where diverse branches of the law are not practiced should be precluded from service in the Court of Appeal, but that before judges are brought to the Court of Appeal, a method should be designed to first expose them to extensive learning in these areas of the law where they are not conversant, to enable them to be good Justices of the Court of Appeal where they are expected to correct errors made by judges of the High Court.

"Though the practice hitherto has been that we try to reflect Federal Character in the appointment of judges, the application of the principle of Federal Character should be done with a lot of thoroughness and circumspection. The Constitution does not say that Federal Character must be used in all appointments. It says that as much as possible, Federal Character should be reflected."[1]

DIGNITY OF THE JUDICIARY

It is said that the status of a judge carries dignity and authority. According to Justice Akanbi, that dignity should be maintained in every respect. He argued that

"Appointments should not just be by examinations and inadequate recommendations. A judge should be considered by the appointing body, not only based on the number of cases, but on a specific number of its members recommending him. He should be able to answer questions

regarding his philosophy. What is his understanding of the underpinning philosophy of the human society?

Of the implications of state security and stability? What is his level of patriotism? If we do that, then we will get the best. Judges ought to be invited to the bench based on merit and excellent work profile. Nobody should lobby to be appointed a judge. Today some move from house to house lobbying. Until we review our appointing system, there may be a repeat of the time during the General Murtala and Idiagbon regimes when judges were removed unceremoniously. That should not have happened in the first place if proper screening had been done, if proper mode of looking into the appointment had been carried out."[2]

A stickler for accountability, Akanbi gave a significant speech as the President of the Court of Appeal on corruption which registered boldly on the nation. Excerpts:

"As I said elsewhere there is no doubt in my mind that a corrupt Magistrate or State Counsel will on elevation to the higher bench remain a corrupt Judge, and a private Legal Practitioner who is used to cheating or defrauding his clients, cannot pass for an incorruptible Judge just because he wears the scarlet robe or the bench wig. I say so because my experience teaches me that principally, it is not the number of years that one spends at the bar or the chains of degrees one has acquired that makes one a true and upright Judge. Long years at the bar may give experience, acquisition of degrees may furnish success but for an upright judge, one has to have something more. Something that you either have or do not have. Something that money cannot buy. Something that marks out the possessor as a man with a deep sense of justice and an incorruptible mind. A disciplined character of intellect and self respect."[3]

The political environment also poses a challenge. A situation where members of the State House of Assembly can sit and decide to remove a Chief Judge is improper. Presently the National Judicial Council is advocating for a constitutional amendment that would take care of such matters, thereby reinforcing the independence of the Judiciary.

The paramount idea is to ensure that judicial officers are insulated from executive or legislative influence or interference and ensure maximum efficiency.

WHY CHIEF JUDGES MUST FIRST SERVE AT THE COURT

The Court of Appeal is considered to be a training ground for justices of the Supreme Court. At the beginning, appointments to the Supreme Court made from the High Court. A few appointments were also made from the Bar. In those days however, chief judges and judges of the High Courts were appointed straight to the Supreme Court but since the Court of Appeal was established, appointments to the Supreme Court was now made only from the bench of the Court of Appeal.

This is a policy instituted by Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais, former Chief Justice of Nigeria. He explained that by the creation of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judges of the State High Courts now come to be Justices of the Court of Appeal:

> *"This came about because the work of the Justices of the Court of Appeal is similar to the work of the Justices of the Supreme Court. What they do is appeal, except in the case of the Presidential election where they sit as a court of first instance. So, when they get appointed to the Supreme Court, they have no problem. At the High Court level, although appeal is heard from the Magistrate Courts and in some cases, the Area or Customary Courts, it is not the same as what is on hand in the Court of Appeal. The idea is that if somebody had been a state Chief Judge for quite some time and got appointed to the Court of Appeal, and had acquired some experience there, what would be the rationalization in appointing another Chief Judge straight to the Supreme Court, ignoring the experienced one that is in the Court of Appeal?*
>
> *"If a Chief Judge is appointed, he is coming straight from the High Court. But in the Court of Appeal, there are Justices who were Chief Judges who were in that status and position before becoming Justices of the Court of Appeal. Now, if somebody from the High Court is picked and a justice of the Court of Appeal who had been Chief Judge is ignored, what will be the justification for that? That practice could work at the time the Court of Appeal didn't exist. But now that there is an intermediate court, it makes better sense to appoint through the Court of Appeal.*
>
> *"When you talk of experience, the justice of the Court of Appeal definitely has more experience in handling the type of appeals that get to the Supreme Court than the Chief Judge or anybody from a state High Court."* [4]

The Court of Appeal is a training ground for appellate adjudication. A lot of Chief Judges have cases coming to them within their own locality. At the Supreme Court, one is exposed to maritime law, copyrights law, diverse criminal and commercial cases, etc. By the time a judge practices in the Court of Appeal and moves round the country, he

would have experience in these cases and would be able to hold his own and cope with the modern times. Otherwise, he/she would be inundated with unfamiliar case law at the Supreme Court if he went straight there. It would take him time to catch up with the level of performance in that Court.

In times past, according to Justice Akanbi, Chief Judges were members of the appointing body i.e. Advisory Judicial Committee (AJC), so naturally the Court of Appeal being a comparatively new court, some of them nominated judges who were junior to them.

> *"They didn't deem it right and proper to come to the Court of Appeal after people who were junior to them were there already. "The situation has changed today as no Chief Judge is better than the other." These men who were Chief Judges before coming to the Court of Appeal proved to be assets to the Supreme Court. Some of them are; Justice Alfa Belgore (rtd), Justice Atu Kalgo (rtd), Justice Dahiru Musdapher and Justice Mahmood Muhammad. They moved from the domain of Chief Judge to make an impact in the Court of Appeal and later, the Supreme Court."*[5]

SHARIA JUDGES IN THE COURT

In 1978, there was a need to appoint judges to the Court of Appeal who were learned both in Islamic and Common Law. This happened because when the 1979 Constitution was being considered by a committee in Lagos, there arose a dispute between Muslims and Christians. The Muslims wanted a Federal Sharia Court of Appeal to run parallel with the Federal Common Law Court of Appeal. The Christians opposed this. The Muslims were not happy and it caused some of them to walk out of the Constituent Assembly. The committee made a decision. Justice Nasir, late Justice Mohammed Bello, who later became Chief Justice of Nigeria; and late Justice Buba Ardo assembled, discussed and found out that the only solution was to recruit judges learned in both Sharia and Common law. This would satisfy the Muslims and then there would be no need to establish a Sharia Law Court of Appeal to run parallel with the Common Law Court of Appeal. This was suggested, and Obasanjo who was then the Head of State was told. When he asked if they could find judges who were learned in both Sharia and Common Law, these Justices answered in the positive and mentioned the names of Justices Uthman Mohammed, Abubakar Wali and late Maidama. Obasanjo directed them to find out if these people would agree to be recruited to join the Federal Court of Appeal.

After much persuasion Nasir was able to convince the gentlemen to accept the invitation, informing them that there would be a division for Sharia in the Federal Court of Appeal which they would run.

Obasanjo immediately signed the instrument of appointment for Justices Wali and Uthman Mohammed. Maidama joined in September 1979 before the 1979 Constitution became operational. On arrival in Lagos, Nasir led them to the Chief Justice's chambers at the Supreme Court. Hon. Justice Darnley Alexander who was Chief Justice of Nigeria then handed over the instruments of appointment.Uthman Mohammed was posted to Lagos while Wali went to the Kaduna division of the Court. Their appointment eased the tension in the country and ended the call for a separate Sharia Court of Appeal. Mohammed recounted that when they started on October 1, 1979, he used to join Wali and Maidama in Kaduna where the three of them would receive appeals from the Grand Khadis' Court on Sharia. He said this to emphasize that Sharia had long been admitted into the Nigerian legal system.

> *"When in 1999, Zamfara State said they were establishing Sharia, it surprised many people. Sharia had always been in the Constitution. We had Justices who were adequately handling Sharia appeals in the Court. So, what was the need for assembling people, erecting billboards and declaring Sharia State? It was a political Sharia because Sharia was already in the Constitution. The Grand Khadis were recognized. The lower courts were recognized. Appeals were received from the Sharia Court of Appeal to the Court of Appeal and later to the Supreme Court. There was really no need for any State to establish Sharia again. If Zamfara wanted to re-introduce some provisions of the Sharia which hitherto were not being practiced in thecountry, they could do so, but not to say they were establishing Sharia as if Sharia had not been with us.*[6]

Before appeals from the Sharia Courts of Appeal started coming to the Court of Appeal, the Grand Khadis were not very thorough in writing judgments. This was because their courts were the final courts. If there was a complaint against the Alkali's trial, the Sharia Court of Appeal which is presided over by Khadis and Grand Khadis listened to the appeal and their decision was final. But when appeals against their judgment started going to the Court of Appeal, the situation changed. They began writing good judgments.

When asked how he was able to handle work in both courts, Uthman Mohammed said:

> *"I found the work interesting and tasking of course because at one time, one got mixed up. You are handling Common Law appeals with a different type of procedure and suddenly, you juggle Sharia appeals with another type of procedures. At times we got human errors and mixed up things by putting one where it should not be. However, we handled it very well."*[7]

Justice Wali was the first amongst the trio to join the Supreme Court and, tragically, Justice Maidama died in 1992. Some other Justices specialising in Sharia were later

appointed. They are: Late Justice Sani Aikawa and late Muritala Okunola from Lagos. These learned gentlemen joined in the Sharia division. Subsequently there were many other appointments of Justices learned in the Sharia and all participated in hearing of appeals from the Sharia Court of Appeal.

Section 247 (1) of the 1999 Constitution provides that:

> *...the Court of Appeal shall be duly constituted if it consists 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 consists of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal learned in Islamic personal law...*[8]

A CUSTOMARY COURT JUDGE IN THE COURT

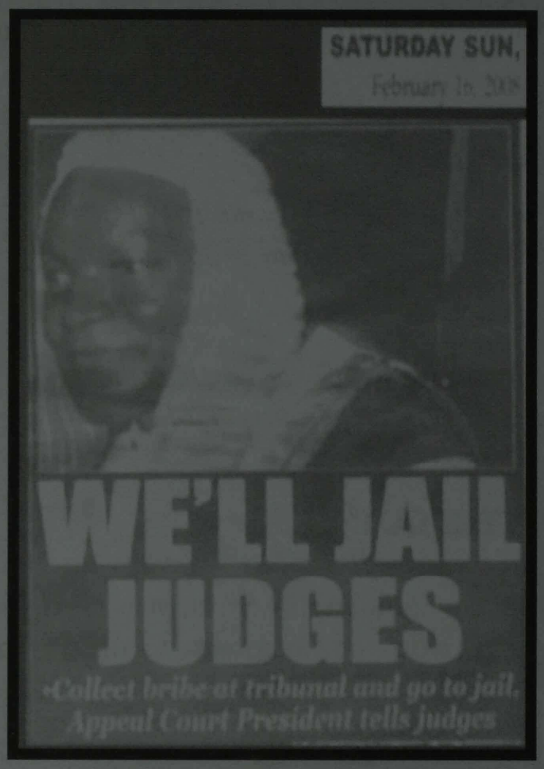
On November 30, 2010, the Court recorded another unique appointment as Hon. Justice Uchechukwu Onyemenam became the first judge from the Customary Court of Appeal to be elevated to the Court of Appeal. Previousl been no such appointment as all other judges appointed from the regular courts.

The Constitution in Section 247(1) provides that Court of Appeal shall be duly constituted if it consists of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal and in the case of appeals from-

> *(b) a Customary Court of Appeal, if it consists of not less than three Justices of the Court of Appeal learned in Customary law.*[9]

Since this appointment, no other judicial officer from the Customary Court of Appeal has been elevated to the Court.

ENSURING COMMENDABLE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL OFFICER


SATURDAY SUN,

February 16, 200

WE'LL JAIL JUDGES

•Collect bribe at tribunal and go to jail, Appeal Court President tells judges

Abdullahi once said during an interactiv session with judicial correspondents th the Court was aware of its enormous task hence his warning to judges to shun all act that could tarnish their reputation.

Speaking at the All Nigeria Conference o Appeal Court Judges in 2008 he admonishe judges to ensure that integrity plays prominent role in their work.

"Judges must perform their judicial duties witho fear or favour, bias or prejudice and ensure the their conduct both in and out of court maintain and enhances the confidence of the public."

Buhari, at the PPA national convention, in Abuja yesterday

NJC suspends four judges

The National Judicial Council yesterday suspended the Chief Judges of Anambra, Ekiti and Plateau States for the roles they played in the impeachment of the governors of their respective states.

Justice Chuka Ibiden for Oholi was suspended for his

By Rudy Rabiu

role in the impeachment of Peter Obi while Justice

Justice Ya'u Dakwang was also asked to step down for his role in the impeachment

IMPEACHMENTS

Kayode Hamzile was suspended for his alleged part in the impeachment of Chief

of Chief Joshua Dariye of Plateau State

A statement signed by the

Council Mr Danladi Hatib and made available to Daily Trust revealed that Justice Bide Aladejana who was appointed Acting Chief Judge of Ekiti State by the State's House of Assembly was also among those suspended.

ENSURING COMMENDABLE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

The former CJN, M. L. Uwais and former PCA, Umaru Abdullahi speak in a ThisDay newspaper interview on their role in ensuring creditable performance of Judges in Nigeria.

The Trial of Enugu Trial Judges

With the controversy over how the Court of Appeal, Enugu Division handled the election petition involving Senator Ugochukwu Uba and Hon. Nicholas Ukachukwu, President Olusegun Obasanjo recently directed the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Mohammed Uwais to investigate the allegations against the Court of Appeal, President Justice Umaru Abdullahi and others. **LILLIAN OKENWA** *has the inside story*





Interview

We'll prosecute compromised election tribunal judges –*Court of Appeal president*

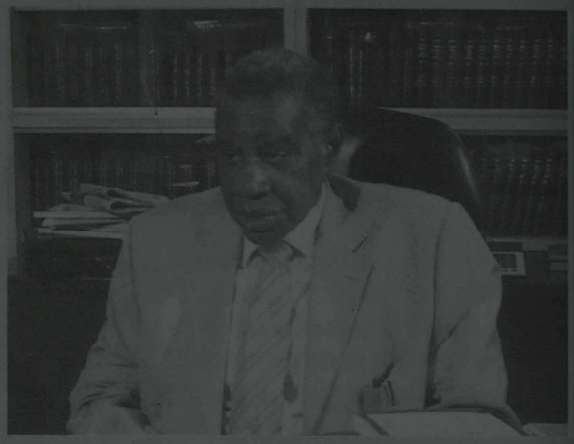
President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Umaru Abdullahi is particularly concerned about the need for the ongoing election tribunals to uphold the dignity of the judiciary. In this interview with **Onah L. Idah** and **Suleiman M. Bisalla**, he speaks of uncovered attempts to reach out to the judges. He also explains why he is not on the panel considering the presidential petition plus lots more. Excerpts



Some former State Chief Judges appointed to the Court of Appeal and later to the Supreme Court.



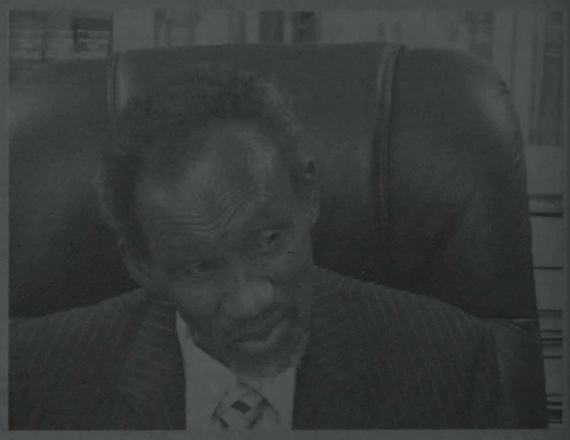
Hon. Justice S. M. A. Belgore (rtd.), Former CJN
Was Chief Judge of Plateau State



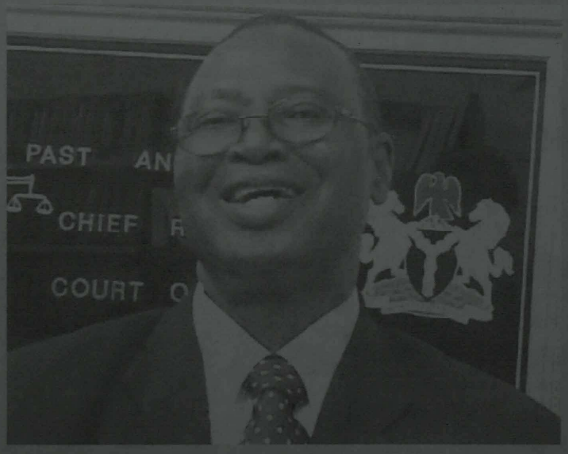
Hon. Justice Dahiru Musdapher (rtd.), Former CJN
Was Chief Judge of Kano State



Hon. Justice Umaru Atu Kalgo (rtd.), JSC
Was Chief Judge of Sokoto State



Hon. Justice Mahmood Mohammad (rtd.), Former CJ
Was Chief Judge of Borno State



Hon. Justice S. Galadima (rtd.) JSC
was Chief Judge of Nasarawa



Hon. Justice Zainab A. Bulkachuwa
was Chief judge of Gombe State

Some former Justices of the Court of Appeal elevated to the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land.



Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais (Rtd.), Former CJN



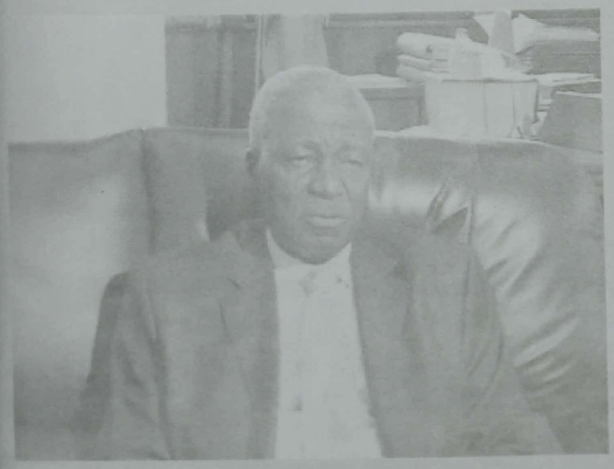
Hon. Justice P. Nnaemeka - Agu (rtd.), JSC



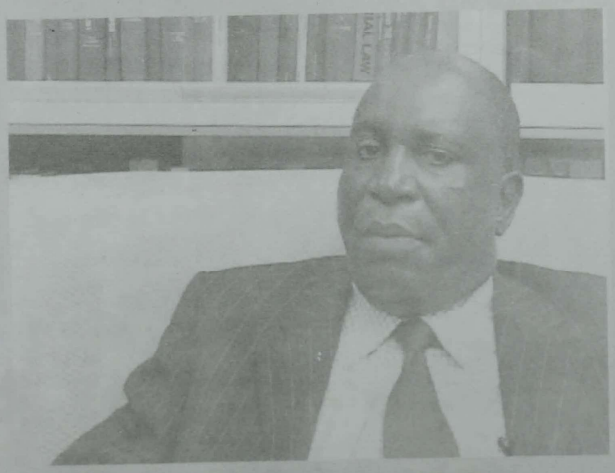
Hon. J ustice Uthman Mohammed (rtd.), JSC



Hon. Justice Abubakar B. Wali (rtd.), JSC

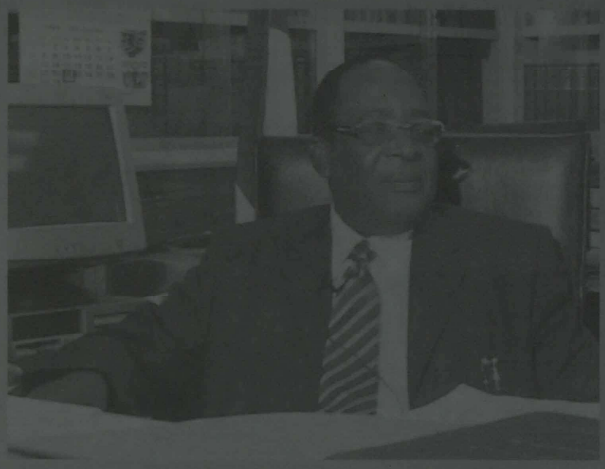


Hon. Justice I. L. Kutigi (rtd.), Former CJN



Hon. Justice G. A. Oguntade (rtd.), JSC

Some former Justices of the Court of Appeal elevated to the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land.



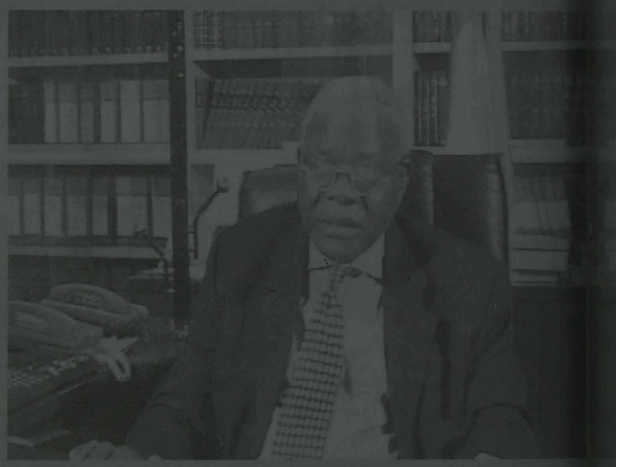
Hon. Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu (rtd.), Former CJN



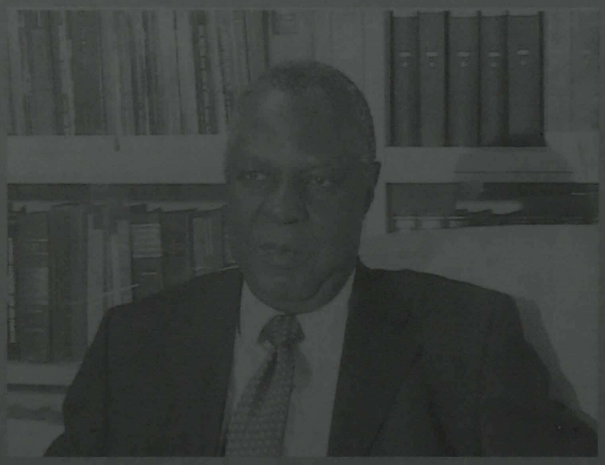
Hon. Justice Maryam A. Mukhtar (rtd.), Former CJN



Hon. J ustice O. O. Adekeye (rtd.), JSC



Hon. Justice Niki Tobi (rtd.), JSC



Hon. Justice J. O. Ogebe (rtd.), JSC



Hon. Justice J. A. Fabiyi (rtd.), JSC

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

1. The Late Hon. Justice D. O Ibekwe
Appointed December 1, 1976, President 1976 - 1978

2. The Hon. Justice M. Nasir, (GCON)
Appointed December 1, 1976, President 1978 - 1992

3. The Late Hon. Justice J. A. Phil Ebosie
Appointed January 1,1977

4. The Late Hon. Justice O. Akinkugbe
Appointed January 1,1977

5. The Late Hon. Justice S. O. Ogunkeye
Appointed January 1,1977

6. The Late Hon. Justice J. Omo-Eboh
Appointed January 1,1977

7. The Late Hon. Justice B. O. Kazeem
Appointed January 1,1977

8. The Late Hon. Justice S. J. Ete
Appointed January 1,1977

9. The Hon. Justice D. G. Douglas
Appointed January 1,1977

10. The Late Hon. Justice A. I. Aseme
Appointed January 1,1977

11. The Late Hon. Justice D. O. Coker
Appointed January 1,1977

12. The Hon. Justice M. M. A. Akanbi
Appointed January 1,1977, President 1992 - 1999

13. The Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais, (GCON) Appointed January 1,1977

14. The Hon. Justice K. O. Anyah, (OFR)
Appointed July 1977

15. The Late Hon. Justice Uche Omo
Appointed July 1977

16. The Hon. Justice G. O. Agbaje
Appointed July 1977

17. The Hon. Justice A. A. Ademola, (OFR)
Appointed July 1977

18. The Late Hon. Justice R. O. Okagbue
Appointed July 1977

19. The Hon. Justice P. Nnaemeka Agu
Appointed July 1977

20. The Hon. Justice A. B. Wali
Appointed January 1, 1979

21. The Hon. Justice U. Mohammed
Appointed January 1, 1979

22. The Hon. Justice S. M. A. Belgore, (GCON) Appointed January 1, 1979

23. The Late Hon. Justice U. Maidama
Appointed January 1, 1979

24. The Late Hon. Justice L. T. Dosunmu
Appointed October 15, 1980

25. The Late Hon Justice O. O. Olatawura
Appointed October 15, 1980

26. The Hon. Justice A. G. Karibi Whyte
Appointed October 15, 1980

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

27. The Hon. Justice I. L. Kutigi, (GCON) Appointed October 15, 1980

28. The Hon. Justice Abai Ikwechegh, (OFR) Appointed January 3, 1983

29. The Late Hon. Justice B. B. Pepple Appointed January 3, 1983

30. The Late Hon. Justice E. O. I Akpata Appointed January 3, 1983

31. The Hon. Justice J. H. O. Thomas Appointed January 3, 1983

32. The Late Hon. Justice M. E. Ogundare Appointed January 3, 1983

33. The Late Hon. Justice S. S. Aikawa Appointed January 3, 1983

34. The Hon. Justice I. K. Sulu Gambari Appointed January 3, 1983

35. The Hon. Justice Umaru Abdullahi Appointed January 3,1983, President 1999 - 2009

36. The Hon. Justice B. O. Babalakin Appointed January 4, 1984

37. The Hon. Justice S. O. Onu Appointed January 4, 1984

38. The Hon. Justice Dahiru Musdapher, (CON) Appointed May 1, 1985

39. The Late Hon. Justice R. J. Jacks Appointed May 1, 1985

40. The Late Hon. Justice I. O. Kolawole, (OFR) Appointed May 1, 1985

41. The Late Hon. Justice J. D. Ogundere Appointed May 1, 1985

42. The Hon. Justice A. I. Katsina Alu, (GCON) Appointed May 1, 1985

43. The Late Hon.Justice W.R.T. Macaulay Appointed May 1, 1985

44. The Hon. Justice O. Ajose-Adeogun Appointed May 1, 1985

45. The Hon. Justice E. T. Ndoma Egba, (OFR) Appointed September 24, 1987

46. The Late Hon. Justice B. A. Omosun Appointed September 24, 1987

47. The Hon. Justice O. Ogwuegbu Appointed September 24, 1987

48. The Hon. Justice A. M. Mukhtar Appointed September 24, 1987

49. The Late Hon. Justice F. O. Awogu, (O Appointed September 24, 1987

50. The Hon. Justice G. O. Oguntade Appointed September 24, 1987

51. The Late Hon. Justice G. Okay Achike Appointed September 24, 1987

52. The Hon. Justice U. A. Kalgo Appointed February 4, 1988

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

53. The Hon. Justice S. O. Uwaifo
Appointed February 4, 1988

54. The Hon Justice Y. O. Adio
Appointed February 4, 1988

55. The Late Hon. Justice J. T. Akpabio
Appointed February 4, 1988

56. The Hon. Justice I. A. Salami (OFR)
Appointed February 4,1988, President 2009 - Date

57.The Late Hon. Justice A. O. Ejiwunmi
Appointed February 4, 1988

58. The Late Hon. Justice I. O. Agoro
Appointed February 4, 1988

59. The Hon. Justice O. A. Okezie
Appointed August 9, 1990

60. The Hon. Justice V. J. O. Chigbue
Appointed August 9, 1990

61. The Hon. Justice G. O. Edozie
Appointed August 9, 1990

62. The Hon. Justice Niki Tobi, (CFR)
Appointed August 9, 1990

63. The Late Hon. Justice M. A. Okunola
Appointed August 9, 1990

64. The Hon. Justice S. A. Oduwole
Appointed August 9, 1990

65. The Hon. Justice S. A. Akintan
Appointed October 31, 1991

66. The Hon. Justice J. O. Ogebe, (OFR)
Appointed October 31, 1991

67. The Hon. Justice E. C. Ubeazonu
Appointed October 31, 1991

68. The Hon. Justice R. D. Muhammad, (OFR)
Appointed October 31, 1991

69. The Hon. Justice E. O. Ayoola
Appointed July 8, 1992

70. The Hon. Justice Mahmud Muhammad
Appointed November 12, 1992

71. The Hon. Justice S. O. Nsofor
Appointed November 12, 1992

72. The Late Hon. Justice R. O. Rowland
Appointed November 12, 1992

73. The Late Hon. Justice A. O. Ige
Appointed September 6, 1993

74. The Hon. Justice M. O. Onalaja
Appointed September 6, 1993

75. The Hon. Justice A. C. Orah
Appointed September 6, 1993

76. The Late Hon. Justice I. C. P. Achonolu
Appointed September 6, 1993

77. The Hon. Justice O. Opene
Appointed September 6, 1993

78. The Late Hon. Justice D. A. Azaki
Appointed September 6, 1993

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

79. The Hon. Justice M. S. M. Coomassie
Appointed September 6, 1993

80. The Hon. Justice Dalhatu Adamu, (OFR) Appointed September 6, 1993

81. The Hon. Justice I. T Muhammad
Appointed November 8, 1993

82. The Hon. Justice B. A. Ba'aba
Appointed November 21, 1998

83. The Hon. Justice S. A. Ibiyeye
Appointed November 21, 1998

84. The Hon. Justice Z. A. Bulkachuwa, (OFR) Appointed December 9, 1998

85. The Hon. Justice S. Galadima, (OFR)
Appointed December 10, 1998

86. The Hon. Jusyice S. O. Ekpe
Appointed December 10, 1998

87. The Hon. Justice S. A. Olagunju
Appointed December 10, 1998

88. The Hon. Justice V. A. O. Omage
Appointed December 10, 1998

89. The Hon. Justice O. O. Obadina
Appointed December 10, 1998

90. The Hon. Justice M. E. Akpiroroh
Appointed December 10, 1998

91. The Hon. Justice J. A. Fabiyi
Appointed December 10, 1998

92. The Hon. Justice F. F. Tabai
Appointed December 10, 1998

93. The Hon. Justice P. O. Aderemi
Appointed December 10, 1998

94. The Hon. Justice K. B. Akaahs
Appointed December 10, 1998

95. The Hon. Justice O. O. Adekeye
Appointed December 10, 1998

96. The Late Hon. Justice A. J Ikongbeh
Appointed December 10, 1998

97. The Hon. Justice A. G. Oduyemi
Appointed December 10, 1998

98. The Hon. Justice P. I. Amaizu
Appointed December 10, 1998

99. The Hon. Justice J. J. Umoren
Appointed December 10, 1998

100. The Hon. Justice W. S. N. Onoghen
Appointed December 10, 1998

101. The Hon. Justice M. D. Muhammad, (OFR) Appointed December 10, 1998

102. The Hon. Justice C. M. C. Eneh
Appointed December 10, 1998

103. The Late Hon. Justice I. A Mangaji
Appointed December 10, 1998

104.The Hon. Justice A. Sanusi
Appointed December 10, 1998

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

105. The Hon. Justice I. C. Nzeako
Appointed December 10, 1998

106. The Hon. Justice(Mrs)C. B. Ogunbiyi
Appointed October 17, 2002

107. The Hon. Justice I. Thomas
Appointed October 17, 2002

108. The Hon. Justice I. F. Ogbuagu, (CON)
Appointed October 17, 2002

109. The Hon. Justice (Mrs) A. A. Augie
Appointed October 17, 2002

110. The Hon. Justice D. A. Adeniji
Appointed October 17, 2002

111. The Hon. Justice J. Mikailu
Appointed October 17, 2002

112. The Hon. Justice A. A. Jega
Appointed in October 17, 2002

113. The Hon. Justice N. S. Ngwuta
Appointed in June 25, 2003

114. The Hon. Justice M. B. D-Mensem
Appointed June 25, 2003

115. The Hon. Justice S. S. Alagoa
Appointed June 25, 2003

116. The Hon. Justice M. L. Garba
Appointed September 22, 2004

117. The Late Hon. Justice Jean Omokri
Appointed September 22, 2004

118. The Hon. Justice Tijjani Abdullahi
Appointed September 22, 2004

119. The Hon. Justice U. M. Abba Aji
Appointed September 22, 2004

120. The Hon. Justice Mary Peter Odili
Appointed September 22, 2004

121. The Hon. Justice M. O. K-Ekun
Appointed September 22, 2004

122. The Late Hon. Justice G. I. Udom-Azogu
Appointed April 25, 2005

123. The Hon. Justice R. C. Agbo
Appointed April 25, 2005

124. The Hon. Justice O. Rhodes-Vivour
Appointed April 25, 2005

125. The Hon. Justice M. L. Tsamiya
Appointed April 25, 2005

126. The Hon. Justice S. Denton-West
Appointed November 22, 2005

127. The Hon. Justice Paul A. Galinje
Appointed November 22, 2005

128. The Hon. Justice Jimi O. Bada
Appointed November 22, 2005

129. The Hon. Justice O. Ariwoola
Appointed November 22, 2005

130 The Hon. Justice O. G. Shoremi
Appointed November 22, 2005

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

131. The Hon. Justice H. M.Ogunwunmiju
Appointed November 22, 2005

132. The Hon. Justice Oyebisi F. Omoleye
Appointed June 8, 2006

133. The Hon. Justice Adriza G. Mshelia
Appointed June 8, 2006

134. The Hon. Justice Abdu Aboki
Appointed June 8, 2006

135. The Hon. Justice Ahmed O. Belgore
Appointed June 8, 2006

136. The Hon. Justice A. P. E. Awala
Appointed June 8, 2006

137. The Hon. Justice Jummai H. Sankey
Appointed June 8, 2006

138. The Hon. Justice I. M. M. Saulawa
Appointed June 8, 2006

139. The Hon. Justice A. A. B. Gumel
Appointed June 8, 2006

140. The Hon. Justice Hussein Muktar
Appointed June 8, 2006

141. The Hon. Justice Mojeed A. Owoade
Appointed June 8, 2006

142. The Hon. Justice Uzo I. Ndukwe Anyanwu - Appointed June 8, 2006

143. The Hon. Justice John Inyang Okoro
Appointed June 8, 2006

144. The Hon. Justice Chidiebere Uwa
Appointed July 18, 2006

145. The Hon. Justice Ignatius Igwe Agube
Appointed July 18, 2006

146. The Hon. Justice Abubakar Datti Yahay
Appointed February 15, 2008

147. The Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko
Appointed February 15, 2008

148. The Hon. Justice Sidi Daudu Bage
Appointed February 15, 2008

149. The Hon. Justice M. Abdul-Rahman
Oredola - Appointed February 15, 2008

150. The Hon. Justice Chima Centus Nwe
- Appointed February 15, 2008

151. The Hon. Justice C. E. Nwosu-Iheme - Appointed February 15, 2008

152. The Hon. Justice T. Ngolika Orji-Abadua - Appointed February 15, 2008

153. The Hon. Justice A. O. Lokulo - Sod
- Appointed February 15, 2008

154. The Hon. Justice Modupe Fasanmi
Appointed February 15, 2008

155. The Hon. Justice Regina Obiageli Nwodo - Appointed February 15, 2008

156. The Hon. Justice Adamu Jauro
Appointed February 15, 2008

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

7. The Hon. Justice A. Alkali Abba
Appointed July 16, 2010

8. The Hon. Justice Joseph S. Ikyegh
Appointed July 16, 2010

9. The Hon. Justice Tom S. Yakubu
Appointed July 16, 2010

0. The Hon. Justice Joseph T. Tur
Appointed July 16, 2010

1. The Hon. Justice Rita N. Pemu
Appointed July 16, 2010

2. The Hon. Justice Chinwe E. Iyizoba
Appointed July 16, 2010

3. The Hon. Justice Philomena M. Ekpe
Appointed July 16, 2010

64. The Hon. Justice Samuel C. Oseji
Appointed July 16, 2010

65. The Hon. Justice Mohammed A. Danjuma
Appointed July 16, 2010

66. The Hon. Justice Haruna Moh'd Tsammani
Appointed July 16, 2010

67. The Hon. Justice Ita George Mbaba
Appointed July 16, 2010

68. The Hon. Justice Isaiah Olufemi Akeju
Appointed July 16, 2010

69. The Hon. Justice Tunde O. Awotoye
Appointed July 16, 2010

170. The Hon. Justice Moore A. A. Adumein
Appointed July 16, 2010

171. The Hon. Justice Uchechukwu Onyemena
Appointed November 30, 2010

172. The Hon. Justice Obande Festus Ogbuinya
Appointed November 30, 2010

173. Hon, Justice Ibrahim S. Bdliya
Appointed November 5, 2012

174. Hon. Justice J. S. Abiriya -
Appointed November 5, 2012

175. Hon. Justice Obietanbara O. Daniel-Kalio
Appointed November 5, 2012

176. Hon. Justice Ifeoma Jombo-Ofo
November 5, 2012

177. Hon. Justice Onyekachi A. Otisi
Appointed November 5, 2012

178. Hon. Justice Stephen Jonah Adah
Appointed November 5, 2012

179. Hon. Justice Tinuade Akomolafe-Wilson
Appointed November 5, 2012

180. Hon. Justice Fatima O. Akinbami -
Appointed November 5, 2012

181. Hon. Justice Habeeb Adewale Abiru
Appointed November 5, 2012

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

182. Hon. Justice Peter Olabisi Ige
Appointed November 5, 2012

183. Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar
Appointed November 5, 2012

184. Hon. Justice Emmanuel Agim
Appointed November 5, 2012

185. Hon. Justice Sa'idu Tanko Hussein
Appointed March 24, 2014

186. Hon. Justice Hamma Akawu Barka
Appointed March 24, 2014

187. Hon. Justice Tani Yusuf Hassan
Appointed March 24, 2014

188. Hon, Justice P. O. Elechi
Appointed March 24, 2014

189. Hon. Justice O. A. Adefope-Okojie
Appointed March 24, 2014

190. Hon. Justice Mudashiru N. Oniyangi
Appointed March 24, 2014

191. Hon. Justice M. O. Bolaji-Yusuf
Appointed March 24, 2014

192. Hon. Justice Amina Audi Wambai
Appointed March 24, 2014

193. Hon, Justice Yargata Nimpar
Appointed March 24, 2014

194. Hon. Justice Bitrus G. Sanga
Appointed March 24, 2014

195. Hon. Justice Joseph Jude Jella
Appointed March 24, 2014

196. Hon. Justice O. E. Williams-Dawud
Appointed March 24, 2014

197. Hon. Justice J. O. K. Oyewole
Appointed March 24, 2014

198. Hon. Justice Biobele A. Geogewill
Appointed March 24, 2014

199. Hon. Justice Muhammed L. Shuaibu
Appointed March 24, 2014

200. Kadi Musa Hassan Alkali
Appointed March 24, 2014

201. Hon. Justice Ridwan M. Abdullahi
Appointed March 24, 2014

202. Hon. Justice F. Eziakpono Oho
Appointed March 24, 2014

203. Hon. Justice Joseph E. Ekanem
Appointed March 24, 2014

204. Hon. Justice Ugochukwu A. Ogakwu
Appointed March 24, 2014

205. Hon. Justice A. O. Obaseki-Adejumo
Appointed March 24, 2014

206. Hon. Justice Nonyerem Okoronkwo
Appointed March 24, 2014

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (FROM 1976 - DATE)

207. Hon. Justice Bolokuoromo M. Ugo
Appointed March 24, 2014

208. Hon. Justice Jamilu Y. Tukur
Appointed March 24, 2014

209. Hon. Justice Muhammed Mustapha
Appointed March 24, 2014

210. Hon. Justice P. A. Mahmoud
Appointed June 22, 2018

211. Hon. Justice F. A. Ojo
Appointed June 22, 2018

212. Hon. Justice I. A. Andenyangtso
Appointed June 22, 2018

213. Hon. Justice G. O. Kolawole
Appointed June 22, 2018

214. Hon. Justice B. B. Aliyu
Appointed June 22, 2018

215. Hon. Justice Ebiowei Tobi
Appointed June 22, 2018

216. Hon. Justice J. G. Abundaga
Appointed June 22, 2018

217. Hon. Justice A. S. Umar
Appointed June 22, 2018

218. Hon. Justice A. M. Talba
Appointed June 22, 2018

219. Hon. Justice A. M. Bayero
Appointed June 22, 2018

220. Hon. Justice A. M. Lamido
Appointed June 22, 2018

221. Hon. Justice M. B. Idris
Appointed June 22, 2018

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL BY ORDER OF SENIORITY AS AT JUNE, 2018

1. Hon. Justice Z. A. Bulkachuwa, CFR
2. Hon. Justice M. B. Dongban-Mensem
3. Hon. Justice M. L. Garba
4. Hon. Justice Uwani Musa Abba-Aji
5. Hon. Justice R. Chikwe Agbo
6. Hon. Justice Jimi Olukayode Bada
7. Hon. Justice H. M. Ogunwumiju
8. Hon. Justice O. F, Omoleye
9. Hon. Justice A.G. Mshelia
10. Hon. Justice A. Aboki
11. Hon. Justice A. O. Belgore
12. Hon. Justice J. H. Sankey
13. Hon. Justice I. M. M. Saulawa
14. Hon. Justice Ali A. B. Gumel
15. Hon. Justice Hussein Mukthar
16. Hon. Justice Mojeed A. Owoade
17. Hon. Justice U. I. Ndukwe-Anyanwu
18. Hon. Justice C. N. Uwa
19. Hon. Justice I. I. Agube
20. Hon. Justice A. D. Yahaya
21. Hon. Justice M. A. Oredola
22. Hon. Justice C. E. Nwosu-lheme
23. Hon. Justice T.N. Orji-Abadua
24. Hon. Justice A.O. Lokulo-Sodipe
25. Hon. Justice A. Jauro

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL BY ORDER OF SENIORITY AS AT JUNE, 2018

26. Hon. Justice J.S. Ikyegh
27. Hon. Justice T.S. Yakubu
28. Hon. Justice Joseph T. Tur
29. Hon. Justice Rita N. Pemu
30. Hon. Justice Philomena M. Ekpe
31. Hon. Justice Chinwe E. lyizoba
32. Hon. Justice Haruna Simon Tsammani
33. Hon. Justice Samuel C. Oseji
34. Hon. Justice Mohammed A. Danjuma
35. Hon. Justice Ita G. Mbaba
36. Hon. Justice Isaiah Olufemi Akeju
37. Hon. Justice Tunde O. Awotoye
38. Hon. Justice Moore A, A. Adumein
39. Hon. Justice Uchechukwu Onyemenam
40. Hon. Justice Obande F. Ogbuinya, CON
41. Hon, Justice Ibrahim S. Bdliya
42. Hon. Justice J. S. Abiriya
43. Hon. Justice Obietanbara O. Daniel-Kalio
44. Hon. Justice Ifeoma Jombo-Ofo
45. Hon. Justice Onyekachi A. Otisi
46. Hon. Justice Stephen Jonah Adah
47. Hon. Justice Tinuade Akomolafe-Wilson
48. Hon. Justice Fatima O. Akinbami
49. Hon. Justice Habeeb Adewale Abiru
50. Hon. Justice Peter Olabisi lge

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL BY ORDER OF SENIORITY AS AT JUNE, 2018

51. Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar
52. Hon. Justice Emmanuel Agim
53. Hon. Justice Sa'idu Tanko Hussein
54. Hon. Justice Hamma Akawu Barka
55. Hon. Justice Tani Yusuf Hassan
56. Hon, Justice P. O. Elechi
57. Hon. Justice O. A. Adefope-Okojie
58. Hon. Justice Mudashiru N. Oniyangi
59. Hon. Justice M. O. Bolaji-Yusuf
60. Hon. Justice Amina Audi Wambai
61. Hon, Justice Yargata Nimpar
62. Hon. Justice Bitrus G. Sanga
63. Hon. Justice O. E. Williams-Dawudu
64. Hon. Justice J. O. K. Oyewole
65. Hon. Justice Biobele A. Geogewill
66. Hon. Justice Muhammed L. Shuaibu
67. Hon. Justice Ridwan M. Abdullahi
68. Hon. Justice F. Eziakpono Oho
69. Hon. Justice Joseph E. Ekanem
70. Hon. Justice Ugochukwu A. Ogakwu
71. Hon. Justice A. O. Obaseki-Adejumo
72. Hon. Justice Nonyerem Okoronkwo
73. Hon. Justice Bolokuoromo M. Ugo
74. Hon. Justice Jamilu Y. Tukur ¬
75. Hon. Justice Muhammed Mustapha

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL BY ORDER OF SENIORITY AS AT JUNE, 2018

76. Hon. Justice P. A. Mahmoud
77. Hon. Justice F. A. Ojo
78. Hon. Justice I. A. Andenyangtso
79. Hon. Justice G. O. Kolawole
80. Hon. Justice B. B. Aliyu
81. Hon. Justice Ebiowei Tobi
82. Hon. Justice J. G. Abundaga
83. Hon. Justice A. S. Umar
84. Hon. Justice A. M. Talba
85. Hon. Justice A. M. Bayero
86. Hon. Justice A. M. Lamido
87. Hon. Justice M. B. Idris

NOTES

1. Okenwa, L.N (Producer), (2008), The Court of Appeal, 30 & 2 years, The Journ
   So Far. DVD. Fiduciare Media Productions.
2. Okenwa, Supra.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.

CHAPTER 7

List of Statutes

Section 247(1) of the 1999 Constitution
Section 290(1) of the 1999 Constitution

