



December 2024

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

(MAIDEN EDITION)

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY



**NIGERIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION**

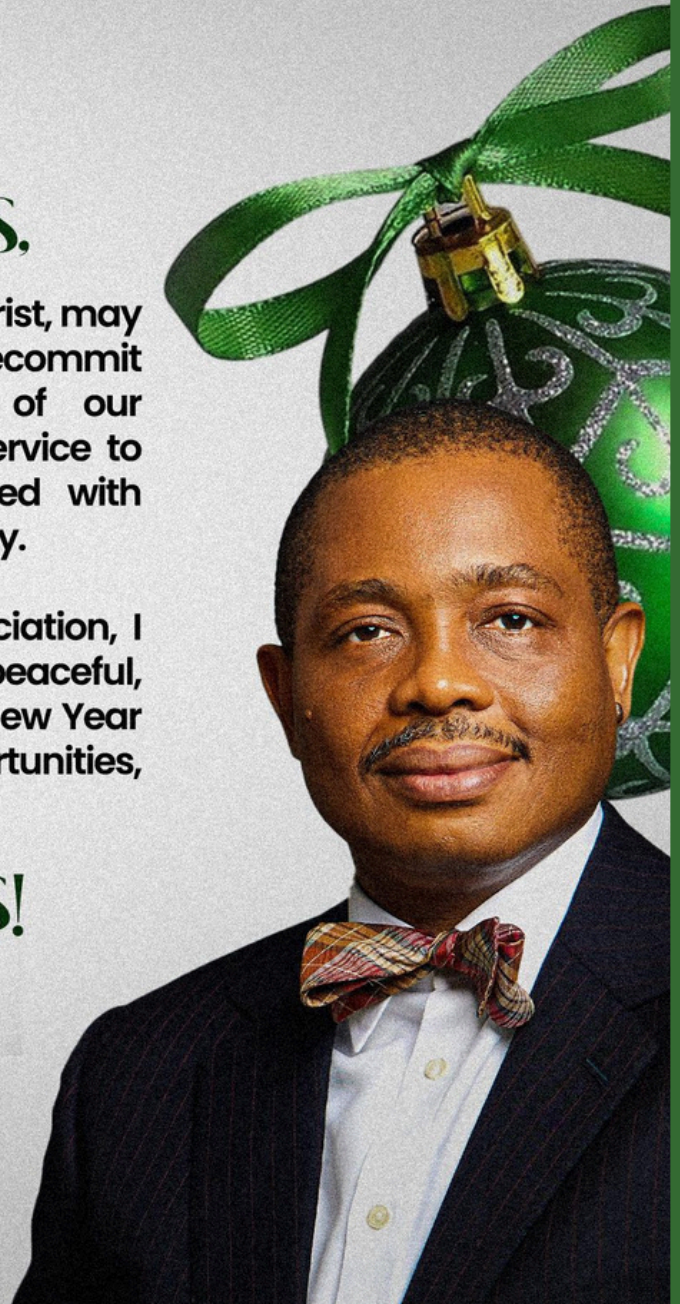
DEAR COLLEAGUES,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, may His teachings inspire us to recommit ourselves to the noble values of our profession: justice, empathy, and service to humanity. May our hearts be filled with compassion, kindness, and generosity.

On behalf of the Nigerian Bar Association, I wish you and your families a joyous, peaceful, and love-filled Christmas. May the New Year usher in renewed hope, greater opportunities, and immense progress for us all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN
President, Nigerian Bar Association





Merry Christmas

As we celebrate this joyous season, may the love, peace, and goodwill that Christmas symbolizes fill your homes and hearts.

To our colleagues travelling during this festive period, I pray for journey mercies and divine protection. May you arrive safely at your destinations and return in good health, rejuvenated for the year ahead.



**DR. MOBOLAJI
OJIBARA**

GENERAL SECRETARY,
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NBA NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

NBA HOUSE

Plot 1101 Mohammadu Buhari Way, Central
Business District, Abuja.

✉ Email: info@nigerianbar.org.ng

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**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
DR. MOBOLAJI OJIBARA**

Under the leadership of Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, as President, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) continues to prioritize transparency, efficiency, and excellent service delivery to its over 140,000 members across Nigeria. This monthly newsletter, prepared by the Office of the Communication Officer, aims to keep lawyers updated on the activities and functions of the NBA Secretariat and its departments.

Stay tuned for insights, highlights, and updates from various NBA departments, including Membership and Bar Services Department, Pro Bono department, the Programmes department, the Human Rights Institute (HRI), the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), and the Legal Department. Together, these updates reflect the Association's commitment to advancing the legal profession and addressing societal issues.



**DR. MOBOLAJI OJIBARA
(GENERAL SECRETARY)**

We encourage all members to stay engaged with these updates, as they provide not only transparency into the Association's activities but also actionable information to support your professional growth and advocacy efforts.

DR. MOBOLAJI OJIBARA
General Secretary
mobolaji.ojibara@nigerianbar.org.ng

MEMBERSHIP AND BAR SERVICES DEPARTMENT

STAMP AND SEAL DIVISION

- Applications Processed: 158 stamp and seal applications were submitted, and 159 packs were received from vendors.
- Branch Dispatch: Stamps were distributed to 36 branches, including Abuja (46), Lagos (26), and Kano (9).
- Queries Resolved: 19 stamp-related queries were addressed.
- Licensing and Verification Division

APPLICATIONS PROCESSED:

- Confirmation of Bar Practice Fees – 1
- Letter of Good Standing – 10
- Revenue Generated: Total sales of NBA-branded merchandise amounted to ₦83,600.

WELFARE DIVISION

- Group Life Assurance: One application was processed and forwarded to Leadway Assurance Plc for claims.
- National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIA): 6 applications were processed (2 new, 3 renewals, 1 hospital change).

The Membership and Bar Services Department plays a crucial role in ensuring that the NBA delivers on its promise to cater to the needs of its members. As part of the ongoing efforts to support the legal community, the department has been highly active in a variety of key areas, focusing on enhancing the professional experience of lawyers and ensuring their welfare.

The Stamp and Seal Division continues to provide essential services to lawyers across the country, ensuring that the stamp and seal process is seamless and efficient. The department works tirelessly to ensure that all requests are handled promptly, addressing any queries that arise and facilitating the distribution of stamps and seals to members. This initiative is part of the broader commitment of the NBA under Mazi Afam Osigwe's leadership to uphold the integrity and professionalism of Nigerian lawyers

In terms of Licensing and Verification, the department has worked diligently to ensure that lawyers are properly registered and that their practice credentials are verified. This includes processing letters of good standing and confirming bar practice fees. The NBA continues to uphold high standards of practice, ensuring that legal professionals are well-equipped to serve their clients with the highest level of integrity and professionalism.

The Welfare Division has been especially active in working to enhance the well-being of lawyers. A key focus has been the Group Life Assurance Policy, which ensures that the families of legal practitioners are provided for in case of unfortunate circumstances. Additionally, the department has been involved in advancing access to healthcare through the NBA-NHIA Scheme, ensuring that lawyers and their families have access to affordable and quality healthcare.

These initiatives align with the Mazi Afam Osigwe administration's core commitment to improving the welfare of lawyers and addressing their health needs, as outlined in his campaign promises. The health insurance scheme remains a cornerstone of this effort, with continuous efforts to streamline and expand the services available to NBA members. These are essential components of the administration's broader vision of supporting lawyers, making their professional lives easier, and safeguarding their personal well-being.

The department's efforts also focus on ensuring that all services provided are in line with the NBA's strategic objectives to enhance the career and professional growth of its members. The Mazi Afam Osigwe administration remains steadfast in its dedication to delivering on these core mandates, ensuring that the Association not only supports its members' professional development but also takes care of their welfare, health, and overall quality of life.

Contact the NBA Membership and Bar Services Department at:

Head of Department: Miss Ayodeji Oni

Email: barservices@nigerianbar.org.ng

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thank you.



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (PRO BONO DEPARTMENT)

PRO BONO

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Pro Bono Department is committed to providing legal services to the indigent and underserved in our society. Through the unwavering dedication of legal practitioners, this department ensures access to justice for individuals who otherwise cannot afford it.

OUR MISSION

“To bridge the gap between justice and the less privileged by leveraging the expertise and goodwill of our members.”

Our mission is clear: to bridge the gap between justice and the less privileged by leveraging the expertise and goodwill of our members. Lawyers are reminded that the Pro Bono Department remains open to all indigents and non-lawyers seeking legal assistance within its scope. This initiative is vital to fulfilling the NBA’s core objective of making justice accessible to all.

We encourage members of the public, especially those in need of legal representation but constrained financially, to reach out to the Pro Bono Department. Lawyers are equally encouraged to contribute their time and skills to this noble cause, reinforcing our shared commitment to justice and equality under the law.

REPORT

1. Matter Handled by Mr. Omokayode Adebayo Dada, SAN
The counsel provided pro bono legal intervention to address grievances surrounding a sensitive matter. Both parties have been advised to explore an out-of-court settlement to facilitate a swift and amicable resolution.

2. Matter Handled by Isah Aliyu Abubakar, Esq
Counsel continues to represent a client in an ongoing matrimonial case, with proceedings currently at the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Gwagwalada Judicial Division. Efforts are being made to resolve the matter through settlement discussions, with further hearings scheduled in the coming months.

3. Matter Handled by Shariff Abdulmalik, Esq
An appeal process has been initiated in a case at the Customary Court of Appeal. Counsel ensured that all necessary documents, including records of proceedings, were transmitted for further judicial consideration.

4. Matter Handled by Philip Ify Akpavia, Esq
Counsel continues to represent clients in a matter before the Magistrate Court in Kuje, Abuja. The case has been adjourned to February 2025 for the submission of written addresses.

5. Matter Handled by Ogechi M. Okafor, Esq
In a complex case involving an allegation of cybercrimes, counsel made significant efforts to mediate between parties. Despite extensive discussions and appeals for resolution, the matter progressed toward formal charges due to the complainant's insistence. Counsel's dedication underscores the department's commitment to exploring all avenues for fair and expedient outcomes.

Why Lawyers Should Get Involved

Participating in the Pro Bono Department offers lawyers an opportunity to give back to society, enhance their professional skills, and build meaningful relationships within the legal community. Beyond professional benefits, it is a powerful way to uphold the ideals of justice and fairness that define the legal profession.

If you or someone you know requires legal assistance, or if you are a lawyer willing to volunteer your expertise, kindly contact the NBA Pro Bono Department at:

Head Of Department: halimat.yusuph

Email: probono@nigerianbar.org

halimat.yusuph@nigerianbar.org.ng

Office Hours: Monday –Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Nigerian Bar Association
ANNUAL GENERAL
CONFERENCE — 2025 —
Stand Out, Stand Tall
22nd – 29th August, 2025

NBA YOUNG LAWYERS FORUM (2024-2026)



THE 2024-2026
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NBA YOUNG LAWYERS FORUM (2024-2026)



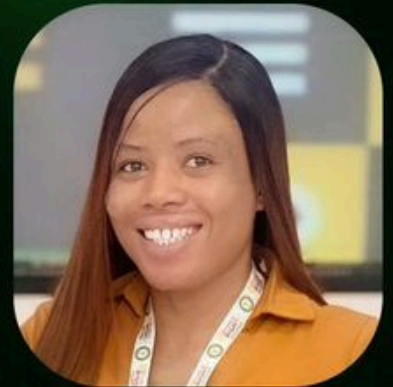
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**RAMLAT ARFAH
RIDHWAN**



**ELIJAH JOSIAH
CHUKWUNURUEKPEREM**



**ELIJAH ISRAEL
ELIJAH ESQ.**



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT



As we approach the end of another year, the Programs Department of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is proud to share our recent initiatives aimed at addressing one of the most pressing issues facing our society: corruption. This month, we marked the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) on December 9th, under the theme: "Uniting with Youths against Corruption: Shaping tomorrow's Integrity."

REPORT

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY PRESS CONFERENCE

On December 9th, we organized a significant press conference to commemorate IACD. The President of the NBA addressed an audience of media representatives, civil society leaders, and concerned citizens, emphasizing that every year, the NBA joins the global community to raise awareness about corruption and explore pathways to reduce its prevalence.

Corruption, as highlighted by the President, remains a formidable threat to governance and development in Nigeria. It can undermine our democratic institutions and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society. The pervasive nature of corrupt practices—from budget padding to embezzlement—continues to challenge our collective efforts towards a more equitable society.

"Corruption, as highlighted by the President, remains a formidable threat to governance and development in Nigeria"

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

This year's theme is particularly pertinent, as it places the spotlight on the crucial role of youth in combating corruption. Today's young people possess unique tools and insights that can be harnessed to expose corrupt practices and advocate for transparency. They are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the change-makers of today.

The NBA recognizes that the fight against corruption is a shared responsibility that extends beyond policymakers and enforcement agencies; it requires the active participation of the youth. To support this vision, our initiatives include:

1. **Education and Awareness:** We are committed to empowering the youth through comprehensive education about the impacts of corruption and the mechanisms available for reporting it. Our goal is to make this information accessible and relatable.
2. **Engagement Platforms:** We aim to create opportunities for youth participation in anti-corruption initiatives, fostering mentorship programs and encouraging their involvement in civic engagement. It is vital that their voices are not only heard but valued.
3. **Collaboration Building:** We advocate for partnerships across various sectors, including government agencies, civil society, and the private sector, to create a unified approach against corruption.
4. **Acknowledging Contributions:** Recognizing and rewarding the efforts of young leaders in the anti-corruption movement reinforces the message that their actions contribute to meaningful change.

CALL TO ACTION

As we reflect on these efforts, we urge all sectors of our society to join forces in the fight against corruption. The NBA calls upon every Nigerian and our fellow bar associations worldwide to engage affirmatively with youths in combatting this pervasive issue. Initiatives to support young lawyers and activists who are addressing corruption are vital.

Corruption is an issue that we, as legal professionals, confront in our daily dealings. However, we must not turn a blind eye to its detrimental effects. Our commitment to upholding the rule of law and economic development in Nigeria can only thrive in a corruption-free environment

CONCLUSIONS

The observance of International Anti-Corruption Day reaffirms our collective belief that a corruption-free society is attainable through unity and concerted action. Let us embody this conviction by speaking out against corruption and supporting the youth in their advocacy.

Together, let us say “NO” to corruption; every “NO” counts.

Contact the NBA programs department at:

Head of Department: Oti Edah

Email: otimeyin.edah@nigerianbar.org.ng

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM –
5:00 PM



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION WOMEN FORUM

....Empowering Female Lawyers for Success



MEET THE

EXCOS OF THE NBAWF



HUWAILA MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM
CHAIRPERSON



MRS. ADELAYO L-ORIEKUN
ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON, NBAWF



UGWOCHI AGALA
SECRETARY



CECILIA NGOZI ONYIA
TREASURER



SADIYA SULE
PUBLICITY SECRETARY

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NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE (NBA-HRI) REPORT



Celebrating Human Rights: 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

As we reflect on the significance of December, the Nigerian Bar Association Human Rights Institute (NBA-HRI) proudly commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), a campaign that has become a critical global initiative aimed at raising awareness and promoting action against the pervasive issue of violence based on gender.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD: NOVEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 10, 2024

Beginning on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and culminating on December 10, International Human Rights Day, this year's campaign aimed to underscore the importance of the legal protections available to victims and to advocate for the rights of all individuals in Nigeria.

ROAD WALK: ADVOCACY IN ACTION

On December 9, 2024, NBA-HRI organized a vibrant Road Walk from the NBA National Secretariat Abuja to Wuse Market, emphasizing our commitment to community engagement. The principal goal of this exercise was to educate market vendors about their rights and responsibilities under Nigerian law.

The event drew a remarkable turnout, featuring active participation from lawyers across the NBA Abuja Branch, NBA Garki Branch, NBA Bwari Branch, as well as dedicated staff from the NBA National Secretariat. The presence of Mr. Sabastine Anyia, Chairman of the Governing Board and 1st Vice President of the NBA, alongside the 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents, who serve respectively as Alternate Chairman and Secretary of the NBA-HRI, highlighted the significance of this initiative.

The atmosphere during the Road Walk was both entertaining and educational, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among participants as they traversed the streets to advocate for human rights.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

To culminate our 16 Days of Activism, we celebrated International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2024, with an impactful event centered around the theme, "OUR RIGHTS, OUR FUTURE, RIGHT NOW: ALL HUMANS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS." This theme resonates deeply as it reinforces the fundamental tenets of human rights and equality.

***"OUR RIGHTS,
OUR FUTURE,
RIGHT NOW: ALL
HUMANS ARE
BORN FREE AND
EQUAL IN
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The event featured Ayo Obe, a distinguished lawyer and a prominent human rights activist, as our esteemed Guest Speaker. Ayo's insights and experiences inspired a thought-provoking discussion on the ongoing challenges and victories in the human rights landscape of Nigeria.

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Our panel of discussants included academic and professional luminaries such as Prof. Sam Amadi and Ikeazor Akariwe, SAN, whose expertise enriched the conversation and provided valuable perspectives on the state of human rights and legal protections in Nigeria.

The gathering saw over 200 attendees, including lawyers, security agents, and human rights advocates, who engaged in meaningful dialogue and networking. The event was a resounding success, providing a platform for robust engagement on human rights issues and strategies for advocacy.

Under the leadership of Mazi Afam Osigwe, the NBA Human Rights Institute has made significant strides in advocating for the protection of detainees' rights in police custody through strategic legal interventions. The Institute has taken a proactive approach to address cases of maltreatment and abuse of both detainees and legal practitioners by law enforcement agents, emphasizing the fundamental human rights enshrined in Nigeria's constitution.

Advocacy for the protection of detainees' rights in police custody through strategic legal interventions.

One of the notable achievements has been the launch of comprehensive legal assistance initiatives aimed at providing support to individuals facing unlawful detention or mistreatment in custody. The Institute has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the rights of detainees, ensuring that law enforcement agencies are held accountable for any violations. This includes leading legal advocacy campaigns, conducting rights education workshops, and collaborating with civil society organizations to strengthen the legal framework surrounding detainee treatment.

Moreover, the NBA Human Rights Institute has also focused on protecting lawyers' rights, responding effectively to instances where legal practitioners themselves have been subjected to harassment and infringement of their rights while performing their duties. By documenting these abuses and engaging in strategic litigation, the Institute has aimed to create a safer and more respectful environment for legal professionals in Nigeria.

Through these concerted efforts, the NBA Human Rights Institute under Mazi Afam Osigwe's administration has not only highlighted the pressing issues of police maltreatment but has also positioned itself as a strong advocate for justice and the protection of human rights in Nigeria.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we close the chapter on this year's activities, we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting human rights and advancing justice for all individuals in Nigeria. The NBA-HRI will continue to engage in advocacy work, community education, and partnerships with other human rights organizations to further our mission.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our events, supported our initiatives, and contributed to the ongoing fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

CONTACT US

For more information about our upcoming programs and initiatives, please reach out to us:

Head of Department: Okechukwu Uzoechi

Email: uzoechi.okechukwu@nigerianbar.org.ng

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thank you for standing with us in the pursuit of justice and human rights. Together, we can create a more equitable and just society for all.



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NBA INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (ICLE)

As the year comes to a close, we are excited to share our progress, ongoing projects, and achievements. Our focus on advancing legal education and supporting our members continues to drive our initiatives.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

DAILY MANAGEMENT AND MCLE RULES REVIEW

The NBA-ICLE has been actively managing its day-to-day operations while working on a comprehensive review of the NBA-ICLE Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Rules of 2008. This vital document is currently with the General Secretary and the President for further review following discussions with the Chief of Staff, General Secretary, and Heads of Directorates.

1. Development of Training Programs

Our team is dedicated to creating valuable course content tailored for lawyers and service providers. This month, we initiated training sessions focused on emergence areas of law and professional ethics.

1. We are developing promotional material for upcoming training sessions on critical topics, including Fintech and Cybercrime.

2. Evaluations of Accredited Training Programs

We monitored and evaluated several notable trainings in December, including:

- o NBA-SBL Training on Maximising Client Feedback and Surveys for Sustainable Growth (5 December 2024)

- o NBA-SBL Training on Enhancing Regional Competition Law Enforcement Within ECOWAS (12 December 2024)
- o NBA Port Harcourt Branch Training on Rule of Law & Socio-Economic Stability (2-6 December 2024)
- o Appliserve Digital Security Training (6 December 2024)
- o NBA-HRI International Human Rights Day Event (10 December 2024)
- o NBA Ibadan Branch 70th Anniversary and Law Week (13-18 December 2024)

3. Accreditation Process

We are in discussions regarding pending applications for accreditation by service providers, and we are on track to schedule a presentation with the NBA General Secretary in early 2025.

4. Quality Control and E-Certificates

Our commitment to quality control continues with monitoring and evaluating various training programs, including the NBA-SBL Weekly Business Series and NBA-SLP Training sessions. We are pleased to report that over 500 e-certificates have been issued to participants.

5. Development of Training Manual

The development of a comprehensive Training Manual for the ICLE is ongoing, further enhancing the resources available to our members.

6. Research and Reporting

We are actively conducting research, reviewing documents, and drafting reports on trainings attended. This work supports our commitment to providing valuable CLE points to participants.

7. Meetings and Collaborations

Our team has been engaged in meetings to discuss key performance indicators and opportunities beneficial to the NBA. We are also gearing up for the 2025 NBA Annual General Conference and Planning Committee (AGCPC)

ACHIEVEMENTS IN DECEMBER

- Successful management of the Institute's daily activities.
- Development of course content and promotional materials for upcoming trainings.
- Collaboration with third-party service providers to enhance training offerings.
- Evaluation of various training programs for quality assurance

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look toward January 2025, we will continue our focus on the presentation regarding the review of the NBA-ICLE MCLE Rules, scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we advance legal education and enhance the capacity of our members.

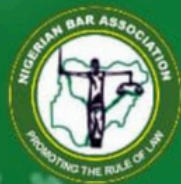
CONTACT US:

Head of Department, NBA ICLE: Sarah Omega Aijjola

Email: icle@nigerianbar.org.ng,

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm.

Follow us on social media for updates and information on upcoming trainings and events.



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Schedule of Fees 2025

S/N	Year of Call	Amount Payable (N)
1.	Senior Advocates of Nigeria, Honourable Benchers and Attorneys General	50,000
2.	2010 and above (15 Years & above post call)	25,000
3.	2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 (10-14 Years post call)	17,500
4.	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 (5-9 Years post call)	10,000
5.	2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 (1-4 Years post call)	5,000

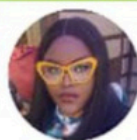
Payment falls due on 1st January 2025, and validity ends on 31st March 2025

Payment of dues is strictly on the NBA App: the new NBA Digital App!

Download Now!



For Enquiries, Contact



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Treasurer
Email: treasurer@nigerianbar.org.ng;
info@nigerianbar.org.ng



Blessing - 08031113135
Ezekiel-07037000903



NBA LEGAL, REGULATORY, AND COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT



The Legal, Regulatory, and Compliance Department of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) plays a crucial role in upholding the integrity and legal standards of the Association. Our department is responsible for ensuring compliance with both external laws and regulations, as well as maintaining professional ethical standards within the legal community.

We actively engage in initiatives aimed at legal and policy reforms and provide comprehensive guidance and oversight to safeguard the NBA's governance framework. Our mission is to ensure that all operations are conducted within legal parameters, fostering trust and professionalism among our members and stakeholders.

DECEMBER 2024 REPORTS

As 2024 draws to a close, we take this opportunity to highlight our ongoing efforts in managing important legal matters, responding to allegations of professional misconduct, and keeping our members informed about significant litigation developments.

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT CASES

This month, our department recorded a total of four (4) correspondences relating to alleged professional misconduct involving legal practitioners. These complaints are being taken seriously. Each correspondence has been promptly forwarded to the respective Respondents, who have been requested to provide their responses within fourteen (14) days.

To ensure transparency and ongoing communication, acknowledgment emails have also been sent to the petitioners to confirm receipt of their complaints. We are committed to diligently addressing these matters to uphold the ethical standards of our profession.

LITIGATION UPDATES

In December, the department has received two (2) new significant legal cases that are currently pending before the Federal High Court, Umuahia Judicial Division, and the Court of Appeal, Abuja Division. The details of these cases are as follows:

1. Caroline LadidiAnze-Bishop v. Incorporated Trustees of NBA & 5 Ors.
2. Uzoamaka U. Ikonne&Anor v. Judicial Service Commission Abia State & 10 Ors.

We are carefully monitoring these cases, as they may have significant implications for legal practice and governance within the Association. The department is dedicated to managing these matters efficiently while ensuring strict adherence to due process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any inquiries or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the legal department. Your engagement and support are invaluable to the work we do, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in service of justice and the legal profession.

Head of Department: Grace Igbo

Email: grace.igbo@nigerianbar.org.ng legal
[@nigerianbar.org.ng](https://www.instagram.com/nigerianbar.org.ng),

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

As we move into 2025, we thank you for your continued support in promoting justice and the rule of law within our community. Wishing everyone a prosperous and legally rewarding New Year!

Nigerian Bar Association | Advocating for Justice and the Rule of Law

Stay Informed

The NBA is committed to enhancing member experiences and promoting justice across Nigeria. Be sure to check next month's edition of the NBA Newsletter for further updates and groundbreaking initiatives.

Stay Connected!

We invite you to delve into this newsletter to stay informed about the NBA's strides in advancing the legal profession and serving its members. Together, we build a stronger Bar. Wishing you all a productive and fulfilling New Year ahead!

COMPILED BY
Stella Charles Akupue
NBA communication officer