

LAWAL IJAODOLA

CALL – 2023 (ENGLAND & WALES)

CALL – 2017 (NIGERIA)



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Lawal is a barrister at Forum Chambers. He specialises in arbitration and commercial litigation.

He also has a DPhil in law, with a focus on money laundering with cryptocurrency, which has informed his busy and specialised practice.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

ARBITRATION

Recent Notable Cases:

- Advising an Asian multinational on the commencement of an investment treaty arbitration under the Energy Charter Treaty against a European State. The client is likely to be affected by a recapitalisation requirement imposed by an electricity regulator in the European State. I am the most senior associate responsible for this matter.
- Advising a luxury car manufacturer regarding several disputes with its major distributor in the MENA Region, including arbitration under UNCITRAL arbitration rules and High Court litigation with claims exceeding GBP700 million. I am fully involved in the day-to-day oversight of the UNCITRAL arbitration proceedings.
- Advising a UK-listed mining company in respect of a negligence class action brought by over 400,000 claimants arising from the collapse of a tailings storage dam in South America, with claims exceeding GBP45bn. I am on the sub-teams handling disclosure and expert evidence.
- Junior counsel (under Prof. G Elias SAN) to Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment Co. Ltd. in an investment treaty arbitration claim of over US\$1.5 billion against the Federal Republic of Nigeria in respect of a failed investment in a special economic zone in Nigeria. Award of USD55.7 million. [London arbitration.]
- Junior counsel (under Prof. G Elias SAN) to EMTS Holding BV – a subsidiary of Mubadala

Investment Company UAE – in international arbitration arising from its investment in Etisalat, a major telecommunications company in Nigeria, with an award of over US\$900 million.

- Junior counsel (under Prof. G Elias SAN) to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company in two London-seated ICC arbitrations involving a consent award of over US\$500 million against the Federal Government of Nigeria in respect of a USD6bn hydro-power project in North-East Nigeria. [Paris arbitration.]
- Lead counsel to Alpha Beta Consulting LLP in an arbitration with its revenue collection consultant, with an award of less than US\$1 million.
- Lead counsel to UPDC (a subsidiary of UAC of Nigeria Plc) in two construction arbitrations filed by its contractor involving a consent award of less than US\$1 million.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

- Lead counsel to the Appellant in *Maduagwu v. Federal Republic of Nigeria* (2024) LPELR – 62582 (SC), where the Supreme Court of Nigeria decided on the legality of a conviction for obtention under false pretences and stealing in respect of the same set of goods.
- Lead counsel to First Bank of Nigeria (“**FBN**”) in *Oboh v. Nigeria Football League* (2022) 5 NWLR (Pt. 1823) 283, where the Supreme Court of Nigeria first affirmed the enforcement of garnishee proceedings against a non-debtor of the judgment-debtor, creating a new exception to the law of garnishee proceedings in Nigeria.
- Lead counsel to FBN in *FBN v. Stallionaire Nigeria Limited* (2022) LPELR – 573332 (CA), where the Court of Appeal considered the legality of the placement of a bank account under the credit risk management system after defaulting on two term loan facilities of over US\$100,000,000 advanced for the importation of petroleum products.
- Lead counsel to FBN in *FBN v. Stallionaire Nigeria Limited* (2022) LPELR – 57330 (CA), in which the Court of Appeal revisited the criteria for assessing the propriety of the exercise of discretion of a judge in an application for judgment upon admission of indebtedness in pleadings.
- Lead counsel to the Respondent in *Jokotade v. Seemore Nigeria Limited* (2019) LPELR – 50418 (CA), arising from disputes on the sale of two plots of land in a development estate in Lekki Peninsula – the fastest-developing area in Lagos, Nigeria.

EDUCATION

- 2024: Course in Public International Law, The Hague Academy of International Law
- 2023: Bachelor of Civil Law (Merit), University of Oxford [International Law of the Sea (Distinction – 70); International Dispute Settlement (Merit – 65); Principles of Civil Procedure (Merit – 65); and Families and State (Merit – 67)]
- 2022: Doctor of Philosophy (Law), Igbinedion University (Money laundering with cryptocurrency)
- 2019: Master of Laws with Distinction (72%), Igbinedion University
- 2017: Qualifying Degree (First Class Honours), Nigerian Law School
- 2016: Bachelor of Law (First Class Honours; (4.80/5) – Best Graduating Student), Igbinedion

University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023: Member, International Law Association
- 2023: Member, Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- 2021: Member, Young International Arbitration Group, London Court of International Arbitration
- 2021: Member, Continuing Legal Education Committee, Nigerian Bar Association
- 2018: Member, International Bar Association
- 2017: Member, Nigerian Bar Association

PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021: Finalist, Rhodes Scholarship for West Africa
- 2018: World Bank Group Certificate of Appreciation for Research in Doing Business 2019
- 2017: Nigerian Law School Director-General's Prize for Attaining 1st Class
- 2017: Award of Excellence for coming third in corporate law practice snap test
- 2016: Oba Erediauwa's Scholarship for Best Graduating Law Student
- 2016: Vice Chancellor's Prize for Best Graduating Law Student
- 2016: Dean's Prize for Best Graduating Law Student
- 2011 – 2015: Top student in my cohort for four years