



NBAWF CHRONICLES

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

A NBAWF HALF YEAR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



**CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND PAVING THE FUTURE:
A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT**

**LE GACY & LEADERSHIP:
CELEBRATING OUR LANDMARK
ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT**

SCAN CODE



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INTRODUCTION

Dear members and friends of the NBA Women Forum,

As my two-year tenure as Chairperson of the NBA Women Forum, along with my dedicated Executive Committee and Council, draws to a close, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. It has been an honour to serve this remarkable community, and I am thrilled to share with you this special newsletter, a testament to the achievements and impact we have made together.

Throughout our tenure, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen the foundation of our forum, empower female lawyers across Nigeria, and champion the advancement of women within the legal profession. From developing an operational manual to appointing esteemed Patrons and recognising the pioneering efforts of our Governing Council members, our journey has been marked by significant milestones and collective success.

This newsletter aims to capture the essence of our accomplishments, the challenges we navigated, and the lasting legacy we hope to leave behind. It reflects the dedication, resilience, and vision of each member of our forum, whose contributions have been pivotal in driving our mission forward.

As we transition to the next chapter, I am confident that the NBA Women Forum will continue to thrive, building on the solid foundation we have established. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have supported and contributed to our cause. Together, we have made a meaningful impact, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the forum in the years to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Chinyere Okorocho
Chairperson, NBA Women Forum 2022-2024



“
As we transition to the next chapter, I am confident that the NBA Women Forum will continue to thrive, building on the solid foundation we have established.
”

OVERVIEW OF THE NBA WOMEN FORUM

WHO WE ARE, LEADERSHIP, STRUCTURE ETC.

NBAWF is run nationally by a Governing Council comprising a 5 Member Executive Committee, with a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer & Publicity Secretary and then 7 Council Members.

The 2022 - 2024 administration had five key Terms of Reference: to address matters of interest to the female lawyers; to ensure efficient and result-oriented networking among female lawyers; to be an influential voice for female lawyers in society and globally; to develop a platform that encourages female lawyers to have a global outlook, perspective and reach, and to address any other matters that affect the female lawyer.

The chairperson is responsible for providing strategic leadership, fostering member engagement, advocating for the profession, and ensuring the association's effective operation. The vice chairperson supports the chairperson, contributes to strategic planning, and participates in decision-making. The secretary is responsible for administrative tasks, including record-keeping, communication, event management, and membership management. The treasurer is responsible for managing the organisation's finances. The publicity secretary is responsible for promoting the organisation's mission through effective media relations, social media management, and content creation.

The Forums activities are run centrally through 11 Standing Committees, each with a Committee Head, a Deputy Committee Head & a Committee Coordinator, collectively referred to as Committee Officers.

At the grassroots level, the Forum activities are managed through the "State Leads" in each of the 36 States of the Federation, including the FCT and Branch Facilitators in the NBA Branches.

Introduction to Committees

The Forums activities are run centrally through 11 Standing Committees, each with a Committee Head, a Deputy Committee Head & a Committee Coordinator, collectively referred to as Committee Officers.

The **Advocacy Committee** is responsible for engaging in internal and external advocacy efforts, educating members and the public about the association's stance on issues impacting female lawyers, and assisting in the resolution of disputes among committee members.

The **Corporate Counsel Committee** aims to increase awareness and membership of the NBAWF within the in-house counsel community. It provides a platform for female in-house counsel to participate in the NBA, raise relevant issues, and engage in advocacy. The committee also educates the public about the association's stance on issues impacting female lawyers and assists in resolving disputes among its members.

The **External Relations Committee (ERC)** serves as an integral arm of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Women Forum, with a primary objective to proactively build, manage, and leverage external relationships, alliances, and collaborations. The ERC focuses on enhancing the Forum's visibility and effectiveness by engaging with sister law bodies, international organizations, government agencies, and women's organizations that share a common goal of empowering female lawyers.

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for raising funds for NBAWF activities, including the annual conference. They manage and utilize funds, identify potential sponsors, prepare sponsorship letters, coordinate sponsor benefits, and maintain sponsor relationships. The committee tracks fundraising progress and reports to the Executive Committee.

The **Membership Committee** is responsible for developing, advising on, and implementing the overall membership policy of the forum in collaboration with the secretariat. They must obtain approval for these policies from the Executive Committee.

OVERVIEW OF THE NBA WOMEN FORUM

WHO WE ARE, LEADERSHIP, STRUCTURE ETC.

The **Mentoring Committee** is responsible for developing a mentoring program to support the professional development of female lawyers. They facilitate mentee/mentor interactions and expose members to mentorship programs focused on leadership, personal development, and related issues.

The **Media & Publicity Committee** is responsible for developing a platform for the Forum's engagement with female lawyers in Nigeria. They create publicity strategies, establish communication channels, and provide resources for disseminating information about NBAWF objectives and activities.

The **Public Sector Committee** of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Women Forum aims to promote the professional growth, advocacy, and networking of female lawyers working in the Nigerian public sector. The committee focuses on addressing the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women in government and government-controlled enterprises.

The **Research & Documentation Committee** is responsible for collecting and documenting data to increase the visibility of female lawyers. They create think pieces and advocacy briefs to promote reforms and gender equality in the legal profession. Additionally, the committee facilitates the creation of a database for accessing diverse works, achievements, and information about women in the Nigerian legal profession. They also focus on building research capacity to strengthen legal research skills across different sectors of legal practice.

The **Young Female Lawyers Committee (YFLC)** is a specialized sub-committee of the Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum (NBAWF) dedicated to supporting the professional growth of young female lawyers in Nigeria. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by lawyers with seven years or less at the bar, the YFLC provides a platform for mentorship, professional development, and advocacy.

OUR FIVE POINT AGENDA 2022-2024

Strengthening the institution

Objective: This agenda item focuses on fortifying the organizational structure and capacity of the NBAWF itself. Strengthening the institution means ensuring that the forum has robust governance, efficient operations, and a clear strategic direction.

Activities:

- Establishing clear bylaws and governance procedures to govern the forum's operations.
- Enhancing transparency and accountability in financial matters.
- Regularly evaluating the forum's performance and impact.
- Developing partnerships and collaborations with other legal and women's organizations to leverage resources and expertise.

Objective: Capacity building is central to the professional development of female lawyers. This agenda item seeks to empower female lawyers with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to excel in their legal careers.

Activities:

- Organizing training sessions, workshops, and seminars on legal topics, professional skills, and leadership.
- Providing mentorship programs that connect experienced lawyers with junior colleagues.
- Offering resources and support for continuing legal education and certifications.
- Facilitating access to career development opportunities and scholarships.

Capacity Building for Female Lawyers

Nationwide Coverage, Recognition & Reach

Objective: Expanding the reach and recognition of the NBAWF is vital for advancing its mission. This agenda item aims to ensure that the forum has a national presence and is widely recognized for its contributions to the legal profession.

Activities:

- Establishing regional chapters or branches across Nigeria to reach female lawyers in different geographical areas.
- Organizing national and regional events to promote the forum's activities and engage with a broader audience.
- Advocating for gender equity and women's rights at both national and international legal forums.
- Building partnerships with legal institutions, bar associations, and governmental bodies to enhance recognition and collaboration.

Objective: Promoting female lawyers into leadership roles within the legal profession and the broader society is a key agenda. This item seeks to break down barriers and empower female lawyers to take on influential positions.

Activities:

- Advocating for increased representation of female lawyers in leadership positions within the Nigerian Bar Association and other legal bodies.
- Offering leadership development programs and mentorship to equip female lawyers with the skills and confidence to assume leadership roles.
- Celebrating and recognizing the achievements of female lawyers in leadership positions to inspire others.

Female Lawyers in Leadership

The Work-Life Balance Initiative

Objective: Recognizing the challenges female lawyers may face in balancing their professional and personal lives, this agenda item aims to promote a healthy work-life balance.

Activities:

- Providing resources and support for flexible work arrangements within law firms and legal organizations.
- Offering guidance on time management, stress reduction, and self-care for female lawyers.
- Advocating for policies and practices that promote work-life balance within the legal profession.
- Promoting awareness of the importance of work-life balance for the well-being and career longevity of female lawyers.

EXCO MEMBERS



Chinyere Okorocho
CHAIRPERSON



Eire Ifueko Alufohai
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Irene Ini Pepple
SECRETARY



Mercy Ijato-Agada
TREASURER



Theodora Kio-Lawson
PUBLICITY SECRETARY

COUNCIL MEMBERS



MOHAMMED Adama



Folashade Alli, SAN



Chinyere Okeziem-Nwoko



**Museemah Olamide
Nagode**



Ekaete Ubokudom



Oyeyemi Aderigbigbe



Soibi Ovia

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

ADVOCACY



Tolu Olaloye
HEAD



Rashidat Mohammed
DEPUTY



Dr. Bukola Ochei
CO-ORDINATOR

MEDIA & PUBLICITY



Onyinyechi Ukegbu
HEAD



Gloria Ireka
DEPUTY



Suzie Chimeka-Wobo
CO-ORDINATOR

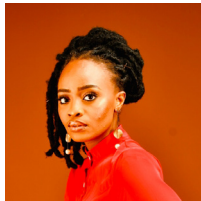
CORPORATE COUNSEL



Ifeoma Utah
HEAD



Bidemi Ademola
DEPUTY



Deborah Patrick-Akhaba
CO-ORDINATOR

MEMBERSHIP



Ugwochi Omereji Agala
HEAD



Augusta Aver Yaakugh
DEPUTY



Ogechi Wodike
CO-ORDINATOR

EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Inna Fatimih Ali
HEAD

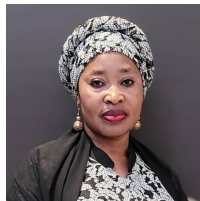


Obinichi Ugo
DEPUTY



Ololade Mudasiru
CO-ORDINATOR

MENTORING



Zainab Atoba
HEAD



Uduak Udofia
DEPUTY

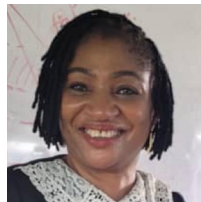


Olufunke Bamikole
CO-ORDINATOR

FUNDRAISING



Ifeoma Ben
HEAD



Omolola Ikwuagwu
DEPUTY



Iya Bawa
CO-ORDINATOR

PUBLIC SECTOR



Grace Ajaegbo
HEAD



Halimah Abimbola Jatto
DEPUTY



Patience Etumudon
CO-ORDINATOR

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION



Prof. Adejoke Oyewunmi
HEAD



Prof. Uche E. Ofodile
DEPUTY



Dr. Jane Ezirigwe
CO-ORDINATOR

WELFARE

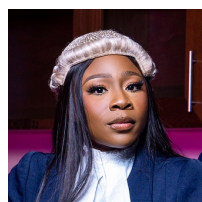


Huwaila Mohammed
HEAD



Rahila Dauda
CO-ORDINATOR

YOUNG FEMALE LAWYERS



Deborah Achanya Excel
HEAD



Barbara Abayomi
DEPUTY



Hadiza Nasir Ahmad
CO-ORDINATOR

NBAWF STATE LEADS

SOUTH WEST



Dr. Bolanle Eniola
EKITI STATE



Temitope Olajolo
OSUN STATE



Sonolki Adedokun
OGUN STATE



Delayo Adetunji-Oriekun
OVO STATE



Ayo-Ponle Adefowoke
LAGOS STATE



Aderosoye Anne Adeyemi
ONDO STATE

SOUTH SOUTH



Sifon Ubong Ntuk, Esq.
AKWA IBOM STATE



Dr. Dise Ogbise
BAVELSA STATE



Augustina Ojenikoh Harrison
DELTA STATE



Princess Mrs Patricia Iyomon
EDO STATE



Glory Omonigho Ozuru
RIVERS STATE



Dr. Rose Ohiama Ugbe
CROSS RIVER STATE

NORTH CENTRAL



Amina Olotu
NASARAWA STATE



Ms. Tseja Mafo Mercy
KOGI STATE



Mohammed Adama
ABUJA



Dr. Mrs. Rabiatu Abubakar
PLATEAU STATE



Hembafan Felicity Utange
BENUE STATE



Assoc. Prof. Mariam A. Abdurraheem Mustapha
KWARA STATE



Halima Ahmed Mohammed
NIGER STATE

SOUTH EAST



Gertrude N. Eieweke
ABIA STATE



Margaret Jennifer Oputa
ANAMBRA STATE



Chetachi Success Udeh
IMO STATE



Esther Nwanyimba Ajaero Anyigor
EBONYI STATE



Joy Ugonwa Gbanigo
ENUGU STATE

NORTH WEST



Habiba Nuhu Ribadu
ZAMFARA STATE



Fatima Sagir Musa
KANO STATE



Dr. Hadiza Dije Ali
KADUNA STATE



Wada Hauwa
KATSINA STATE



Zainab Bello Aliyu
SOKOTO STATE



Fauziyya Abdulkadir Tura
JIGAWA STATE



Amina Suleman Kaoje
KEBBI STATE

NORTH EAST



Nunrma Dashe
TARABA STATE



Fatima Bello Raji
ADAMAWA STATE



Altine Ibrahim
YOBE STATE



Mubarakatu Saleh Hassan
GOMBE STATE



Fatima Zanna Gana
BORNO STATE



Shafa'u Ladan Yusuf
BAUCHI STATE

BRANCH FACILITATORS

ABIA	Aba Isiala Ngwa Ohafia Ukwa Umuahia	Ugo C. Onyeabor Beatrice Ozurumba. Ogba Ikodiya Agwu Vera Chinwendu Mrs Chibuzo Ehiemere	JIGAWA	Dutse	Sadiya Saleh
ADAMAWA	Mubi Yola	- Hapsat Abdullahi	KADUNA	Barnawa Kaduna Kafanchan Zaria	Mrs Anne Tinuade U-Ibinola Ann Manti Ngu Safiya Zailani
AKWA IBOM	Eket Ikot Ekpene Oron Uyo	Deborah Tare Wilfred-Inwang Maria Otuko Gladys Henry Owokure Ekaette Ukpog	KANO	Kano Ungoggo	Rahama Muhammad Ahmad -
ANAMBRA	Aguata Anaocha Awka Idemili Ihiala Nnewi Onitsha Otuocha	Lady Lizzy Anyaonu Rita Amaduche Ifeoma Ngozi Katchy Onyinye Ucheagwu Okoye N. P. Nsofor Mrs. Jane Ngozi Obi. Wilcox Margaret D. Peace Ogbonna	KATSINA	Funtua Katsina	- Barr Shaimau Coomassie
BAUCHI	Bauchi	Maimuna Yusuf	KEBBI	Birni Kebbi	Kudirat Esq
BAYELSA	Sagbama Yenagoa	Ebiere Emmanuella Ekpese Kemebigha Douye E.	KOGI	Idah Kabba Lokoja Okene	- Titilope J. Jonathan Toyin Hambolu Joshua Lady Esther J. John
BENUE	Gboko Makurdi Otukpo	Martina Ikpilakaa Maureen Igyor A. A. Obiabo	KWARA	Ilorin Offa	Sulyman Olamide Musleemah Kemisola Afolabi
BORNO	Biu Maidugri	Aishatu Ali Musa Sarah Z. Justus	LAGOS	Badagry Epe Ikeja Ikorodu Lagos	Olaide O. Mabawonku Bukola Kila Kemi Afesojaye, MCI Arb. (U.K.) Olamipo Muminat Folami Folake Sadiq
CROSS RIVER	Calabar Ikrom Ogoja	Adibe Ijemdinma Chekwube Theresa Enang Usang Irene Walter	NASARAWA	Keffi Lafia	Florence Ebuga Justina Alkali Aluu
DELTA	Agbor Asaba Effurun Ogwashi Ukwu Ole Sapele Udu Ugheli Warri	Onyese Chukwugoziem Joy Mrs Elvon Edirin Ezie Jenniffer Onome Unurhorho Evelyn Ogochukwu A. Nzeagu Faith Onyonyewoma Juliet Onosakponome Egbo Vernon Fego Monye Ofejiro Nosa Yusuff Asimiegbe Roslyn	NIGER	Minna Suleja	Aghogho Gladys Okpomor Mrs Gift Ugochi Gbadume
EBONYI	Abakiliki Afikpo Onueke	Nkem Chukwu Ebere Nnali Omezue Udu Oriechukwu Uduma	OGUN	Abeokuta Ijebu Ode Ilori Ota Sagamu	Mrs Tosin Ogundele Cecilia Olubukola Osinubi Titilayo Bisiriyu Funmilola Akintola-Williams Mrs. Fiona I. Ameh
EDO	Auchi Benin City Ekpoma Igarra Uromi	Uyiosa Dania Mrs Benny Okoduwa Precious Esezobor Omo Uki Mrs. Catherine Akue	ONDO	Akure Ikare Okitipupa Ondo Owo	Nike Omotayo Alhaja Olamide Mohammed Mrs. Remilekun E. Ogbolo. Mrs. Stella Udu-Arochendo Mrs. Adejumoke A. Faith-Lois.
EKITI	Ado-Ekiti Ikere Ekiti Ikole Ekiti	Adetutu Oluwaseyi Osadola I. Oluwakemisola Olasanmi O. Christianah	OSUN	Ikirun Ile Ife Ilesha Iwo Osogbo	Mrs Ganmicit Kintai Mrs Modupe Olufemi Yemisi Oyedele L. A. Agbaje Safuri Oye bimpe Ola
ENUGU	Enugu Ezeagu Nsukka Obollo Afor Oji	Ofoma Ukamaka Uzor Calister Eugene Cordelia Nwamaka Onah Ugwueke Clementina Uzoma Anyanwu Amoge Nwadiuto	OYO	Ibadan Ogomosho Oyo Saki	Mahmudat Yussuf (Mrs.) O. R. Olatunbosun B.M. Olimene Mrs A. B. Ayanwale
FCT	Unity Bar Bwari Gwagwalada Garki Nyanya/Karu	Rabi Liman Abubakar Anayisi Agnes Fache-Omuya Okoli-Ezike N. C. Onuoha Hannah Umaru Ozoemena Roxanna	PLATEAU	Bukuru Jos Pankshin Shendam	Lucy Fom Bot Elizabeth Dauda Mrs. Julie Gwaivangmin, Esq Anthonia Nyelong
GOMBE	Gombe	Mrs. M.S. Hassan	RIVERS	Ahoada Bori Degema Isiokpo Okehi Okrika Omoku PortHarcourt	Mrs. Lauretta U. Nwokaeze Ezinne Susan Okoro Queeneth Eremwari Kelsey Stella Umeda Agbo Ifeoma Lynda Momoh, Dikibo, A. Efu Odila I. Gloria Flora Festus-Ifo
IMO	Mbaise Mbano-Etiti Okigwe Orlu Owerri	Echoke, Christina Chiamaka Dr. Mrs P. N Nelson-Kalio Gracelee Nwokocho Mrs Echendu fidelia Ifeanyi Chinaka Sunday-Iherue Mrs.	SOKOTO	Sokoto	Safiyah Mohammed
			TARABA	Jalingo Wukari	Patience Sokolayam Bagudu -
			YOBE	Damaturu	Fati Ibrahim Makintami
			ZAMFARA	Gusau	Sha'awanatu A. Muhammad

OUR COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

OUR COMMITTEES	ADVOCACY COMMITTEE	CORPORATE COUNSEL COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	MENTORING COMMITTEE	PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITTEE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE	FUND RAISING COMMITTEE	MEDIA AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE	RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE	WELFARE COMMITTEE	YOUNG FEMALE LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Membership of the NBA Women Forum presents one of the most engaging career-related experiences you would have as you identify with at least one of our committees

Advocacy Committee

- lent our voice to the Attorney General through the Chairperson NBA Women Forum over the assault and battery case of Mrs Fatima Musa by the acting Registrar, College for Legal Studies, Yola.
- Held the 4th edition of the Inspire Series featuring the distinguished Senator Daisy Danjuma, Vice Chairman South Atlantic Petroleum (SAPETRO) at the Wheatbaker, Ikoyi, Lagos State
- Hosted a webinar focusing on fostering a growth mindset. Tolu Olaloye, the committee's head, moderated the event. The keynote speaker was Kemi Sope-Agbebi, a clarity and mindset coach. Adeola Olumeyan and Rashidat Mohammed, representatives from Emet Hill CS Ltd and the NBA Sokoto chapter, respectively, also participated as panellists.

Corporate Counsel Committee

- established a WhatsApp group specifically for corporate lawyers. This online community serves as a platform for in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing related to corporate law. Members engage in daily conversations on a wide range of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, contract negotiations, regulatory compliance, and industry trends. The group fosters a collaborative environment where professionals can seek advice, share experiences, and stay updated on the latest developments in the field.
- hosted a webinar titled "Empowering Your Legal Career: Essential Skills for the 21st Century In-House Counsel." This informative event, featuring expert speakers, aimed to equip in-house lawyers with the knowledge and tools necessary to thrive in today's dynamic legal landscape.

External Relations Committee (ERC)

- Forged and launched partnerships with relevant international stakeholders to drive international secondment opportunities for female lawyers. Partners include the New York State Bar Association Women in Law Section ("NYSBA WIL").

Fundraising Committee

- The Committee was fully engaged with raising funds for the 4th Annual Conference of the Forum which was successfully held March 2024 in Lagos.

- hosted a well-attended webinar titled **“Maximising revenue streams: financial planning and wealth management for legal professionals”** The event was moderated by the Head of the Fundraising Committee, Ifeoma Ben and the distinguished speakers for the webinar were Abiodun Olubitan, Group Head, Women Banking Team, Access Bank; Olamide Obajimi, Partner, Olaniwun Ajayi LP.

Mentoring Committee

- The Committee partnered with the Forum’s state representatives in Imo State, Kaduna State, and Kano State to conduct mentorship sessions in these regions. This collaborative effort aimed to provide guidance, support, and professional development opportunities to aspiring legal professionals in these states. The mentorship sessions featured experienced legal practitioners who shared their insights, advice, and experiences with mentees. Topics covered included career paths, professional development strategies, networking, and ethical considerations

Media & Publicity Committee

- worked with the NBAWF throughout the administration to promote its events and amplify the work of the various committees and state chapters. The committee utilized a variety of media channels, including traditional and digital outlets, to promote Forum events. These channels included newspapers, online platforms, the NBAWF website, and social media.
- collaborated with the planning committees for the 3rd and 4th Annual General Conferences to develop comprehensive promotional campaigns for these events. Additionally, they focused on generating publicity for the NBAWF’s activities at the 3rd NBA General Conference, including its annual general meeting.
- Created the maiden edition of the NBAWF Chronicles, formerly titled, “NBAWF Scoop” and the 2023
- supervised the visual elements of the NBAWF annual events, including the design and creation of the stage backdrop, media wall, brochures, and other conference materials.

Membership Committee

- Manned the NBAWF stand at the exhibition centre during the 2023 NBA AGC and actively facilitated a membership drive at the 2023 NBA AGC where the Forum had over 200 registrations.
- Fully participated in the 2024 New Wigs registration exercise at the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja by taking registrations and enquiries and giving out memorabilia and souvenirs.
- Solicited and coordinated a partnership with the management of the Law pavilion for discounted offerings of their packages for presentation at the NBAWF 2024 Conference which was held in Lagos State.
- Membership drive at the NBAWF AGC and online/real-time registration of new members at the Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos State during the conference.
- The Committee organized three webinar series. The first webinar, **“Building a Successful Legal Career,”** featured Prof. Akolokwu and Bolatumi Animashaun on July 15th. The second, **“Navigating Social Media Law,”** was held on July 23rd. The third, **“Confident and Composed,”** focused on professional presence and etiquette for female lawyers and featured Miannaya A. Essien SAN, Helen Ovonlen, and Ngoba Martyns-Yellowe on August 16th.

Planning Committee (Ad Hoc)

- worked assiduously and delivered an excellent annual conference on the 21st and 22nd of March, 2024 in Lagos.
- planned and executed the Forum's 5th Annual General Meeting which will be held during the NBA Annual General Conference in Lagos.

Public Sector Committee

- successfully finished creating a directory of members of the Public Sector Committee.

Welfare Committee

- Organized a sensitization webinar on breast cancer
- Published an awareness video on cervical cancer informing members on steps to take and measures in January 2024
- Celebrated the birthdays and achievements of NBAWF members
- Created a directory for all NBAWF members and their birthdays.

Young Female Lawyers Committee

- organised three webinars titled, 'AI and the 21st - century Female Lawyer'; 'Optimizing Social Media to Enhance Legal Practice as Young Female Lawyers', and "The Young Corporate Lawyer's Toolkit: Registration, Returns and More."
- held its inaugural Twitter space discussion on October 5th, focusing on the experiences and opportunities of young female lawyers in Northern Nigeria.
- held an IG live series titled: **INSPIRE: Empowering Women to Navigate the Legal Profession** on the 29th of July, 2024

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Membership drive in Law School, Bwari 2024

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



4th Edition of the Inspire Her Series with Senator Daisy Danjuma, Lagos



MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE



Imo Mentorship Event, 2023



Kano State Mentorship Event 2024

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NBAWF STATE /BRANCH ACTIVITIES

NBA Women Forum Imo State

- In collaboration with the Mentorship committee organized a Mentorship Seminar in Owerri, Imo State, on October 20, 2023 with the theme “Empower Her: Breaking Barriers and Building Careers for Women in Law”. This event was graciously sponsored by Her Excellency Barr. Chioma Uzodimma, the First Lady of Imo State, who graced the occasion alongside numerous dignitaries and accomplished female lawyers from across the state.
- Held their End-of-Year Event on December 6th - 7th, 2023 featuring a Health Walk/Seminar, free Medical Tests, Thanksgiving Service, Luncheon and a Christmas Party.
- To celebrate International Women’s Day 2024, the committee organized a gathering where senior members shared their career experiences and advice with younger colleagues.
- Paid courtesy visits to the Deputy Governor of Imo State, Her Excellency Lady Ihuoma Ekomaru, PhD and the Clerk of the Imo State House of Assembly, Hon. Mrs. Chinelo Emeghara.



Courtesy visit to the Imo State Deputy Governor



Imo State Chapter Womens Day event 2024

NBA Women Forum Kaduna State

- held their formal Inaugural and Mentoring session, themed, “The need for Ethical consideration in building virile Bar Women” The event, which was also held in celebration of International Women’s Day, aimed to provide a platform for enhancing women’s productivity in legal practice. There was also a “mentorship session”, where attendees were all guided by knowledgeable mentors in specific practice areas or legal careers and certificates of attendance were awarded to all.
- paid a courtesy visit to the AG of Kaduna State.



Kaduna State chapter courtesy visit to the AG of Kaduna State



Kaduna State chapter courtesy visit to the AG of Kaduna State

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NBA Women Forum Delta State Chapter

- held a webinar on the 13th of March, 2024 tagged “Empowering Female Lawyers: Breaking Barriers through Visibility for Career Success”.
- held its 2nd Quarter webinar on May 28, Titled: Mediation - The New Frontier to be explored by Female Lawyers”
- Asaba branch held its end-of-the-year event in 2023 and its women’s day event in commemoration of International Women’s Day themed: Inspire Inclusion.
- Delta State Lead in the company of Asaba and Oleh branch facilitator and some members paid a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice Delta State and the Honourable Attorney General of Delta State



Representatives from NBAWF Delta State at the NUJW



Asaba Branch Women's Day event

NBA Women Forum Rivers State Chapter

- hosted a webinar to commemorate International Women’s Day 2024 to discuss financial stability for female lawyers in a challenging economy. The speakers were Prof. Ibibia Lucky Worika, Mrs Cordelia Eke, and Dr Raphael C. Onah, with Dr Rosebell Uvivo moderating.

NBA Women Forum Abia State

- held its inaugural mentorship seminar on April 9th, focusing on empowering female lawyers. The keynote speaker, Mrs Chinyere Okorocho, shared her expertise and guided to help women overcome challenges and seize opportunities in their legal careers
- The NBAWF Abia State chapter and the Executive Committee visited the Governor and First Lady of Abia State.



Abia State Mentorship Event 2024



Inaugural event

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NBA Women Forum Bayelsa

- held its 3rd annual event on May 21-22 with the theme: **Accelerating Growth: Economic Dynamics of the Woman Lawyer in a Commercialized World**. The event kicked off with a friendly match between NBAWF Bayelsa Chapter and MWAN Bayelsa on the 21st. On the 22nd of May, the chapter held an elaborate dinner event featuring a Magazine launch, an awards night, and cultural dances all with the crème de la crème of the legal community in the state in attendance.
- Members of the chapter accompanied Exco to pay courtesy visits to the First Lady of Bayelsa State, the Chief Judge of Bayelsa State and the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB.



Sips and Tips welcome cocktail for new wigs, 2023



Bayelsa 3rd Annual Event 2024

NBAWF Kano chapter

- paid a courtesy visit to the AG of Kaduna State. On the 6th of June
- held their mentoring seminar, “Empowering Excellence: Developing Skills and Professionalism for the Next Generation of Women in Law”. The keynote was given by Hon. Justice Hafsat Yahaya and the mentors were Hon Justice Fatima Adamu, Kemi Oyewo, and Augusta Uchechukwu Uzu.
- Members of the chapter accompanied Exco on a courtesy visit to the Chief Justice of Kano State.



Kano State Mentoring Event 2024



NBAWF Oyo State

- The chapter held a Knowledge Sharing Session/webinar in September 2023. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Cecilia Ekanem Madueke, Company Secretary, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc where she discussed the theme of the webinar: **The Path to Professional Success: Getting into the Right Conversations**
- held a mentoring session on July 4th, 2024 at the Aare Afe Babalola Bar Centre themed “Promoting Professional Excellence, Ethics and Values amongst Female Lawyers” wherein they hosted the

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Chairperson of the Forum, Mrs. Chinyere Okorochoa. The keynote speech which was delivered by Prof Oluyemisi Abimbola, Dean, Faculty of Law, Lead City University, Ibadan.



NBAWF Chairperson, leadership of the Oyo State Chapter and attendees at the Oyo State Mentoring Seminar, 2024



Cross-section of attendees at the Oyo State Mentoring Seminar, 2024

NBAWF FCT Abuja Chapter

- The chapter held an outreach in commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8 with the theme, Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.
- Members of the chapter joined the Exco for a courtesy visit to Hon. Justice Amina Adamu Augie J.Sc (Rtd) for her investiture as Patron of the Forum.
- The chapter also held a curtain closing mentoring event themed “Indecent dressing: Its effect on female lawyers dress code.” with keynote speaker (Hon. Justice Amina Adamu Augie J.Sc (Rtd). Other speakers were Hon Justice K. N. Ogbonnaya of FCT High Court and Dr. Sulaiman Usman, SAN.



Curtain closing event, 2024



NBAWF Ogun State

- held a formal investiture of the Ilaro branch facilitator
- organized an event for law officers in the state tagged ‘The Female Lawyer of the 21st Century: Dare to be Different’.



Ogun State- investiture of Ilaro Branch facilitator event, 2024

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NBAWF Ondo Chapter

- had its 1st general meeting for the year 2024 on 14th March, 2024. Chief Barr. Oluwatoyin Abegunde, the Founder and Initiator of Oluwatoyin Abegunde Foundation, held a pep talk on “Natural Remedy as a Lifestyle: Securing Health in Organic Living”.
- paid a courtesy visit to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of Ondo State, Dr Kayode Ajulo SAN.
- held its second general meeting at the Aare Afe Babalola Bar Centre, Akure, Ondo State. In attendance was the guest speaker Mrs. Akinmoladun Foluke (managing solicitor, Trizon Chambers Lagos) who discussed: Alternative Dispute Resolution as a means of income for female legal practitioners. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the Guest speaker and hosts.



Ondo State general meeting 2024



NBAWF Akwa Ibom State

- organized an Annual Capacity Building Workshop, tagged “The Dynamics of Legal Practice in Nigeria.” The event aimed to enhance the skills of female lawyers practising in the coastal region.



Annual Capacity Building Workshop 2024



Sensitization visit to NBAWF Eket branch

NBAWF Lagos Chapter

- hosted a webinar in commemoration of World Cancer Day
- organized a “Chat with a Mentor Series” which was physically held on the 10th of October at G. Elias featuring Ayodele Ashiata Kadiri as the mentor.
- Was involved in the planning and execution of the Forum’s highly successful and impactful 4th annual general conference and IWD event.

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- Held a physical event – a Conversational Afternoon featuring Mrs Abidemi Ademola, Legal Director and Company Secretary, Guinness Nigeria Plc. Topic to be discussed: “Overcoming challenges and fostering female leadership in the legal profession.”



NBAWF Adamawa State

- members of the NBAWF paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Judge of Adamawa State, Honourable Justice Hafsat Abdulrahman. Participated and represented the Forum during the Law Week of Yola Branch, Adamawa State.
- Held two general state meetings.
- is actively involved in the prosecution of the Acting Registrar of the College for Legal Studies, ALH. Musa Chiroma, who on the 15th day of April, 2024, severely assaulted a member of this Forum, Fadimatu Musa Esq., who is also a Lecturer at the College.
- Facilitated the engagement and training of female lawyers as part of the Public and Private Development Center’s (PPDC) ongoing program for prison decongestion.



Courtesy visit to the Chief Judge, Adamawa State



General meeting NBAWF Adamawa

NBAWF Yobe State

- In collaboration with representatives from the Novel Alliance for Development and Aid (NADA) and the SAHEI Gender Development Initiative (SAHEI), a roundtable discussion was convened following the successful completion of training sessions on gender-based violence. The purpose of this gathering was to identify and discuss critical strategies for implementing the acquired knowledge and achieving measurable results in addressing gender-based violence.



Yobe State roundtable discussion on genderbased violence

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

4TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



3RD ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE



VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

PRESENTS A WEBINAR ON
WORLD CANCER DAY 2024
The Role of HPV Vaccines in Combating Cervical Cancer

Speakers:
 Chinyere Okorochea, Adefunke Ayo-Franko, Yewande Diji-Oloruntimehin, Dr. Ameh Olayinka Ahmed

Tuesday 27th, February, 2024 | 2:30pm
 Meeting ID: +855 9221 2649 | Passcode: 760289

NBA WOMEN FORUM PRESENTS
REPOSITIONING HER FOR SUCCESS

Speakers:
 Mrs Chinyere Okorochea, Folashade Akin-San, Adama Mohammed, Oluwiyemi Udojiri

24th February 2024 | 5pm

The Young Female Lawyer In Northern Nigeria: CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS

Speakers:
 Comfort Ogunniyi, Hafida Nasir Ahmad, Sarahin Femiwa Bure

Thursday 8th October 2023 | 7pm - 8pm

NBAWF CORPORATE COUNSEL COMMITTEE PRESENTS
Her Webinar Topped
Empowering Your Legal Career

Speakers:
 Mrs Chinyere Okorochea, Feoma Utah, Abimbola Ademola, Neema Monka

Thursday 23rd November, 2023 | 12:30pm - 1:30pm

REPOSITIONING HER FOR SUCCESS 2ND EDITION
 (A Pre-Conference Event)

Panelists:
 Inara Nii Pappie, Adefunke Ayo-Franko, Zainab Alaba, Barbara Li Abayomi

11 MARCH 2024 | 5PM

REPOSITIONING HER FOR SUCCESS 3RD EDITION
 (A Pre-Conference Event)

Panelists:
 Deborah Achiya, Hafida Nasir Ahmad, Merit Daise Akpaka, Dr. Faith Anonachi Okpara

18th MARCH 2024 | 5PM

NBAWF YOUNG FEMALE LAWYERS COMMITTEE PRESENTS
AI AND THE 21ST CENTURY FEMALE LAWYER

Wednesday 27th September 2023 | 4PM - 5PM

NBAWF WELFARE COMMITTEE PRESENTS
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND WELLNESS STRATEGIES

October 25th 2023

NBAWF DELTA STATE CHAPTER PRESENTS A WEBINAR
Empowering Female Lawyers:
 BREAKING BARRIERS THROUGH VISIBILITY FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Wednesday 13th, March 2024 | 02:00 PM
 Meeting ID: 852 1015 2148 | Passcode: 234825

NBA WOMEN FORUM
In Commemoration of International Women's Day
INSPIRE Inclusion:
 Creating a pathway to greatness in the legal profession

March 8, 2024 | 5pm

NBA WOMEN FORUM, RIVERS STATE
Towards Financial Stability in a Depressed Economy:
 Which Way Forward for Female Lawyers?

Date: 3rd April, 2024 - Time: 2pm prompt
 Venue: Zoom/YouTube/Instagram

NBAWF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS A WEBINAR
BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CAREER:
 Strategies for Success.

Monday 18th July, 2024.

NBAWF YOUNG FEMALE LAWYERS COMMITTEE PRESENTS A LIVESERIES
INSPIRE:
 Empowering Women To Navigate The Legal Profession

Monday 29th July, 2024.

NBAWF FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTS A WEBINAR
MAXIMIZING REVENUE Streams
 Financial Planning and Wealth Management for Legal Professionals

Wednesday 10th August, 2024 | 1:00pm

NBAWF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS A WEBINAR
OVERCOMING BARRIERS
 Embracing A Growth Mindset.

Friday, 16th August 2024 | 10am-12pm

NBAWF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS A WEBINAR
CONFIDENT AND COMPOSED
 MASTERING PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE AND ETIQUETTE FOR FEMALE LAWYERS

Friday, 16th August 2024.

NBAWF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS A WEBINAR
Navigating Social Media Law:
 Best Practices for Responsible Use

Tuesday 23rd July, 2024.

PRESENTS
INAUGURAL NBA WOMENFORUM PATRON MEETING

TUESDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2024 & ZOOM (LINK TO BE SHARED SOON) @ 4:30 PM PROMPT

OVERVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CONDUCTED SEPTEMBER 2023 - AUGUST 2024

01

27th September, 2023 - Webinar Training by the NBAWF Young Lawyers Committee on the theme: "AI and the 21st Century Female Lawyer". This training session was organized and fulfilled its objectives of training female young lawyers interested in building their digital practice.

02

5th October, 2023 - Webinar by NBAWF Young Female Lawyers Committee themed: "The Young Female Lawyer in Northern Nigeria: Challenges & Prospects" which showcased accomplished young female lawyers who shared their experiences on how to conquer the challenges and thrive as a young female lawyer in the North.

03

10th October, 2023 - "Chat with Mentor Series" organized by NBAWF Lagos State chapter which hosted a chat with a mentor, Ayodele Ashiata Kadiri, at the law offices of G.Elias in Lagos State.

04

19th October, 2023 - 4th "Inspire Her Series" with Senator Daisy Danjuma hosted in Lagos and anchored by NBAWF Advocacy committee.

05

20th October, 2023 - Mentoring seminar by NBAWF Mentorship Committee in partnership with NBAWF Imo State Chapter themed: "Empower Her: Breaking Barriers & Building Careers for Women in Law" featuring a keynote address by the sponsor of the event, H.E Barr. Mrs. Chioma Uzodinma (the first lady of Imo State) and a plenary session titled "Career Progression for 21st - Century Female Lawyers: Pros and Cons". The event was highlighted by a speed mentoring session between seasoned mentors and young female mentees.

06

23rd November, 2023 - Webinar organized by the NBAWF Corporate Counsel Committee themed "Empowering Your Legal Career: Essential Skills for the 21st century In-House Counsel". This webinar trained corporate and in-house counsel on the latest strategies and skills vital for success in the dynamic world of in-house counsel.

07

6th December, 2023 - Webinar training organized by the Young Female Lawyers Committee titled: "Optimising social media to Enhance Legal Practice as Young female lawyers". The webinar was well attended and explored topics around how to strategically harness social media to accelerate legal practice, how to build a professional brand that appeals to the target audience; how to master different social media platforms and leverage them for outstanding results; the value of content marketing, among other crucial topics.

08

8th March, 2024 - Webinar by NBAWF in commemoration of International Women's Day, themed "Inspire Inclusion: Creating a pathway to greatness in the legal profession" which discussed insights on how women can continue to break barriers, shatter stereotypes and strive for gender equality in the legal profession.

09

8th March, 2024 - Formal inaugural and mentoring session by the NBAWF Kaduna State Chapter themed: "The need for Ethical Consideration on building Virile Bar Women". It also featured a speed mentoring session between mentors and mentees.

10

13th March, 2024 - Webinar training by NBAWF Delta State chapter themed: "Empowering Female Lawyers: Breaking Barriers through Visibility for Career Success" which explored practical insights to leverage visibility, build networks and thrive in the legal profession.

11

21st - 22nd March, 2024 - NBAWF 4th Annual General Conference & International Women's Day Event, 2024 themed: "Beyond the Balance Sheet: Redefining Success for Women in Law" which featured 6 sessions and over 24 speakers. The conference examined traditional metrics for evaluating female lawyers, demystifying them and inspiring diverse definitions of a successful legal career.

12

3rd April, 2024 - Webinar organized by NBAWF Rivers State Chapter in commemoration of International Women's Day Celebration, themed: "Towards Financial stability in a depressed economy: which way forward for female lawyers"

13

9th April, 2024- Inaugural mentorship seminar by NBAWF Abia State Chapter themed: "Empowering Women in Law: Navigating challenges and seizing opportunities"

14

21st - 22nd May, 2024 - 3rd Annual event by NBAWF Bayelsa State chapter themed: "Accelerating growth: Economic Dynamics of the woman lawyer in a commercialized world"

15

28th May, 2024 - 2nd Quarter Webinar by NBAWF Delta State Chapter on the theme: "Mediation: The New Frontier to be explored by female lawyers" with seasoned speakers

16

6th June, 2024 - Mentorship Seminar by NBAWF Kano State Chapter themed "Empowering Excellence: Developing Skills and Professionalism for the Next Generation of Women in Law". This mentorship seminar fulfilled its aim of empowering the upcoming generation of women lawyers by nurturing their skills and professionalism. The seminar had a healthy participation of numerous female lawyers in the state and neighboring states.

17

4th July, 2024 - Mentoring Seminar by NBAWF Oyo State Chapter themed: "Promoting Professional Excellence, Ethics and Values among Female Lawyers" held in Ibadan and virtually, focused on equipping female lawyers with the necessary tools to succeed while upholding the highest standards of professionalism. The event also featured a speed mentorship session, where mentors and mentees engaged in open and candid discussions.

18

15th July, 2024 - Webinar by NBAWF Membership Committee on theme: "Building a successful legal career: Strategies for Success"

19

19th July, 2024 - Curtain closing Mentoring & Honour Event by NBAWF FCT Abuja Chapter on theme: "Indecent Dressing, its effects on Female Lawyers Dress Code"

20

23rd July, 2024 - Webinar by NBAWF Membership Committee on theme: "Navigating Social Media Law; Best Practices for Responsible Use"

21

26th July, 2024 - Seminar training for law officers by NBAWF Ondo State themed: "The female lawyer of the 21st Century: Dare to be different"

22

29th July, 2024 - IG Live Series by NBAWF Young Female Lawyers Committee themed: "INSPIRE: Empowering Women to Navigate the Legal Profession". The series featured trailblazing female lawyers from diverse backgrounds sharing their journeys of success and offering valuable insights into leadership, career growth and work-life balance to empower others to break through gender barriers and reach their full potential.

23

30th July, 2024 - 2nd General Meeting by NBAWF Ondo State themed: "Alternative dispute resolution as a means of income for female legal practitioners"

24

2nd August, 2024 - Capacity Building Workshop by NBAWF Akwa Ibom State Chapter themed: "The Dynamics of Legal Practice in Nigeria" aimed to enhance the professional skills of lawyers practicing in coastal regions and emphasized the importance of strong skills including analytical skills, sound judgment, effective communication and research skills to succeed in today's competitive legal environment.

25

14th August, 2024 - Webinar by NBAWF Fundraising Committee on theme: "Maximizing Revenue Streams: Financial Planning and Wealth Management for Legal Professionals"

26

16th August, 2024- Webinar by NBAWF Membership Committee themed: "Confident and Composed: Mastering Professional Presence and Etiquette for Female Lawyers". The webinar shared valuable and practical insights on how to present oneself with confidence and authority in various legal settings.

27

16th August, 2024- Webinar by NBAWF Advocacy Committee titled: "Overcoming Barriers: Embracing the Growth Mindset" which provided insight into the challenges women face in the workplace and offered practical strategies for overcoming them.

28

9th August 2024- Webinar by NBAWF Young Female Lawyers Committee themed: "The Young Corporate Lawyer's Toolkit: Registration, Returns and More" which is a session on corporate practice for young female lawyers.

29


20th August 2024- Seminar and conversational afternoon by NBAWF Lagos chapter on topic: "Overcoming Challenges and Fostering Female Leadership in the Legal Profession"

COURTESY VISITS

DETAILS OF COURTESY VISITS AND KEY OUTCOMES

Courtesy visits serve as a valuable tool for cultivating positive relationships, fostering goodwill, and promoting cooperation. They offer opportunities for networking, information exchange, and the expression of respect and appreciation. In the context of international relations, courtesy visits can play a crucial role in maintaining or strengthening diplomatic ties

Over the past two years, the NBAWF Chairperson, Mrs Chinyere Okorochoa, the Executive Committee and members of Forum leadership made courtesy calls to several distinguished personalities. Below are highlights from the past year:

1. 20th October, 2023 - Courtesy visit by NBAWF Chairperson and her executive committee to the Executive Governor of Imo state, His Excellency, Senator Hope Uzodinma and First Lady of Imo State, Her Excellency, Barr. Chioma Uzodinma at Imo State Government House. The Governor pledged his support to the forum and encouraged the Executive Committee to continue the good work of empowering female lawyers for success. 



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2. Courtesy Visit by NBAWF Kaduna State Lead and her executive committee along with the head of Mentorship committee to the Honourable Attorney General & Commissioner of Justice of Kaduna State. In response, the Hon AG pledged his support for the activities of the NBAWF in the state.

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3. Courtesy visit by NBAWF Yola Branch to the Honourable Chief Judge of Adamawa State.

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4. 9th April 2024 - Courtesy visit led by NBAWF chairperson, her executive committee, NBAWF Abia State chapter Lead and Abia State branch facilitators, to the Governor of Abia State, HE Dr. Alex Otti and the First Lady of Abia State, HE, Mrs. Priscillia Otti. 



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5. 21st to 22nd May 2024- Courtesy visits by the NBAWF Chairperson and her executive committee to key personalities in Bayelsa state as part of the activities lined up following participation at the NBAWF Bayelsa State Chapter 3rd Annual Event held from 21st to 22nd May 2024. The historic visit to Bayelsa state marks a significant step in promoting the growth and development of female lawyers to ensure they are well-equipped to navigate and thrive in a commercialized world. The courtesy visits included:

COURTESY VISITS

- a. courtesy visit to the First Lady of Bayelsa State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Gloria Diri who welcomed the delegation warmly and expressed her desire for strategic collaboration with the forum. 📷



- b. Courtesy visit to the Chief Judge of Bayelsa State, Hon. Justice Abrakassa Ayemieye, who also pledged her support for the forum going forward. 📷




- c. Courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) with warm reception by the Executive secretary, Mr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe who assured the delegation of his commitment to support the forum in its future initiatives, reinforcing the board's dedication to gender inclusion and professional development within the legal sector. 📷



6. 23rd May 2024- Courtesy visit to Justice Mary Odili JSC (Rtd) and investiture as a Patron of the NBAWF. The significant ceremony involved the symbolic robing of Justice Odili with the forum's pink sash and rosette, and presentation of her official plaque of office.

7. June 5, 2024- Courtesy visit to the 1st Female Chief Judge of Kano State, Hon. Justice Dije Abdu-Aboki led by the NBAWF Chairperson and accompanied by the NBAWF treasurer, NBAWF Kano state Lead, Welfare Committee Head, National Welfare secretary and other state officers of the

COURTESY VISITS

NBAWF Kano State chapter. During the visit, the NBAWF Chairperson briefed the Chief Judge on the Forum's terms of reference and mandate, emphasizing its focus on empowering female lawyers across various sectors and highlighting the Forum's initiatives to support female lawyers and ensure they have the necessary resources and opportunities to excel in their respective field. In response, the Chief Judge expressed her support for the Forum's initiatives and pledged to collaborate with the forum's future events within the state, paving the way for more collaborative efforts to enhance professional development and empowerment of female lawyers in the region. 



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8. 25th June 2024 - Courtesy visit to Justice Amina Augie, JSC (Rtd) and investiture as a Patron of the NBAWF. The significant ceremony involved the symbolic robing of Justice Augie with the forum's pink sash and rosette, and presentation of her official plaque of office.

 9. ... August 2024 - Courtesy Visit on Mrs. Mfon Usoro, Life Bencher and Past chairperson of the NBA-Section on Business Law and investiture as a Patron of the NBAWF. The significant ceremony involved the symbolic robing of Mrs Usoro with the forum's pink sash and rosette, and presentation of her official plaque of office.

 10. ... August 2024 - Courtesy visit on Prof. Oluyemisi, SAN - immediate past Chairperson of the NBAWF and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan - and investiture as a Patron of the NBAWF. The significant ceremony involved the symbolic robing of Prof Bamgbose SAN with the forum's pink sash and rosette, and presentation of her official plaque of office.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRONS

As part of the initiative to ensure that the NBA Women Forum continues to grow sustainably, the current administration came up with the concept of patrons.

The patrons are comprised of established female lawyers who can serve as advisors to the leadership of the Forum for every administration.

These established women-in-law are committed to expanding the influence of the Forum strategically in different spheres.

The inaugural patron committee is made up of six women: Chief Mrs Folake Solanke, SAN, CON; Dame Priscilla Olabori Kuye; Justice Amina Augie; Justice Mary Ukaego Peter-Odili, CFR; Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN, and Mrs. Mfon Usoro;

In future, every president of the NBA Women Forum, upon completing her tenure will become a patron of the Forum.



PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE (SAN)

Professor Oluyemisi Adefunke Bamgbose, SAN, is a Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Human Rights. She is presently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Before her appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bamgbose served two terms as a member of the Governing Council of the University of Ibadan, the highest decision-making body in the University system. She is the first Female Professor of Law in Nigeria to be conferred with the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in September, 2018. She is the immediate past Chairperson of the NBA Women Forum. She served between September 2019 and August 2022. Prof. Bamgbose, SAN, joined the services of the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan in 1987 and became a Professor of Law in 2003. She was the first female Head of Department in the Faculty of Law and served two tenures between 1997 and 2003. The Professor and learned Silk later served as Dean of Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan, between 2009 and 2014.

She served as Chairperson of "The Study Group on the Death Penalty for the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria." She was a Member of Nigeria's National Committee on the Reform of Discriminatory Laws against Women.

Prof. Bamgbose, SAN, has a strong interest in women and children issues and has spoken at many conferences on issues relating to women and children. She was Director of the Women's Law Clinic, Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan. She was the Guest Speaker at the Celebration of 100 years of Women in Law at Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA in 2008.

Prof. Bamgbose, SAN, a widely travelled scholar who belongs to many national and international bodies, has published over 100 articles, books and technical reports in English language and translation into other languages in both national and international outlets.

Prof. Bamgbose, SAN, is a Fellow of Salzburg Seminar Austria and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.



MFON EKONG USORO (MRS)

Mrs Mfon Usoro is the Managing Partner of Paul Usoro & Co, one of the top law firms in Nigeria, and a member of the Body of Benchers. Among her numerous achievements are the following:

- Immediate past Secretary General of the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for West and Central African Region (Abuja MoU).
- Chairperson, Inter-Ministerial Committee for the National Transport

Policy.

- Chairperson, Akwa Ibom State Government Technical Committee for the Development of Ibom Deepsea Port & Ibom Industrial City.
- Chairperson, Nigerian Bar Association African Continental Free Trade Agreement Committee and past Chairperson, NBA Section on Business Law.
- Member, FGN Expanded Partnership Committee on Sustainable Blue Economy for Nigeria.
- Member, Nigerian Fleet Implementation Committee.
- Pioneer Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, (NIMASA).

Mrs. Usoro has robust experience in legislative drafting and advocacy and led the Paul Usoro & Co. [PUC] team in the drafting and legislative advocacy for: Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act 2007.; Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act 2003; Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria Act 2007; Coastal and Inland Shipping Cabotage (Bareboat Registration) Regulations 2005; Coastal and Inland Shipping Cabotage (Ship Detention Order) Regulations 2005; Carriage of Goods by Land (Road and Rail) Bill 2019; National Transport Commission Bill 2005 and the 2008 revised Draft (World Bank/BPE consultancy), and Port and Harbour Authority Bill 2005 and the 2008 revised Draft, (World Bank/BPE consultancy).

Usoro currently serves as a Non-Executive Director (Independent), The Infrastructure Bank Plc; Non-Executive Director (Independent), First City Monument Bank Ltd., and Non-Executive Director, on the board of Board of Geometric Power Limited.

Mfon Ekong Usoro holds an LL.M in Maritime Laws from University College London; LLB (Hons) from the University of Buckingham, B.L (Hons) from the Nigerian Law School, and BSc. (Hons) in Sociology from the University of Calabar.

Mfon Usoro is the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Maritime, a National honour of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire in 2015 and Officier de L'Ord de Mono, a National honour of the Republic of Togo in 2002.



Justice Mary Ukaego Peter-Odili

Justice Mary Ukaego Peter-Odili, CFR, JSC (Rtd), DSSRS (Nee Nzenwa), is a highly respected legal luminary with over four decades of experience in the Nigerian judiciary. She served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria from 2011 to 2023, making the third woman to ascend to the revered bench of the Supreme Court of Nigeria since 1963 and the Most Senior Female Judicial Officer in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2022.

Throughout her illustrious career, Justice Odili has held various leadership positions within the Nigerian judicial system. She has served as a member of the National Judicial Council, Chairman of the Body of Benchers, Deputy Chairman of the National Judicial Council, and Chairman of the NJC Interview Committee. Furthermore, she was the President, National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) (2018 –2020), Chairperson, Steering Committee for the 2001 United Nations Volunteers Project in Rivers State and the Founder and Chairperson the Adolescent Project (TAP).

Justice Odili's contributions to the legal profession and her dedication to public service have earned her widespread recognition and respect. She is a role model for aspiring female lawyers and a testament to the achievements that can be attained through hard work, dedication, and a commitment to justice.



Hon. Mrs. Justice Amina Adamu Augie

Hon. Mr. Justice Amina Adamu Augie was born Anne Eva Graham on the 3rd day of September, 1953. She is from Kebbi State, in the North-Western part of Nigeria. She attended Abadina School, University College Ibadan from 1958 - 1960. Hope Waddell Primary School, Calabar from 1960 - 1962. Holy Rosary Primary School, Enugu from 1966 - 1967. Queen Amina College, Kaduna from 1968 - 1971. University of Ife, Ile-Ife from 1972 - 1977. Nigerian Law School, Lagos from 1977 - 1978. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 1980 - 1981. University of Lagos from 1986 - 1987. She was called to the Nigerian Bar on 8th July, 1978.

Hon. Justice A. A. Augie began her legal career as a Legal Aid Counsel at the Legal Aid Council, Sokoto while serving in the National Youth Service Corps from 1978 - 1979. She rose to become the Head of Department of Legal Aid Council, Sokoto State. From 1980 - 1982, she had a stint with the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as an Assistant Lecturer. From 1982 - 1984, she served as a Senior State Counsel in the Office of the Chief Counsel to the then President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, after which, she was appointed Lecturer by the Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

In 1988, Hon. Justice Amina Adamu Augie was appointed Chief Magistrate in the Sokoto State Judiciary. While serving at the Bench, her love and passion for the academia propelled her to accept a part-time employment as Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Uthman Danfodio University, Sokoto from 1989 - 1992. She also served as an Associate Lecturer in the same University from September 1999 - September 2002. Hon. Justice Augie was elevated to the Court of Appeal Bench in 2002. While at the Appellate Court, she served in various Divisions and rose to become Presiding Justice, Benin Division from July 2009 - September 2010; Presiding Justice, Enugu Division from September 2010 - September 2011; Presiding Justice, Kaduna Division from September 2011 - September 2012; Presiding Justice, Lagos Division from September 2012 - November 2016.

Hon. Justice Amina Adamu Augie was elevated as Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria on the 7th of November, 2016.



Dame Priscilla Olabori Aderonke Kuye: *A Trailblazer in Law and Society*

Dame Priscilla Olabori Aderonke Kuye is a distinguished Nigerian lawyer, businesswoman, and philanthropist. Born in Lagos in 1940, she has made significant contributions to the legal profession, commerce and industry, religion, and community service.

Kuye's legal career spans decades, beginning with her call to the Nigerian Bar in 1967. She has served as a legal practitioner, notary public, and chairman of the Nigerian Gas Cylinders Manufacturing Company Limited. She has also held leadership positions in various professional organizations, including the Nigerian

Bar Association (NBA), the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Kuye has been actively involved in community service and religious activities. She has served as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the National Committee on Women and Children, the National Peace Committee, and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). She has also been honored for her contributions to society with numerous awards and recognitions, including the "pro ecclesia et pontifice" medal from Pope John Paul II and the "Inspirational Woman Award" from the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO).

Dame Priscilla Kuye's legacy as a trailblazer in Nigerian law and society is undeniable. Her dedication to her profession, her commitment to community service, and her unwavering belief in the power of women to make a positive impact have inspired countless others.



Folake Solanke, SAN, CON

Folake Solanke, SAN, CON, was admitted into Gray's Inn, London to read for a degree in law in 1960 and In 1962, she returned to Nigeria to practice law.

Upon her return to Nigeria in August 1962, Solanke began her law career at the chamber of late Honourable Justice Michael Adeyinka Odesanya (rtd). In 1981, Solanke became the first female Senior Advocate of Nigeria and the first Nigerian female lawyer to wear the silk gown.

An administrator, and social critic, She is the first Commissioner of Western State and is a former Chairperson of the Western Nigeria Television Broadcasting Corporation (WNTBC).

She was the 42nd and the first African International President of Zonta International, an international service organization that focus primarily on advancing the status of women. Solanke rose through the ranks of Zonta International, first serving as the District Governor for Africa and then as International Vice-President.

Mrs Solanke SAN has received numerous awards, including the National honour of the Commander of the Order of Niger.

In 1981, Solanke was conferred with a traditional title of "Yeyemofin of Ife" by the late Olubuse II, the 50th Ooni of Ife, following her conferment with Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

In 2012, Solanke received the International Bar Association's Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award at the Association's 5th World Women Lawyers' Conference held in London, in recognition of her professional excellence and immense contribution to the advancement of women within the legal profession. Also in 2012, Solanke released her second book, A Compendium of Selected Lectures and Papers, Volume 1.

On January 17, 2015, Solanke was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Sun Newspaper at a ceremony held at Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.

INVESTITURE AS PATRON



Investiture as Patron - Justice Mary Odili, JSC Rtd.



Investiture as Patron - Justice Amina Augie, JSC Rtd





Investiture as Patron - Dame Priscilla Kuye



Investiture as Patron - Folake Solanke, SAN, CON



Investiture as Patron - Mrs. Mfon Usoro



Investiture of Patron - Prof. Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN

FINAL WORD

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Chinyere Okorocho
Chairperson

Reflecting on your tenure, what accomplishments are you most proud of, and how do you believe they have advanced the goals of the NBA Women Forum?

Key achievements during my tenure include developing an operational manual to ensure consistency, transparency, and accountability; appointing Patrons for guidance and counsel; recognizing the contributions of pioneer Governing Council members, and implementing mentorship programs for female lawyers. These initiatives have strengthened the NBA Women Forum's foundation and empowered future generations of women in the legal profession.

What significant challenges did you face during your tenure and how did you overcome them?

I faced several significant challenges, each requiring strategic navigation to achieve our objectives. As Chairperson of NBAWF, I successfully navigated several key challenges:

- Clarified NBAWF's unique role: Differentiated NBAWF from FIDA and emphasized its focus on empowering female lawyers professionally.
- Expanded reach to grassroots levels: Traveled nationwide, implemented virtual programs, and empowered state chapters.
- Ensured cohesion and uniformity: Developed an operational manual to guide all chapters and branches.
- Overcame resource constraints: Built strategic partnerships to secure the necessary funding.
- Through these efforts, my EXCo and I navigated these challenges and led the NBAWF to achieve significant milestones, laying a strong foundation for the forum's continued growth and success.

“Our collective efforts have not gone unnoticed. I am particularly proud of the nationwide recognition and acceptance we have garnered, transforming the NBA Women Forum into a highly desirable platform for female legal professionals across the country.”

How do you envision the legacy of your leadership influencing the future direction of the NBA Women Forum?

I envision my leadership legacy as a lasting foundation that will shape the NBA Women Forum (NBAWF) for years to come, steering it toward even greater impact and influence. My tenure focused on establishing structures, building relationships, and setting standards that address immediate needs while ensuring the forum's sustainability and growth.

What message do you have for the members of the NBA Women Forum as you step down, and how can they continue to support the forum's mission moving forward?

As I step down from my role as Chairperson of the NBA Women Forum (NBAWF), my message to each of you is one of deep gratitude and unwavering confidence. It has been an honour to serve alongside such a dedicated, passionate, and inspiring group of women. Together, we have accomplished remarkable things, and I am incredibly proud of the progress we've made in empowering female lawyers across Nigeria.

As we look to the future, I urge you to continue building on the strong foundation we've established. Your

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

commitment to the forum's mission will be crucial in ensuring that the NBAWF remains a driving force for positive change in our profession. Stay engaged, Support Each Other, Invest in the next generation of female lawyers, Advocate for the Forum's Values, and Leverage Strategic Partnerships.

The NBA Women Forum has the potential to make an even greater impact in the legal community by focusing on grassroots engagement, capacity building, strategic partnerships, international collaborations, work-life balance, and leadership advancement. I look forward to playing an active role in supporting these efforts, helping to ensure that the NBAWF remains a powerful force for positive change.



Eire. Ifueko Alufohai
Vice Chairperson

Question: Can you share the key accomplishments of the NBAWF in the past year?

Over the past year, the NBAWF has made significant progress in advocating for gender parity, offering capacity-building programs, expanding mentorship initiatives, and pushing for legal reforms that protect women's rights. We've promoted work-life balance, facilitated networking opportunities, and recognized outstanding female lawyers through awards and honours. These efforts underscore our commitment to empowering women in law and creating a more inclusive legal profession.

Additionally, the NBAWF has launched public awareness campaigns and outreach programs that bring attention to gender issues within and outside the legal profession. By engaging with the broader community, we've successfully raised the profile of women's contributions to law and fostered greater societal support for gender equality initiatives.

How does the NBAWF engage with the broader Nigerian Bar Association to advocate for women's rights?

The NBAWF collaborates closely with the Nigerian Bar Association on joint programs that address gender inequality and women's rights. We lobby for gender-sensitive policies, offer training programs, and advocate for greater female representation in NBA leadership. Our efforts ensure that women's voices are heard, and gender equality remains a key focus within the legal profession.

In addition to these efforts, the NBAWF also forms strategic alliances with other professional bodies and women's organizations. These partnerships allow us to amplify our advocacy efforts, influence policy changes more effectively, and ensure that gender equality is consistently prioritized in legal and societal reforms.

How does the NBAWF celebrate and recognize its members' achievements?

We celebrate our members' achievements through annual awards, public recognition at events, and features in our publications. We also provide opportunities for mentorship, leadership roles, and speaking engagements. By highlighting these accomplishments, we inspire and empower female lawyers within the legal community.

Moreover, the NBAWF actively supports members during career milestones, such as appointments to senior positions or receiving external awards. This support not only celebrates their success but also reinforces the importance of women's contributions to the legal field, ensuring their achievements are acknowledged both within and outside the NBAWF community.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Irene Ini Pepple
Secretary

What initiatives has the NBAWF undertaken to promote the rights of women in Nigeria?

The NBAWF is a forum of the Nigerian Bar Association set up to focus specifically on empowering female lawyers for success. To this end, it champions female lawyer's rights in Nigeria through a multi-pronged approach:

Advocacy:

We actively lobby for inclusion and promote changes that promote gender equity. We advocate for female lawyers to take up active leadership roles. We speak up for our colleagues, advocating for gender balance. We are excited to see the gender balance exhibited in the last elections where 5 members of our forum emerged as winners.

Mentorship and Capacity Building:

We empower female lawyers through mentorship programs that connect experienced professionals with younger lawyers. We also organize workshops, training sessions, and conferences to equip women with legal expertise, leadership skills, and knowledge of navigating career advancement. In the last 2 years of our tenure, we have provided capacity-building programs across the states in Nigeria.

Public Awareness:

We raise public awareness about women's rights by first focusing on female lawyer's rights through media campaigns and collaborations with other women's rights organizations. This helps to educate the public and foster a culture of respect for women's rights.

Supporting Female Lawyers

The forum offers a support system for female lawyers facing challenges in the profession. This includes guidance on combating sexual harassment, navigating work-life balance, and advocating for fair treatment within the legal system.

How does the NBAWF ensure it remains inclusive and representative of all female lawyers in Nigeria?

The NBAWF strives to be a truly inclusive and representative organization for all female lawyers in Nigeria in the following ways:

Membership Structure: Our membership categories cater to female lawyers at different stages of their careers, with specific registration forms for lawyers within 5 years of being called to the bar and those with more experience.

Committee System: We have a diverse range of committees dedicated to various areas of interest, such as advocacy, corporate counsel, public sector, young female lawyers committee, mentoring, research, and welfare. We also intentionally ensure that all the geographical zones of the country are represented in our Committees and other roles. This allows female lawyers to contribute their expertise and perspectives to specific areas they are passionate about and areas where they practice regardless of their location and religion. We always have everyone covered.

State/Branch Outreach: We actively engage with branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) throughout the country to ensure women lawyers have access to NBAWF resources and activities regardless of location. This has been made possible by initiating State leads and branch facilitators for every branch to allow the message of the NBAWF to get to every nook and cranny. Currently, the Forum has 37 State leads and 125 branch facilitators.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Open Communication: We encourage open communication and feedback from our members through our website social media platforms. We also have scheduled regular meetings with the committee officers, state leads and facilitators. This improves synergy within the Forum.

3. Can you discuss the importance of advocacy in the work of the NBAWF?

Advocacy is a cornerstone of the NBAWF's work. Advocacy allows us to directly influence policies and laws that affect female lawyer's lives. By actively engaging with Bar we push for more inclusion and promote gender equality, which in turn protects our rights and interests. Advocacy also helps to raise awareness about critical issues faced by the Nigerian female lawyer. This leads to increased public support for women's rights. Furthermore, through advocacy, we empower female lawyers to understand their rights and seek justice when faced with discrimination or abuse. Finally, our advocacy efforts aim to create a level playing field for women in the legal profession and society as a whole. The NBAWF is truly committed to using advocacy as a powerful tool to drive positive change for women in our legal system and Nigeria as a whole.



Mercy Ijato-Aguda
TREASURER

What strategies does the NBAWF use to eliminate gender inequality within the legal field?

The NBA Women Forum employs a comprehensive range of strategies to eliminate gender inequality within the legal field, including advocacy and policy reform, capacity building and training programs, mentorship initiatives, networking opportunities, research and data collection, collaboration with stakeholders, leadership development, addressing sexual harassment and discrimination, promoting flexible work arrangements, and celebrating successes and role models, all aimed at creating a more inclusive and equitable legal profession.

How does the NBAWF collaborate with other women's organizations to achieve its goals?

Joint programs and initiatives: NBAWF co-organizes conferences, workshops, and training sessions with other women's organizations to amplify their impact.

Networking: NBAWF engages in regular dialogue and information sharing with other women's organizations, fostering a collaborative environment.

Advocacy: NBAWF joins forces with other women's organizations to advocate for policy reforms and legislation promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Capacity building: NBAWF collaborates with other organizations to provide training and capacity-building programs for women lawyers and non-lawyers.

Mentorship: NBAWF establishes mentorship relationships with other women's organizations, providing guidance and support for women's professional development.

By collaborating with other women's organizations, NBAWF leverages collective strength, expertise, and resources to achieve its goals and promote gender equality in the legal profession and beyond.

What role do conferences and events play in the work of the NBAWF?

Conferences and events play a pivotal role in the NBA Women Forum's work, providing a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, community building, amplifying voices, driving advocacy efforts, celebrating milestones, and offering skill-building opportunities, ultimately empowering women lawyers, promoting gender equality, and advancing the organization's mission to create a more inclusive, equitable, and empowered legal profession.

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FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



MOHAMMED Adama, FICMC, FCILG, FKOICA
Council Member

What advice would you give to young female lawyers aspiring to join or already part of the NBAWF?

My advice to young female lawyers is to be bold, confident, and authentic, embracing their unique strengths and perspectives, while being open to learning, growth, and mentorship, and to actively engage with the NBAWF community to maximize opportunities for professional development, networking, and collective empowerment.

What initiatives does the NBAWF have in place to support young female lawyers?

The Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum (NBAWF) offers various initiatives, including mentorship, training, scholarships, networking, career development, wellness programs, leadership opportunities, and events, to support and empower young female lawyers in their personal and professional growth.

How does the NBAWF promote gender equality within law firms and legal institutions?

The NBAWF advances gender equality in the legal profession by building capacity, fostering connections, promoting inclusivity, empowering women lawyers and challenging discriminatory practices thereby creating a more just and equitable environment for women lawyers to thrive.



Folashade Alli, SAN
Council Member

How has the NBAWF contributed to your personal and professional growth as a female lawyer?

Personally, the Forum has enabled me to fulfill a long-standing commitment to God and myself to be a role model and mentor providing guidance to the next generation of lawyers. The Forum has provided me with multiple avenues to make a difference, to be an agent of change, and to actively participate in shaping women in a way that addresses the immediate needs of female lawyers and also equips them with the tools necessary to thrive in a global world.

Professionally, the NBAWF has been instrumental in broadening my network, enabling me to connect with a diverse group of accomplished women across the legal profession. Today, there isn't a state in the federation where I don't have a strong network of female lawyers.

I was appointed by Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN to head the Advocacy Committee of the NBAWF in 2021. Under my leadership, we launched the "Inspire Her" series, an initiative that was designed to bridge the gap between the older and younger generations of female lawyers and fulfill the objectives of the Forum to address matters of interest to female lawyers. Leading the Advocacy Committee placed me at the forefront of a significant movement within the Association. It positioned me as a key figure in the conversation about women's empowerment in law. This role amplified my voice and also opened doors for me to share my insights and experiences at numerous conferences.

Can you share a specific instance where the NBAWF made a significant impact on your career?

One of the most impactful projects that stands out as significant is the drafting and implementation of the sexual harassment policy for the Nigerian Bar Association. As we all know, the issue of sexual harassment is very sensitive and distinct from other labor disputes. Our efforts culminated in the

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FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

successful adoption of the Sexual Harassment Policy under the leadership of Mr. Olumide Akpata SAN, then President of the NBA. The policy garnered widespread attention from both the media and the legal community. The successful adoption of this policy had a transformative impact on my career, as it reignited my passion for litigation and advocacy. This renewed commitment was a key factor in my eventual conferment as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

Can you share a memorable experience from your time with the NBAWF?

I had my most memorable experience with the NBAWF when I was appointed as the Chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee for this year's Annual Conference which took place at the Oriental Hotel.

Contrary to the often-touted misconception that women don't support each other, my experience with the NBAWF proved that narrative wrong. The support among the women in the planning committee was really inspiring because everyone brought their strengths and talents to the table. As a result, we were able to plan a conference that was highly successful, and one I believe has set a new tone for NBAWF conferences.

It was also a rare privilege to share the stage with my sister, Mrs. Bolanle Austen-Peters, who delivered an inspiring keynote address. Watching Bolanle captivate the audience with her wisdom and passion and knowing that we both shared the desire to empower women and see them thrive in their chosen careers filled me with a lot of pride.

The conference was a success, and I am grateful to both God and Mrs. Chinyere Okorochoa, the Chairperson, for the outstanding turnout.



Ekaete Ubokudom
Council Member

How can male colleagues support the mission of the NBAWF?

Male colleagues can support the mission of the NBAWF-

Through having a capacity training for the Male; The Male should also have their/ form NBAMF; Males should be invited for NBAWF programs at last 60 percent; Every Women has a duty to encourage his or her Male counterpart or colleagues to be part of NBAWF; and NBAWF should feature during NBA monthly meetings always. ie giving a 5 minutes talk this should be across the State.

What role do you believe mentorship plays in the success of female lawyers?

The role mentorship plays in the success of female lawyers is that -

- a. It adds more bountiful opportunities for the female lawyers to excel in their career;
- b. It changes the attitude of some of the female lawyers;
- c. It makes female lawyers become great models; and
- d. It makes changes in the society which the female lawyers belong to.

How has the NBAWF contributed to the visibility and recognition of female lawyers in Nigeria?

The NBAWF has contributed to the visibility and recognition of female lawyers in Nigeria -
Through various capacity trainings and seminars; Radio programs, workshop and others.

Holdings of conferences; and Holdings of capacity building trainings in various States.

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FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Musleemah Olamide Nagode
Council Member

Question: How does the NBAWF ensure its initiatives are sustainable and impactful?

The elimination of all forms of gender inequality and promote the rights of women especially female lawyers.

Question: What inspired you to join the Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum (NBAWF)?

The inspiration of empowered female lawyers for success and be the voice of the voiceless within Nigeria and beyond.

Question: What partnerships has the NBAWF formed to advance its mission?

The partnership with Nigerian Bar Association, National made its mission accomplished.



Soibi Ovia
Council Member

Can you describe the NBAWF's approach to addressing sexual harassment in the workplace?

The Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum (NBAWF) has taken a proactive and comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of sexual harassment, particularly within the legal profession.

Firstly, the NBAWF played a pivotal role in the development of the NBA's Sexual Harassment Policy. This policy is designed to create a workplace environment that is free from all forms of sexual harassment and to provide clear guidelines on how such issues should be addressed. Beyond policy development, the NBAWF places a strong emphasis on education and awareness. The Forum has been actively involved in enlightening lawyers, with a particular focus on young lawyers and young female lawyers, about the nuances of sexual harassment. An innovative and highly impactful initiative by the NBAWF is the establishment of a 24/7 help desk and hotline, created by the Advocacy Committee of the NBAWF for reporting incidents of sexual harassment, bullying in the workplace, and even domestic violence.

Through these initiatives, the NBAWF not only addresses sexual harassment directly but also fosters a culture of support, education, and advocacy within the legal profession, ensuring that female lawyers have the resources and backing they need to thrive in a safe and respectful work environment.

How does the NBAWF support female lawyers who face discrimination in their careers?

NBAWF has established several key committees specifically tasked with addressing issues related to discrimination against female lawyers. Notable among these are the Advocacy Committee, the Welfare Committee, the Mentoring Committee, and the Young Female Lawyers Committee. Each of these committees plays a crucial role in tackling discrimination by offering support, resources, and guidance to female lawyers who may encounter challenges in their professional journeys. In addition, the NBAWF takes a strong and unwavering stance against all forms of marginalization and discrimination within the legal profession.

Furthermore, the NBAWF has been involved in significant collaborations with national and international

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FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

stakeholders to map out the representation of female lawyers across different sectors of the legal profession, including the Bar, the Bench, Academia, and Government. These collaborations aim to identify areas where female lawyers are underrepresented or face higher rates of attrition. One notable initiative is the joint effort with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group's Gender Community of Practice, which focuses on promoting gender equality within the legal profession.

The Forum's efforts are not only about addressing immediate concerns but also about fostering long-term cultural and systemic change that benefits all women in the legal field.

What resources does the NBAWF offer to help female lawyers advance in their careers?

One of the standout initiatives offered by the NBAWF is the provision of free membership registration for female lawyers who are within five years of being called to the Bar. This initiative is particularly valuable as it allows young female lawyers to become part of the NBAWF community without financial barriers, giving them immediate access to a wealth of resources and opportunities.

The Forum has implemented a robust mentorship program that pairs young female lawyers with experienced and accomplished female professionals in the legal field. This program is designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills, and insights, allowing mentees to learn from the professional and personal experiences of their mentors.

In addition to these internal resources, the NBAWF has forged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders to further expand the knowledge base and professional reach of its members. A notable partnership is the collaboration with the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Women in Law Section (WILS). This partnership is focused on knowledge exchange, cooperation, and the cross-promotion of events between the two organizations.

Through these initiatives, the NBAWF is committed to creating an environment where female lawyers can thrive and advance in their careers.

TESTIMONIALS

FROM MEMBERS

**SILVER
CHINWENDU
OBIOHA**

I attended the Young Wigs Conference of 2023 through the sponsorship of the NBAWF. An impactful time learning career paths in the tech space for lawyers and many actions points to take home. My appreciation to the NBAWF for always creating opportunities for young female lawyers to be inspired and empowered to build their careers in the legal profession.

I am deeply grateful to [NBA Women Forum] for sponsoring my participation in the [Young Wigs Conference, 2023] focused on the fusion of law and technology. This opportunity has been transformative for my career as a female lawyer. The insights and skills I gained have significantly enhanced my understanding of the intersection between law and technology, empowering me to better serve my clients and advance my practice.

NBA Women Forum's commitment to supporting women in law is truly commendable. Their sponsorship not only provided me with invaluable resources but also reinforced the importance of continued learning and growth. I am inspired by their dedication and am excited to apply what I have learned to drive innovation and excellence in my field.

Thank you, NBA Women Forum, for your support and belief in my potentials.

BLESSING OLOYEDE
Managing Solicitor,
Doyenne Legal Practice(DLP)

**PRINCESS
OMOREGIE**

Thank you so much @NBAWF for the opportunity, the conference was impactful. There were so many take home lessons and action points.

A great thank you to NBAWF for the sponsorship and privilege to attend this program to attend this program today. It's a worthwhile experience.

Thanks to the executives of NBAWF and all the committees of the NBAWF. Really appreciate this kind gesture.

**VICTORIA M.
SOBOWALE**



As we bring this newsletter to a close, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey. Reflecting on our tenure, I am profoundly grateful for the dedication, passion, and hard work that each member of the NBA Women Forum has brought to our shared mission. Your unwavering commitment has been the cornerstone of our achievements and the driving force behind our progress.

A special thank you goes to the Media & Publicity Committee for their tireless efforts in putting this newsletter together. Your professionalism and dedication in capturing our activities and impact have been invaluable, and this document stands as a testament to your exceptional work.

As I step down, I do so with a heart full of appreciation for the support and collaboration that have defined our tenure. I am confident that the NBA Women Forum will continue to make strides and achieve new heights. Thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey. Together, we have built a strong foundation for the future, and I look forward to witnessing the continued success of our forum.

With heartfelt thank thanks

Chinyere Okorocho
Chairperson,
NBA Women Forum 2022-2024



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Step One - Choose your Membership option

There are three types of membership to consider when joining the Forum:

- Regular membership- This is a paid membership. The first payment is the registration fee while dues are paid to the Forum account annually.

Young female lawyers, years 0 to 5 at the bar are registered free. Members above 5 years at the bar pay an annual fee of N5000.00 and senior lawyers are encouraged to sponsor the juniors.
- Diaspora membership- Nigerian female lawyers outside Nigeria are to pay the sum of \$100 annually.
- Honorary membership- Judges and male members of the NBA can take on honorary membership in the Forum.

Membership Benefits include:

- Listing in the Directory of Nigerian Female Lawyers.
- Access to a community of likeminded female professionals .
- Mentorship opportunities / Mentor grooming.
- Support against gender discrimination, abuse or harassment.
- Networking with a broad base and diverse group of Nigerian female lawyers within and outside the country.
- Personal & Professional Growth opportunities
- Unlimited access legal information from the resources & research unit

Kindly visit us at www.nbawomenforum.org.ng to register.

Step 2 - Choose a Committee

There are 11 committees within the NBWAF - Advocacy, Corporate Counsel, External Relations, Fundraising, Membership, Mentoring, Media and Publicity, Public Sector, Research and Documentation, Welfare, and Young Female Lawyers.

Members of the NBWAF are encouraged to join a maximum of two committees to enable them to be fully engaged in the activities of the Forum and become fully integrated within the community.

Once you have registered, you will be asked to select your desired committees and then you will be added to those teams.

Step 3 - Follow us on social media

Now that you are a member, follow us on our social media platforms, as listed below, and invite other female colleagues to join!



nbawomenforum.org.ng



nbawforum@gmail.com



[nbawomenforum](https://www.instagram.com/nbawomenforum)



[Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nigerian-bar-association-women-forum)



[@forumnba](https://twitter.com/@forumnba)



[nbawomenforum](https://www.facebook.com/nbawomenforum)