OLAJIDE BABALOLA

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# PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

* I am an internationally trained legal practitioner with 13+ years of experience in providing advice on corporate/commercial transactions with emphasis on secured and unsecured lending transactions, capital markets, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate/commercial advisory.
* Recognised as a rising star in the banking and finance practice area by the international legal directory, Legal 500 in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.
* Experienced in managing complex legal projects having coordinated diverse high-value cross-border transactions spanning over a decade.
* Received an award as the most supportive employee of the year (2016).

# WORK EXPERIENCE

*Managing Associate, Senior Associate and Associate* **08/2009 – 01/2023**

[**Odujinrin & Adefulu, Law Firm**](https://odujinrinadefulu.com/)**: Abuja, Nigeria**

* Drafted and/or negotiated various commercial contracts including but not limited to engagement agreements, purchase and sale agreements, service agreements subscription agreements, securities custodian agreements, service agreements, non-disclosure agreements, shareholder agreements, construction contracts, finance and account agreements, and wide range of security documents including mortgage deeds, share charges, security agreements, all-asset debenture, account charges, deeds of pledge, security supplemental agreements, trust deeds, lien memorandum and variation or amendment deeds.
* Represented domestic and international clients on a variety of complex domestic and cross-border finance transactions from corporate finance, trade finance, export finance, project finance, and acquisition finance to structured finance transactions. My representation was on an end-to-end basis (from the structuring/term sheet stage to completion) and spans various sectors such as real estate, technology, manufacturing, oil & gas, banking, trade and hospitality sectors.
* Advised an international construction company on compliance with applicable employment laws in connection with its outside jurisdiction business in Africa. This enabled the company to plan and adopt an appropriate strategy for its offshore operations.
* Monitored and reviewed changes in legislation and regulations and how they affected the firm/clients. Conducted analysis of new laws and regulations to determine potential impact and improve governance processes.
* managed the entire lifecycle of various commercial contracts (including those relating to procurement, finance and real estate) valued at over US$1 billion and ensured signing authorities/policies (including e-signature protocols) and contract processes/approvals for execution (including close-out procedures) were followed. My role involved maintaining and managing contract details and payment databases.
* Conducted several due diligence exercises on behalf of national and international clients (investors and targets) operating in various sectors such as trade, manufacturing, logistics, oil & gas, technology, financial services and hospitality. These exercises involved setting up virtual or physical data rooms; conducting searches, identifying possible risks that may have a downside effect on client transactions and proffering mitigating actions/advice where necessary to ensure the efficacy of the transactions.
* Advised the largest cement manufacturing company in the world and its Nigerian subsidiary in a US$1.35 billion equity acquisition in four major associated companies across Africa. This transaction is regarded as one of the largest completed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange in the relevant year.
* Advised in provincial government’s first bond issuance program taken up to develop infrastructure projects and valued at circa $82 million.
* Conducted extensive legal research and issued legal opinions or legal memoranda on various issues bordering on the legal capacity of parties, enforceability of transactions, regulatory compliance issues, business formations and other various commercial/regulatory subject matters.
* Acted as litigation liaison between clients and the firm's litigation team on various matters bordering on debt recovery, real estate and out-of-court settlement agreements.
* Developed and maintained firm contract templates or precedents on sundry contracts. My task also involved reviewing and revising system-generated contracts.
* Collated information required to prepare various commercial contract documents or to aid in contract negotiation and attended vendor meetings to advance client’s course.
* Assisted numerous organisations on regulatory compliance matters.

*Legal Officer (National Youth Service Corps)*  **08/2008 – 07/2009**

[**Federal Housing Authority**](https://www.fha.gov.ng/)**: Abuja, Nigeria**

* Introduced the use of technology to the institution's documentation processes.
* Managed the process to ensure all internal approvals were obtained before contract execution and that executed contracts were forwarded to relevant parties.
* Monitored contract compliance, reviewed schedule adherence, and led all contract change management activities.

# EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

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**Law Society of Ontario Licensing Process**  Registered Candidate

**National Committee on Accreditation (NCA)** 2023

Federation of Law Societies of Canada

**Legal Research and Writing Course Completion Certificate** 2023

Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education

**Barrister at Law (BL)** 2008

Qualifying Certificate to Practice at the Nigerian Bar

The Nigerian Law School, Enugu, Nigeria

**Bachelor of Law (L.L.B)** 2007

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Nigeria

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**SKILLS**

* Significant relevant international previous legal experience
* Strong computer skills given my ability to use Microsoft Office (MS Office) Packages.
* Strong interpersonal and communication skills developed on the job.
* Very good writing skills developed by engaging culturally diverse teams for over 10 years.
* Excellent multi-tasking and organizational skills developed over 10 years in private legal practice. I can deliver on tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment.
* Solid analytical skills developed in analyzing and understanding commercial contract terms.
* Flexible and able to adapt to a dynamic work environment based on developed ability to deliver notwithstanding diverse requests and changing work conditions.
* Team player. I received an award as the most supportive employee to demonstrate my skills in this regard.

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request