

# J-K GADZAMA LLP

## NEWSLETTER

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Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, SAN, Life Bencher (middle), Chancellor, Newgate University, Minna; Mallam Hassan Nuhu (2nd right), Chairman, Board of Trustees, Newgate University, Minna; Prof. Yusuf Sadik (left), Vice Chancellor, Newgate University, Minna; Mallam Muhammad Dattijo Usman (right), Member, Governing Council, Newgate University, Minna; and Barr. Haruna Abubakar (2nd left), Head of Department, Faculty of Law, Newgate University, Minna during a courtesy visit.



# Editorial

In this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter is an abridged version of the Keynote Address on the topic “The Role of the Nigerian Law Society (NLS) to the Nigerian Society” by Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN at the 2nd Nigerian Law Society 2024 Annual General Conference held on Thursday, December 19, 2024.

We have a range of exciting and informative features that are sure to captivate our readers. Our Sights and Scenes section brings you the latest happenings from within and outside our firm. Our Photo Speak section brings you a visual narrative of some of our recent events, while our Legal Humor section is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We also have exciting news from the firm, including updates on our upcoming events and a profile of our staff members who work tirelessly to provide our clients with the highest quality of legal services. As always, we are committed to providing quality and informative content that educates and entertains our readers. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. As usual, previous editions of our newsletter can be accessed at: <https://j-kgadzamallp.com/publications/newsletters>.

## **Editorial Team**

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# THE ROLE OF THE NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY (NLS) TO THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY

(ABRIDGED)

*Keynote Address by*



**Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama**, OFR, SAN, Life Benchers  
Founding Principal Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP

**AT THE 2ND NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY (NLS) 2024  
ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE**

HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024



## Introduction

***"A lawyer lives for the direction of his people, and the advancement of the cause of his country."***

- Christopher Alexander Sapara Williams  
First Indigenous Nigerian Lawyer

In the intricate world of law and justice, lawyers serve as pillars of society, safeguarding individual rights, ensuring fairness, and upholding the rule of law. However, behind every proficient lawyer in Nigeria, stands an institution vital to his/her professional development and ethical conduct: in this context, the NLS. The NLS plays a fundamental role in shaping the legal landscape, fostering camaraderie among legal professionals and safeguarding the integrity of the legal profession in a way that positively gives back to the Nigerian society.

The NLS, since its inception, has championed noble ideals of justice and excellence within the Nigerian legal ecosystem. The NLS plays a pivotal role in the on-going growth and advancement of the Nigerian society and its work has had profound positive impact on the Nigerian society.

The NLS has positioned itself as a veritable platform for legal practitioners across Nigeria to contribute their quota to the betterment of the profession and the Nigerian society at large.

This address examines the multifaceted role of the NLS in the Nigerian society and explores the invaluable contributions of the NLS to the development of the nation through its various laudable activities and initiatives.

### **Overview of the Establishment and Growth of the Nigerian Law Society**

The Nigerian Law Society (NLS) is a premier professional association for legal practitioners in Nigeria. It is a Society of Lawyers enrolled as Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court under the Legal Practitioners Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The NLS is led by a Council of representatives from across the country. Its Council members are committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in the legal profession, and to promoting the interests of members and the wider legal community.

The NLS was established in 2023 and its maiden Annual General Conference was held on Friday, July 28, 2023 with the theme "Justice For All" under the distinguished Chairmanship of His Excellency, M. A. Abubakar, SAN, a former Governor of Bauchi

State and pioneer Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NLS. The Keynote Address was delivered by Chief Bolaji Ayorinde, OFR, SAN, a former Chairman of the Governing Board of the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and now the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NLS.

### **Uniqueness and Importance of the Nigerian Law Society**

The objectives of law societies and umbrella law associations in general across the African continent can be grouped into three broad categories, and these are as follows:

- a) Firstly, they seek to promote and protect the interest of their members through skill development initiatives and enhancement of business opportunities.
- b) Secondly, they seek to promote the legal profession as a professional guild by creating frameworks and processes to regulate conduct as well as interaction among legal practitioners and protect the profession from unqualified service competition.
- c) Thirdly, they seek to protect the independence and credibility of legal institutions, advocacy for human rights and accountability as well as the rule of law.

Law societies and umbrella law associations in general have a critical role to play when it comes to education about and working for the rule of law, including the ethical elements that are of particular importance in the legal profession. Many countries are plagued with corruption. This unethical and criminal activity is the worst enemy of the rule of law.

In line with the above general functions of law societies, the NLS has streamlined its objectives as follows:

- a) To support the administration of justice and all related matters.
- b) To enhance the legal profession through continuing legal education and training.
- c) Engaging in advocacy for the reform of democracy and strengthening our nation's institutional framework.
- d) To develop and implement strategies for legislative advocacy in Nigeria.
- e) To collaborate and/or partner with individuals, regional, national, continental, and/or international organizations/institutions to achieve the aims of the society.

However, though the NLS was established for a noble cause, it is surprising that the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is opposed to the formation or continued existence of



the NLS which is a professional association for lawyers in Nigeria. Nigeria, despite its large population, has over 200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand) lawyers, and it is fitting for well-meaning lawyers to form associations to enhance the practice of law and adherence to the rule of law in the country by all and sundry.

Driven by their desire to form a professional association of lawyers to promote noble ideals, some Nigerian lawyers sought to register a professional association of lawyers named the "Nigerian Law Society" (NLS). The promoters of the NLS submitted applications for registration as an incorporated trustee. However, the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), based on certain interventions, refused to approve/register the name "Nigerian Law Society" and other proposed names claiming, among others, that the names are similar to the already existing name "Nigerian Bar Association" and would be misleading.

Following this refusal, the promoters of the NLS filed a suit at the Federal High Court of Nigeria against the CAC seeking, among other reliefs, declarations that the refusal of the CAC to register the NLS is unlawful, illegal and unconstitutional and a breach of the fundamental rights to peaceful assembly and association under Section 40 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Article 10 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the trial court, judgment was delivered on Friday, December 15, 2023, in favour of the promoters of the NLS. The Court held that the body sought to be registered is in line with the rights to peaceful assembly and association which do not violate any extant law. The Court further held that the names proposed by the promoters of the NLS are not identical to that of the NBA, thus, there is no justification for the refusal to register the body. However, the CAC has appealed the judgment and the NBA has sought leave to appeal as an interested party against the judgment of the Federal High Court. This is all that can be highlighted, as the matter is *subjudice* before the Court of Appeal of Nigeria.

Interestingly, while the immediate past President of the NBA sought leave for the NBA to appeal as an interested party against the judgment of the Federal High Court, opposing the formation or continued existence of NLS, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NBA published some public interest statements to the effect that the NLS has the fundamental right to exist and function. The respected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NBA stated, among others, thus:

***"I don't see why we can't have more than one NBA. There's no reason. The accountants have two. So, personally speaking, I'm not opposed to having more than one***

***association of lawyers because the Constitution says that anyone is free to associate. It's a decision that has been supported by the constitution. ...***

***So, at the end of the day, it's not about whether it's only one NBA; it's about what the NBA does for its members. So I have nothing against having more than one body of lawyers."***

Furthermore, the Chairman of the Body of Benchers of Nigeria, in his address at the recent Call to Bar Ceremony held on November 27, 2024, while admonishing new wigs to actively participate in activities of the bar, further confirmed the existence of the Nigerian Law Society as an independent association. The Chairman of the Body of Benchers stated thus:

***"... I am aware of the Nigerian Law Society as an independent association ..."***

It is pertinent to note that the NLS is not in competition with the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). Rather, the NLS adds its own unique value to the legal profession in Nigeria and thus, is a supplement to the NBA. The NLS and the NBA should be seen as brothers working towards the advancement of the legal profession in Nigeria. This is in line with the position in many jurisdictions around the world, where legal practitioners are not confined to a single law society or bar association, and have the freedom to belong to multiple umbrella law-related associations.

### **The Nigerian Law Society and Its Impact on the Nigerian Society**

The motto of NLS which is "*Justice for All*" and its vision and/or mission "*to be the foremost professional organization of Lawyers dedicated to upholding the rule of law, promoting justice, and safeguarding human rights and interests of the Nigerian people*", serve as clear indication of the roles played by NLS in the Nigerian Society.

In upholding the rule of law, for example, the NLS has publicly advocated for measures that condemn disregard to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, or abuse of public office by individuals or groups. Perhaps, the most obvious way by which the NLS undertakes this work is by generating educative materials which outline procedures for what should or should not be done and the mechanisms for giving effect to such procedures in the event of any perceived breach.

To promote justice, the NLS has from time to time set up committees that render



probono legal services to the indigent, who do not have the financial capacity to seek redress in court, and the NLS has in the past and currently, also advocated for speedy trial of all cases before all courts in Nigeria, because delayed justice may equally translate into denial of justice. The NLS also advocates for reforms in laws, judicial systems, and procedures to ensure fairness, efficiency, and justice. The society actively engages with lawmakers and policymakers to address gaps in legal frameworks through lobbying for the independence of the judiciary and observing judicial proceedings, in order to ensure free and fair trial of all cases in all courts in Nigeria.

In upholding human rights, the NLS champions fundamental rights, such as freedom of association, freedom of speech, fair trials, and protection from discrimination. The Society mobilizes lawyers to challenge human rights violations and unconstitutional laws by resisting attempts to undermine judicial processes and promoting impartial adjudication. The Society also provides platforms for public interest litigation to challenge injustice and promote societal interests. Lawyers under the Society's leadership often initiate cases that address systemic issues like corruption, human rights abuses, and environmental concerns.

From the foregoing, the role of the NLS to the Nigerian Society will be discussed under the following headings:

- a) Promotion of the Standards of the Legal Profession.
- b) Enhancement of Administration of Justice and Access to Justice.
- c) Advocacy for Human Rights.
- d) Facilitating Good Governance and Respect for the Rule of Law.
- e) Promotion of Welfare of Legal Practitioners.

#### ***A. Promotion of the Standards of the Legal Profession***

The need for legal practitioners to abide by the essential hallmarks of professionalism in legal practice cannot be overemphasised, and the NLS stands as a vanguard for promoting these professional standards.

The Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs of the NLS help to equip lawyers with cutting-edge knowledge, enhancing their professional development. These programs cover a range of topics, from updates on new laws and regulations to best practices in litigation, dispute resolution and other practice areas. Additionally, the NLS enforces rigorous professional conduct guidelines to promote ethical behaviour. Furthermore, the NLS fosters a culture of mentorship, by pairing experienced lawyers with junior practitioners, thereby promoting knowledge sharing and skill development.

## ***B. Enhancement of Administration of Justice and Access to Justice***

The responsibility of the justice system is enormous as it involves the resolution of disputes involving social and moral questions of great importance to society. The public therefore expects an effective judicial system that can meet the demands of modern democratic society. It is widely believed that the efficacy of any judicial system is gauged by its capacity to provide timely and appropriate justice to parties in a dispute.

The NLS advocates for judicial reform and modernized court processes and procedures. The NLS also encourages alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, like mediation and arbitration. By providing free or subsidized legal services, the NLS helps to provide accessible justice for vulnerable populations. In addition, the NLS aims to collaborate with judicial institutions to enhance court infrastructure and technology, improving efficiency and reducing delays.

## ***C. Advocacy for Human Rights***

The NLS contributes to promoting and preserving the human rights of Nigerian citizens by providing legal assistance and representation to individuals whose rights have been, are being or are likely to be violated. This entails offering these legal services directly or supporting organizations that offer such services.

The NLS also aims to collaborate with or support non-governmental organisations (NGOs), other entities and individuals focused on human rights and public interest work. This includes providing resources, funding, expertise, and networks to enhance the work of these organisations, both at the governmental and grass-roots level. The NLS also aims to monitor the actions of governments and pressure them to act according to human rights principles.

## ***D. Facilitating Good Governance and Respect for the Rule of Law***

The NLS aims to facilitate good governance and respect for the rule of law in Nigeria, through its laudable activities such as advocacy for law reform and initiatives geared towards strengthening of democratic institutions. These initiatives help to promote transparency and accountability, foster ethical conduct among public officials, and ensure rule of law adherence.

## ***E. Promotion of Welfare of Legal Practitioners***

The duty of legal practitioners demands sharp critical thinking, adaptability, and an unwavering ability to perform under pressure. Thus, to guarantee optimal performance within the Nigerian society, it is vital to prioritize the welfare of lawyers.



The NLS aids lawyers in achieving balance by prioritizing mental health, wellness, and stress support of its members and legal practitioners in general. In addition, the NLS advocates for better working conditions, fair compensation, and social benefits for legal practitioners. Furthermore, the community building among lawyers in the NLS promotes networking and camaraderie, with resources and guidance for navigating professional challenges.

#### Concluding Remarks

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights activist, once said:

***"Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better."***

The role of the lawyer whether in practice before the Court or in offering legal advice has always been to jealously defend the law and to use his or her courage, passion and integrity to push for necessary law reforms for the purpose of improvement in various spheres of the society. The role of the lawyer generally entails helping the society to achieve orderliness, peaceful co-existence and the protection of the fundamental rights of members of the society. The legal profession is one of the instruments vide which the society is planned and the general pattern of behaviour or norms of members of the society regulated. Suffice it to state that legal professionals are not only concerned with the stimulation of the courtroom contest but they also perform, promote and advocate socially responsible acts amongst themselves as professionals for the benefit of the wider society.

In the same vein, the NLS, being a community of legal practitioners, is committed to the advancement of the Nigerian society as evidenced by its multifaceted role discussed above. Through its tireless efforts, selfless service and invaluable contributions, the NLS has earned its place as an indispensable asset to the Nigerian society.

Finally, I leave us with the wise words of Janet Reno, the first female and 78<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of the United States of America, thus:

***"Being a lawyer is not merely a vocation. It is a public trust, and each of us has an obligation to give back to our communities."***

Thank you.

## SIGHTS AND SCENES

Courtesy visit by the Trustees and Management Team of Newgate University, Minna on Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Chancellor, Newgate University, Minna, at J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN welcoming the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Mallam Hassan Nuhu and the Management of Newgate University



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN receiving his letter of appointment as pioneer Chancellor, from Mallam Hassan Nuhu, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Newgate University, Minna



L-R: Prof. Yusuf Sadik; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Mallam Hassan Nuhu, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Newgate University, Minna



L-R: Onyekachi Eluwa, Sarah Atumga and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama



L-R: Chidi Mark Agbo, Chidera Mgbe, and Jerry Ombugadu Musa



A tour of the firm's Hon. Justice Niki Tobi Moot Court with the Trustees and Management of Newgate University, Minna



A tour of the firm's Hon. Justice Mohammed L. Uwais Library with the Trustees and Management of Newgate University, Minna



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (middle); Mallam Hassan Nuhu (3rd left) with some of the guests and staff of J-K Gadzama LLP





## **An Interview with Ignatius Ozoilo, our Visiting Associate, UK Office and Legal Drafter with 8PP, Barristers & Associates, Liverpool**

*Ignatius Ozoilo brings international perspective and deep legal experience to the 8PP team. In this blog, he shares the unique path that led him from Nigeria to Liverpool, why versatility has been key to his legal career, and how staying grounded in his values helps him balance both advocacy and family life.*

### **What first inspired you to pursue law?**

Growing up in Nigeria, I always had a strong sense of justice and curiosity about how systems work. Law felt like the right way to channel that. I first had a shot at it in England and Wales before getting qualified in Nigeria – it was a decision driven by ambition, but also a belief that I had more to learn. Law is different in every jurisdiction, and I was eager to understand it from multiple perspectives.

### **How did your legal journey bring you to the UK?**

Before arriving in the UK, I lived in the Netherlands for several years. My wife and I met in Amsterdam, and it was during that time that I obtained Dutch citizenship. That played a crucial role in shaping the next step of my journey.

In 2004, I moved to the UK to study law at the University of Liverpool. It wasn't a perfectly mapped-out plan – more a combination of determination and timing. I'd applied to several UK universities and received offers, but it was only when I acquired my Dutch passport that studying here became financially possible. Liverpool made an offer, and that became the door that opened.

After graduating in 2007, I completed the Bar Vocational Course and was called to the English Bar in 2008. Pupillage didn't come easily, but I kept working – taking on roles that allowed me to build experience across a wide range of legal areas. That open-mindedness has served me well.

### **What kind of legal work have you done over the years?**

In both Nigeria and the UK, I've worked across multiple practice areas: immigration, employment, commercial contracts, consumer credit, data protection, family, housing disrepair, and construction. In Nigeria, you're trained to be a generalist – it's a "jack of all trades" legal culture—and I brought that mindset with me to the UK.

I've represented clients in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in places like Manchester, Bradford, and London. Plus I'm particularly proud of several cases:



FTT Appeal No: HU/02373 – UBN v Entry Clearance Officer, where the appeal was allowed  
UT Appeal – CO v SSHD, where I successfully applied for an injunction to halt deportation  
Johnson v Eastlight Community Homes Ltd [2021] EWHC 3069 (QB) – I produced the statement of case in this data protection claim. The case helped clarify that the de minimis concept applies under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (“GDPR”) and Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA 2018”), and it is a key precedent around damages and distress.

### **You also practise law in Nigeria – how do you balance that with your UK work?**

I was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 2014. The legal system there weaves pupillage into the qualification process, so I’ve had full rights of audience from day one. I still return to Nigeria periodically to work with J-K Gadzama LLP in Abuja, one of the country’s largest and most respected chambers.

It’s important for me to stay connected to my roots, and practising there sharpens my advocacy skills. It’s a very different environment, but it keeps me grounded and reminds me how far I’ve come.

### **What brought you to 8PP?**

Before joining 8PP, I’d worked on a range of litigation projects including housing disrepair, cavity wall insulation, and undisclosed commission cases. That experience helped prepare me for the work I do now.

What stood out about 8PP was the collaborative ethos. It’s a modern chambers, and there’s a genuine openness to different perspectives and pathways into law. For someone like me, with a non-traditional route, that means a lot.

### **What’s your next goal professionally?**

I’m currently looking to complete my UK pupillage, which will allow me to practise fully on my feet. In validation of my professional achievements, the Bar Standards Board granted me a six-month pupillage dispensation – meaning I’m eligible for a shortened programme: four months non-practising, and two months practising.

Beyond that, I want to continue supporting clients across both jurisdictions. My goal has always been to help people navigate the legal system with clarity and empathy, and I want to keep doing that – whether in an English court or a Nigerian courtroom.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I enjoy finding practical solutions for clients and helping them feel heard. People come to you often at a difficult point in their lives, and it means something to guide them through that process.

Also, I love the law itself. I'm committed to staying up to date with developments in procedure, regulation, and case law. There's always more to learn.

### **You're known for being quite stylish – tell us more!**

I do like to dress well – it's part of presenting yourself professionally, but also something I enjoy personally. I have a real thing for shoes, and I've found some great designer pairs at TK Maxx, thanks to my wife! I'm not about labels, but I do appreciate quality – and a good fit. If it works with a sharp suit, I'm happy.

### **What does life look like outside of work?**

Family is everything. My wife and I met in Amsterdam over 20 years ago and married in 2004. We've built a life in Liverpool together, and it's been a great place to raise our three children. My daughter is working towards a career in medicine, my son is interested in engineering, and my youngest is already making a name for himself as a sprinter and gymnast.

Most recently in gymnastics, he competed in the F:G Q1 All-Elite Group event, where he placed 5th. That result has qualified him for the regional qualifier, where he'll compete alongside athletes from all regional groups at levels 1–4 and Development Group 3 at club level. It's been exciting to watch his confidence and talent grow with every performance.

Last year, we had the opportunity to travel to Nigeria as a family. It was the first time we'd all gone together, and it was an incredible experience – full of culture, reconnection, and quality time with extended family. It meant a lot to me that the children could see where I'm from and experience that part of their heritage first-hand.

At home, I do a lot of the cooking, especially when my wife's on shift as a recovery nurse. I like being hands-on and doing the shopping with the kids. It's a different kind of routine from legal work, but just as rewarding.

Outside of family and work, I'm also a lifelong music enthusiast. I have a broad spectrum of tastes – on any given day you might catch me listening to Coldplay, Rihanna, or something completely different. I also really enjoy sport, particularly football and tennis – it's a great way to unwind and stay active.

### **Final thoughts?**

I've come a long way from where I started, and I'm grateful for every step. My path hasn't always been straightforward, but it's been rich with experience and growth. I believe in being open – open to people, to learning, to change. That's what's guided me so far, and it's what keeps me moving forward.

## PHOTO SPEAK



The Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Hon. Justice John Ter-hemba Tsoho, OFR honored Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with a Golden Jubilee Lapel Pin



Mr. Femi Meshe and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN during a courtesy visit on the latter



Gideon Agbedo and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama at the 127th Philippine Independence Day Reception at Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Abuja Continental Hotel



L-R: Sarah Jeta Atumga; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Prof. Isa Chiroma, DG Nigerian Law School and Memabasi Udowolima at the 2025 Pan African Lawyers Union Annual Conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire



Our Founding Principal Partner, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN speaking on the panel titled, "Regional Mechanisms for Alternative Dispute Resolution in Africa: Strengthening Justice, and Building Legal Capacity" at the 2025 Pan African Lawyers Union Annual Conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire



Our Senior Associate, Sarah Jeta Atumga moderating the panel titled, "Defending the Right to Food in a Changing Climate: Legal Perspectives on Food Security and Biodiversity Loss in Africa" at the 2025 Pan African Lawyers Union Annual Conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire



A group picture of the participants after Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN panel at the 2025 Pan African Lawyers Union Annual Conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire



2025 Pan African Lawyers Union Annual Conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire Golf Champion, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN receiving the Overall Trophy from Captain N. Brown





## Words on Marble

Each man has to find out why he was created, has to find out how do I achieve my purpose. At the end of creation, how do I make a positive impact on my age, on my nation, on my family. If you do that, you are living a footprint for those coming behind to follow.

**- Justice Chukwudifu Oputa**

The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings, capable of laws where there is no law, there is no freedom.

**– John Lock**

No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not asked as a favor.

**– Theodore Roosevelt**

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

**– Mark Twain**

Extend to each person, no matter how trivial the contact, all the care and kindness and understanding and love that you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same.

**– OG Mandino**



## NEWS

## FROM THE FIRM

- Newgate University, Minna, appointed Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, SAN (Life Bencher), as its pioneer Chancellor. Malam Hassan Nuhu (Mayanan Minna), Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, highlighted Chief Gadzama's distinguished legal career and his notable contributions to the legal profession, education, and national development. He described Chief Gadzama's appointment as a strategic step in the University's mission to deepen its leadership and impact in the higher education landscape.
- Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, SAN, Life Bencher, Founding Principal Partner of J-K Gadzama LLP, congratulates John Alfred Nwafor, Ph.D, CLN on his conferment with Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Nwafor, who has been the librarian of Hon. Justice M.L Uwais GCON CJN (RTD), a full fledged physical and e-law library, at J-K Gadzama LLP, was among the 14 graduands who were conferred with Doctors of Philosophy in Library Science by the senate of University of Calabar, during the university's 37th combined convocation ceremony and 50th anniversary, held from March 17 to 22, 2025.
- Mohammed L. Uwais Library of J-K Gadzama LLP mourns the passing of a towering jurist, a constitutional colossus, and a beacon of judicial integrity, the late Honourable Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais, GCON, former Chief Justice of Nigeria. The Mohammed L. Uwais Library, bearing his name, stands as a testament to his dedication to legal scholarship and the advancement of jurisprudence. We are deeply honored to carry his legacy forward, one built not on personal glory, but on tireless service to justice and the rule of law.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Nigerian Law Society Annual General Conference (Hybrid)

23rd - 26th July, 2025, Abuja, Nigeria

Nigerian Bar Association Annual General Conference,

22nd - 29th August, 2025, Enugu, Nigeria

African Bar Association (AfAA) 2025 Annual Conference

19th - 23rd October, 2025, Accra, Ghana

J-K Gadzama LLP 9th Annual Moot and Mock Trial, October, 2025

At the Hon. Justice Niki Tobi, JSC Moot Court

18th J-K Gadzama LLP Annual Public Lecture, 29th October, 2025

International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference,

2nd - 7th November, 2025, Toronto, Canada

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (C.Arb.) Nigeria Branch Annual Conference

and Gala Night, 12th - 14th November, 2025, Lagos, Nigeria

26th J-K Gadzama LLP Staff End-of-Year Party and 11th Christmas

Carol Event, 12th December, 2025, Abuja, Nigeria



# OUR PEOPLE

## Partners

1. Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DipICArb, FNICArb, FCIArb, C.Arb.  
Founding Principal Partner
2. Mohammed Monguno, ACIArb  
Senior Partner/Fmr. Attorney General of Borno State
3. Darlington Onyekwere, LL.M, MCIArb, ABR  
Managing Partner
4. Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, LL.M (Warwick), MCIArb., MICMC  
Partner
5. Jerry Ombugadu Musa, LL.M, CDRS, ABR  
Junior Partner
6. Oluniyi Adediji, ACTI, ABR  
Junior Partner
7. Agbo Mark Chidi, MCIArb., ABR  
Junior Partner
8. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama, ACIArb., AICMC  
Junior Partner
9. Chidera Mgbe, ABR  
Junior Partner

## Senior Associates

1. John Echezona Unachukwu
2. Sarah Jeta Atumga

Practice Manager  
Linda Havi Shaljaba

Office Manager  
Sunday Ali Dzarma

## Visiting Associate

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

Accountant  
Fidelis Edache, ACA

## Associates

1. Onyekachi Agbonma Eluwa
2. Hajara M. S. Sorondinki
3. Simon Tabji Baltai
4. Gideon Ohiani Agbedo
5. Iyie Bright Kememe
6. Victor Daniel Okon

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IT Personnel  
Bonidefaiye Friday Dayo  
Israel Izuchukwu Chieke

## Junior Associates

1. Mark Asu-Obi
2. Abubakar Ali Kachallah
3. Ibukunoluwa Thompson Samuel
4. Rifkatu Ali
5. Chidera Madumere
6. Precious Moses

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# JICAM

JANADA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARBITRATION & MEDIATION



Janada International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (JICAM) was established in 2015. It is a dispute resolution centre in Abuja, designed to promote a suitable forum for the resolution of domestic and international disputes. It is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. The rules and guidelines for JICAM accommodate both *ad hoc* and institutional arbitration.

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