

J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER

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Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Chairman at the event (4th left); Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, ODN, Professor of Constitutional Law, Nasarawa State University, Keffi (4th right); Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Principal Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP (3rd left); Mrs. Fatima Lawan Muhtar, Esq., Secretary & Legal Adviser, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) (2nd left); Ms. Prada O. Uzodimma, Esq., Founder, Prada Uzodimma Law School Scholarship Grant (PUSG) (3rd right); Gabriel Iorsase, Special Assistant to the Honourable Minister of State for Power (2nd right); Mohammed Monguno, Consulting Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP (left) and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, Partner/Head, Dispute Resolution Department, J-K Gadzama LLP (right) with some staff of J-K Gadzama LLP and Participants at the J-K Gadzama LLP 10th Hon. Justice Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers, held on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

Editorial

In this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter is a paper “Starting Strong: Pathway for Young Attorneys of 0-9 Post Call Experience by Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, OON, Professor of Constitutional Law, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, delivered at the J-K Gadzama LLP 10th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja.

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://jkgadzamallp.com/publications/newsletters>.

Editorial Team

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of 0-9 Years Post Call Experience
By Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, OON

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STARTING STRONG: PATHWAY FOR YOUNG ATTORNEYS OF 0-9 YEARS POST CALL EXPERIENCE

Keynote Address by



Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, OON

Professor of Constitutional Law, Nasarawa
State University, Keffi

At the J-K Gadzama LLP 10th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd)
Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers
on Saturday, March 22, 2025

PROTOCOLS:

Indeed, I consider it a wonderful privilege, honour and opportunity given to me to deliver this Keynote address at this professional and mentoring programme for young lawyers.

I thank profusely the Founding Principal Partner, Chief J-K Gadzama, SAN and by extension the entire management of J.K Gadzama LLP for doing me the honour of inviting me to this event as a Keynote Speaker. It is very gratifying to note that the law firm of J-K Gadzama LLP has been consistent in championing this worthy course of mentoring and training our young attorneys for the past decade or so, towards professionalism and excellence in the practice of the law.

I must further confess that I felt very comforted too when I realized that the theme for the event is "STARTING STRONG: Pathway for Young Attorneys-0-9 Years Post Call Experience: It would therefore be imperative to define some of the major concepts or key words we would be using here, namely: (i) "Starting Strong" and (ii) "Pathway".

MEANING OF "STARTING STRONG".

Many lexicons, notably from AI overview defines "Starting Strong" to mean "beginning something with a lot of energy, purpose and a positive, impactful first impression, setting a strong foundation for future success". To start strong is to have the believe that regardless of the circumstances of your journey that the end result will be worth every obstacle that you will face.

Another component of a "strong start" is that it helps you build self-belief and confidence. The end goal of starting strong is to finish strong.

"PATHWAY". The Cambridge Dictionary defines pathway as a track that constitutes or serves as a path-way of achieving a specified result or a course of action. Thus pathway in this context refers to some sort of a route or way to achieving your set goals in the legal profession and staying afloat till the end.

BRIEF ACCOUNT ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION TODAY IN NIGERIA

A recent publication of the Nigerian Bar Association website states that today Nigeria has over 200,000 lawyers on its roll with the Nigerian Law School churning out above 5,000 lawyers yearly. While we boast of being one of the largest Bar Associations in Africa, we are still crying of being one of the most

under paid professionals in the country with many lawyers seeking to resort to ambulance chasing civil disputes, charge and bail cases and recovery of debts as sources of income. This shows that many young lawyers are not properly advised and they require the assistance and knowledgeable individuals to mentor or guide them. Thus, I commend the firm of J.K. Gadzama LLP for taking the initiative to proffer solutions to these lingering challenges through this sort of mentoring programmes.

The legal profession is made up of 2 major components – advocacy and solicitorship. Our training as lawyers exposes us to these 2 components, resulting in choices being made after graduation. Depending on the choices made, there are several heights that can be attained in the field of law, as follows:

- i. The Bench
- ii. The Bar
- iii. The Academia
- iv. Corporate Practice and
- v. Executive and Legislative Appointments.

However, those who are passionate about the legal system have other wide choices of employment opportunities available to them in the large field of law. Lawyers can work in various settings, including law firms, corporates, government agencies, non-profit organizations and in private practice.

Nonetheless, in Nigerian legal market, there are three major areas or fields where the vast number of lawyers churned out by the Nigerian law school each year have gone to work, because focus is majorly on these areas where we have the misplaced notion that there are too many lawyers in Nigeria. These include:

- i. Lawyers in general practice
- ii. Judges and other judicial officers and
- iii. Law Professors and scholars.

It is quite disappointing that many lawyers believe that these are the only viable career options, especially in a world where opportunities that we didn't even know existed a few years ago are now opening. Many attorneys I meet believe that their decision to pursue a career in law has limited their options, but this is untrue because the 21st century has created a plethora of opportunities in variety of fields that lawyers can genuinely explore.

NEW PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

In the beginning, legal practice used to be limited to courtroom practice but now, due to the impact of civilization, technology and a number of other factors, the frontiers of the legal profession have expanded worldwide. In any area where there is innovation, there will always be a need for compliance with the law. As long as human relationships and social/business interactions exist, the legal profession will continue to thrive and evolve with emerging trends to accommodate present realities. Career options in the legal profession now include and are not limited to the following: Dispute Resolution, Corporate/Commercial Practice, Banking and Debt Finance Law, Charity Law, Commercial law, Construction law, Consumer law, space law, Fintech and Intellectual Property law, Employment law, Environmental law, Family law, Human Rights Law, Immigration Law, Insurance Law, Entertainment Law, Property law, Shipping law, Tax Law; Competition Law, the list is inexhaustible.

(1) ICT & LAW PRACTICE

More advanced societies have absorbed the use of technology in the work with law firms and even to provide quicker access to advisory for their clients, so even the technology business benefits from the attorneys who have taken the time to acquire other skills like User interface (UI) and User experience (UX) design. Knowledge of app design is a good route to go for lawyers who are not accustomed to the demands of a law firm and the massive documents we must analyze daily as well as those who want to feast on the meat of the digital wave.

In addition to the conventional talents taught in law schools and handed down through the years, their skill sets will include a sizable understanding of technology, resource management, and process management. There are several career paths that lawyers can take in technology depending on their interests and goals. Some practice areas that require lawyers with experience and interest in these areas include financial technology, financial services regulation, data privacy, consumer protection and payments law, experience with the consumer protection Financial Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission, Health-care regulation and compliance, or health information generally, privacy ethics and cybersecurity, e-commerce, licensing and technology transfer.

This is a growing aspect of law, and it is not surprising that many young lawyers are venturing into this field as it has a lot of growth potential. ICT law (as it is fondly called) by itself is a wide area of practice. It encompasses everything from

privacy and data protection to intellectual property, financial technology, etc. The catch for young lawyers in ICT is enormous because it is a developing area in Nigeria, and if there is going to be a perfect time for young lawyers to position themselves to make use of the lucrative aspect of legal practice, the perfect time is now.

(2) THE ACADEMIA

Another area that a lawyer can specialize in is the area of lecturing. The teaching profession has always been with us. And as far as we have lawyers, the profession of law lecturing will never cease to exist. The position of a law lecturers has even been made more succinct by the decision of the court of Appeal in **Plateau State University vs. GRACE Joseph & Ors**⁴ where it was held that it is only a law lecturer who is a civil servant that is barred from engaging in private legal practice but a law lecturer whose employment is with a Federal, State or Local Government educational institution, which is rather employment in the 'public service of the Federation' is permitted to engage in legal practice. It is equally important as long as they do not allow their private practice to conflict with their work as University lecturers, particularly their job of teaching and mentoring the students.

(3) THE IMPORTANCE OF PUPILAGE

All these areas of practice afford one an opportunity to grow, excel and earn a living. However, I will be quick to emphasize the importance of pupillage in the growth process of a young lawyer, regardless of any field one chooses. In the early days or years of law practice, a young lawyer would be trying out several things for the very first time. He or she may not possess the necessary skillset, decorum, analytical and critical thinking ability that is required yet. This is why a period of learning under an experienced master is very important. During pupillage, a lawyer's reasoning skills are properly groomed for critical thinking, which is necessary for developing strategies to provide solutions in any aspect of law.

ADVICE TO YOUNG LAWYERS ON “STARTING STRONG” IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Lawyers called to the Nigerian Bar recently face many challenges. These challenges can be overcome to a greater or lesser degree in the fullness of time. Some of the challenges arising are rooted in economic considerations. Others stem from political and social factors. Some of them will be within your control, others either not so at all or only to a very limited degree.

The personal challenges that most people will face will be those of lack of knowledge, of experience, of goodwill, of wealth and of resolve. However, there is an important challenge that is prior to all of these and should not be overlooked: the challenge of clarity. Let me start with it.

Before I do so, let me try to summarize the broad background to all of the challenges. The world that you will step out into after you get called to the Bar is a harsh and competitive world. To the best of my knowledge and belief, over 5,000 new lawyers will be called to the Nigerian every year, and there are already more than 200,000 living lawyers who have already been called to the Bar.

These large numbers of lawyers work in an economy that is much weaker than it should be. Decent work for most of them is not readily available. Only a very limited number of organizations can and do train young lawyers well and are able to pay them satisfactorily while they are still being trained. And both while getting trained and after the demands of family life and economic well-being will remain constant distractions.

It is important to understand that you will have many career options. It is critical that you should understand that there is absolutely no shame or failure in pursuing options that will not make you a famous Senior Advocate who appears regularly before the Supreme Court and is frequently invited to speak to the press on constitutional matters. Keep an open mind about the options and do not rush into long-term decisions about them. You do not need to make permanent decisions about them immediately.

Each of these options to work as a lawyer can be carried on with a deep sense of self fulfillment, honour and economic reward. It is a fundamental mistake to think that being the famous, media savvy, Senior Advocate that I have mentioned is the one end to which all of your aims must be subordinated.

There are also numerous options for a lawyer to work with fulfillment, honour and economic reward but not as a lawyer. You can be a full-time parent, teacher or writer in another field, a politician, a religious cleric, a civil servant, a business executive, an entrepreneur or a promoter of noble causes.

And bear in mind that even within law, there are today areas of law that were not there at all until fairly recently for example, solar energy law, the law relating to governmental fiscal responsibility, humanitarian law, the law relating to chemical weapons, the law relating to privacy, the internet and information technology. You can be sure that many areas of law unknown to me and you

today will begin to emerge in the near future and will open up their own fresh vistas of career options.

Understandably, in your early years at the Bar, you are likely to lack clarity as to your career options. You will have had little exposure to most of the options that I have mentioned above while you were in university or at the law school. You will have also encountered job fairs excursions, vacation jobs, interactions with former senior students in your university, older lawyers and so forth. These may have done much to make you significantly less ignorant than many of your contemporaries, but nothing can make you as well-informed as you ideally should be.

If you have not yet taken advantage of these opportunities, please begin to do so without delay. As much as practicable, explore the career options that I have mentioned before you commit fully to a particular path. When you have done so, you will have addressed the challenge of clarity, the challenge of knowing what your options are.

When you know the options well, you will be equipped to address the challenges of ignorance, and of deciding what to do and doing it. My advice is to identify what gives you the deepest cause of fulfillment, what your family obligations priorities are and what your preferred lifestyle economics are. Having decided what to focus on, pursue it with enthusiasm and diligence. That is what is meant by starting strong.

I have also mentioned the challenges of governance, experience, goodwill and wealth. When you get called to the Bar, you will know far, far less law than you think you do. At say, three years at the Bar, you will definitely not know much that you will have come to know twenty years later, and you will most likely not know things that many lawyers with your level of talent but more years at the Bar will know. You should therefore seek earnestly to increase in knowledge. To address the challenge of ignorance. You can do this by listening, by watching, by reading. Perhaps more importantly, you should also address the challenge by doing work, by asking questions and by reflecting deeply on whatever you can.

If you can get to study for a postgraduate degree in a developed country, do so. This is both to acquire additional technical skills and to broaden your horizons and exposure. Do everything you can to make yourselves familiar with, and abreast of developments in, the possibilities that modern information technology offers.

If you can get a mentor, get one. If you can get more than one, by all means do so. Listen to them, watch them and question them frequently. Borrow their books and read, and return, the books. Wander around in their libraries. Stare at their bookshelves. Seize every opportunity to grow in knowledge that comes your way. Meet the challenge of lacking goodwill by growing the quantity and quality of the colleagues, lay actors and governmental players in your chosen new fields of endeavor. Identify them, seek introductions to them, meet them, interact with them and stay in touch with them.

Write professional papers or books. Publish your work if you can and try to do socially impactful work in addition to your strictly professional activities. Join associations and, within them, volunteer for memberships of serious committees and to hold office, and be diligent as members of such committees or holders of such offices. In meeting the challenges of lacking goodwill, do not underestimate the importance of doing good of caring for others and of being seen to be trustworthy, honest and selfless. Maintaining your reputation for integrity is critical.

Otherwise what you will have is notoriety or fame rather than widespread respect and praise, a wide circle of fickle acquaintances rather than a productive and supportive network of friends and loyalists. Do not think that you will get away with cheating, lying, cutting corners or self-centeredness. People will find you out if you act less than honourably, and then you will become the object of ridicule rather than a subject of emulation.

Regarding the challenge of economic wealth, reconcile yourself early to the fact that, luck or dishonesty aside, you will need persistence and hard work if you plan to pursue a career whether as a lawyer or not. It takes time to become successful as a practitioner because it takes time to accumulate the knowledge, experience and reputation that typically underpin financial success in most careers.

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I started out in 1984 after my graduation from the Nigerian law school 40 years ago with a stint at the law firm of A. O. Arulogun & Co. Chambers in Port Harcourt during the NYSC programme. I was enjoying the law practice with the exposure we were given there, until a telephone call from the late Professor Niki Tobi (as he then was) of blessed memory, that invited me to come and take up an appointment as an Assistant Lecturer with the Faculty of Law, University of Maiduguri. On assumption of work, the following year I was offered scholarship

to proceed to the prestigious University of Warwick, Coventry in the United Kingdom for my LL.M and Ph.D in law in 1987 and 1992 respectively.

On my return from the United Kingdom, I went back to teach at the University of Maiduguri where I rose from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer 1. From 1995 – 1997 I was appointed Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice in Adamawa State.

On my return to the University after my first political appointment I became a Senior Lecturer in 1998 and in the same year, I transferred my services to the Nigerian Law School from University of Maiduguri in 1999 and after lecturing there for one session I was appointed Senior Special Assistant to Former President Obasanjo and former Vice President Atiku Abubakar respectively from 1999 – 2007.

In 2008 I returned to the academia and took up a lecturing appointment at the Nasarawa State University Keffi. It was at Nasarawa State University Keffi that I got appointed to the rank of Dean of Faculty of Law and got promoted to the position of Associate Professor and Professor of law in 2008 and 2011 respectively. By the time I got my professorship I had already published 5 books, 6 edited journals and over 50 articles in peer reviewed journals locally and internationally in addition to my political appointments.

In the process of all these I took advantage of the opportunity given to law lecturers to both teach law and practice at the same time and registered my private law firm in partnership with a learned colleague of mine under the name "Sui Juris Chambers" where we were solely engaged in solicitorship and consultancy matters. I became a Notary public in 2017.

My experiences set out above were multifaceted, engaging, challenging and technical, thought provoking and immensely satisfying. However, although I had many defining moments in my legal career, these were not as important to me as the teaching and mentoring I gave to the over one thousand lawyers in my forty years post call experience. Such mentoring will stay with me throughout my life especially the day some of my students graduated with First Class honours from the Nigerian Law School. On this note, I would like to thank the following who were my mentors: Late Justice Niki Tobi JSC, Late Professor Ben Nwabueze SAN, Late Professor C. Okonkwo SAN, Late Professor Joe Irukwu, Professor Musa Yakubu SAN, Late Professor Kharisu Chukol Professor Hugh Beale, Professor Yash ghai, Professor R.C. Channgani and Professor Nnamdi Aduba. May the souls of all my late mentors rest in perfect peace.

CONCLUSION

The legal profession as you can see is dynamic and opportunities abound, but one must be prepared to work hard in order to seize them. Like we say in law “Equity does not aid the indolent but the vigilant.” To succeed in your chosen legal career, you must be focused, have a clear direction of where you are going, be disciplined and determined not be sucked in by the challenges around you. Most young lawyers aspire to be outstanding and not merely good lawyers.

However to achieve this, young lawyers must realize that although learning the law is relatively straight forward, it is harder to activate the other qualities and skills that lead to success. Young lawyers must also realize that while their employers will provide training, they bear the ultimate responsibility for their professional development.

Finally my charge to you all can be summed up in the words of the famous author David Yarde thus: “Start strong, stay strong and finish strong.” Once again, I heartily appreciate the opportunity given to me by the Founding Partner of J-K Gadzama LLP to share my insights and experience in the legal profession with these young attorneys.

SIGHTS AND SCENES

J-K Gadzama LLP 10th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers held at J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja on Saturday, March 22, 2025



Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria delivering the Chairman's remarks



Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, ODN Professor of Constitutional Law, Nasarawa State University, Keffi delivering the Keynote Address



Mrs. Fatima Lawan Muhtar, Esq., Secretary & Legal Adviser, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) delivering her paper



Gabriel Iorsase, Special Assistant to the Honourable Minister of State for Power representing Dr. Steven Andzenge, MON



Ms. Prada O. Uzodimma, Esq., Founder, Prada Uzodimma Law School Scholarship Grant (PUSG) delivering her paper



The Host, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Principal Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP, giving the welcome remarks



L-R: Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, Jerry Ombugadu Musa and Mohammed Monguno, former Attorney General of Borno State



L-R: Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Gabriel Iorsase; Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR; Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, ODN and Mrs. Fatima Lawan Muhtar, Esq.

SIGHTS AND SCENES

J-K Gadzama LLP 10th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers held at J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja on Saturday, March 22, 2025



A cross-section of participants



One of the participants asking a question during the event



Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, OON taking questions and engaging with the participants



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting a plaque to Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR, Chairman at the event



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting a plaque to Mrs. Fatima Lawan Muhtar



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting the Certificate of Participation to Thompson Ibukunoluwa



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting the Certificate of Participation to Zainab Abdulsalam



L-R: Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Mrs. Fatima Lawan Muhtar, Esq.; Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR; Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, OON; Ms. Prada O. Uzodimma, Esq. and Gabriel Iorsase



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

PHOTO SPEAK



The new Chairman of the Body of Benchers of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, FMR, CJN, GCON with Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN at the Body of Benchers Complex, Abuja



Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, CJN, GCON; Chief Adegboyega S. Awomolo, SAN; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Chief Mela Nunghe, SAN with FCT Minister, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike during a courtesy visit to the Minister's office, Abuja



L-R: Dalington Onyekwere, Cornacchini Carlo Alberto and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama at Saipem's Lagos office



L-R: Dalington Onyekwere, Oluniyi Adediji and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama at the J-K Gadzama LLP's Lagos office



L-R: Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, Parmata Jantiku Obed and Amb. Obed Wadzani during the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC) Annual Conference and 25th Anniversary, which held in Abuja, Nigeria.



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Mr. Francis Oronsaye, Former Managing Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP during the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC) Annual Conference and 25th Anniversary, which held in Abuja, Nigeria.



L-R: Mark Chidi Agbo, Linda Shaljaba, Mrs. Mimi Onyekwere, Dalington Onyekwere, Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama and Chidera Mgbe during a courtesy visit to Dalington Onyekwere's residence on the arrival of their new baby boy.



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN receiving a plaque from Comptroller (Mrs) Saratu Wadinda Mamza, Area Controller, Lagos Industrial Area Command (LIAC)



NEWS

FROM THE FIRM

- Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama, Junior Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP, former Legal Adviser of the NBA-Abuja Young Lawyers Forum and Nigeria's representative to the Young Lawyers Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA-YLC), has been officially sworn into the Third Appellate Division of the New York Bar. He's now qualified to practice law in both New York and Nigeria, cementing his reputation as a global legal professional.
- Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN was conferred with life council membership by the African Bar Association (AfBA), The well-deserved conferment recognizes Chief Gadzama's already giant strides in the development of Africa's legal systems and further compliments the Learned Silk's tireless efforts toward the advancement of unity among the various Bar Associations and Law Societies in Africa.
- The firm hosted its 10th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Annual Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers. The event chaired by Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar, JSC, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, featured Prof. Maxwell M. Gidado, SAN, OON, Professor of Constitutional Law, Nasarawa State University, Keffi. Theme: Starting Strong: Pathway for Young Attorneys of 0-9 Years Post Call Experience at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

9th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Africa Conference on International Arbitration, 28th - 30th May, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya

PALU Annual Conference and Triennial General Assembly, 25th - 27th June, 2025, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Nigerian Law Society Annual General Conference (Hybrid) 23rd - 26th July, 2025, Ibadan, Oyo, 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

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

Visiting Associate

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

Office Manager
Sunday Ali Dzarma

Associates

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

Librarian
John A. Nwafor, Ph.D, MLIS, BLIS, ND, AESM, ITIL, LRCN (Certified)

IT Personnel
Bonidefaiye Friday Dayo
Israel Izuchukwu Chieke

Junior Associates

1. Racheal Ayorinde
2. Mark Asu-Obi
3. Abubakar Ali Kachallah
4. Ibukunoluwa Thompson Samuel

Juris Consult
Hon. Justice Alfa Modibbo Belgore, CJN (RTD), GCON
(Former Chief Justice of Nigeria)

Hon. Justice George A. Oguntade, J.S.C (RTD), CON

Senior Consultant
Prof. Paul Idornigie, SAN, PhD, FCIS, FCIArb, C.Arb

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.

OUR SERVICES

1. Appointing Authority
2. Fund Managers
3. Hearings
4. Secretarial/Administrative Services
5. Case Management
6. Video Conferencing (Cisco Webex/Zoom, etc.)
7. Transcription
8. Recording Services
(360 Systems' New Instant Replay2,
Networked Digital Audio, 1000 Audio Cuts
at your fingertips, Instant Sound Effect,
Instant Music)

CONTACT US

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@JicamCentre @JICAM

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a neutral venue for the resolution of both Domestic and International disputes; and encourage the settlement of disputes from Corporate, Domestic, International Trade, Investment and other Transactions.

VISION

To become the world's leading client-centric independent and efficient Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre.

OUR FACILITIES

1. Hearing Rooms
2. Conference/Seminar Hall
3. Arbitrators' Retiring Room
4. Claimants'/Respondents' Meeting Rooms
5. Waiting Room/Lounge
6. Food Court (The Dome)
7. Library/Resource Room
8. Individual HP pro display desktop for
Tribunal Secretary/Registrar
9. Wireless tabletop microphones
10. Interactive Digital Display Screen
11. Projector Screen
12. Shelving units
13. High Speed Internet Connection/WiFi
14. 18-Seater Bus
15. 24-Hours CCTV
16. Spacious car park with security



VOX POPULI FOUNDATION

Who are we?

The Vox Populi Foundation for Leadership was founded in the year 2010 and was incorporated in the year 2012 by its founder Chief J-K Gadzama OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FCI Arb. (UK) (of Lincolns Inn, Barrister/Life Bencher/CEDR Accredited Mediator). The Foundation is a Non-Profit making institution formed to deepen the understanding of democracy by carrying out structured programmes that promote positive leadership qualities and ideals in the society. This is because we believe that a society can only evolve when the people have the opportunity to contribute to the process of governance and have a voice in the creation of policies and laws that affect them as a people.

How do we do this?

We sincerely believe the best way to achieve this goal is to pursue initiatives that look at proffering solutions to the issues that interfere with governance. We look at utilizing the immense manpower of youths and able bodied people who are hungry to bring about a change in their society through direct engagement with society in a volunteer signup process, which is one of the mechanisms we intend to employ to secure citizens participation. This process of inclusion we believe will foster and build a common front that will enable people to improve on their understanding of what leadership connotes in their everyday lives and reinforce their commitment towards creating a better society.

Governance

Created with gifts by its founder Chief J-K Gadzama, the foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, with its own Board. The trustees of the foundation set policies and delegate authority to the Director General and senior staff for the foundation's operations. Zonal volunteer Heads in the 6 geo-political zones explore opportunities to pursue the foundation's goals and formulate strategies for action.

Location

The Foundation is headquartered in Abuja. It conducts its activities through an increasing pool of volunteers from across the country.



VOX POPULI FOUNDATION

ADDRESS: 1st Floor, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent
by Kobo Way, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Adjacent to Garki International
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Telephone: +234 (0) 815 656 5619

Our Vision

*to promote, protect and safeguard the tenets and ideals of democracy
leadership & good governance in our society.*

What is Our Goal?!

*to encourage citizens to participate in governance &
support a platform that will inspire proactive leadership
that will drive the
free flow of democratic ideals and social justice.*

Sign-up to Join and receive our e-mail Newsletter
and Special Notifications
Your information will be kept confidential and used
solely for our communications

Required Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ @

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Upon completing the information sheet, you can detach and send to our address above or you can email us on

info@voxpathulifoundation.org

for further enquiries, call us on

+234 (0) 8156565619 and +234 (0) 8091320558

follow us on <http://facebook.com/voxpathulifoundation>

&

tweet us @vpfoundcast



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