

OKEKE, MERARI UZODINMA

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Society for Corporate Governance Nigeria, Lagos

November 2019 till date

Position: Research Assistant

- Entered the organisation as a volunteer research assistant in March 2019 and transitioned into a full time employee.
- Was part of the team that worked on the Nigerian Code of Corporate Governance 2018, SEC Code 2011, the CBN Code for Banks and NAICOM Code towards a comparative excel spreadsheet on 7 regulatory Corporate Governance codes, based on 14 parameters, which is still being utilised by the Board Evaluation team.
- Created a Corporate Governance checklist cutting across the five parts of the Nigerian Code of Corporate Governance 2018.
- Supervised a team, out of which three belonged to a virtual team, towards the successful content development and production of the organisation's Company Secretary's Guide, second edition.
- Supervision of an undergraduate intern concerning creation of more than 10 articles, such as COVID-19 Pandemic: Emerging Board and Governance Considerations, the role of Independent Directors in promoting Corporate Governance Best Practices, Nigerian Observatory 2019 et cetera.
- Was a member of the team responsible for the successful content development and production of the organisation's Director's Handbook, second edition.
- Was responsible for the content development of the weekly CorpGov Report which included Corporate Governance news from around the world with takeaways and food for thought, sent to the organisation's database every Monday without fail.
- Was responsible for marketing and sales of the organisation's publications, during which 80 percent of the organisation's recalcitrant bookstores remitted payment for books earlier delivered.
- Conducting primary and secondary research for the organisation's physical and electronic publications with little supervision.

BloomForte Law Partners, Lagos

January 2019 – October 2019

Position: Legal Associate/Graduate Research Assistant (NYSC)

- Was part of the unit, that created the final written address for our client in a tenancy matter, revolving around the evolution of a fixed tenancy to a yearly tenancy.
- In the above case, I made a sole court appearance addressing the Magistrate concerning good faith steps taken by our client.
- I was involved in the drafting of various land and tenancy documents such as Notice to Quit, Demand for rent, Deed of Assignment, gift, and Writ for Possession, on behalf of our clients.
- Asides tenancy and land cases, I was involved in other matters such as, a member of the team representing our client in a civil dispute involving a Honk Kong Company at the High Court.
- I was tasked with examining the Claimant's written address and formulating arguments for our client's written address, during which, I observed that the Claimant's arguments rested solely on a Court of Appeal authority and discovered a Supreme Court decision on the same case, which resulted in the case being struck out by the court.
- The case is currently at the Court of Appeal and I drafted arguments which was a part of our client's (the Respondent's) brief.

- At the firm, I was also engaged as the principal partner's research assistant for his ongoing Ph.D. program, where I was exposed to and contributed to assignments, weekly exercises and projects on courses such as: Law and Public policy with a focus on Human trafficking, Governance, Legal Research and Leadership.

Punuka Attorneys and Solicitors, Lagos

August 2018 – September 2018

Position: Graduate Legal Intern

- I was part of the team tasked with discovering avenues which could improve the debt relief system in Nigeria, through which I discovered the United States' Stand-Still approach, which I presented to the Company Secretariat department team.

EDUCATION

B.L, Law

- Second Class Lower

The Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

(2017-2018)

LL. B, Law

- Second Class Honours
- CGPA of 3.6 on a scale of 5.0

Afe Babalola University, Ekiti.

(2012-2017)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

• DHA Foundation (Founded by Dr. Daisy Okonofua)

Member of the Operations and Legal committee of the not-for-profit organisation, where I have been exposed to tasks surrounding logistics, crowd control, and legal advice to indigent persons during the organisation's outreach programs such as the April 2019 Project End Hepatitis B medical outreach for the Igbo-Efon, Lekki indigent community.

• Diocese of Lagos West (Anglican Communion) Sunday School Teacher

Member of the volunteer teachers in the Diocese of Lagos West's summer program, responsible for impacting and equipping young minds within the ages of 11 to 16 years, on leadership and public speaking.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- High integrity, confidentiality and reliability;
- High proficiency in Information and Communications Technology skills;
- Self-motivated and ability to work extra hours with little or no supervision;
- Ability to work in a team with good inter-personal skills and ability to lead change;
- Possession of influencing, analytical, problem solving, communication and presentation skills;
- Ability to travel and work in diverse environments and remote locations.

REFEREES

- Available upon request.