

ZIKORAIFECHUKWU SOMTOO EBENEBE

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Nationality: Nigerian

PERSONAL SUMMARY

A multi-skilled commercial lawyer with experience cutting across commercial litigation, corporate transactions, company secretariat and compliance governance with key roles in finance and investments, labour & employment, financial technology, tax and human resource management etc. In her spare time she teaches financial literacy & impact investing, writes on contemporary legal issues and advocates for protection of the environment.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES & WORK EXPERIENCE

Self Employed, Riviera Solicitors 05/2019 - Present Lagos, Nigeria

- Company secretarial and Compliance support functions.
- Regulatory Reporting & Liaison functions.
- Employment & Labour Law Advisory services.
- Commercial Contracts Documentation.
- Intellectual Property and Data Protection advisory services.
- Commercial Litigation.
- Financial and investment advisory support services.

Associate, Lexavier Partners 02/2018- 04/2019 Lagos, Nigeria

- Advised an international private investor on a collaboration with the Lagos University Teaching Hospital for the establishment of a wellness and rehabilitation centre.
- Managed the company secretarial unit and facilitated regulatory filings to ensure compliance.
- Advised clients on data privacy compliance, management of breach & notification to data subjects, rights of data subjects, record keeping and created privacy policies for client businesses.
- Provide financial & investment advisory support services to clients.
- Advised clients on intellectual property rights protection and managed their trademark registrations.
- Successfully registered the interests of a top finance institution in the Netherlands over a mortgaged armoured vessel worth over €5,000,000.00 (Five Million Euros) at the relevant regulatory bodies.
- Served on a team as a debt recovery officer on behalf of AMCON and some commercial banks for a debt portfolio of N4, 300,000,000.00 (Four Billion, Three Hundred Million Naira) where my strategic input and use of my professional network led to a 10% boost in recoveries within three months of being assigned on the team.
- Carried out an audit/review of legacy debts of emerging commercial banks to cut dead weight on their non-performing loan portfolio.
- Worked with a team of lawyers nationwide for the publication of journals for a pioneer law report on AMCON matters.
- Advised a wide range of clientele on entry into various sectors of the economy and offered fit for purpose insight on commercial and policy issues affecting their businesses and facilitated contract negotiations.

- Supported the business development efforts of the firm by profiling prospective clients, prepared proposals and expression of interest letters.
- Carried out quality assurance review of the firms' corporate documentation and content. In addition, I carried out periodic internal and external process reviews/audit to ensure compliance with industry best practises.
- Actively engaged in discussions to set and drive cost & expense optimization strategies for the firm which saw a 20% rise in revenues.
- Set up accounting control mechanisms through new procedures that helped boost the firm's revenue retention by 30%.
- Provided legal advisory services (including review of tech-related agreements) for some of the largest mobile payment companies in Nigeria.

Associate, Primera Africa Legal 12/2016 - 01/2018 Lagos, Nigeria

- Provided legal support to Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) in a series of multi-billion Naira fund recovery in courts.
- A key member of the multi-disciplinary team that set up and managed an online legal service delivery platform; <https://mylaw.ng> which provides access to competent, fit for purpose and affordable legal services and commercial contracts for MSMEs.
- Performed executive support functions both in the recruitment process of interns, junior employees and in general office activities.
- I also carried out onboarding program and office Health and Safety trainings for new recruits (junior employees) and interns in the firm.
- Carried out regulatory filings at both the Corporate Affairs Commission, Trademark Registry and at various regulatory bodies.
- Advised on company secretarial and corporate governance issues across sectors.
- Revived the firm's newsletters/articles, publications by writing articles quarterly on contemporary issues of law.
- Represented the firm at the Maiden edition of the LCA-YAN International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition where I researched and advocated on common legal issues in international commercial arbitrations.

Graduate Trainee, Solola & Akpana 09/2016 - 11/2016 Lagos, Nigeria

- Company secretarial and Compliance support functions.
- Legal research for trial preparations.
- Commercial contracts drafts and review.
- Executive administrative support functions.

SKILLS

- Effective communication
- Ability to identify costly inefficiencies and proffer optimal solutions.
- Client liaison, stakeholder management and excellent negotiation skills.
- Result-oriented and enthusiastic towards learning and development.
- Excellent presentation and business development skills.
- Ability to wear multiple hats and take on critical roles as necessary.

EDUCATION

- **CFA Institute** - 2020 to 2021
CFA Investment Foundations Certificate (in view)

- **Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSAN)** -2019 to 2020
Associate, Chartered Secretary and Administrator (in view)
- **Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM)** - 2020
Associate, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management
- **National Youth Service Corps** - 2017
National Youth Service Corps Discharge Certificate
- **Nigerian Law School, Lagos** - 2016
Barrister at Law (B.L) Second Class Honours, Lower Division
- **Nnamdi Azikwe University, Anambra State, Nigeria** - 2015
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Second Class Honours, Upper Division

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

- **“Basics of Data Protection”**, facilitated by Data Protection Experts in collaboration with NITDA. (April 2020)
- **“Effect of COVID-19 on General Meetings: Corporate Governance in a crisis”**, facilitated by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria. (April 2020)
- **“Unlocking Investment and Finance in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs)”** facilitated by the World Bank Group (WBGx)[Distinction Certificate, July 2019].
- **“Introduction to Corporate Finance (Mergers & Acquisitions)”** facilitated by Tim Vipond, CEO of the Corporate Finance Institute on Udemy (Certificate of completion, June 2019).
- **‘Risk Management: An Introduction’** on Udemy (Certificate of completion, May 2019)
- **“Maiden Edition of the Lagos Court of Arbitration: Young Lawyers Network International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition”**, Lagos Court of Arbitration Training, (Certificate of Participation, 2017).
- **Labour Law and Emerging Trends: The changing Face of Nigerian Labour law Jurisprudence**, a seminar on the quiet reforms in Nigerian Labour Law and what it means for HR personnel, employees, employers. (Perchstone & Graeys, 2017)

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

- Ebenebe Z. **“Fintech as key to Financial Inclusion in Nigeria”**, Lawyard Quarterly Journal, Volume 1, Pages 54 -58. <https://www.lawyard.ng/>
- **“Non-Performing Loans in Nigerian banks: Major Causes”**, LinkedIn, January 2019.
- **“Fintech Today: The Role of Solicitors”** LinkedIn, March 2018.
- Editorial team member for the Brevis Quarterly Newsletter of Primera Africa Legal where I contributed to the following publications: **“Quiet Revolution of Labour/Employment Law in Nigeria: Staying Informed”** (June 2017); **“Anti-Bribery & Corruption in Nigeria: Staying one step ahead”** (March 2017). <http://primeraal.com/resources>
- **“Child Abuse in Nigeria Today; Legal Implications”**, LL.B Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Law, Nnamdi Azikiwe University (2015).

INTERESTS

- Travelling, Lawn Tennis and tracking the stock market

REFEREES

Available on request.