

EPHRAIM AJIJOLA

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL, YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA

findephraim@gmail.com, eajijola@youku.ca

EDUCATION

York University Ph.D. (in progress)

Osgoode Hall Law School

Canada

2021-

University of Warwick

LL.M: Distinction

United Kingdom

2012 - 2013

Courses include: International Banking & Securities Regulation, Corporate Law & Economic Activities, International Corporate Governance & Financial Regulation, Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance, Regulation of Mergers & Acquisitions and Legal Aspects of International Business Transactions.

Dissertation: Dealing with the Barriers to Reliable Financial Reports: The Case of External Auditors in the UK and the US

The Nigerian Law School

Solicitor & Barrister at Law: Second Class Upper

Kano, Nigeria

2009-2010

Modules include: Corporate Law Practice, Property Law Practice, Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Law in Practice

Olabisi Onabanjo University

LL.B: Second Class Lower

Ogun State, Nigeria

2003-2009

Modules include: Public and Private International Law, Law of Business Associations, Jurisprudence and Constitutional Law.

Long Essay: Legal Analysis of Standard of Proof in Election Petition under Nigerian Laws

EXPERIENCE

Olaniwun Ajayi LP

(Senior Associate & Team Lead)

Banana Island, Lagos

Technology, Innovation and Fintech

Dec 2017 – Aug 2022

- Represented core technology and technology enabled businesses through their growth lifecycle, including early-stage contract documentation; structuring of investments; raising funds; product development and strategic partnerships and launching new businesses.
- Drafted, on behalf of an international cab hailing company, the Strategic Relationship Contracts between in relation to processing and facilitation of payments and collection services in Nigeria.
- Advised a popular Nigerian payment platform on the regulatory framework affecting its blockchain solution in Nigeria with relevant contract documentation.
- Advised a notable payment platform on all legal and regulatory issues arising from its operations as a payments company in Nigeria and also on its recent partnership with an international payment card company.
- Advised a payment company on its Series B investment in one of the leading payments companies in Nigeria with contracts documentation.
- Advised an international cab hailing company on the launch of an alternative payment solution/product in Nigeria.
- Advised a Kenyan fintech company on the regulatory framework impacting the implementation of its global B2B Wallet in Nigeria.

Intellectual Law Practice

Aug 2015 – Aug 2021

- Represented a foremost multinational FMCG Company in a Trademark infringement action at the Trademarks Tribunal
- Advised on transfer of IP rights in relation to a private equity investment in a leading payment solution software company with ancillary contracts.
- Advised and coordinated the global trademark registration of one of Nigeria's notable companies and

brands.

- Represented a leading detergent manufacturing company, in actions for trademark infringement.
- Represented a leading FMCG Company in a design infringement suit.
- Registration and maintenance of various trademark portfolios on behalf of proprietors in the manufacturing, telecommunication, entertainment, transportation and financial services sectors with necessary contracts documentation.
- Acted for a leading FMCG Company in Trademark opposition proceedings before the Trademarks Tribunal
- Advised a leading lottery company in relation to trademark opposition proceedings before the Trademarks Tribunal
- Represented a leading manufacturing company in a passing-off suit with respect to its detergent and obtaining an injunction restraining continued sale of the offending product
- Undertook trap purchasing and investigation on behalf of a client whose product had been subject to continual counterfeiting.
- Defended a financial institution and its subsidiaries against an American Financial conglomerate on an action for trademark infringement and passing off.

Entertainment, Leisure & Media Practice

Aug 2017 – Aug 2022

(Senior Associate & Team Lead)

- Advised international talent management brand on content acquisition and regulatory issues in Nigeria,
- Advised an international media company on its investment in a Nigerian internet TV.
- Negotiated amicable settlement of the Recording Contract between a famous record label and a notable Nigerian recording artiste.
- Advised on the corporate restructuring of a foremost Nigerian TV conglomerate.
- Drafted and negotiated a record financing contracts between a leading Nigerian recording label and multi-platinum selling USA RnB recording Artist.
- Provided a range of services to a leading recording label including reviewing recording contracts and negotiating various music contracts.
- Advised on the production of a ground-breaking legal television series.
- Representing a famous Nigerian Artiste in relation to his record label contract dispute with a top international record company
- Successfully renegotiated a music distribution contract between a popular Nigerian artiste and an international music distribution company.
- Conducted a contract review process for various the Nollywood films.
- Advised on the restructuring and refinancing of loan facilities obtained by television company and disputes related thereto.
- Reviewed partnership contracts for a Nigerian company involved in the entertainment industry.
- Drafted and negotiated an event sponsorship contracts between a leading Nigerian entertainment company and a USA music consultancy and management company.
- Advised on the position of Nigerian law on the acquisition of shares in a Nigerian broadcasting company by a European investor.

Dispute Resolution Practice

June 2015 – Aug 2021

(Senior Associate)

- Member of the team that represented the defendant in a betting/gaming company in relation to the validity of the lottery license issued to the company.
- Member of the team that successfully represented a leading oil major in a dispute relating to the enforcement of a contractual claim, both at the lower court and at the Appellate Court.
- Member of the team that defended a telecommunication company in a shareholder's dispute action.
- Member of the team that acted on behalf of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Company in a number of bank liquidation matters.
- Member of the team that successfully secured the dismissal of an action instituted against the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria in relation to loans purchased from a bank.
- Member of the team that represented a bank in a claim for the recovery of sums due to the Bank under

a contract of guarantee.

- Member of the team that represented a Nigerian bank in relation to a dispute regarding assets and other properties assumed by the bank under a scheme of arrangement.
- Member of the team that defended a bank in relation to a claim on purported illegal bank charges.
- Member of the team that represented the Securities and Exchange Commission in a suit challenging its investigative and summary disciplinary powers of SEC over capital market operators.
- Represented the Electricity Distribution Companies in cases filed by members of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria challenging the increase of electricity tariffs by Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- Member of the team that represented the Electricity Distribution Companies in a case challenging the authority of electricity regulator to increase electricity tariffs.
- Member of the team that represented some power firms in a dispute relating to the winding up of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria filed by the union of electricity employees
- Member of the team that represented an international petroleum exploration company, along with foreign counsel in a landmark LCIA Arbitration, and advising on issues of Nigeria law.

Kaztec Engineering Ltd v The Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (Domestic Arbitration)- Member of the team that represented a foremost petroleum exploration company in a multi-million-dollar arbitration arising from the suspension of an engineering procurement contract with a technical counter-party.

- Member of the team that advised one of the oil majors in Nigeria on several tax claims and contract disputes
- Member of the team that represented an Oil & Gas company in an action hinged on wrong tax assessment by the Federal Inland Revenue Service.
- Member of the team that represented an IT company in a multi-million Naira dispute, challenging the tax liability imposed by the Lagos Inland Revenue Service
- Member of the team that represented a Nigerian bank in a myriad of ex-employee contract related matters.
- Member of the team that represented an oil major in two employment related class actions.
- Member of the team that represented the then bridge banks in a multitude of actions instituted by ex-employees of the failed banks, challenging the recent Central Bank of Nigeria-led reforms of the banking sector.
- Member of the team that resolved the intellectual property dispute between a major South African based consumable manufacturer and a Nigerian distributor.

Power & Infrastructure Practice
(Associate)

June 2014 – June 2015

- Part of the team that represented and provided legal advisory and contract documentation to lenders in relation to the development and financing of a USD\$650million 500MW open cycle gas turbine (OGCT) Independent Power Plant in Edo State of Nigeria by a syndicate of international and local commercial banks, developmental financial institutions and multilateral agencies.
- Part of the team that acted for the sponsors in relation to the development of an inland waterbus transportation network in Lagos State with contract documentation.
- Part of the team that advised the Investors in relation to the acquisition of an electricity distribution companies and provided legal support following the successful acquisition.
- Part of the team that advised the Investors in relation to the acquisition of a power company and provided legal support following the successful acquisition with contract documentation.
- Part of the team that advised lenders in relation to the financing of the acquisition of a Lagos based electricity distribution company with contract documentation.
- Part of the team that advised the foreign core investor with respect to the financing of the acquisition of distribution company with contract documentation
- Part of the consortium member (Legal Consultant), on the Concession of the Nigeria Railways Corporation through Public Private Partnership by the Federal Ministry of Transport (FMT) and the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) (FMT and ICRC) with contract documentation.

Adegboyega Awomolo & Associates
(Associate)

Abuja, Nigeria
January 2011 – September 2012

- Acted with the consortium of lead legal practitioners engaged by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in relation to presidential, state and national assembly election petitions between 2011-2012.
- Member of the team of legal practitioners that defended a notable member of the Nigerian House of Representative against allegations of infractions of the Public Procurement Act in 2011.
- Member of the team of legal practitioners that defended the Defendant against allegations of mismanagement of police pensions in 2012.
- Member of the legal team that defended the Central Bank of Nigeria in relation to a libel case commenced by notable politician against the apex bank over publication of the list of debtors with non-performing loan.

Office of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos (Tax & Revenue)
(Graduate Intern)

Lagos, Nigeria
January 2009 – September 2009

- Participated in the data-gathering, stakeholder consultation and legislative drafting that culminated in the Hotel Occupancy and Restaurant Consumption Law of Lagos.
- Supported the team that reviewed the collection/remittance issues under Land Use Charge Law, 2001 regime.

Public Interest Engagement:

- *Member, SEC Fintech Roadmap Development Committee* August 2018 – Sept 2019
- *Member, SEC Fintech Roadmap Implementation Committee* January 2020 – 2022
- *Member, (lawyers' team) SEC Fintech Roadmap Review & Implementation Committee (Exposure draft- SEC Crowdfunding Rule)* March 2020- 2022

Leadership Roles:

- *Osgoode Hall Law School, Graduate Law Students Associations, Digital Innovation Rep* 2022
- *Osgoode Hall Law School, Student Representative, Digital Innovation Committee* 2022
- *Chief Justice, Judicial Council, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Student Union* 2008- 2009
- *Member, Judicial Council, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Student Union* 2007-2008

Teaching & Research Assistance:

- *Research Assistant (Prof. Benjamin Geva), Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (Feb 2024-).*
- *Writing Instructor, Writing Centre, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (Sept 2023-)*
- *Research Assistant (Prof. Benjamin Geva), Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (June-Sept 2023).*
- *Teaching Assistant (Prof Graeme Deans), Schulich School of Business, York University (Sept-Dec 2022).*
- *Research Assistant (Prof. Tsvetanka Karagyozova), Economics Dept, York University (April-June 2022).*

SKILLS

- **Languages:** English and Yoruba
- **Data Science:** Proficiency in MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint & Word)
- **Hobbies:** Fitness, Gardening, Bird Watching, Cooking and Music
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ephraim-ajijola-b4138138>