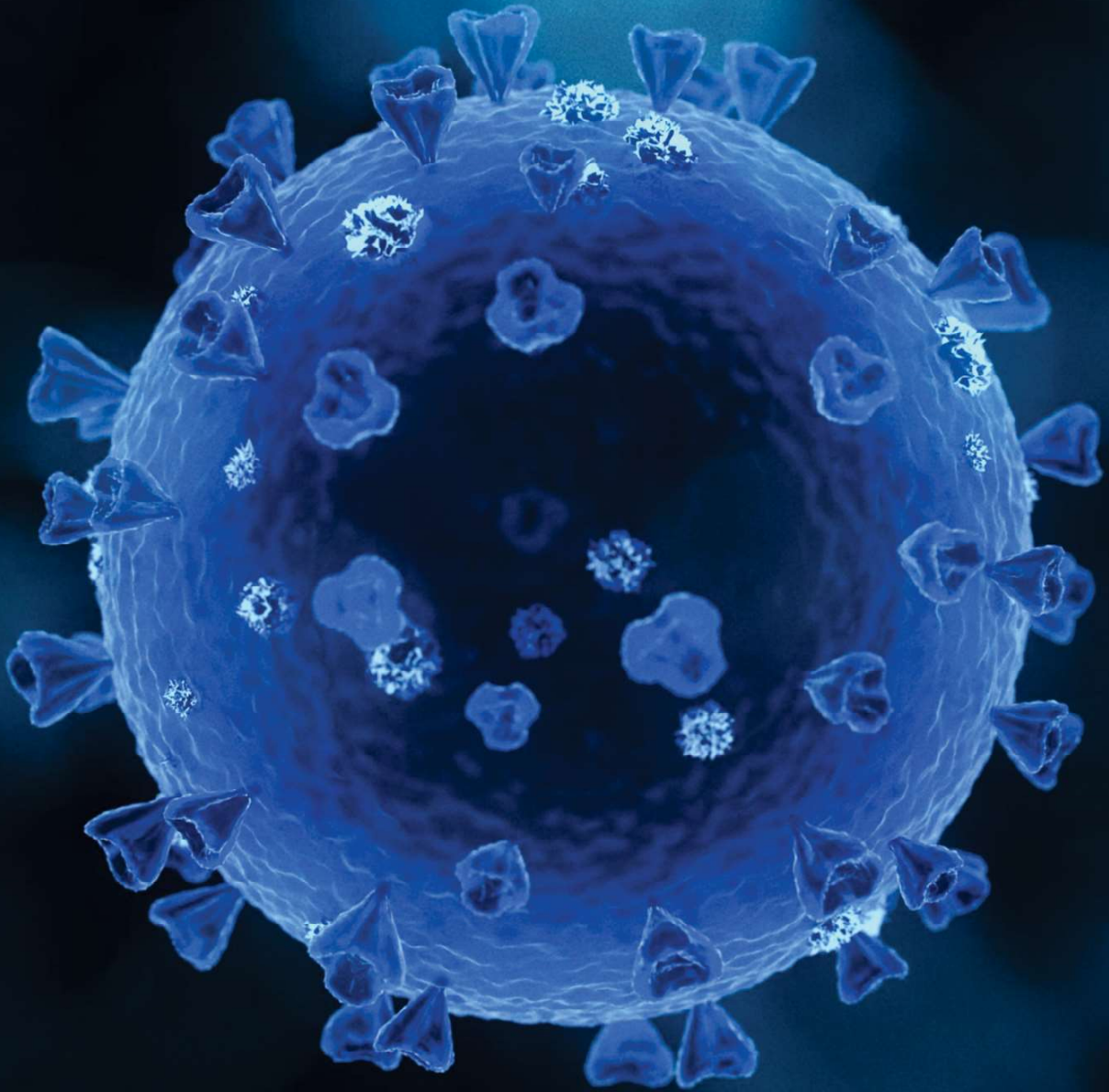


# J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER VOL 27, NUMBER 24 (APRIL - JUNE 2020) ISSN NO: 1598\_8289.



**COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE PLAUSIBILITY OF A LEGAL  
ACTION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:  
A FRUITLESS VENTURE?**

# Editorial

We are pleased to present you with this edition of our newsletter. Opening this edition is an article on the plausibility of instituting legal action against the People's Republic of China for damages over the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. This article was jointly authored by Mrs. Geraldine Mbah, Mrs. Chimdindu Etuwewe-Onyedim, and Mr. Jerry Ombugadu Musa. The huge loss of both economic and human lives occasioned by the Coronavirus outbreak makes the question of who bears the liability a pertinent one. The newsletter also features hilarious jokes, witty quotes, and pictures of recent events at the Firm, as well as health talks organized by the Firm for its staff on the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Editorial team**

Pelumi Adewumi | Paul Ebiloma | John Unachukwu | Chimdindu Onyedim-Etuwewe | Adegbemisoye Olasubomi  
Adedapo Adewuyi | Collins Ede

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## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE PLAUSIBILITY OF A LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: A FRUITLESS VENTURE?**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has virtually brought the entire world, as we know it, to its knees under a lockdown or high restriction of movement of persons. The World Health Organization (WHO) has since labelled the COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic – a description only ascribed to the world's worst health emergencies.

So far, more than 2 million people across the continents have been infected with the virus, with this number on the rise each day.<sup>1</sup> An estimate suggests that about 124,000 persons have died from the virus, with the figure, increasing daily, and with over 450,000 persons recovering from the deadly pandemic.<sup>2</sup> The United States currently has the largest number of infected persons, with about 21,000 deaths surpassing Italy, Spain, China and South Korea, emerging as the worst hit country in the world.<sup>3</sup>

While the pandemic continues to sweep across the globe, little solace can be taken from the reports that the mortality rate is still at less than 10%.<sup>4</sup> This is an encouraging sign, with a good number of infected persons reported to be responding well to treatment. The search for a cure as well as a vaccine has also been intense with different labs undergoing scientific, clinical testing and research geared at scientifically discovering drugs that would be approved for public consumption by the relevant agencies/organisations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upset world economic, social, religious, sport and entertainment sectors. More than one-quarter of the world's 7.8 billion people are now largely confined to their homes, as government's step up curbs on movement and social contact in a bid to contain the virus. Much remains uncertain, but analysts say the pandemic and the measures we are taking to save ourselves could permanently change how we live, work, worship and play in the future. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as other world financial institutions, have predicted a harsh recession as an aftermath effect of the pandemic on the global economy.

### **The Plausibility of a Legal Action against the People's Republic of China: Information available in the public domain**

COVID-19 is said to have originated in the seafood market in Wuhan, China. Neither the Chinese authorities, the WHO or any other health institution have comprehensively explained the origin of the virus. Studies so far have only confirmed the symptoms of the virus, how it is transmitted and the possible incubation period.

The origin of the disease is yet to be identified with certainty, although there have been speculations of the virus emanating from bats, within the wet market in Wuhan, China. Some

<sup>1</sup><https://www.worldmeters.info/coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup>ibid

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/12/opinions/coronavirus-us-death-toll-trump-sachs-opinion/index.html> accessed on 14 April 2020

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.livescience.com/is-coronavirus-deadly.html> accessed on 14 April 2020.

others believe the virus is an adverse effect of the 5G network developed by China and set to be fully launched sometime this year. For some, it is the result of scientific laboratory concussion gone wrong, attributing blame to the virology institute of China in Wuhan. Others maintain that the virus was cooked up in a laboratory and intentionally released to depopulate the earth in preparation for the new world order. The WHO has however warned against the peddling of any speculation regarding its origin, as study of the virus is still underway.<sup>5</sup>

Whatever may be the root cause of COVID-19, there is no contention that it originated from China to other parts of the world. Media houses sometime in January 2020 reported that one Dr Li Wenliang of the Wuhan City Central Hospital raised an alarm about the virus, contending that if measures were not taken, it could overrun China and possibly extend to most parts of the world.<sup>6</sup> About a month afterwards, there was an outbreak. COVID-19 began its devastation in China, and has so far extended to every continent in the world.

While the standard of proof and what will be required to satisfy that standard is another bridge to cross in any of such action, this article will only focus on the viability of maintaining such an action in the first place.

It should be noted that there is no conclusion of findings that the Chinese government was, in fact, negligent or reckless in the manner and measures it took to manage the COVID-19 outbreak in the city of Wuhan, which invariably led to the world scale spread of the virus. Thus,

the consideration as to whether China will be liable to claims of reparation under international law due to the COVID-19 outbreak is solely based on assumptions, not facts and merely for academic purposes.

### **Recent Cases Filed Against China on the COVID-19 Outbreak**

Our research<sup>7</sup> revealed three cases were filed against China as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and its far-reaching effect. The cases are seeking billions of US dollars as reparation against China for the outbreak of COVID-19. The cases were filed by different plaintiffs on different grounds of terrorism, crime against humanity and genocide, the spread of bio weapons, and negligence or recklessness in the management and containment of the COVID-19 by the Chinese government.

First of the three cases discovered is a class-action lawsuit filed in March 2020 by a personal injury law firm in Florida on behalf of individuals and business owners in the United States of America for damages suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The suit filed against China and various Chinese government agencies seeks to make the Chinese government pay for alleging acting negligently in their handling of the COVID-19 outbreak. The suit claims China "knew that COVID-19 was dangerous and capable of causing a pandemic, yet slowly acted, proverbially put their head in the sand, and/or covered it up in their economic self-interest". As a result, they (the Plaintiffs) are asking from China "compensatory and other damages to the Plaintiffs and the Class

<sup>5</sup>Also, recently youtube have placed restrictions on the uploading of video content propagating the belief that the cause of the virus is the 5G Network in China, or anywhere else in the world.

<sup>6</sup><https://www.ccn.com/chinese-government-tried-to-cover-up-coronavirus-whistleblowers-death/> accessed on 14 April 2020.

<sup>7</sup>Information accessed by the writers as at 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Members, for their economic and non-economic damages ... to the full extent permitted by the law."<sup>8</sup>

Assessing the chances of this suit, which is based on the United States of America's Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (CAFA) one finds that its chances of succeeding is rather slim considering the provisions of the United States' Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) which prevents Americans from suing other countries except under specific circumstances. The plaintiffs claim they fit under the exceptions for commercial activity and "personal injury or death" that stems from "the tortious act or omission of that foreign state or of any official or employee of that foreign state while acting within the scope of his office or employment.

Professor Stephen L. Carter<sup>9</sup> of Yale Law, however, disagrees that the suit falls within the exceptions claimed by the plaintiffs. The progress of this suit will depend largely on the Florida Southern Districts' Court interpretation of the exceptions claimed by the plaintiffs. It is noteworthy to state that, it remains to be seen if the People's Republic of China will subject herself to the domestic laws of the United States for actions claimed to have taken place in China.<sup>10</sup>

The second and third suits were filed by another American Lawyer, and his advocacy group. One of it is a lawsuit filed against Chinese authorities in the US before a Texas District Court in Texas, USA seeking \$20 trillion, and claiming COVID-19 is the result of a biological weapon prepared by the Chinese authorities in violation of her

treaty obligations under the Convention on Prohibition of the Development Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction<sup>11</sup> and Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.<sup>12</sup>

The third is a complaint made before the International Criminal Court (the ICC) on the same facts as the civil suit alleging that the Chinese government have used the COVID-19 via facilitating its outbreak worldwide, especially against citizens of the United States of America (USA), her perceived enemy and whom it is in a trade war with to perpetrate crimes against humanity in violation of Article 5 of the International Criminal Court Statute (known as the Rome Treaty). The Complainants are inviting an investigation into the circumstance of the outbreak which they believe will validate and vindicate their claims against the Defendants. As of now, there is no known official communication from the ICC on the complaint.

### **The Concept of Liability for Negligence under International Law**

While it is a lot easier to establish liability for negligence under common law and statutory instruments of domestic jurisdictions, the effort to achieve that extraterritorially will prove to be daunting. Certainly, the concept of liability is much more developed in domestic law and its introduction to international law cannot ignore the experience gained in this area in domestic law. The need to develop liability regimes in an

<sup>8</sup><https://www.foxnews.com/politics/class-action-suit-seeks-to-make-china-pay> accessed on 31 March 2020.

<sup>9</sup>Professor Stephen L. Carter is also an Opinion Bloomberg columnist and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

<sup>10</sup><https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-03-24/can-china-be-sued-over-the-coronavirus> accessed on 31 March 2020.

<sup>11</sup>Particularly, Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII.

<sup>12</sup><https://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/usd-20-trillion-lawsuit-against-china-us-group-says-coronavirus-bioweapon/story/399071.html> accessed on 31 March 2020.

international context has been recognized and has found expression mainly in instruments concluded at treaty level between Nations or a cluster of Nations under different regional or business relationships.

A good reference is the Principle 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Environment (Stockholm Declaration) 1972,<sup>13</sup> which provides that:

*“States shall co-operate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction”.*

Additionally, Principle 13 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>14</sup> addresses the national and international contexts by broadly proclaiming:

*“States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction”.*

In effect, liability for any trans-boundary harm caused by a nation under international law has for now only gained strength through

instruments and treaties. The regime is yet to flourish as recognized customary international law.

What this means is that, if the People's Republic of China is to be liable for any form of negligence in the management of the COVID-19 outbreak which has resulted to the loss of lives and businesses in other nations, there has to be an instrument existing that establishes China's liability where it fails to deal properly and reasonably with an infectious disease and that failures or negligence leads to trans-boundary injury. It does not appear that such an instrument exists now. So, even if investigations were to reveal that the Chinese government was negligent in the manner it handled the containment of the COVID-19 virus through its policies, such that it resulted to the current global escalation, the likelihood of person(s) affected to maintain an action and secure judgment against China for damages based on negligence is slim, if not completely non-existent.

Where, however, the grounds of such an action were to be centred on matters covered by existing treaties or instruments, the action will have its day in court and be heard on its merit, even though the likelihood of success will also depend on the establishment of required facts to satisfy the standard of proof required under such a treaty or instrument. The territorial jurisdiction of such matters and the mode of enforcement of the judgment obtained will depend largely on the provisions of treaty or instrument being enforced.

<sup>13</sup>Report of the United Nations Conference on the Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73 II A.14.

<sup>14</sup>Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annexe I.

### **A Fruitless Venture?**

As earlier noted, the absence of any authoritative report, either by an investigative body, national or international organization on the circumstances surrounding the origin, containment and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes all information as far as the complicity, negligence, recklessness or perceived culpability of China, at the moment, mere conjectures.

While it is clear that the Chinese government is yet to provide sufficient information about the COVID-19 pandemic considering that it is alleged to have originated within one of its provinces, the reason for that cannot be emphatically ascertained. While it could be as a result of the fact that the Chinese government is hoarding information, it could also be because they do not know or its findings are inconclusive.

Likewise, one cannot safely assume that the steps taken by the Chinese government to contain the virus was negligent or the best they could do in the circumstances. This question becomes paramount considering how the virus has dealt with Countries like Italy, Spain and the USA even though they all had every opportunity to prepare against the spread of the virus.

Certainly, for any quest to sue the People's Republic of China for negligence over the COVID-19 outbreak to bear any fruit, it is believed that more information, particularly about its origin, containment and spread, is required. Thus, since the claims, at the moment, are based on speculations yet to be verified, we can only conclude that this quest is a fruitless venture.



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# PHOTO SPEAK



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Seger Hoytink, the Senior Vice President, Upstream International, in the Legal Affairs Department of Eni at the Court of Milan, Milan, Italy on 28th January, 2020



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Daniel Thompson of Regus at J-K Gadzama LLP (London office) on 6th February, 2020



L-R: Miss Michelle Balla, Mrs. Chimdindu Oyedim-Etuwewe, Mrs. Geraldine Mbah, Mrs. Nkechi Anyanwu, Miss Cynthia Eboson and Miss Fadekemi Adeleye during the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) Women in Business Event on Thursday on 12th March, 2020



L-R: Mr. Collins Ede, Mrs. Chimdindu Oyedim-Etuwewe, Mr. Mark Agbo, Mrs. Geraldine Mbah, Dr. Cyril Obika, Mr. Seriki Adedamola and Miss Hajara Yahuza at the launch of the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) on Friday, 13th March, 2020

## LEGAL HUMOUR

### **A cashier and his Customer**

Cashier: would you like a receipt?

Me: o O (if someone is being murdered right now it would be my alibi but if someone gets murdered in the store they could pin it on me)

Cashier: well?

Me: I want to talk to a lawyer.

### **Roll Call**

I was in juvenile court, prosecuting a teen suspected of burglary, when the judge asked everyone to stand and state his or her name and role for the court reporter.

"Leah Rauch, deputy prosecutor," I said.

"Linda Jones, probation officer."

"Sam Clark, public defender."

"John," said the teen who was on trial. "I'm the one who stole the truck."

### **Court of Less Appeal**

Justice isn't just blind—it's snickering at these real courtroom give-and-takes:

Judge (to young witness): Do you know what would happen to you if you told a lie?

Witness: Yes. I would go to hell.

Judge: Is that all?

Witness: Isn't that enough?

Q: Isn't it a fact that you have been running around with another woman?

A: Yes, it is, but you can't prove it!

Q: Have you ever heard about taking the Fifth?

A: A fifth of wine?

Q: No, the Fifth Amendment.

Q: What did your sister die of?

A: You would have to ask her. I would be speculating if I told you.

Health Talks on the Covid-19 Pandemic by Dr. Olusesan Adetola, Director of Preventive Services at Foundation Preventive Clinics, which held on the 21st of March, 2020 at J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja.

- At the Chambers Meeting held on the 21st of March 2020, a Medical Practitioner who specializes in preventive healthcare was invited by the Principal Partner of J-K Gadzama LLP, Joe Kyari Gadzama, SAN, to sensitize staff of the firm on preventive measures vis-a-vis the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Partners, Associates as well as the Support Staff were in attendance at the lecture.
- The guest gave an exposé into the origin and prevalence of the Covid-19.
- He noted that despite the geometric spread of the virus, it could be curtailed if safety measures are strictly adhered to.
- On the preventive measures, he stressed the need to eat healthily which would help boost the immune system. He further advised to drink a lot of water.
- He also noted the need to observe good hygiene by the constant washing of hands as well as keeping the environment clean.
- Furthermore, he stressed the need to avoid large gatherings especially when such gatherings are not important.
- The guest emphasized the crucial need to seek God's intervention amidst the crisis as the Almighty is capable of putting a swift end to the pandemic.
- The lecture was followed up with a question and answer session, with the staff in full participation.
- The lecture went a long way in sensitizing staff of the firm on what they should know and do for the purposes of fighting the Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria and the world at large.



Dr. Olusesan Adetola lecturing.



A cross section of staff of J-K Gadzama LLP during the lecture.



Birthday celebrants, Mrs. Nkechi Anyanwu, Miss Sarah Atumga and Miss Catherine Obishai, cutting their birthday cake after the lecture.



A group photograph with the Principal Partner, Partners and Associates of the firm.

# Words on Marble

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“I have gained this by philosophy ... I do without being ordered what some are constrained to do by their fear of the law.”

~ **Aristotle**

“It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important.”

~ **Martin Luther King Jr.**

“Justice? -You get justice in the next world, in this world you have the law.”

~ **William Gaddis.**

"Law too gentle are seldom obeyed, too severe, seldom executed."

~ **Benjamin Franklin**

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.”

~ **Aristotle**

“People are more afraid of the laws of Man than of God, because their punishment seems to be nearest.”

~ **William Penn**

“Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.”

~ **Plato**

# NEWS FROM THE FIRM

- Miss Hajara Yahuza Mohammed, Miss Theresa Okwuefuna and Mr. Nnaemeka Chukwualuka all completed their one year mandatory National Youth Service Corp Scheme with the firm in February, 2020. The firm wishes them the very best in their future endeavours.
- Miss Folaranmi Umoru completed her internship with the firm in March, 2020. The firm wishes her success in her future endeavours.
- Miss Mercy Babatunde Mojisola joined the firm as an intern on the 16th of March, 2020. The firm wishes her a fruitful stay.
- Dr. Cyril Ikechukwu Obika joined the firm in April, 2020 as a Tax Expert. The firm wishes him a fruitful stay.
- Mrs. Nkechi Elizabeth Anyawu and Dr. Cyril Ikechukwu Obika were sponsored by the firm to the entry-level training programme of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, (UK), which took place on the 18th and 19th of March 2020 in Abuja. This is in fulfilment of the firm's continuous mandate to build the capacity of its lawyers.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AND CONFERENCES



The Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa Jsc, (Rtd) Professional  
Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers  
J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja, 4th July, 2020



"2nd African Arbitration Association International Arbitration Conference,  
Accra, Ghana - 3rd to 5th June, 2020"



5th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Africa Conference  
on International Arbitration, Lagos, Nigeria, 17-19 June, 2020



Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Annual General  
Conference 21-27 August, 2020



International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference  
Miami, USA, 1-6 November 2020



Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb.) Nigeria Branch Annual  
Conference and Gala Nite, 4-6 November, 2020

## OUR PEOPLE

1. **Joe-kyari Gadzama**, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DipICArb, FCIArb, Chartered Arbitrator  
Founding Principal Partner
2. **Prof. Tahir Mamman**, OON, SAN  
Consulting Partner
3. **Akinlabi S. Akingbade**, ACIArb. (UK), ChMc  
Partner/Head of Chambers
4. **Dr. Cyril Obika**  
Partner
5. **Geraldine O. Mbah**  
Junior Partner
6. **Francis O. Oronsaye**  
Junior Partner
7. **Darlington Onyekwere**, ACIArb. (UK)  
Junior Partner
8. **Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama**, LL.M (Warwick), MCIArb.  
Junior Partner

### SENIOR ASSOCIATE

John Echezona Unachukwu

### ASSOCIATES

1. Chimdindu Onyedim-Etuwewe, ACIArb. (UK)
2. Agbo Mark Chidi, MCIArb. (UK)
3. Anyanwu Elizabeth Nkechi
4. Christopher Osejie Okougha, ACIArb. (UK)
5. Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M
6. Musa Jerry Ombugadu
7. Amazing Ikpala, ACIArb. (UK)
8. Adegbeisoye A. Olasubomi
9. Gatida Haruna Tsammani
10. Adewumi Pelumi Olusegun
11. Wadzani David Karagama

### JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

1. Okondu Chika Victory
2. Adeleye Fadekemi Grace
3. Balla Michelle Zichat
4. Sarah Jeta Atumga
5. Adewuyi Paul Adedapo
6. Collins Chibuikwe Ede
7. Seriki Adedamola
8. Iteshi Bright Afamefuna
9. Obishai C. Amaka
10. Cynthia Kelechi Eboson
11. Edikan Jerry Akpan

### PRACTICE MANAGER

Daramfon Uwemedimo Umoumoh

### OFFICE MANAGER

Sunday Ali Dzarma

### LIBRARIAN

Eniwonmi Ojo, CLN, ACIArb. (UK)

### ICT PERSONNEL

Olalekan Rahman Olasehinde, CNSS (UK)

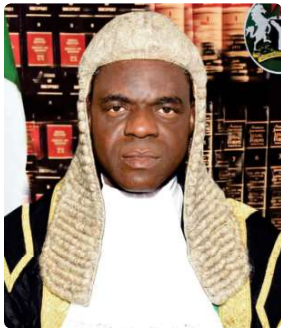
## JURIS CONSULT

1. Hon. Justice Alfa Modibbo Belgore, CJN (RTD), GCON  
(FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA)
2. Hon. Justice George A. Oguntade, J.S.C (RTD), CON.

# J-K GADZAMA LLP

## 5<sup>th</sup> HON. JUSTICE CHUKWUDIFU OPUTA JSC (RTD) PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

### TOPICS



Hon. Justice John T. Tsoho  
(Chief Judge, Federal High Court)  
CHAIRMAN

- ❖ BUILDING BLOCKS FOR CAREER GROWTH IN LEGAL PRACTICE
- ❖ SECRETS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEGAL PRACTICE
- ❖ NAVIGATING THE CORPORATE LAW TERRAIN-TIPS FOR YOUNG LAWYERS
- ❖ LEVERAGING PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS IN LEGAL PRACTICE

### SPEAKERS



Prof. Ernest Ojukwu, SAN  
(Partner, Ojukwu Faotu & Yusuf)



Mrs. Olabisi Soyebó, SAN  
(Partner, Abdullahi Ibrahim & Co.)



Mrs. Hauwa Shekarau  
(Chairman, NBA Abuja Branch)



Omakwu M. Ikongbeh, Esq.  
(Principal, Everlaw Associates)

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 10:00am - 4:00pm

J-K Gadzama Court, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent by Kabo Way,  
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Garki II, Abuja, Nigeria.



Live Streaming on Cisco Webex for Pre-Registered Participants



**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.

### VISION

Creating an avenue for independent, confidential and efficient means of resolving disputes using Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR).

### SERVICES

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

### OUR LOCATION

Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent By Kabo Way, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, P.O. Box 20304, Garki II, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.  
Tel: 09 6233 626

### 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.

### 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. Projector screen
11. Transcriber
12. Shelving Units
13. Wi-Fi
14. 18-Seater bus
15. 24-Hour CCTV
16. Spacious car park with security

For enquiries and/or Reservation  
Contact:

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*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.



**ADDRESS:** 1st Floor, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent  
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*Our Vision*

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

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*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.*

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# J-K GADZAMA LLP

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The Principal Partner, Management and staff of J-K Gadzama LLP congratulate **His Royal Majesty, Oba Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi Odundun II**, the *Deji* of Akure Kingdom on the occasion of the Celebration of his 5th Year Anniversary as the Paramount Ruler of Akure Kingdom.

Kabiyesi, may your reign continue to witness peace, love and development in Akure Kingdom.



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DiplCarb, FCI Arb, Chartered Arbitrator  
CEDR Accredited Mediator/Of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister/Life Bencher  
Sardauna of Uba/Okwuluora of Ukpo/Bobajiro of Akure Kingdom  
(Founding Principal Partner)

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