

J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER

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Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor) (right), and Mallam Hassan Nuhu (Pro-Chancellor) (middle) proudly display the official Full Operational License of Newgate University, Minna, Niger State, alongside Professor Sadiq Yusuf (Vice Chancellor) (left). The moment was captured during the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor's investiture ceremony held on Wednesday, 10th September 2025, which also featured the unveiling of the Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa Innovation and Business Development Centre (SNIBUD) as part of the university's Founders' Day celebrations.

Editorial

In this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter is an abridged article on the topic “Navigating Legal Precedent: An Examination of Recent Supreme Court Jurisprudence on the Signing of Court Processes by Oluniy Adediji, Chidera Madumere and Rifkatu Ali.

Also, this edition captures the historic investiture of our Founding Principal Partner, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, as Chancellor of Newgate University, Minna, Niger State. The ceremony, a highlight of Founders’ Day, also featured the unveiling of the Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa Innovation Centre (SNIBUD) for the University. For the Chancellor’s full vision and remarks, see page 12 of the Newsletter.

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, the firm’s welcoming of Externs from the Nigerian Law School and a profile of our staff, 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

Jerry Ombugadu Musa - (Editor-in-Chief)

Darlington Onyekwere

Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama

Paul Ebiloma

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ACCEPTANCE REMARKS BY



CHIEF JOE-KYARI GADZAMA, OFR, SAN, Life Bencher, FNIALS, FICMC, C.Arb.
Shettima Ilmuye of Borno, Sardauna of Uba, Bobajiro of Akure Kingdom & Okwuluora of Ukpo,
Chancellor, Newgate University

At the Investiture Ceremony held on Wednesday, 10th September, 2025, at the
Newgate University, Minna City Campus

Your Royal Highnesses,
My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal,
The Pro-Chancellor/Chairman of Council,
Distinguished Members of the Governing Council,
The Vice-Chancellor and Senate of Newgate University,
Members of the Academic and Administrative Staff,
Our Esteemed Students,
Invited Guests,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Introduction

It is with a deep sense of honour and humility that I stand before you today on this historic occasion - the investiture of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor of Newgate University, the celebration of our Founders' Day, and the commissioning of our University's Innovation Hub.

Acceptance of Responsibility

This day marks a defining moment in the journey of our great institution. For me personally, it is both a solemn duty and a sacred trust to accept this role as Chancellor of Newgate University. I do so with gratitude to the Governing Council, confidence in the leadership of our Vice-Chancellor, and faith in the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students.

Congratulatory Message to the Pro-Chancellor

On behalf of the University community, I extend heartfelt congratulations to our Pro-Chancellor, Mall. Hassan Nuhu (*Mayanan Minna*), on his investiture. His wealth of experience and wisdom will greatly enrich the governance of our university. Together, we are called not only to preserve the ideals of our founders but to enlarge the vision - to make Newgate University a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and character for generations to come.

Founder's Day Reflections

As we gather for Founders' Day, let us pause to pay tribute to those whose foresight, sacrifice, and labour laid the foundation of this institution. Their dream was not merely to build another university, but to create a citadel of learning where the pursuit of knowledge is wedded to the service of humanity. Today, we stand as beneficiaries of that dream and custodians of its future.

Commissioning of the Innovation Hub

This same vision inspires the commissioning of our Innovation Hub. It is not just a building of glass and steel, but a symbol of our commitment to equipping the next generation with the tools to create, to innovate, and to lead. Here, ideas will be nurtured, enterprises will be born, and solutions will be crafted to meet the pressing needs of our society.

Our charge as a university is clear: to be a place where excellence thrives, where character is cultivated, and where innovation lights the path to national and global development. We must strive not only to keep pace with the world but to set new standards for it.

To our students:

You are the heartbeat of this University. Remember, daydreaming is not the same as true dreaming, so avoid idle thoughts and dare to dream big. You may not achieve everything you dream of, but if your dreams are bold enough, you will achieve greatness. Your future is in your hands, and it begins here. Claim it, lay your foundation, and recreate the tomorrow you desire. Yesterday has passed and serves only as history; today is your moment to build, and tomorrow awaits the leaders of conscience and competence you are becoming.

To our faculty and staff:

Your tireless dedication sustains the reputation of Newgate University. May today renew your strength and inspire greater heights.

To our friends, partners, and well-wishers:

We value your support and invite you to continue walking this journey with us.

Conclusion

As we celebrate today, let us remember that this investiture, this Founders' Day, and this Innovation Hub are not endpoints but beginnings. Together, let us write a new chapter in the story of Newgate University - a chapter defined by vision, service, and excellence.

May God bless you all, and may God bless Newgate University.

Thank you.

SIGHTS AND SCENES

Investiture ceremony of Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN as Chancellor, and Mal. Hassan Nuhu as Pro-Chancellor of Newgate University, Minna, Niger State held on Wednesday, 10th Spetember, 2025.



L-R: Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor); Prof. Sadiq Yusuf (Vice Chancellor); Prof. Mohammed Nurudeen Maiturare (Member, Board of Trustees) and Mal. Hassan Nuhu (Pro-Chancellor)



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor) followed by Mrs. Christine Gadzama, led by Professor Sadiq Yusuf (Vice Chancellor), reviews the Guard of Honour formed by the University's Principal Officers



Prof. Sadiq Yusuf (Vice Chancellor), Mal. Hassan Nuhu (Pro-Chancellor), Prof. Mohammed Nurudeen Maiturare (Member, Board of Trustees) and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor) stand at attention for the Nigerian National Anthem



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor), flanked by Prof. Mohammed Nurudeen Maiturare and Alhaji Hussaini Nuhu (Members, Board of Trustees), symbolically presents the University's Maze representing the guiding path to knowledge and innovation



Prof. Sadiq Yusuf (Vice Chancellor), Mal. Hassan Nuhu (Pro-Chancellor), Prof. Mohammed Nurudeen Maiturare (Member, Board of Trustees) and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Chancellor) stand at attention for the Nigerian National Anthem



Front row, Mark Chidi Agbo (right), followed by Sarah Jeta Atumga, Hajara M. Sorondinki, and Jerry Ombugadu Musa (far left), among other distinguished guests at the Investiture Ceremony of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor



L-R: Hajara M. Sorondinki; Sarah Jeta Atumga; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Mrs. Christine Gadzama; Jerry Ombugadu Musa and Chidi Mark Agbo



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama (Chancellor) cutting the ribbon to unveil the Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa Innovation and Business Development Centre (SNIBUD) as part of the University's Investiture Ceremony and Founders' Day celebrations

NAVIGATING LEGAL PRECEDENT: AN EXAMINATION OF RECENT SUPREME COURT JURISPRUDENCE ON THE SIGNING OF COURT PROCESSES

By



Oluniyi Adediji
Junior Partner



Chidera Madumere
Junior Associate



Rifkatu Ali
Junior Associate

INTRODUCTION

For well over a decade, the decisions in *Okafor v. Nweke*¹ and *SLB Consortium Ltd v. NNPC*² have firmly shaped the Nigerian judiciary's approach to determining the validity of court processes, particularly regarding the proper signing of legal documents. These cases established a clear standard requiring strict compliance with procedural rules under the Legal Practitioners Act.³ In a notable development on August 11th, 2025, the Supreme Court in *Olowe & Anor v. Aluko*⁴ appeared to adopt a more purposive approach in its interpretation of sections 2(1) and 24(1) of the Legal Practitioners Act, potentially relaxing the earlier, strict rule. However, just two weeks later, on August 25th, 2025, the Court in *Menakaya v. Ezim*⁵ delivered a judgment that reaffirmed its earlier stance, reinforcing the established position. Both judgments were unanimous, with no dissenting opinions recorded, yet they presented distinct approaches to a similar legal issue. This article seeks to explore this jurisprudential development by attempting an examination of the nuances within the Court's reasoning and its implications for the future of procedural justice in Nigeria.

¹ [2007] 10 NWLR (Pt. 1043) 521 SC.

² [2011] 9 NWLR (Pt. 1252) 317 SC.

³ Cap L11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

⁴ [2025] LPELR-81320 SC.

⁵ [2025] 14 NWLR (Pt. 2005) 265.

THE FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE

The issue of the validity of court documents, specifically, who is legally authorized to sign them, was first addressed by the Apex Court in *Okafor v. Nweke*.⁶ In that case, the applicant filed a motion that was signed by “J.H.C. Okolo, SAN & Co.”, a law firm, rather than by an identifiable individual legal practitioner and was supported by an affidavit to which the proposed notice of cross-appeal was attached. The notice of appeal and the applicants' brief of argument were also signed by “J.H.C. Okolo, SAN & Co.”

In response, the 1st to 3rd Respondents challenged the competence of these processes on the ground that they were not signed in accordance with the Legal Practitioners Act. The Court was then presented with a consequential question: can a court process signed in the name of a law firm, rather than a legal practitioner, be held to be valid under Nigerian law? The Court, in a bid to adjudicate this particular issue, took into consideration the literal interpretation of section 2(1) and section 24(1) of the Legal Practitioners Act,⁷ which respectively state as follows:

“S.2(1) *Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person shall be entitled to practise as a Barrister and Solicitor if, and only if, his name is on the roll.*”

“S.24 *In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say -*

“legal practitioner” means a person entitled in accordance with the provisions of this Act to practise as a barrister or as a barrister and solicitor, either generally or for the purposes of any particular office proceedings.”

The application was unanimously struck out on the ground of incompetence. Delivering the leading judgment, Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, J.S.C, held:

The combined effect of the above provisions is that for a person to be qualified to practise as a legal practitioner he must have his name in the roll otherwise he cannot engage in any form of legal practice in Nigeria. The question that follows is whether J.H.C. OKOLO SAN & CO is a legal practitioner recognized by the law' From the submissions of both counsel, it is very clear that the answer to that question is in the negative. In other words, both

⁶ Ibid (n 1).
⁷ Ibid (n 3).

senior counsel agree that J.H.C. OKOLO SAN & CO is not a legal practitioner and therefore cannot practise as such by say, filing processes in the courts of this country. It is in recognition of this fact that accounts for the argument of learned Senior Advocate for the applicants that to determine the actual person who signed the processes evidence would have to be adduced which would necessarily establish the fact that the signature on top of the inscription J.H.C. OKOLO SAN & CO actually belongs to J.H.C. OKOLO SAN who is a legal practitioner in the roll.

This case, therefore, pronounced a strict application of the Legal Practitioners Act stating that only a natural person whose name appeared on the Roll of Legal Practitioners was considered competent to sign and file court processes in Nigeria. A law firm, being an artificial entity and not a legal practitioner within the meaning of the Act, lacked the legal capacity to carry out such acts. Consequently, any court process signed in the name of a law firm was deemed incompetent and liable to be struck out. This decision was primarily focused on technical compliance.⁸

It is also important to note that the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Okafor v. Nweke* rested on the long-established doctrine that a law firm has no separate legal personality under Nigerian law. Unlike incorporated companies, which are recognized as separate legal entities capable of suing and being sued in their own name, a law firm is merely a business name or partnership through which legal practitioners operate. It is not itself a juristic person. Consequently, it lacks the legal capacity to sign, file, or authenticate court processes. This principle was later reaffirmed in *SLB Consortium Ltd v. NNPC*,⁹ where the Supreme Court again struck out originating processes signed in the name of a law firm, holding them to be fundamentally defective. The Court emphasized that non-compliance with the requirement for proper signature affects the competence of the process and robs the court of jurisdiction to entertain the matter.

A PURPOSIVE APPROACH: THE PERSPECTIVE IN *OLOWE AND ANOR V. ALUKO*

The Supreme Court in *Olowe & Anor v Aluko* demonstrated a potential shift towards a more contextual application of the Act. The Court held that where the individual who signed the document is readily identifiable as a legal practitioner on the Roll, the use of a law firm's name does not automatically render the process incompetent.

⁸ Kiki, LSP053: Signature on Court Processes: a Lawyer or Firm's Job? Revisiting the Principle in *Okafor v Nweke*, THELEGALSTANDPOINT (16 December 2021) <https://thelegalstandpoint.law.blog/2021/12/16/sp053-signature-on-court-processes-a-lawyer-or-firms-job-revisiting-the-principle-in-okafor-v-nweke/> accessed 10 August 2025.

⁹ *Ibid* (n 2).

The facts of the case were straightforward. The respondent had filed a statement of claim at the trial court, which was signed in the name of the law firm “Akeredolu & Olujimi”, though the originating process was signed by “Akin Olujimi, Esq.”. The appellants objected to the validity of the statement of claim on the ground that it was signed by a law firm rather than by a named legal practitioner, and therefore, in their view, contravened sections 2(1) and 24(1) of the Legal Practitioners Act. They argued that the process was incompetent and should be struck out. The Court of Appeal overruled this objection. Dissatisfied, the appellants took the matter to the Supreme Court. After much deliberation, Mohammed Baba Idris, J.S.C., delivering the leading judgment stated thus:

It is not in contention between the parties that the name Akeredolu refers to a distinguished legal practitioner who was called to the Nigerian Bar and has remained in active legal practice since approximately 1978. Likewise, the name Olujimi is clearly and unequivocally identifiable as that of a seasoned legal practitioner who has been in continuous practice since 1979.

The Writ of Summons in this suit was signed by Akin Olujimi, Esq., while the accompanying Statement of Claim bears the signatures of Akeredolu and Olujimi. Both individuals are not only undisputedly legal practitioners but are also enrolled to practice law within the jurisdiction of Nigeria. In the light of the foregoing, the signing of the Statement of Claim cannot be deemed as defective. The names of the signatories are clearly identifiable as belonging to persons duly qualified and entitled to practice law under the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act. There is no uncertainty or ambiguity as to their professional standing, and their endorsement on the originating processes sufficiently satisfies the statutory requirement for proper signing by a legal practitioner. Once a name appearing on a legal process is identifiable as that of a person duly enrolled as a legal practitioner in Nigeria, the requirements of the Legal Practitioners Act are deemed to have been complied with and such process is valid in the eyes of the law.

Significantly, in this case, the Supreme Court was not referred to *Okafor v. Nweke* but instead relied on ***Heritage Bank Ltd v. Benworth Finance Nig. Ltd.***¹⁰ This authority placed emphasis on whether the signature on the court process can be

¹⁰ (2018) 3 SCM 65 (at 78F – 80A).

traced to an identifiable legal practitioner whose name is on the roll. This context may explain why the panel in *Olowe* adopted the approach they took, focusing on the identity of the signatory as a practitioner, rather than completely invalidating the process. It is also noteworthy that emphasis was placed on the fact that the originating process, being the fundamental instrument that sets judicial proceedings in motion, was duly signed and thus not in contest. Rather, the issue lay with the statement of claim, which derives its validity from the originating process, citing ***Ashaka v. Nwachukwu***.¹¹

The Court, in its reasoning, incorporated a purposive approach to interpretation when construing the relevant sections. It reasoned that the legislative intent was to ensure that only duly qualified legal practitioners handle court processes, not to invalidate processes based on technical defects where no substantive breach existed. On this basis, the Court held that where a process is signed by a clearly identifiable and duly enrolled legal practitioner, the statutory requirements are satisfied, notwithstanding the appearance of a firm's name.

REAFFIRMING ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES: THE RULING IN *MENAKAYA V. EZIM*

Following closely on the heels of *Olowe*, the Supreme Court's judgment in *Menakaya v. Ezim* reaffirmed the procedural clarity established in *Okafor v. Nweke*. The facts of the case are as follows: The appellant challenged the decision of the Court of Appeal, Enugu Division, delivered on 29th March 2019, in the matter of *Mr. O. C. Menakaya v. Dr. Harry W. E. Ezim (suing through his attorney, Arc. David Moh)*. The Court of Appeal had dismissed the appellant's case and affirmed the judgment of the trial court delivered earlier on 19th March 2004. Dissatisfied, the appellant appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that both the trial court and the Court of Appeal lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. He contended that the originating processes and all accompanying documents were improperly signed, as they were not done by a legal practitioner in their personal capacity, but in the name of the firm "J.H.C. Okolo, S.A.N. & Co." This, he argued, violated Sections 2(1) and 24(1) of the Legal Practitioners Act.

Jamilu Yammama Tukur, J.S.C, delivering the leading judgement, stated thus:

The question that follows is whether J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co. is a legal practitioner recognized by the law. From the submissions of both counsels, it is very clear that the answer to that question is in

¹¹ (2024) LPELR – 61796.

the negative. In other words, both senior counsel agree that J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co. is not a legal practitioner and therefore cannot practice as such by, say, filing processes in the courts of this country. It is in recognition of this fact that accounts for the argument of learned Senior Advocate for the applicants that, to determine the actual person who signed the processes, evidence would have to be adduced which would necessarily establish the fact that the signature on top of the inscription 'J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co.' actually belongs to J.H.C. Okolo SAN, who is a legal practitioner on the roll. I had earlier stated that the law does not say that what should be on the roll should be the signature of the legal practitioner but his name. That apart, it is very clear that, by looking at the documents, the signature which learned Senior Advocate claims to be his really belongs to J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co., or was appended on its behalf, since it was signed on top of that name. Since both counsel agree that J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co. is not a legal practitioner recognized by the law, it follows that the said J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co. cannot legally sign and/or file any process in the courts....

The Honourble Justice went further to reinstate the established approach by stating thus:

By the decision of this Court in Okafor & Ors. v. Nweke & Ors. (supra), both the originating process, which is the bedrock of the suit at the trial court, and the other ancillary processes filed by the said J.H.C. Okolo SAN & Co. are all incompetent, and this robbed the trial court of the jurisdiction to entertain the suit. The suit before the trial court was incompetent, and the trial court, and by extension the Court of Appeal and this Court, lack the jurisdiction to entertain any appeal arising from same.

The decision in *Menakaya v. Ezim* provided a clear restatement of the principle in *Okafor v. Nweke*, confirming that processes signed by a law firm, rather than an individual legal practitioner, are invalid. Although this appeal was determined on the appellant's brief alone, for practitioners and litigants, it serves as a reminder that procedural precision remains a critical aspect of securing justice within the Nigerian legal system.

ANALYSING THE JURISPRUDENTIAL NUANCES IN *OLOWE V. ALUKO* AND *MENAKAYA V. EZIM*

The decisions in *Olowe v. Aluko* and *Menakaya v. Ezim*, delivered just weeks apart by the same Court, highlight the nuanced nature of Nigeria's procedural jurisprudence. While both cases dealt with the same fundamental issue, being the validity of court process signed by a law firm, the Justices applied distinct reasoning leading to different conclusions.

The different outcomes in *Olowe* and *Menakaya* can be understood by two major factors:

1. Authorities Relied Upon

The Court in *Olowe* leaned heavily on *Heritage Bank v. Benworth*, which emphasized that what matters is the identifiability of the signatory. That panel adopted a more purposive and liberal construction, seeking to determine the legislature's intent, that is, to ensure that only qualified legal practitioners handle legal processes, without invalidating proceedings for minor technical slips.

Conversely, in *Menakaya*, the panel reverted strictly to *Okafor v. Nweke*, giving a literal interpretation to the statutory provisions. By applying a **literal rule of interpretation**, the Court held that any originating process signed in the name of a law firm was incurably defective, regardless of whether the identity of a legal practitioner could be discerned.

2. Nature of the Process Signed

In *Olowe*, the originating process was duly signed by a legal practitioner, leaving no doubt as to its validity. The contest centered instead on the statement of claim, which merely derives its validity from the originating process.

In *Menakaya*, however, the originating process itself was signed in the name of a law firm, rendering it fundamentally flawed *ab initio*. This distinction was critical because an originating process has consistently been described as the "lifeblood of a suit."

These differences partly account for the divergence in reasoning. Yet, the broader issue persists: two unanimous judgments of the Supreme Court, delivered within a short span of time, reached opposite conclusions on a closely related matter. The variation reflects not merely factual variations, but the ongoing challenge of maintaining coherence in a complex legal system. When different panels of the

Supreme Court reach varying conclusions on closely related issues, it can create uncertainty for legal practitioners. This underscores the value of continued harmony and coordination across panels, so that the Court may consistently speak with one voice and strengthen public confidence in the justice system.

CONCLUSION

The distinct approaches in *Olowe v. Aluko* and *Menakaya v. Ezim* demonstrate the dynamic challenge of maintaining consistency in the Supreme Court's procedural jurisprudence. Both judgments were unanimous, both were delivered within weeks of each other, and yet they applied different interpretive lenses to a point of law that directly affects the validity of court processes. For practitioners and litigants alike, this evolution in reasoning underscores the importance of meticulous attention to procedural details, as the nature of the defective process and the specific authorities presented can significantly influence the outcome.

The Supreme Court, as the final arbiter of law, carries the profound responsibility of balancing *stare decisis* with the need for contextual justice. Coherence in its decisions is a cornerstone for the stability of legal practice and the predictability of judicial outcomes. It is therefore imperative that institutional measures be considered to promote harmony across panels, whether through circulation of decisions, or by adopting mechanisms that prevents contradictory pronouncements on the same legal issue. Ultimately, the strength of judicial precedent lies in its clarity and consistent application.

PHOTO SPEAK



L-R: Maryam Chukwuma, Racheal Moromooluwa Okediran and Shalom Kosisoschukwu Okoli, Interns



Sarah Jeta Atunga with H.E. Ambassador Kalilo Traore, Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to Nigeria and ECOWAS at the reception in celebration of Côte d'Ivoire's National Day



Front row L-R: Joy A. Onyeulor, Owopo O. Joanna, Nwokike Chidera, Sorochukwu C. Ugorji Usman Sharon Joshua, Balogun O. Shalom and Memshima V. Orjime
Back row L-R: Chukwuemeka Chidera, Jiro O. Ominimini, Asuquo S. Orok, Nkem Christopher and Ewhubare Alex, 2025 Externs from the Nigerian Law School



L-R: Jerry Ombugadu Musa, Deborah Ajulo, Ayomide Tope-Fatuase, Hajara M. Sorondinki, Rifkatu Ali and Ibukunoluwa Thompson at the National Public Hearing for the review of the 1999 Constitution at Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN delivering a keynote speech at the 2025 SAN designates pre-conferment dinner organised by Prof. Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, OFR, held at Cilantro Restaurant, Maitama, Abuja



L-R: Jerry Ombugadu Musa, Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, Luka Haruna A. Musa, SAN and Chidi Mark Agbo at the Learned Silk's post Conferment reception dinner



L-R: Ayomide Tope-Fatuase, Rifkatu Ali, Edwin Adakole Inegedu, SAN and Deborah Ajulo at the Learned Silk's post Conferment reception dinner



L-R: Laura Abdullahi, Jerry Musa, Ali Dussah Zubairu, SAN, mni with his wife and children; Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, and Chidi Mark Agbo at the Learned Silk's post Conferment reception dinner



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

NEWS

FROM THE FIRM

- Congratulations to our Founding Principal Partner, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, on successfully attaining a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Energy and Natural Resources Law and Policy from Nile University of Nigeria. We celebrate this remarkable academic achievement and his continued dedication to excellence and expertise in the legal profession.
- On Wednesday, 10th September 2025, Newgate University, Minna, ushered in a new chapter by officially inaugurating Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, as its esteemed Chancellor. This momentous occasion, which also featured the investiture of the Pro-Chancellor, Mallam Nuhu Hassan (Mayanan Minna), was a highlight of the vibrant Founders' Day celebration. The event was further distinguished by the unveiling of the Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa Innovation and Business Development Centre (SNIBUD), collectively marking a defining milestone in the institution's history.
- The former Chairman of the Mentoring Committee of the Body of Benchers, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, in a goodwill message, felicitated with the newly called lawyers to the Nigerian Bar. The respected Senior Advocate hailed their call to the Bar as a landmark achievement born of years of diligence, sacrifice, and resilience.
- The firm proudly welcomes Chidera Madumere, Ayomide Inumidun Tope Fatuase, Precious Adaugo Moses, Arinze Pascal Chibueze, Owzor Chinonum Excellence, Timileyin Deborah Ajulo, and Rifkatu Ali, who have joined us for their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme. We extend our warmest welcome and wish each of them a productive, rewarding, and fruitful service year with the firm.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

African Bar Association (AfAA) 2025 Annual Conference
19th - 23rd October, 2025, Accra, Ghana

J-K Gadzama LLP 9th Annual Moot and Mock Trial, October, 2025.
At the Hon. Justice Niki Tobi, JSC Moot Court, Pent-floor,
J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja, Nigeria

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 Associate

Sarah Jeta Atumga

Visiting Associate

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

Associates

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

Junior Associates

1. Chidera E. Madumere
2. Ibukunoluwa Thompson Samuel
3. Rifkatu Ali
4. Ayomide Inumidun Tope-Fatuase
5. Precious Moses
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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)

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+234 (0) 901 425 8316

info@jicam.org

@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

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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

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    J-K GADZAMA LLP

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