

CHIMEMEKA CHRYSOLYTE, EGONU

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EDUCATION

Nigerian Law School

Kano, Nigeria

Barrister at Law (B.L.), Second Class Honors (Upper Division)

October 2017 – September 2018

- Earned 4 A's and 1 B+ across 5 courses offered, including Civil and Criminal Litigation.

University of Nigeria (UNN)

Enugu, Nigeria

Bachelor of Laws (LL. B), Second Class Honors (Upper Division)

September 2012 – June 2017

- President, Law Students Association
- Recipient, Outstanding Leader of the Year Award
- Achieved distinctions in core modules, including Torts, Evidence & Procedure, Commercial Law, and Arbitration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Oake Legal (*A full-service disputes and commercial law firm in Nigeria*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Senior Associate (*Leading the Disputes and Arbitration Practice Team in the Lagos Office*)

January 2021 – Present

Arbitration

- Co-counsel representing Xanderwill Limited (“Claimant”) in three (3) separate ad-hoc arbitral proceedings under UNCITRAL Rules of Arbitration commenced in Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda against Massmart Holdings (Owners of the [Game Stores](#)), for the [wrongful termination of sale of business agreements and failure to conclude the \\$7.4 million sale](#) of its 14 stores across Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.
 - (a) obtained an award for a claim of the Escrow Deposit in the Nigeria arbitration before [Mr Tunde Fagbohunlu](#);
 - (b) successfully persuaded the arbitrator ([Mrs Olive Zaale Otete FCI Arb \(UK\)](#)) to refuse the Respondents’ application requiring the Claimants to give security for costs in the Uganda arbitration;
 - (c) argued Article 5 of the International Bar Association (IBA) Rules on the Taking of Evidence 2020, Section 178 (1) the Ghana Evidence Act NRCD 1973 and Section 5(2) Alternative Dispute Resolution Act 798 of 2010 to oppose the Respondents’ bid to exclude the Claimant’s expert evidence from the Joint Expert Statement in the Ghana proceedings. The arbitrator ([Mr Emmanuel Amofa](#)), upheld our position and refused the exclusion; and
 - (d) cross-examined Professor Harvey Elliot Wainer, a forensics accounting and valuation expert witness appointed by the Respondents in the Ghana and Uganda proceedings.
- Team member representing 9mobile (one of Nigeria’s main telecommunication providers) in ongoing arbitration at the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) before [Mr Jaime Gallego](#) in a claim for a debt sum of \$10.8 million owed by the Respondent arising under a contract for the provision of International Carrier Services.
- Lead counsel for an indigenous Nigerian oil and gas company at Nigeria’s Federal High Court (“FHC”) before [Hon. Justice A. Lewis-Allagoa](#) in the challenge against the enforcement of an adverse award in the sum of \$1.5 million by [Ms Chantel Aimee Doerries QC](#) under LCIA proceedings. Contributed to case law by advancing arguments resulting in a [judicial pronouncement on the jurisdiction of the FHC to enforce an award on a subject matter \(simple contracts\) within the constitutional jurisdiction of Nigeria’s State High Courts](#).
- Co-counsel representing an award debtor at the High Court in challenging the enforcement of an award rendered in an ad hoc arbitration by [Mr Patrick I.N Ikwueto SAN, FCI Arb \(UK\)](#); [Mrs Dorothy Ufot SAN FCI Arb \(UK\)](#), and Mr Kelechi Obi SAN. Expanded available case law by advancing arguments that an application for the enforcement of an arbitral award filed before the expiration of the three (3) month period allowed a party to apply to set aside the award under section 29 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 2004 [is premature and renders the enforcement application incompetent](#).
- Lead Counsel representing a defendant real estate developer as lead counsel in a property development dispute under ad hoc proceedings, arising from the sale and purchase of a 4-bedroom townhouse in one of Nigeria’s high-brow areas. Obtained a successful resolution with the Claimant walking away from trial with a discount settlement payment of ₦120 million.

Litigation

- Co-counsel representing the [Wheatbaker Hotels](#) in successfully opposing an application for interim injunction commenced under the pre-action protocol process, requesting the court to freeze an alleged debt sum of ₦256.8 million. Presented arguments that (a) an alleged admission of debt is not a factor necessitating the grant of a mareva injunction; and (b) an interim injunction under the pre-action process can only be granted to last until the outcome of mediation or settlement. The court in striking out the application, agreed with this position pronouncing that [‘as soon as mediation or settlement efforts failed, the bottom had been knocked out of this case’](#).

- Lead counsel for a dealing member of the Nigerian Exchange Group at the FHC in successfully defending the pioneer decision of the Nigerian Stock Exchange Demutualization Claims Review Panel recognising the member's entitlement to 6,007,884 demutualized shares of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.
 - Prepared and argued a preliminary objection, challenging the court's jurisdiction on grounds that (a) the matter involved simple contracts outside its purview, and (b) it was improperly commenced by writ of summons instead of by application for judicial review. The court [upheld the objection, affirming lack of jurisdiction and striking out the suit](#).
- Co-counsel for a defendant company in raising a successful jurisdictional challenge to a directorship claim commenced at the FHC by an aggrieved removed director. The Court in its [ruling upholding the jurisdictional objection, declined to hear the suit](#).
- Co-counsel representing a top Nigerian retail chain outlet in convincing the High Court to set aside and discharge Mareva orders of interim injunction obtained *ex-parte* (without notice) against it, restricting funds in its bank accounts. Advanced compelling arguments that resulted in the [court pronouncing a same-day bench-ruling discharging all of its earlier interim mareva orders](#).
- Co-counsel in high-profile financial crime litigation, successfully securing the discharge of forfeiture orders on personal assets belonging to [Mr Thomas Etuh](#), Nigerian billionaire and former Chairman of [Unity Bank Plc](#), wrongly linked to [ex-Bank PHB MD, Francis Atuche \(convicted of fraud and embezzlement\)](#). Persuaded the court to hear the [application during its vacation period](#), resulting in a [full reversal of all forfeiture orders](#).
- Co-counsel representing Direct Investments Limited (DIL) in [obtaining an interim order of injunction](#), restraining Global Steel Holdings Limited and Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (including its liquidators and assigns) from dissipating the [\\$496 million paid by the Federal Government of Nigeria to Global Steel Holdings Limited as settlement of a \\$5.3 billion claim](#), pending the consideration of DIL's interests and proof of debt by the joint liquidators of Global Steel Holdings in the Isle of Man.

Finance, Capital Market & Private Equity

- Led the team as solicitors to the issuer on a ₦15 billion bond issuance programme by AB Microfinance Bank Limited under an SPV structure. Drafted and/or reviewed (a) Deed of Covenant; (b) Master Notes Purchase Agreement; (c) Vending Agreement; (d) Programme Trust Deed; (e) Series I Trust Deed etc.
- Worked in concert with financial adviser to design and provide preliminary advice to a major Nigerian downstream indigenous oil & gas company on the proposed 100% divestment of its aviation business and assets to a related party entity.
- Advised Kwararafa Africa Limited on the [acquisition of a 60% interest in Notore Chemical Industries Plc](#), a leading fertiliser and agro-allied company in Africa for a transaction value of \$150 million.
- Advised [LH Telecommunication Limited on its acquisition of EMTS](#) (owners of [T2 Mobile](#)) resulting in the issuance of new shares amounting to 95.5% of EMTS to the investor.
 - (i) conducted legal due diligence on EMTS, presenting findings and key risks to investor.
 - (ii) liaised with financial adviser for the negotiation and conclusion of agreements for [debt settlements to critical vendors](#), and debt restructure proposals to syndicate banks.
 - (iii) reviewed term sheet, facility agreement, FX sale and purchase agreements for the restructuring of Afrexim's \$251 million facility.
 - (iv) drafted investment agreement, convertible loan agreement, share sale and purchase agreement for investor's ₦146 billion investment in EMTS.
- Advised CardinalStone Capital Advisers (CCA), a West African private equity fund manager, on [a \\$6 million investment in Afya Care](#), a Nigerian health care undertaking as part of Afya Care's Series A fund raise.
- Advised an indigenous borrower in the film industry for a \$5 million Afrexim facility. Reviewed the facility agreement, security trust deed, deed of legal mortgage, deed of account charge, and deed of assignment of receivables, facilitating a smooth and successful loan acquisition.
- Supported First Aluminium Plc (FAN Plc) and [Notore Chemicals Plc](#) (Notore) to successfully undertake a corporate restructuring and arrangement with members for the respective acquisition by the majority shareholders of the shares of the minority shareholders and subsequent conversion into a private limited company. Applied for, and obtained an order of the FHC sanctioning the scheme of arrangement for [FAN Plc](#) and [Notore](#).
- Co-counsel on the [₦3 billion Commercial Paper Issuance by Cutix Plc](#). Prepared key agreements including the deed of

covenant, issuing and placing agreement, calculating and paying agency agreement, solicitor's opinion etc.

Oluwakemi Balogun LP (*Renown Nigerian insolvency and commercial disputes law firm*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Associate

January 2019 – December 2020

- Part of the legal team that represented Zenith Bank Plc (Plaintiff) in high-stakes litigation to enforce a ₦23.3 billion (\$61.3 million) personal guarantee following a primary corporate obligor's default on its indebtedness.
- Member of the defence team for [United Bank for Africa Plc](#) in resisting and counterclaiming against a pre-emptive action by [Nestoil Plc](#) (*Nigeria's largest indigenous Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning (EPCC) Company in the Oil and Gas sector*) challenging its ₦15.1 billion (\$40 million) indebtedness to the bank.
- Plaintiff's Lead Counsel in securing a favourable [judgment](#) after trial for recovery of ₦771.1 million indebtedness for Nigeria's [Bank of Industry](#).
- Co-Counsel representing Nigerian Senior Counsel, Mr. Oluwakemi Balogun, SAN (liquidator) in successfully defeating a dismissed employee's termination claim against the liquidator and company in liquidation. Advanced arguments on (a) improper parties, (b) absence of a cause of action, and (c) non-compliance with statutory preconditions depriving the court of jurisdiction. The court upheld these objections, holding the suit incompetent and [striking it out for want of jurisdiction](#).

Rickey Tarfa & Co (*One of Nigeria's leading litigation and disputes law firms*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Extern

May 2018 – July 2018

- Assisted in compiling and sorting documents to be tendered in court as evidence.
- Read case files and familiarized with court processes
- Took down notes of examination during trial for firm review and assessment.

G. Elias & Co (*One of Nigeria's leading commercial law firms*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Intern

September 2017–October 2017

- Conducted extensive legal research and worked on corporate transactions relating to foreign direct investments.
- Proof-read and reviewed completed transaction and litigation documents for clerical errors.
- Researched legal authorities for writing comprehensive legal opinions and case updates for clients.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Head of Prayer Unit, [Deeper Life Bible Church, Faith District](#)

November 2023 – Present

- Coordinating the prayer ministry of a 1000+ member church, by organising special prayer programs, mentoring members on biblical prayer doctrines, and collaborating with church leadership to integrate prayer into church activities, resulting in increased spiritual growth.
- Chaired the planning committee for the [Faith Fire Conference](#), an annual prayer conference hosting over 2,000 onsite participants and 11,000+ online viewers. Outlined conference objectives, delegated tasks to team members, and coordinated regular meetings to monitor progress resulting in [a successful conference](#).

President, [Law Students Association UNN](#).

August 2016 – June 2017

- Elected President of a 1,300-member student association, providing strategic leadership, representing student interests to university authorities, and delivering academic, social, and welfare initiatives through effective committee coordination and student engagement.

Director of Research and Criminal Litigation, [Zenith Chambers, UNN](#).

July 2014 – August 2016

- Trained and mentored the student chambers' research and litigation team to develop winning strategies that secured victory in the annual Student Association Moot and Mock Trial Competition.

Secretary, [Law Dinner Committee, UNN](#)

August 2015

- Organized strategy and planning meetings, managed official correspondence, coordinated with faculty, student leaders, vendors, and dignitaries, ensuring seamless execution of the ceremony.

Member, [House of Representatives, Students Union Government, UNN](#)

November 2012 – August 2013

- Elected as the youngest member of the legislative arm of the Students' Union Government, representing the Faculty of Law and setting a precedent for younger candidates in subsequent elections.
- Participated in drafting and reviewing student-focused legislation, debating motions, and passing resolutions on issues affecting over 7,000 students on campus.

VOLUNTEERING/SOCIAL IMPACT ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer Donor, [Pad-a-girl initiative](#)** May 2025
- Sponsored 300 sanitary pads for underserved girls through *Pad-a-Girl*, an initiative addressing menstrual poverty. With each pad costing just \$0.10, this contribution provided vital menstrual health products and awareness to girls who otherwise lacked access, directly improving school attendance and personal well-being.
- Advisory Board Member and Donor, [Photography to Slums Africa](#)** May 2025 – Present
- Funded photography workshops and advocacy programs equipping marginalized communities with visual storytelling skills, while providing strategic guidance as Board Member to broaden reach and amplify social impact.
- Volunteer, [Faith Global Harvesters](#)** March 2023 – Present
- Led a sectional team for a Christian evangelical charity, delivering medical supplies, food, clothing, and counselling to over 5,000 beneficiaries across seven (7) rural Nigerian communities, bringing hope and support to neglected populations.
- Volunteer, [University of Nigeria Law Clinic](#)** August 2015
- Collaborated with the Students' Law Clinic on prison outreach programs, conducting inmate interviews, counselling sessions, and human rights awareness campaigns.

ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

- *Legal alert on the new SEC Rules on the Issuance of Commercial Papers in Nigeria*, [LinkedIn](#), March 2025
- *Of Silicon Valley, OpenAI, and Sam Altman*, [LinkedIn](#), November 2023
- *Nigeria: Exploring the Scope of LLPs as an Alternative Investment Vehicle*, June 2021
- *An Examination of the Scope of the Liabilities and Indemnity of the Receiver/Manager Under Nigerian Law*, December 2019
- *Introduction of Payment Service Banks in Nigeria: Reflections One Year After*, October 2019
- A Rejoinder to 'Legality of Foreign Currency Denominated Loans by Nigerian Banks', August 2019
- An Appraisal of the Legal Framework for Legislative Recall in Nigeria. (*LL.B Thesis*), May 2017

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Inspirational Role Model Award by *Emerald Squad, [Deeper Life Bible Church, Faith District](#)* December 2024
- [INSOL](#) Future Leader 2023 January 2024
- Best Dressed Male, OAKE Legal December 2022
- Outstanding Leader of the Year, LAWSA UNN June 2017
- Best Dressed Male, UNN Law Class of 2017 June 2017
- Recognised as one of 5 Best Dressed Male Students in the Faculty of Law UNN May 2016
- Recognised as one of 4 Solicitors of the Year in the University's Students Bar Association December 2016
- Senior Advocate Award, UNN October 2016
- Oralist, [National Tax Debate](#) 3.0. November 2016
- Best Oralist, JMCC Ogbuka Mock Trial Competition. May 2015
- Oralist, Sir B.E.I Nwofor Inter-Universities Moot Court Competition, 2nd Edition. March 2015

MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS

- Participant, [Delos Remote Oral Advocacy Programme](#) Construction (EMEA) 2025/6 September 2025
- Member, Young ICCA (*The International Council for Commercial Arbitration*) September 2025
- Member, *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom*, April 2025
- Member, NBA-SBL Sub-Committee on Banking, Finance & Insolvency January 2025
- The Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) July 2021
- *INSOL* International January 2019
- Member, Nigerian Bar Association November 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skills: Cross Examination, Oral Advocacy, Brief Writing, Client relations, Negotiation

Interests: Public Speaking, Writing, Playing the Piano, Artificial Intelligence etc.

Languages: English (Very Proficient), Igbo (Very Proficient).