HOW BD LEGAL BUSINESS SELECTED THE 20 INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS

In recent years the Nigerian Legal Profession has undergone significant change. There are more women in partner positions across the biggest commercial firms in the country than there have ever been in Nigerian history. Women have shown a proclivity for solicitor practice and hence have significantly more presence in commercial/business law. No doubt gender disparities still exist in favour of men, but there have been encouraging strides made by women over the last decade. We think it is important to highlight these women to serve as an inspiration to young female lawyers as well as stimulate the trajectory of excellence that they have injected into the legal profession.

In acknowledgement of this, the BD Legal Business set out to create a report recognising twenty influential and inspiring women in law covering ten practice areas.

Our selection criteria took the following into account.

1. Influence
The extent of their reach? Does the person in question have power or influence over large numbers of people? How many employees do they oversee? What resources do they control? Do they have a big budget to wield? Any national appointments?

2. Recognition
The international bodies that they are members of, e.g. Chartered Institute of Arbitrators UK. Do they have credibility even beyond the shores of Nigeria?

3. Achievement
What has the individual achieved? How significant has that achievement been? How will we remember their contribution?

4. Legacy
Have they created a commercial legacy, perhaps, through a landmark transaction or judgment? Did they engineer substantial change? Were they the first to perform their role? Or, perhaps, did they achieve in a challenging environment, facing additional barriers?

Our aim while embarking on this was to make sure the selection process was as fair and subjective as possible.

To this end, we shortlisted five women in each category based on research conducted by our Business Research and Intelligence Unit. Following the shortlist, we identified 40 legal practitioners at different stages of post-call, these being three years post-call, five years post-call, seven years post-call, and ten years post-call. We asked each individual to rank the shortlisted candidates based on the four criteria above. We awarded maximum points for a 1st choice, next highest for the 2nd choice, and so on down to the 5th choice.

We intentionally omitted In-House Counsel category as we did not feel we had established criteria at this point to provide a fair deduction of that area. We are currently working to improve our methods in anticipation of subsequent reports.

The legal business team would like to specially honour Mrs. Bisi Akeju, Managing Partner of Olisa Agbakoba Legal who was shortlisted but who passed away this year. She was an inspiration to many young lawyers. May her soul rest in peace.

A Note From the Editor

Every year is unique. Still, 2020, like man's first trip to the moon stands in a league of its own. Descriptions of this year range from "unusual" to "what next?" Yet we have witnessed ourselves as individuals, families, organisations and nations, in many respects, respond to each twist with creativity, courage and the bare best of our abilities.

The agile and elegant responses of the members of the legal profession to the disruptive effects of the pandemic, have been nothing short of remarkable and I am especially proud and privileged to be part this incredible group of people.

When we at BD Legal conceived of this report, we had just begun to feel the first win of the new normal and are especially glad to have succeeded in producing this special report celebrating Nigeria's Women in Business Law for the year 2020.

Our thanks go to the outstanding women featured in these pages for their immeasurable support of this report and who continue to stand as beacons of inspiration to young wigs, and also to everyone who participated in the selection process.

To the remarkable team at BusinessDay: "Look, we did it!"

ONYINYE UKEGBU

Published 17th December, 2020
STELLA DURU
Oil & Gas/Energy

Profile
Stella is a Partner in Banwo & Ighodalo's (B&I)'s Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group. She is a consummate professional with excellent mastery of the entire value chain of energy projects and almost twenty (20) years of cognate experience advising on a broad range of transactions including Oil & Gas, Power.

Stella has deep experience in oil, gas and power projects in Nigeria and has indeed been involved in World Bank sponsored work streams advising on the power sector reforms in Nigeria. Stella was actively involved in several of the power privatization transactions, and presently leads multiple teams advising on several transactions within the power sector, including infrastructure projects in the generation and distribution segments of the Nigerian Electricity Supply.

Stella continues to advise on transactions along the entire value chain of generation, transmission and distribution, as well as on deals pertaining to IPPs, off-grid and on-grid solutions to the power deficit in Nigeria. She is very passionate about monetizing and utilizing Nigeria's natural gas resources in order to get Nigeria powered up.

Many Describe Stella as: Knowledgeable, Progressive, Attactive.

Landmark Achievement
Stella authors articles in leading law publications and is also a key resource person for continuing legal education for young and aspiring lawyers. She is continually invited as a speaker at different conferences and seminars in Nigeria and internationally, including conferences held at the prestigious Harvard Business School in Boston and Power Africa in South Africa.

Professional Memberships
Stella is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, International Bar Association (Section on Energy and Natural Resources Law) and Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.

Professional Achievement
Stella was appointed as a member of the Council of the Section of Business Law of the Nigerian Bar Association.

Quote to my Younger self
"Remain focused on the matters that matter and never doubt your ability to achieve anything you put your mind to."

FUNKER AGBOR, SAN
Maritime

Profile
Funker is highly lauded for her extensive experience in Admiralty Law, Shipping & Maritime Insurance Law & Litigation, Shipping Registration, Cabotage Regulations, Compliance, Ship Finance & Securitisation and International Trade Law & Commercial Arbitration.

She has represented clients on a broad range of commercial transactions before trial and appellate courts all over Nigeria. In addition, Funke is a seasoned maritime arbitrator who has represented the firm in numerous international arbitration cases.

Her active participation in the development and formulation of policy in the Nigerian maritime industry has contributed to her acknowledged as an authority in the industry.

At ACAS-Law, along with her team, she has assisted in the successful privatization and concessioning of the largest container terminal facility in Nigeria. Through her dedication in the profession and service, she became the 1st Vice President, Nigerian Maritime Law Association in 2007.

Many describe Funke as: Reliable, Driven and Inspiring.

Landmark Achievement
First Female Maritime lawyer to become a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Professional Memberships
Council Member of the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria.

Professional Awards & Honours
She was awarded to Hall of Fame, Legal 500 in Shipping and Transport.

Quote to my Younger self
"In life, there may be several rooms on the way to your goal. Whatever rooms or opportunities you encounter, do your best in them and the value you create will speak for you. Be humble, acknowledge your limitations and seek help where you think you can find it, be courageous, recognize the challenges and strategically employ them as a catalyst for forward movement."

ADENOYIN RHODES-VIVOUR, SAN
Arbitration

Profile
Her pedigree is so renowned she almost seems synonymous with the concept of arbitration in Nigeria. This is evident in her numerous foreign certifications. She is a British Chevening Scholar, a prestigious international award. In recognition of her leadership qualities, she was nominated by the United States Information Services (USIS) to participate in the Young African Leaders Programme in 2019. Adenoyin has practiced law for nearly four decades, has acted as arbitrator and counsel in a vast number of cases and has extensive experience under various institutional rules. She specializes in commercial transactions, international and domestic arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. Her areas of expertise include energy and natural resources, construction and infrastructure projects, maritime, labour, banking and finance, telecommunications, franchise and commercial disputes generally. Her legal practice actively encourages alternative dispute resolution and she has successfully mediated several disputes. She has also acted as consultant to regulatory bodies for the drafting up arbitration/ADR industry specific schemes. She is a Notary Public of Nigeria. She is listed in editions of Guide to the World's Leading Commercial Arbitration Experts as one of the preeminent professionals in the world.

She is an author and published by LexisNexis. Many Describe Adoyin as: Virtuous, Versatile, Leader.

Landmark Achievement
Mrs. Rhodes-Vivour SAN has held various leadership positions including, immediate past Chairperson of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB) (UK) Nigeria Branch, pioneer President and Founding Member of the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria (MAAN), pioneer Chairperson of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (SBL) Arbitration & ADR Committee.
SANDRA OYEWOLE
Telecommunications
Media & Communications
Years of Practice: 27
Law Firm: Olajide Oyewole
Position: Partner

Profile
Sandra Oyewole could easily just have made the Intellectual Property Section in this report owing to her achievements and vast experience in this practice area. She leads Olajide Oyewole’s Technology & Intellectual property practice, primarily in media, sports, entertainment and technology sectors and is renowned for her deep knowledge of the sector. She leverages this dual knowledge to influence the industry on a macro-economic level by guiding and proposing business models that aid with the creation of distribution channels and revenue streams.

Beyond the law Sandra is also an avid philanthropist and is the founder and supporter of several non-profit organisations including Heritage Homes Orphanage, the BRCIUN foundations, Widoons and Development Support Services. Many Describe Sandra as: Inventive, Intellectual, Altruistic.

Landmark Achievement
Sandra Oyewole led the legal services required on the foreign investment deals in 2 of Nigeria’s biggest music companies last year by Olajide Oyewole last year. The deals pertained to the copyright assets, other forms of IP, artiste contracts, etc. Investments of this kind in the music industry are rare and both were heralded as news and landmark in nature.

Professional Memberships
Founding member of Heritage Homes Orphanage.

Professional Achievement
Her work has been noted in several International Law Review Expert Guides. Recently, she was recognised as a “Global Leader” for her vast knowledge in corporate practice and a “National Leader” for her Labour and Employment practice by Who’s Who Legal (Nigeria) 2019.

Quote to my Younger self
“If you can’t be a pine on top of the hill, be a scrub in the valley... but be the best little scrub by the side of the hill.”

KOFO DOKUKIN
Banking and Finance
Years of Practice: 35
Law Firm: Akolu & Oyebode
Position: Managing Partner

Profile
Kofo Dokukin’s illustrious career spans nearly four decades across many facets of the legal industry. She began as a Legal Officer at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in 1981, after which she worked as Associate in Debo Akande & Co. (Barristers & Solicitors). She has served in the Company Secretary/Legal Officer, Nigerian International Bank (Affiliate of Citibank, N.A.) and Assistant General Manager, Corporate Finance and Financial Institutions, amongst other like positions.

Currently, Kofo leads the Corporate and Commercial, and Banking practices of Akolu & Oyebode. She advises on a broad range of lending and commercial transactions, such as large local and foreign currency loan syndications and leases, mergers and acquisitions, project finance and transaction structuring. She has also served as counsel to offshore leads in the structuring of the security package and the extension of foreign currency facilities to oil exploration and production companies.

With expertise in banking, mergers and acquisitions, project development and finance, her sector specialisations include Energy, Natural Resources, Oil & Gas, Real Estate, Technology and Telecommunications as well as Transport. Many describe Kofo as: Resourceful, Passionate and Thorough.

Landmark Achievement
Advised a Consortium of International Commercial Banks and Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the US$1,490,000,000,000 (One Billion and Sixty Million United States Dollars) financing of the 4th and 5th trains of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Plant Expansion Project (NLNGP1P2).

Professional Memberships
She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association.

Professional Achievement
Several times recognised as a leading lawyer by various law review publications. Kofo was ranked Band 1 in Banking and Finance at Chambers Global.

MIFON USORO
Maritime
Years of Practice: 38
Law Firm: Paul Usoro & Co
Position: Managing Partner (leave of absence)

Profile
Mfon Usoro is among the foremost maritime lawyers in Nigeria. He has robust experience in legislative drafting and advocacy and led the Paul Usoro & Co (PUC) team in the drafting and legislative advocacy of the numerous legislations including: Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act 2007, Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria Act 2007, Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act 2003.

Mfon Usoro was the pioneer Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, (NIMASA) a position he vacated in 2007. He is the chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Finalization of the National Transport Policy for Nigeria.

Landmark Achievement
Legal Consultant and project team member to Geocentric Power Limited (an Independent Power Producer) in a greenfield US$386,000,000.00, 888MW Integrated Power Project.

Professional Memberships
Mfon currently serves as Chairperson, Board of Directors of TIB Asset Management Limited.

Past Chairperson, NBA Section on Business Law, 2010/2011.

Professional Awards & Honours
Mfon Usoro was conferred with Chevalier de l’Ordre du Merite Maritime, a National honour of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire in 2015, and Officier de L’Ordre de Momo, a national honour of the Republic of Togo in 2002. WISTA International Personality of the Year 2011 by Women International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) and Maritime Award of Excellence by the WISTA Nigeria.

Quote to my Younger self
“Keep self-aware—let your innate sense of self direct your career choices and don’t get weighed-down by other people’s achievements, or their expectations. Compete against yourself and strive to do better than the last great thing you did. Complete self-awareness is the acceptance that sometimes you will fail, but that failure shouldn’t define, but inspire, you to rise above your own inadequacies and conquer them.”

OLUBUNMI FAYOKUN
Capital Market
Years of Practice: 35
Law Firm: Akolu & Oyebode
Position: Partner

Profile
A veteran of the industry for several decades and one of the most respected senior lawyers in the legal profession, Olubunmi Fayokun inclusions in this list is one of the least contentions. She is a Senior Partner in the law firm of Akolu & Oyebode and leads the firm’s Capital Markets and Mergers & Acquisitions practice groups. She is also an integral member of the firm’s Management Board.

Olubunmi has 15 years’ experience in all aspects of corporate/commercial practice. She represents top-tier indigenous, international and multinational clients in various sectors including banking, energy and natural resources, power, insurance, mining, aviation, pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Olubunmi has served on various committees established by the Securities and Exchange Commission to promote the development of the Nigerian capital market, including the CMC Rules and Compliance Sub-committee and the CMC Market Infrastructure Sub-committee. She played a key role in the establishment of the Nigerian Association of Securities Dealers OTC market.

Many describe Ms Fayokun as: A Leader, Scrupulous, Dynamic.

Landmark Achievement
She advised on the Nigerian aspects of the US$1.3 Billion sale by Unilever Plc of its spreads businesses and the demunicipalisation of The Nigerian Stock Exchange.

Professional Memberships
The International Bar Association

Professional Awards & Honours
Securities & Exchange Commission Award for contributions to the development of the Nigerian Capital Market.

Quote to my Younger self
“It is important to believe in yourself, draw on your God-given reservoirs of inner strength and take control of your destiny. On your journey through life, you will face many challenges and obstacles, but do not be disheartened as there will also be abundant opportunities to embrace. Be bold and step out in confidence because you have everything it takes to excel in all areas of your life.”
**Profile**

You cannot mention arbitration in Nigeria without You. You cannot mention arbitration in Nigeria without mentioning Dorothy Ufo, she has effectively become synonymous with arbitration in Nigeria, and recently, Africa. After amassing an impressive experience record, she set out to establish her own firm in 1994.

At the turn of the millennium, she embarked on the defining journey of her professional career. She qualified as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2000 following her success at the fellowship examination of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) which took place in Barcelona, Spain in 1999. Thereafter, she commenced her pupillage training with the renowned Mr. Anthony Canim, Chartered Arbitrator and Past President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, leading up to her qualification as a Chartered Arbitrator in May 2003. Dorothy has practical experience in both institutional and A-blc Arbitration, having received several appointments as an arbitrator from an extensive array of corporate and government institutions. She now currently heads the International Arbitration and Litigation departments for her firm.

She was admitted to the Inner-Bar as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) on 12th April 2009. Dorothy Ufo is well known for her relentless work ethic, willpower and dynamism.

**Professional Memberships**

Past member of the Governing Council of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) chaired as Rules and Adjudication Committee.

Board member of SOA 1 Limited (one of Nigeria’s premier advertising and media relations companies). Dangote Cement Nigeria PLC (Africa’s largest cement producer). Dangote Cement Nigeria, The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - Nigeria National Committee and The Nigerian Price for Leadership (NPL).

Past member of the Nomination Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA) and a former Council Member of the Legal Practice Division of the IBA.

Member of the Council of the ICC Institute of World Business Law in Paris and a Member of the General Purpose Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA).

**Landmark Achievement**

Dorothy Ufo, SAN won the prestigious award of the African Arbitration of the Year 2020 which election took place on the sidelines of the 9th East African International Arbitration Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya on 20th August 2020.

**Professional Achievement**

Admitted to the Inner-Bar as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) on 12th April 2009.

Listed in the Global Arbitration Review’s GAR International Who’s Who of Commercial Arbitration Practitioners consecutively from 2009 to 2020 as one of the world’s leading experts in the field of International Arbitration.


**Quote to my Younger self**

“Dream dream and work very hard to convert your dreams into reality. Believe that nothing is impossible. There is no substitute to hard work and hard work doesn’t kill anyone. To shatter the glass ceiling, you have to work much, much harder than your contemporaries. Many women have done it in various fields. You too can do it.”

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**Profile**

Uche Nwokocha is a Harvard alumna, and stands as one of the leading IP lawyers in the country. He heads the Intellectual property department of Akiko & Gyobode, a firm largely regarded as among the top three in the country and advises local and international clients on the full range of brand-related matters including licensing, registration, trademark and patents, copyright and protection. He has experience in trademark clearance and exploitation, franchise and franchising, technology transfer, product registration with NAFDAC. Many describe Uche as ‘Passionate, Intelligent, Inventive’

**Landmark Achievement**

She successfully argued cancellation proceedings for GSK against an application by a third party to register a trademark conflicting with their Pantold and Laceradade trademarks.

**Professional Memberships**

Uche is a member of the board of directors of INTA and sits on its finance committee for 2020.

**Professional Awards & Honours**

She has been ranked among the 2020 World Trademark Review (WTR) 1000 and Top 250 Women in IP for 2020 by Managing Intellectual Property (MIP).

**Quote to my Younger self**

One must transform from ME to WE in order to find one’s purpose as a leader.

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**Profile**

Ayotunde Owolabi joined B&H in February 2001 and was admitted into the firm’s partnership in 2010. Her core practice areas are banking & finance, capital markets, M&A and project finance, in all of which she has garnered 20 years of hands-on technical and practical experience, nationally and internationally.

Ayotunde Owolabi is actively engaged in legal development and reform activities, particularly the capital market space. She is immediate past chairperson of the Capital Market Solicitors Association, an independent self-regulatory association of law firms engaged in capital market practice in Nigeria. Ayotunde is also a member of the Investors, Brokers & Intermediaries Engagement Education Sub-Committee set up by FMDQ to make recommendations on the Debt Capital Market Development Project.

Many describe Ayotunde as eloquent, resilient, and dismantled.

**Landmark Achievement**

Advised First City Monument Bank Limited in connection with the establishment of a N100,000,000,000 Bonds Issuance Programme through its wholly-owned special purpose vehicle, FCMB Financing SPV Plc under which programme the bank has issued three tranches of bonds.

**Professional Memberships**

She is a member of the Investors, Brokers & Intermediaries Engagement Education Sub-Committee set up by FMDQ to make recommendations on the Debt Capital Market Development Project.

**Professional Awards & Honours**

Her work has been noted in several International Law Review Expert Guides. Recently, she was recognized as a “Global Leader” for her vast knowledge in corporate practice and a “National Leader” for her Labour and Employment practice by Who’s Who Legal (Nigeria) 2019.

**Quote to my Younger self**

Like everything else worthwhile, your career too will require time, dedication, passion and no-stop work. The reward will come ... For now, remember to enjoy the journey. Girl.

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**Profile**

Funnmi Roberts is the founder and principal partner of Funnmi Roberts & Co., a leading female-owned law firm, which she grew from a single room chambers in Bodhan into an internationally recognised law firm with impressive chambers in Bodhan and Lagos, with focal point in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as well as several international collaborating law firms.

Widely regarded as a dispute resolution expert of no mean repute, Funnmi has acted as arbitrator or mediator in several corporate commercial, real estate, investments, construction, banking and finance-related, transport and security, insurance disputes including an ICC administered international oil and gas dispute.

She has received global recognition for her dispute resolution expertise and sits on the board of several national and multinational organisations including her appointment as a member of the National Executive Council (NEC), the highest decision-making body of Nigerian Bar Association. Many describe Funnmi as: astute, tenacious, and dauntless.

**Landmark Achievement**

Funnmi Roberts is the co-founder of the Covid-19 ADR Initiative (CADI), an initiative that promotes the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms for the settlement of COVID-19 related disputes outside of litigation at low cost without compromising quality.

**Professional Memberships**

Kagti International Arbitration Centre Panel of International Arbitrators (KIAC).

**Professional Awards & Honours**

Olayimika Phillips is one of the rare lawyers who didn’t study law as her first degree but still rose to the top of the profession after obtaining a law degree relatively late in life. Olayimika has gained experience advising both local and international clients on group reorganisations, M&A, demergers, corporate finance and general corporate governance matters. Many describe Olayimika as: Conscientious, Composed, Kind-hearted.

**Professional Achievements**

Advised on the acquisition of GlaxoSmithKline Plc’s Lusazide and Ribena business and brand rights by Sunntry Beverage & Food Limited.

**Professional Memberships**

Institute of Directors (Nigeria)

**Professional Achievement**

Securities & Exchange Commission Award for contributions to the development of the Nigerian Capital Market.

**Quote to my Younger Self**

“In an age and society where the default position is disruption and chaos, and the propensity of any business to survive directly depends on its ability to constantly innovate, a sound professional lawyer is one who holds her clients by the hands and guides them through the maze of regulatory uncertainties and economic upheavals. Anything short of this is professionally untenable.”

Oluwaseyi Jumoke Lambert is a Partner at Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie. She was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1999 and has over the last 20 years gathered significant experience and achievement across a wide array of industries, notably Technology, Media and Telecommunications. She also oversees her firm’s company secretarial arm, Alisee Nominees Limited.

Jumoke was seconded to both Eiisalat Nigeria (9 Mobile) (2009-2010), and Union Bank of Nigeria (2014-2017) where she successfully restructured their legal departments and introduced processes and structures in order to improve their efficiency and optimise output. These secondments broadened her experience through the exposure to in-house legal work. Many describe her as: Methodical, Enthusiastic, Meticulous.

**Landmark Achievement**

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**Professional Achievements**

She is a Fellow of the Centre for International Legal Studies (CILS) and sits on the board of various entities.

**Professional Memberships**

Institute of Directors (Nigeria)

**Quote to my Younger Self**

“Do not limit yourself, the picture is much larger than you can ever imagine; the colours and the landscape are beyond your most vivid imagination. Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.”

Felicia Kemi Bobzin advises on petroleum taxation, general business and commercial matters ancillary to corporate activities and also advises oil company independents on structuring their entry into the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry either through direct acquisitions (licensing rounds or discretionary allocations), farm in or stock transfers, on relevant laws regulating entry and operations, and generally on transactional matters within the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

Many describe her as: Poised, Articulate, Thorough.

**Landmark Achievement**

Kemi has worked on several groundbreaking transactions that are of strategic importance to the Nigerian economy within the energy sector, including Nigeria’s first gas to liquids project and Nigeria’s first IPP from the stage of implementation with AES Stiroco as well as Nigeria’s first IPP financing.

**Professional Memberships**

Institute of Directors (Nigeria)

**Professional Achievement**

Securities & Exchange Commission Award for contributions to the development of the Nigerian Capital Market.

**Quote to my Younger Self**

“Hang ups, real and perceived are unwise limitations to individual progress, but there are no limits beyond one’s self as to what one can achieve when you truly believe that you can do all things — not in your strength, but in Christ’s.”

**Ibiloja Ogungbuiyi**

**Project Finance**

At a relatively early stage in her legal career, Ibiloja Ogungbuiyi has already made quite the impact from a transactional perspective in the project finance sector. She is a Partner in the Power and Infrastructure team of Olaniwun and Ajayi (widely regarded as Nigeria’s flagship power practice). She has amassed several years of cross-disciplinary experience.

Ibi has been integral to many of the Firm’s notable transactions in complex project financings, power and infrastructure project developments, power sector advisory, public-private partnerships, concessions, and corporate financings.

Many describe Ibiloja as: Intelligent, Meticulous, Attentive.

**Landmark Achievement**

Advising a private investor on a PPP project with the Lagos State Government on the USS1.4 Billion development of a mixed-use real estate development of approximately 28.6 hectares.

**Professional Memberships**

Institute of Directors (Nigeria)

**Professional Achievement**

Securities & Exchange Commission Award for contributions to the development of the Nigerian Capital Market.

**Quote to my Younger Self**

“Keep self-aware. Let your innate sense of self direct your career choices and don’t get weighed-down by other people’s achievements, or their expectations. Compete against yourself and strive to do better than the last great thing you did. Complete self-awareness is the acceptance that sometimes you will fail, but that failure shouldn’t define, but inspire, you to rise above your own inadequacies and conquer them.”

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Many describe Ibiloja as: Intelligent, Meticulous, Attentive.
CHINYERE OKOROCHA
Intellectual Property

Years of Practice: 20
Law Firm: Jackson, Etta & Edi
Position: Partner

Profile

Chinyere Okorocha’s work in intellectual property is highly regarded. She has a strong track record in patent and trademark law, with a particular focus on the technology and healthcare sectors. She is known for her ability to navigate complex legal issues and achieve successful outcomes for her clients.

She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and has been involved in several legislative and policy initiatives aimed at strengthening intellectual property laws.

Landmark Achievement

Chinyere Okorocha has been recognized with the following awards:

- 2016: NBA Intellectual Property Law Practice of the Year Award
- 2017: African IP Law Firm of the Year Award (Managing Intellectual Property)

Quote to my Younger Self

"As a young lawyer, you must recognize that your life is like a blank page and the pen is literally in your own hand. You can decide to be swayed by the wind, or you can take a bold of the pen and create the storyline you desire… Either way, the best way to determine your future is by creating it yourself.”