

# HANNAH ABEL OZIEME

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## PERSONAL PROFILE

Ardent lawyer with 4+ years of experience providing comprehensive legal advisory services to individuals, financial institutions and government agencies alike on banking, corporate finance, and insolvency-related matters.

## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED

- Nigerian Law School November 2017 – August 2018  
Bachelor at Law (BL); First Class Honours
- University of Lagos, Lagos State 2012 - 2017  
Bachelor of Laws (LL. B); Second Class Honours (Lower Division: 3.3/5.0)

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES OBTAINED

- Accounting Fundamentals Expected June, 2023  
*Verifying Certificate issued by the Corporate Finance Institute*
- Reading Financial Statements Expected June, 2023  
*Verifying Certificate issued by the Corporate Finance Institute*
- Professional Course; Fintech Law and Policy January, 2022  
*Verifying Certificate issued by the Corporate Finance Institute*
- Certified Fin-Tech Professional License May, 2021  
*Issued by the Global Academy of Finance and Management (GAFM) (Delivery expected in August, 2022)*
- Introduction to Corporate Finance May, 2021  
*Professional verifying certificate issued by the Corporate Finance Institute*
- Introduction to Fintech April, 2021  
*Professional verifying certificate issued by the University of Hong Kong, China*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- **AELEX LEGAL PRACTITIONERS** October 2022 till date

### Achievements

- Routinely supervise the members' voluntary winding-up of companies in Nigeria.
- Routinely advise on the members' and creditors' voluntary winding-up process under Nigerian law.
- Prepared and regularly update the Nigerian guide for insolvency and restructuring procedures in Nigeria published by an international legal directory.
- Supervised the deregistration of a free zone entity from the Dangote Industry Free Zone.
- Supervised the deregistration of 5 dormant companies in Nigeria.
- Advised a syndicate of lenders in connection with the restructuring and refinancing of a facility of USD750m reserve base lending facility. I was responsible for:
  - Conducting due diligence on third-party contracts entered into by the borrower for the purpose of its business.
  - Preparing a legal opinion on the lenders on the viability of enforcing the lenders' security package under Nigerian law.
  - Preparing a legal opinion on the propriety of enforcement of the lenders' security by an individual lender.

- Preparing the issues list.
- Advised a multinational beverage-producing company on the creation of a security over its bank account in connecting with an outstanding facility granted by a commercial bank in Nigeria. I was responsible for:
  - Reviewing the security agreement.
  - Advising on the propriety of the bank’s position that the creation of the security is a requirement for loan loss provisioning under Nigerian law.
- Advised on the propriety of settlement of the propriety of denominating the prices of goods and services in Nigeria in foreign currency.
- Advised on the capitalization of shareholders’ loans of a technology company in Nigeria.
- Prepared a legal opinion advising on the potential directors’ liability in a creditors’ voluntary winding-up.

➤ **UCHE NWOKEDI & CO. LP, Associate**

Nov. 2021 – Sept. 2022

**Achievements**

- Pioneered the formation of the Fintech Law Practice Group. I directed the following:
  - Ideation, strategy and planning of the Project.
  - Overseeing the implementation of the Project.
- Advised a petroleum producing company in connection with the financing of its business operations in pursuance of an Oil Prospecting License. I counselled on the viability of the proposed funding structure under Nigerian law.
- Advised a fintech startup company in connection with the proposed provision of payment service solutions in Nigeria. I was responsible for preparing a legal opinion advising on:
  - The legality of the proposed business model based on the categorization of Payment Service Providers in Nigeria; and
  - The permissible services and legal obligations of Mobile Money Operators in Nigeria.
- Collaborated with an international law firm in respect of concurrent international arbitration proceedings and commercial lawsuit between two multinational oil & gas companies. I was responsible for:
  - Conducting extensive research on the proof, standard and measure of damages under Nigerian law;
  - Preparing a legal opinion advising on the viability of an appeal against an ex parte order of court; and
  - Participating in the arbitration proceedings.

➤ **OLUWAKEMI BALOGUN LP, Associate**

Feb. 2019 – December, 2020

**Achievements**

- Prepared a legal opinion for an international law firm, advising on the legal implications of the recent innovative provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020 as it relates to limited liability partnerships and private equity transactions in Nigeria.
- Lead associate of the team that advised a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria in connection with the proposed restructuring and/or recovery of an outstanding loan facility of NGN15,167,894,069.58 granted to an oil and gas company by a consortium of lenders pursuant to a series of syndicated facilities agreements executed with a consortium of lenders. I was responsible for:

- Reviewing the syndicated facilities agreements and other transaction documents, including a deed of personal guarantee granted as security for the loan in order to determine the rights and liabilities of the parties to the loan agreements;
  - Preparing a legal opinion advocating the enforcement of the personal guarantee of the managing director; and
  - Preparing the originating process and other accompanying processes for the enforcement of a personal guarantee undertaken by the managing director.
- Advised the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) in connection with a purchased loan in the sum of NGN818,416,976.26. I was responsible for:
    - Reviewing all transaction documents and court processes to determine the strength of the Corporation's case; and
    - Preparing a specially-tailored legal opinion advising on the legal pitfalls of the Corporation's case and the options available to the Corporation to recoup the outstanding loan.
  - Member of the receiver-manager's team that successfully took over the operations of an aluminium-producing company in connection with an outstanding loan obligation in excess of NGN18b. I was responsible for:
    - Preparing the notice of takeover;
    - Actively participating in the receivership by accompanying the Receiver/Manager to the premises of the company in receivership to execute the takeover order of the court;
    - Supervising the documentation and reconciliation of books and records, disengagement and disbursement of salaries and other benefits to over 1000 disengaged staff of the company in receivership; and
    - Preparing the receiver/manager's reports on the takeover exercise.
  - Lead Associate that advised a consortium of lenders represented in connection with the recovery of an outstanding debt of NGN813,132,459.73. I was responsible for:
    - Reviewing the transaction documents to determine among others, whether the consortium of lenders were empowered to appoint a receiver/manager and whether such power had become exercisable.
    - Preparing the Deed of Appointment of Receiver;
    - Preparing the originating summons and other accompanying processes for filing.

➤ **NEM INSURANCE PLC, *Legal Intern***

Nov. 2016 – Feb. 2017

**Responsibilities & Achievements**

- Prepared minutes of management meetings.
- Coordinated general office administration including filing, preparation of reports, etc.
- Managed the company secretary's calendar.

**SKILL-SET**

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- **Information and Communication Technology:**  
Professional working knowledge of Microsoft Office tools, Outlook, email and internet.
- **Language, Communication, Interpersonal and Organizational:**
  - Conflict solving and negotiation skills shaped through core experience in contract negotiation;
  - Commercial awareness and business acumen bred by profound cognizance of organizational operations and trends in legal sectors of interest;
  - Emotional intelligence and excellent team spirit shaped through official and non-official group work engagement and extra-curricular activities;

- Leadership skills cultivated by taking initiative and regularly spearheading teams to efficiently deliver tasks;
- Time management skills gained through undertaking various tasks and projects simultaneously and prioritizing tasks to meet deadlines;
- Good analytical and logical reasoning skills;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English language.
- Basic understanding of French language.

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## **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Nigerian Bar Association
- International Bar Association (Arbitration and Banking & Finance Committees)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK)

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## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED**

- Director-General's prize for attaining First Class in the August 2017/2018 Bar final examination.

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## **ARTICLES WRITTEN**

- A Communications Exercise on Terminologies in Money; Insights on eNaira.
- The Viability of Winding-up Proceedings as a Mechanism for Debt Recovery under Nigerian Law.

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## **VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Fintech Girl Community, (*Strategy & Innovations Manager & Head of Legal*) Jan. 2021 - Dec. 2022

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## **REFEREES**

Referees will be made available on request.