

## **Josephine Akinwunmi (Mrs.)**

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### **PRACTICE PROFILE**

Josephine Akinwunmi (Mrs) is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), a CEDR(UK) Accredited Mediator, a Certified SCMA Mediation Advocacy Trainer, a Certified Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Practitioner, a Legal Practitioner and a Licensed Human Resources Practitioner who holds two degrees from the University of Lagos, Nigeria (LL. B Hons in 2005 and B.A. Hons – Russian Language in 1987). She was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2006 and has an LL.M from the University of South Wales, UK.

In 1987, Mrs. Akinwunmi won the Vice Chancellor’s award for being the best graduating student in the Faculty of Arts, from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Prior to obtaining her law degree, Josephine Akinwunmi worked in the Human Resource function and was at various times, part of the team that managed training and industrial relations of a large number of staff without any serious incidence of industrial unrest.

Her passion for mediation has seen her involved in a number of cases most of which have been successfully handled and resolved.

Josephine Akinwunmi is on the Panel of Neutrals and a faculty member of the Lagos Multi-Door Court House, Nigeria where she acts as a facilitator and an assessor on Mediation Skills Training. She is a faculty member of the Enugu – State Multi-Door Courthouse, Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria and the Standing Conference of Mediation Advocates (SCMA), Nigeria. She has acted as a training coach in an online Mediation Skills Training. She is also a member of the Panel of Neutrals of the Lagos Court of Arbitration.

Mrs Akinwunmi belongs to a number of professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (where she is a member of the Executive Council), the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (UK), the International Chamber of Commerce, Nigeria (National Commission on Arbitration and ADR), the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (where she serves on the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Committee), the African Arbitration Association, ArbitralWomen and the Nigerian Bar Association.

She is the Principal Partner of Josephine Akinwunmi & Co, a firm of Legal Practitioners in Lagos, specializing in Corporate Practice and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

She was a member of the two committees that successfully launched the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris 2012 Rules of Arbitration in Nigeria and the Mediation Rules in Nigeria in 2014.

Mrs Akinwunmi has excellent administrative skills and is known for her high sense of commitment, diligence and integrity. She is also a Notary Public for Nigeria.

## **EXPERIENCE**

2011 – Present:	Principal Partner, Josephine Akinwunmi & Co.
2009 - 2011:	Associate, Edu, Edu & Co Solicitors
2007 - 2009:	Counsel, Chief Ladi Rotimi Williams Chambers
1987 – 2001:	Training Manager, Nigerian Bag Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Lagos (BAGCO)

## **SELECTED ADR MATTERS**

### **(MEDIATION)**

Involved in the resolution of cases pertaining to the following disputes;

- Landlord and Tenant, Administration of Estates, Joint Ventures and Equity Structuring
- Family Matters
- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Contracts
- Contract of Service
- Construction/Engineering
- Sales of Goods
- Employment/Workplace
- Tortious Claims

## **(ARBITRATION)**

- Appointed as a Registrar in various Arbitration proceedings
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator in an Arbitration

## **COURSES ATTENDED**

1. Workshop on Case Management and Research Skills organised by the Nigerian Bar Association (April 2008)
2. Associate Membership Course of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (November 2009)
3. Mediation Advocacy Workshop for Lawyers organised by the Lagos Multi-Door Court House (March 2010)
4. Accelerated Membership Course of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (March 2011)
5. ICC Basic PIDA Training on International Commercial Arbitration, Paris, (September, 2012)
6. Mediation Skills Coaching Programme organised by the Lagos Multi-Door Court House, (October, 2012)
7. CEDR Mediation Skills Training, June, 2013
8. SCMA Mediation Advocacy Training, London, April, 2014
9. Nigerian Labour Laws and Employment Laws, September, 2014
10. Accelerated Fellowship course of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (2017)
11. Module 4 International Award Writing (2018)
12. ICC Institute Advanced Training on The Conduct of the Proceedings and Case Management: *The Arbitrator's Perspective* (June 2018)
13. ICC Institute Advanced Training on Drafting Enforceable Awards (June 2019)

14. Mediating Online Training (Approved by the International Council for Online Dispute Resolution – ICDODR) by Mediate.com and ODRAfrica.com, June, 2020
15. Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Training for Mediators by ODReurope, June, 2020
16. Mediating Online Role-Plays by Quallo ADR Resources, May/June, 2020
17. Online Dispute Resolution Training by ODR4AFRICA, June, 2020

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Member, sub - committee on the successful launch of the 2012 ICC Rules of Arbitration in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Member, sub - committee on the successful launch of the ICC Mediation Rules held on October 31, 2014 in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Member of the ICC Task Force on Emergency Arbitrator Proceedings
- Member, Executive Council of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch.
- Member of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Committee of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria.
- Member, Panel of Neutrals of the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse, Nigeria where I mediate extensively.
- Member, Section on Legal Practice of the Nigerian Bar Association.
- Member, conference planning committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (I had the privilege of co-coordinating the session on ECOWAS Energy Protocol: Issues and Prospects) & 4<sup>th</sup> ICC Africa Regional Arbitration conferences.
- Member, conference planning committee of the 2015, 2017 & 2019 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria conferences.
- Faculty Member of the maiden edition of the Enugu State Multi-Door Courthouse (Nigeria) Mediation Skills Training.
- On June 7, 2017 and May 17, 2018 respectively, I had the opportunity of making presentations at the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) Workplace Mediation Days with excellent feedback
- On June 13 2018, I made a presentation to Neutrals at the Lagos Multi-Door Court House, Nigeria on “Mediating Workplace Disputes”

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/PAPERS DELIVERED**

- Speaker at the SCMA Certified Mediation Advocacy programme where I spoke extensively on pre-mediation activities

(June, 2016)

- Speaker at a Training organized for the staff of the Nigerian Shippers Council on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), where I had the privilege of speaking on the following topics:
  1. Attributes and Ethical Duties of a mediator
  2. DOS and DON'TS for effective mediation
  3. Reality Testing in mediation
  4. Facilitative or Evaluative style of mediation
  5. Obstacles to a successful mediation

(March, 2017)
- Speaker at the WAMCO Training, where I spoke on the Topic – “Dispute Resolution Techniques in HR matters as a means of reducing HR claims and Litigation”.  
(October, 2017)
- Speaker at the 49<sup>th</sup> CIPM Annual National Conference on the Topic – “Alternative Dispute Resolution as an instrument for growth in the workplace”  
(November, 2017)
- Speaker at the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Training organized for the staff of the Directorate of Citizens Rights, Lagos Ministry of Justice  
(February, 2018)
- Coordinated and Facilitated the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) WORKPLACE MEDIATION DAY FOR 2017 and 2018
- Speaker at the NDIC sensitization programme for External Solicitors, where I spoke on the topic: “Alternative Dispute Resolution in Debt Recovery and Bank Liquidation”  
(November, 2018)
- Speaker at the Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA) ADR summit, where I spoke on the topic. “The Mediation Advocate: Positioned to best serve the client’s interest”.  
(September, 2019)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

1. Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators UK

2. Member of the International Chamber of Commerce, Nigeria (National Commission on Arbitration and ADR)
3. Member of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Exchange Programme
4. Member of the Nigerian Bar Association
5. Member of the International Bar Association
6. Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria
7. Member of the Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA)
8. Member of the African Arbitration Association.
9. Associate member of the Nigerian Institute of Training and Development.
10. Member, ArbitralWomen.

**ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS** – Travelling, Reading and Counselling