



**MRS. OLUFUNMILAYO AJIKE ROBERTS LL.M, C.Arb., FNCI Arb., FICIArb.**  
*(Legal Practitioner, Chartered Arbitrator & CEDR-Accredited Mediator/Adjudicator)*

### **Arbitration & ADR-focused Profile**

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#### **Ibadan**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Asabi House,  
108, Adekunle Fajuyi Road,  
Adamasingba,  
P.M.B. 5227, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

#### **Lagos**

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Off Awolowo Road,  
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### **PERSONAL PROFILE**

Funmi Roberts, a Chartered Arbitrator and experienced corporate law practitioner, is an astute leader with outstanding track record in mobilising for corporate and public sector reform, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Recognised and respected both within and outside the legal profession for her organisational skills and ability to utilise her excellent analytical skills to achieve defined impactful objectives and develop novel strategically defined solutions to challenges. All these, coupled with tenacity and refusal to be defined or limited by her environment, have enabled her to build one of the leading value-driven legal and ADR law firms in Nigeria, with offices in Ibadan, Oyo State and Lagos State, with focal point at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. She heads the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit of the firm's Dispute Resolution Department

Funmi Roberts is the Co-Visioner of the Covid-19 ADR Initiative (CADR), an initiative that promotes the use of ADR mechanisms for the settlement of COVID-19 related disputes outside of litigation at low cost without compromising quality.

After undertaking several trainings, she can now competently teach and also undertake online/virtual dispute resolution using different platforms such as CREK, Zoom, Big Blue Button, and GoToMeeting.

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## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1987-1988	<b>LL.M:</b> University of Ife (Now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife.  <b>Fellow: Obafemi Awolowo University (1988)</b>
1981-1982	<b>B.L.:</b> (Hons)-2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Upper Division): Nigerian Law School, Lagos.
1977-1981	<b>LL.B:</b> (Hons) -2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Upper Division): University of Ife (Now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife.
1974-1976	<b>'A' Levels:</b> The Polytechnic, Ibadan.
1970-1974	<b>'O' Levels:</b> (West African School Certificate Examination) Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Odo-Ona, Ibadan.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**1989-Present**                      **PRINCIPAL PARTNER, Funmi Roberts & Co., ('FRC')** Firm of Solicitors & Advocates engaged primarily in Commercial Law practice. The firm represents several banks, financial houses as well as several limited liability companies as external Solicitors & Advocates. Apart from other corporate activities, the firm negotiates financial and other commercial instruments on behalf of clients. It renders professional advice to clients on multi-faceted commercial matters, property-based issues as well as Corporate Affairs Commission compliance matters; initiates and prosecute briefs on behalf of clients.

The firm's dispute resolution department is operated under the Litigation and the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Units. Funmi Roberts heads the ADR Unit. In the course of routinely offering legal advice and opinion to its corporate clients, it is standard practice in the firm to ensure that the dispute resolution clause in any contract is given the same rigorous consideration as the commercial clauses. Counsel in the firm make it a duty to inform clients engaged in any dispute of the advisability of

resolving disputes by means of Arbitration or other ADR mechanisms e.g. arbitration, mediation, 3<sup>rd</sup>- Party Neutral Evaluation etc.

Apart from being part of the training faculty for CEDR and the Nigeria Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Funmi is the Director of Training of Dispute Resolution Project International Limited ('DRPi'), a company that provides ADR training in Nigeria. She, together with other members of the faculty developed the different training programs for DRPi.

Funmi has added considerable value to the boards which **Funmi Roberts & Co Nominees Ltd (FRCN)** offers company secretarial services to, by using her training as a dispute resolution expert to design policies for dispute avoidance and minimisation.

She is the Co-Visioner of the Covid-19 ADR Initiative (CADR), 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. ([www.cadri.org.ng](http://www.cadri.org.ng)).

After undertaking several trainings, she can now competently teach and also undertake online/virtual dispute resolution using different platforms such as CREK, Zoom, Big Blue Button, and GoToMeeting.

**1984-1987**

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN**  
Assistant Lecturer

**1983-1984**

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, OYO STATE**  
Counsel in the office of Administrator-General and Public Trustee. Involvement in the administration of estates of estates of Intestates, rendering advice on issues relating to estate disputes.

**1982-1983**

**NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORP.**  
Counsel, Nigerian Legal Aid Council. Pro bono services to persons accused of crimes such as theft, murder etc

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## **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

- Member, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)

- Chartered Arbitrator, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and member CIArb Presidential Panel of Arbitrators.
  - Member, ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, Paris
  - Co-Chairman of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre
  - Fellow, Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators
  - Member, Global Panel of Mediators, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR, U.K)
  - Member, London Court of International Arbitration
  - Member, Guild of Adjudicators of Nigeria
  - Committee Co-Chairman, Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre
  - Member, Board of Directors of Lagos Court of Arbitration (From inception to 2019)
  - Member, Governing Board, Oyo State MultiDoor Courthouse
  - Member, Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria
  - Member, Arbitral Women
  - Member, International Bar Association (Arbitration Committee)
  - Member, Federacion Internacional De Abogadas (FIDA-International Federation of Women Lawyers), Nigeria
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## **ABRIDGED TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Trainings by ODRAfrica, ODREurope, ADRCMR Mediation, Denver USA, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators mon the use of different online platforms for training and dispute resolution, viz, CREK, Zoom, Big Blue Button, GoToMeeting.
- Drafting Dispute Resolution Agreements in Oil and Gas Transactions by Association for International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN) in collaboration with Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre (LACIAC)
- The Practical Use of the 1999 FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Construction and Design-Build (with a review of the 2017 Updates of the Red and Yellow Books) by Association of Charted Engineers of Nigeria (ACEN) and Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre.
- Investment Treaty Law and Arbitration Training by Africa International Legal Awareness, London.
- Masterclass for International Arbitrators (by International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.
- Four Roundtables in Times Square: Putting the Spotlight on International Arbitration on Broadway, New York by International Centre for Dispute Resolution (USA) /International Bar Association.
- A Practical Guide to Using FIDIC Conditions of Contracts, 1999 (By Management & Real Estate Academy, Dubai)

- Fellowship Conversion Course for the Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators.
- International Commercial Arbitration: Study of a Mock Case under the ICC Rules of Arbitration under the auspices of the ICC Institute of World Business Law.
- Practical Arbitration Training Workshop by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK).
- 5-day Mediation Skills Assessment Program by Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR, U.K).
- Training of Trainers, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR, U.K).
- ADR as an Expeditious and Cost-effective Means of Dispute Resolution by NBA Committee on Arbitration & ADR.
- Training Workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)-November, 1998 with Daniel Yamshon, Judge of the California Supreme Court, Prof. Ernest Uwazie, Director, Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, California University, Sacramento, Prof. Cecil Carlton and Patricia Malberg, M.A. as trainers.
- Training Workshop for Negotiation and Conflict Management Group (NCMG) Panel of Neutrals in July, 1999 with Eric Van Loon of JAMS-Endispute, Boston.
- 3-day Pre-Certification Training in Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration, organised for Certification by Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR), U.K with the Negotiation and Conflict Management Group (NCMG).
- Trainer-Trainee Shadowing at 5-day Mediation Skills Training Workshop of the Center for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR).
- International Contracts: Study of a Mock Case-Negotiating, Drafting, Dispute Resolution, Different Cultural and Legal Approaches under the auspices of the ICC Institute of World Business Law

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**Abridged Dispute Resolution Experience:**

Funmi Roberts combines an extensive legal background with proven conflict management systems design experience to assist clients to effectively and efficiently manage different types of disputes brought before her and the law firm, Funmi Roberts and Co, of which she is Principal.

Apart from her dispute resolution experience, Funmi was part of the committee that participated in drafting the Arbitration Law of Lagos State and establishment of the Lagos Court of Arbitration, and currently serves as a director on its board.

Her firm, Funmi Roberts & Co recently currently partnering with another law firm to harmonise the dispute resolution landscape of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission.

She is the Chairman of the National Committee on the Repeal and Reform of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1988 and the Bill is currently awaiting final ratification at the National Assembly.

Funmi Roberts is regularly featured as Arbitrator in an international publication *Acquisition International*, Global Arbitration review (GAR) and actively engaged and/or engages as:

- Member, Panel of Neutrals of:
  - National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)
  - Kigali Centre for International Arbitration, Rwanda
  - Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration
  - London Court of International Arbitration
  - Global Panel of Mediators of Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR, U.K)
  - Lagos Multidoor Courthouse
  - Abuja Multidoor Courthouse
  - Oyo State MultiDoor Courthouse
  
- Mediator of the Global Mediation Panel of the Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations Funds and Programmes.
  
- Tutor, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, U.K. (Nigeria Branch)- For Arbitration and Mediation.
  
- Faculty member, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (U.K)

Provided services using various alternative dispute resolution techniques, including adjudication in a myriad of disputes in the areas of construction and real estate, infrastructure development, commercial disputes, oil and gas-related dispute, banking and finance related disputes, insurance, investment disputes etc

Funmi Roberts is the Co-Visioner of the Covid-19 ADR Initiative (CADR), 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.

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## APPOINTMENTS

- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
  - *Member, National Executive Council (till 2018)*
  - *Former Vice Chairman, Arbitration and ADR Committee of NBA Section on Business Law*

- Chairman, National Committee on the Re-enactment of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1988
- Member Board of Directors, Lagos Court of Arbitration
- Member, ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Member Governing Board of the Oyo State MultiDoor Courthouse
- Member of training faculties of:
  - Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch (CI Arb.)
  - Nigerian Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
  - Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)
  - Dispute Resolution Project International (DRPi)

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- ✓ *'ADR and Arbitration Practice: A Compass for the Law Student'* published 2019 in the Arbitration and ADR Companion of the Law Students Society of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria.
- ✓ *'Cultural nuances to mediating commercial disputes in Nigeria'* published in (August 2010) 76 Arbitration, Pgs 488-492 Journal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK).
- ✓ *'In pursuit of the Client's Interest: The Role of Counsel in Mediation'* in The Arbitrator, NewsJournal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch, Vol. 5 No. 3 (Oct.-Dec. 2008).
- ✓ *'MEDIATION: Tool for Evolving Commercial Solutions to Commercial Disputes in Nigeria'* in The Arbitrator, NewsJournal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch, Vol. 3 No 2 April-June 2006.
- ✓ *'Drafting the Dispute Resolution Clause- the Midnight Clause'*- published in The Arbitrator, NewsJournal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch Vol. 5 No. 1. April 2008.
- ✓ *'Drafting the Dispute Resolution Clauses'* paper presented at a Workshop organised by Committee on Arbitration/ADR, Section on Business Law in collaboration with The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch on 4th & 5th July 2006.