

Short Profile of Professor Paul Obo Idornigie, SAN, PhD, LL.M, FCIS (London), FCI Arb (UK), FNIALS, Chartered Arbitrator, Notary Public, an Author

Professor Paul Obo Idornigie, a University Scholar, holds a doctorate degree in International Commercial Arbitration; and is a

- Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (London);
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK);
- Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
- Chartered Arbitrator;
- Member, London Court of International Arbitration;
- Member, African Arbitration Association;
- Member, Lagos Court of Arbitration;
- Member, Nigerian Bar Association;
- Member, Nigerian Association of Law Teachers;
- Member, International Bar Association; and
- Member, Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

Attended

- Institute of Continuing Education, Benin City
- Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, Essex, UK
- University of Jos
- Nigerian Law School, Lagos

He is on the Panel of:

- Neutrals at the Abuja and Asaba Multi-door Courthouses;
- Lagos Court of Arbitration;
- Arbitrators at the Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos, Nigeria;
- Nigerian Communications Commission, Abuja, Nigeria and

Member, Governing Board,, Jinada International Commercial Arbitration & Mediation Centre, Abuja, Nigeria

He is also on the Approved Faculty List (Tutor), Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK; a former member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association; Chairman, Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja Branch; former Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), Abuja Chapter; 2nd National Vice-Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), Nigeria Branch and a Member of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Investment Agreements (IIAs, Nigeria). He is a Member of the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER) Advisory Council.

He is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Notary Public for Nigeria and an Author.

Honours/Distinctions/Prizes

- West African School Certificate, Division One, Aggregate 11, 1976
- University Scholar, University of Jos, Nigeria: 1987/88, 1988/89, 1989/90 and 1990/91 Sessions
- Won the Justice Galadima's Prize for the Best Advocate during The Moot Court/Mock Trials held in Unijos: 1991/92 Session
- University of Jos Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 1991/92 Session
- R.A.O Akinjide's Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 1991/92 Session
- Gally-Brown Peterside's Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 1991/92 Session
- **SMA Belgore Distinguished Chair as a Professor of Law at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja**

- Nominated as a Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (FNIALS)

He was Lecturer at the:

- University of Jos, Jos, Nigeria;
- Plateau School of Accountancy and Management Studies, Jos; and
- ANAN College of Accountancy, Jos.

He was a Senior Lecturer at the Nigerian Law School, Abuja where he taught Company/Corporate Law and Law of Evidence. He was also General Counsel/Head of Secretariat, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Abuja. As Head of Secretariat, BPE, he covered the meetings of the National Council on Privatization (NCP), Technical Committee of the NCP and Management Committee of BPE. As General Counsel at the BPE, he was involved in the first draft of the Petroleum Industry Bill in 2005-2008. He was also involved in the unbundling of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) into the initial holding company, Power Holding Company of Nigeria PLC) and subsequent transfers to generation, transmission and distribution companies; privatization of Eleme Petrochemical Limited, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, National Insurance Corporation; the concession/lease of the port terminals in Lagos, Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar, the incorporation of Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading PLC and Nigerian Electricity Liability Management Limited/Gte, among other public enterprises.

He occupied the SMA Belgore Distinguished Chair as a Professor of Law at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja. At the Institute, he acted as Head of Department of Commercial Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution; Director of Research and Director General.

He is presently a Professor of Commercial Law, Veritas University, Bwari, Abuja.

He is a Legal Consultant, Arbitrator, Regulatory/Alternative Dispute Resolution [ADR] and Public-Private-Partnership [PPP] Specialist. He has taught ADR processes, corporate law, international economic law and investment law.

As a General Counsel at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) he was involved in the negotiation and drafting of several commercial instruments on behalf of public entities - Loan Agreements, Share Purchase Agreement, Shareholders Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement, Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement, Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement, Concession Agreement, Disclosure Letters, Request for Proposals, Escrow Agreement, Asset Sale Agreement, Pre-contractual documents like Memorandum of Understanding, Heads of Agreements and Term Sheet, among others.

More specifically, he was also responsible for drafting, negotiating and executing the transaction documents for the privatisation of the following public enterprises:

- Delta Steel Company, Warri
- Ajaokuta Steel Company Ltd, Ajaokuta
- National Oil Mining Company of Nigeria Limited
- Jos Steel Company Ltd
- Katsina Steel Company Limited
- Oshogbo Steel Company Ltd
- Aluminium Smelting Company Ltd at Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State
- NITEL/Mtel
- Savannah Sugar Company at Numan
- Nigerian Sugar Company, Bacita
- Refineries in Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna
- Federal Superphosphate Fertilizer Company, Kaduna
- Nigerian Machine Tools Company Ltd, Oshogbo
- Nigerian Mining Corporation and its subsidiaries
- Nigerian Coal Corporation and its subsidiaries

- Nigerian Iron-Ore Mining Company Ltd, Itakpe
- NICON Insurance Plc
- Nigerdock Ltd,
- Nigerian Airways Ltd and its subsidiaries, NAHCO, SAHCOL, etc.,
- Nigerian Unity Line,
- National Clearing and Forwarding Agency
- Ayip-Eku Oil Palm Company
- Ihechiowa Oil Palm Ltd
- Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company Ltd,
- Leyland Nigeria Ltd,
- Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria Ltd
- Volkswagen of Nigeria Ltd and
- Steyr Nigeria Ltd;
- Nigeria Hotels Ltd, Abuja International Hotels Ltd [now NICON Luxury Hotel]
- NICON Hilton Hotel [now Transcorp Hilton Hotel]
- Onigbolo Cement Company, Benin Republic
- Stallion Properties Ltd, Lagos, among others.

He was also involved in the drafting of the following legislative bills -

- Electric Power Sector Reform Bill (now Electric Sector Reform Act of 2005),
- Civil Aviation Bill 2006 (now Civil Aviation Act of 2007),
- Mines & Mineral Bill (now Mines & Minerals Act of 2007)
- Federal Competition Commission Bill 2005 (now Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Act)
- Ports & Harbours Bill 2005,
- Nigerian Inland Waterway Bill 2007,
- Nigerian Railway Corporation Bill 2007,

- **Federal Road Authority Bill 2007,**
- **Postal Sector Reform Bill 2007**
- **Petroleum Industry Bill 2006/7 that was passed into law in 2021, now Petroleum Industry Act, 2021.**

As a Chartered Secretary, he was on the Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Secretary & Administrators in Nigeria (ICSAN) where he taught Corporate Governance. He has also taught Company Secretary Practice and Law & Procedure of Meetings. He is very conversant with the various Corporate Governance Codes - Securities & Exchange Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria, Pension Commission, NAICOM, etc and lately the Corporate Governance Code promoted by the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria. He consults for ICSAN.

As a Company & Commercial Lawyer, he led a legal team that produced the 'Final Report on Comprehensive Review of the Institutional, Regulatory, Legislative & Associated Instruments Affecting Businesses in Nigeria, 2016' available at <<https://nassber.org/>>. This Review recommended various reforms of the Companies & Allied Matters Act, 1990 and most of the recommendations were reflected in Companies & Allied Matters Act, 2020.

As an Academic, he has published extensively in local and international journals on ADR processes, company law, company secretarial practice, public finance, constitutional law, international economic law, investment law, investor-state dispute resolution, law reform and private sector participation in infrastructure delivery. His works are cited in several international journals and judgments.

As a Chartered Arbitrator, he is listed as an Arbitrator in the *Arbitration Review Tool* (ART) of the *Global Arbitration Review* (GAR) available at <https://globalarbitrationreview.com/>. He has handled several commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration as a Counsel or Arbitrator. He has done a lot of work in the oil and gas sector, power sector, construction, maritime, mines and minerals, real estate development, hospitality, ports, amongst others. More specifically out of the five (5)

Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) executed with the International Oil Companies (IOCs) in 1993 that resulted in arbitration, he was involved in two of them as a Party-Appointed Arbitrator. Similarly, he was a Counsel in the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Arbitration involving the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) and Shell Nigeria Ultra Deep Limited (SNUD) - the OPL 245 - Malabu Dispute.

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