

ORIGINATING APPLICATION

Number BB/LPOC/1284/2024

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2004

JOHN AIKPOKPO-MARTINS

⌋ **APPLICANT**

(for himself and on behalf of the members of the Nigerian Bar Association, Section on Public Interest and Development Law).

AND

CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN.


⌋ **RESPONDENT**

I, John Aikpokpo-Martins, chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law, NBA House, Muhammadu Buhari Way, CBD, Abuja do apply on behalf of the members of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law, the Applicant that **CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN** of No. 99/100, Drive 1, Prince & Princess Estate, Abuja with **Phone No. 08033314725** be required to answer to the allegations contained in the Statement/Affidavit which accompanies this Application and that such Order be made as the Committee shall think right.

The Nigerian Lawyer

Dated this 11th day of January, 2024

SIGNED by:



John Aikpokpo - Martins Esq.
NBA-SPIDEL Office, 1st Floor,
NBA House, Plot 1101, Cadastral Zone,
Central Business District,
Abuja.
08023063841
E-mail: omisessy@yahoo.com

Address for service on the Respondent;
CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN
No. 99/100, Drive 1, Prince & Princess Estate,
Abuja.
Phone No. 08033314725

FORM OF NOTICE to accompany Statement of Evidence
FORM OF ORIGINATING APPLICATION in respect of allegations against a
Legal Practitioner

Number **BB/LPDC/1284/2024**

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2004

JOHN AIKPOKPO-MARTINS

} **APPLICANT**

(For himself and on behalf of the members
Of the Nigerian Bar Association, Section on
Public Interest and Development Law).

AND

CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN.

} **RESPONDENT**

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant proposes to rely upon the Statement(s)/Affidavit of Facts and accompanying documents on oath listed below, copies of which are served herewith.

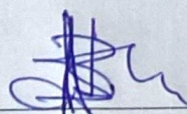
If you wish any person who has made one of these statements to be required to attend the hearing as a witness you must, not less than 9 days before the date set down for the hearing of the application, notify me and the Secretary to the Committee to that effect. In the event of your failure to do so, the Committee may accept the Statement/Affidavit in question in evidence without more.

LIST

Date of Statement	Name of Person who made the Statement/Affidavit
1 11 th July, 2022	John Aikpokpo Martins Esq.

Dated this 11th January, 2024

SIGNED:



John Aikpokpo - Martins Esq.

NBA-SPIDEL Office, 1st Floor,
NBA House, Plot 1101, Cadastral Zone,
Central Business District,
Abuja.
08023063841
E-mail: omisessy@yahoo.com

TheNigeriaLawyer

11th January, 2024.

The Chairman,
Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee
Body of Benchers Office,
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

PETITION AGAINST CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN A NIGERIAN LAWYER DULY CALLED TO THE NIGERIAN BAR WITH HIS NAME ON THE ROLL OF LAWYERS KEPT IN THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE EXTANT RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (RULE 1 OF THE RPC) BY DISRUPTING AND/OR SNATCHING BALLOT BOXES IN THE COURSE OF THE IMO STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION HELD ON THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER, 2023 THEREBY PUTTING THE ENTIRE LEGAL PROFESSION TO NATIONAL PUBLIC RIDICULE & ODIUM.

TheNigeriaLawyer

My name is **John Aikpokpo-Martins Esq.** *the chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law* and I make this petition on behalf of the members of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law (NBA-SPIDEL) on her behest and firm authority.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Chukwuma Uchenna Ekamaru, SAN against whom this petition is written, is a legal practitioner duly called to the Nigerian Bar with his name on the roll of lawyers kept at the Supreme Court. She is a private legal practitioner and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and is therefore expected to exhibit and maintain a very high standard of conduct, professionalism, and respect for the rule of law at all times.
2. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducted the Imo State Governorship election in Imo State on the 11th of November, 2023.
3. The respondent herein whose wife was on the ballot as the Deputy Governor candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC) was reported in several news outlets and on Social media to have led thugs to a

polling station to snatch ballot boxes being used to conduct the said election.

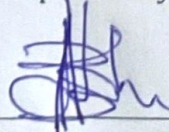
4. He was caught on video and the said video went viral. The video is downloaded into an electronic flash and same is hereby attached to this petition.
5. Members of the legal profession particularly members of NBA-SPIDEL are very disturbed by the content of this video.
6. Chidi Odinkalu, a senior lawyer posted the video on X formerly known as Twitter and called out the respondent for snatching ballot boxes accompanied by thugs during the election.
7. That till date, the respondent did not refute, deny, or challenge the allegations on the social media or the specific allegations of Chidi Odinkalu.
8. Pursuant to her mandate and mission, NBA-SPIDEL resolved to refer this matter to the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee for necessary action hence this petition. Accompanied herewith are copies of the petition, copies of my statement on oath in support of the petition and annexed exhibits.

PRAYER

We respectfully urge the Committee to immediately commence the disciplinary process and prosecute **CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN** for the violation of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct, particularly Rule 1 thereof. By conducting himself in a manner unbecoming of a legal practitioner.

We hopefully look forward to your quick consideration of this Petition.

Yours respectfully,



John Aikpokpo – Martins Esq.
NBA-SPIDEL Office, 1st Floor,
NBA House, Plot 1101, Cadastral Zone,
Central Business District,
Abuja.
08023063841

E-mail: omisessy@yahoo.com

Address for service on the Respondent;
Address for service on the Respondent;
CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN
No. 99/100, Drive 1, Prince & Princess Estate,
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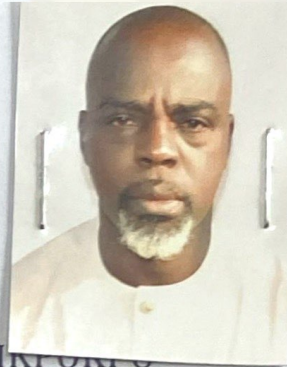
TheNigeriaLawyer

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

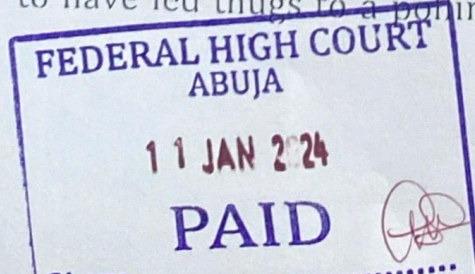
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

AFFIDAVIT OF FACTS IN RE: THE PETITION OF JOHN AIKPOKPO MARTINS (ON BEHALF OF NBA-SPIDEL) AGAINST CHUKWUMA UCHENNA EKOMARU, SAN.



I, John Aikpokpo-Martins, male, Christian, Nigerian, Legal Practitioner and the Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law of NBA House, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Central Business District, Abuja, do hereby make oath and state as follows:

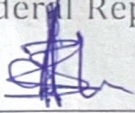
1. That I am the Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law (hereinafter referred to simply as the **NBA-SPIDEL**) and I have the consent, authority, and concurrence of the members of NBA-SPIDEL to petition the Respondent to the very distinguished Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter simply referred to as **the LPDC**) for acts bordering on conduct unbecoming of a legal practitioner.
2. That I am conversant with the facts of this matter.
3. That the distinguished body should immediately commence the disciplinary process and prosecute the Respondent, Chukwuma Uchenna Ekomaru, SAN for the violation of the provisions of the extant Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. That Chukwuma Uchenna Ekomaru, SAN is a legal practitioner duly called to the Nigerian Bar with his name on the roll of lawyers kept at the Supreme Court. He is also a Senior Advocate and is therefore expected to exhibit and maintain a very high standard of conduct, professionalism, respect for the integrity of electoral system at all times.
5. The Independent National Electoral Commission conducted the Imo State Governorship election in Imo State on the 11th of November, 2023.
6. The respondent herein whose wife was on the ballot as the Deputy Governor candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC) was reported on Social media to have led thugs to a polling station to snatch ballot boxes



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being used to conduct the said election. He was caught on video and the said video went viral. The video is attached to my petition to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee.

7. Members of the legal profession particularly members of NBA-SPIDEL are very disturbed by the content of this video.
8. Chidi Odinkalu, a senior lawyer posted the video on X formerly known as Twitter and called out the respondent for snatching ballot boxes accompanied by thugs during the election.
9. That till date, the respondent did not refute, deny, or challenge the allegations on the social media or the specific allegations of Chidi Odinkalu.
10. Pursuant to her mandate and mission, NBA-SPIDEL resolved to refer this matter to the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee for necessary action hence this petition,
11. That I make this affidavit ~~in good faith~~ **The Nigerian Lawyer** in good faith, believing same to be true and in accordance with the Oaths Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.


DEPONENT

Sworn to at the Registry of the Federal High
Court, Abuja this 14th day of January, 2024

BEFORE ME:
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS
FEDERAL HIGH COURT,
ABUJA
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS