

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUIT NO. FHC/L/CS/887/2024

BETWEEN:

AUGUSTINE OYAREKHUA ALEGEH, SAN

**] PLAINTIFF/
APPLICANT**

AND

1. CHIEF ADEBOYEGA SOLOMON AWOMOLO, SAN

**] DEFENDANTS/
RESPONDENTS**

2. THE BODY OF BENCHERS

]

FURTHER AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION ON NOTICE DATED

21st MAY, 2024

I, **AUGUSTINE OYAREKHUA ALEGEH**, Male, Adult, Christian, Legal Practitioner of No. 35, Cameron Road, Ikoyi, Lagos State, do hereby make Oath and depose as follows that:

1. I am the Plaintiff/Applicant herein by virtue of which position I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of this case.
2. The facts deposed herein are within my personal knowledge except as otherwise stated.
3. I have read and fully understand the 1st Defendant's/1st Respondent's (**The 1st Respondent**) Counter Affidavit to the Motion on Notice dated 21st May, 2024 together with the Written Address.
4. The depositions of fact set out in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21 of the 1st Respondent's Counter Affidavit dated 7th June, 2024 and deposed to by the 1st Respondent in opposition to the Applicant's Motion on Notice dated 21st May, 2024 are false, factually incorrect and are vehemently denied by the Respondent.
5. Further to the denial of paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21 of the 1st Respondent's Counter Affidavit dated 7th June, 2024, I wish to state as follows that:

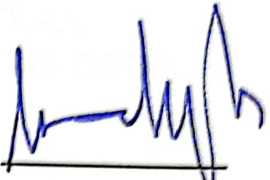
- a) I was validly appointed the Chairman of the 2nd Respondent's Appointment Committee and same was conveyed to me by a Letter of Appointment issued to me by the 2nd Respondent.
- b) I accepted my appointment as Chairman of the 2nd Respondent's Appointment Committee and forwarded my Letter of Acceptance to the 2nd Respondent.
- c) That this suit was filed on 22nd May, 2024.
- d) That the originating processes along with the Order of Interim Injunction and Motion on Notice for Interlocutory Injunction were served on the Respondents on the 29th day of May, 2024.
- e) The Letter dated 3rd June, 2024, referred to as **Exhibit A** in paragraph 5 of the 1st Respondent's Counter Affidavit was procured by the 1st Respondent herein during the pendency of this suit.
- f) The 1st Respondent's purported appointment of Prof. Yusuf O. Ali SAN as Chairman of the 2nd Respondent's Appointment Committee is invalid and made in contravention of the 2nd Respondent's Regulations.
- g) All the Standing Committees of the 2nd Respondent are set out in the Body of Benchers Regulations made pursuant to Section 3(5) of the Legal Practitioners Act, 2014 [As Amended].
- h) The "Executive Committee" introduced by the 1st Respondent is an invalid and illegal contraption which is not provided under the Body of Benchers Regulations.
- i) The 1st Respondent is currently unilaterally interviewing contractors with a view to awarding illegal contracts on the basis of his false claim that his "Executive Committee" approved his contract proposals at their meeting on 10th May, 2024. The projects are for the construction of the following:
 - i] Body of Benchers Fire Station;
 - ii] Body of Benchers Hotel; [the Body usually meets only 4 times in a year], and
 - iii] Body of Benchers Clinic
- j) That all these projects are not in the 2024 Budget of the Body of Benchers and cannot be executed within the next five [5] years. There are no plans, designs

or Bill of quantities in respect of these projects but the 1st Respondent intends to surreptitiously award these contracts and commit the Body of Benchers by issuing letters of award to his contractors.

- k) That these projects have not been advertised and the interview and bidding process are being carried out unilaterally by the 1st Respondent.
- l) That the 1st Respondent unilaterally dissolved the 2nd Respondent's Complex Management Committee headed by **Uwemedimo Nwoko SAN** in a bid to surreptitiously award these contracts without any scrutiny and/or review by the 2nd Respondent. A copy of Uwemedimo Nwoko SAN's Letter of Protest against the unlawful dissolution of the Committee dated 31st May, 2024 is herewith exhibited as **EXHIBIT P10**.
- m) The 1st Respondent is also in the process of using the Body of Benchers to apply for a national honour for himself by directing that a letter be written by the Body of Benchers to the National Honours Committee to award him the national honour of Commander of the Federal Republic [CFR].
- n) That contrary to the falsehood deposed to by the 1st Respondent in paragraph 9 of his Counter Affidavit, the time fixed by the 1st Respondent to meet with me at his Office was 10:00am. A screenshot of the WhatsApp message forwarded to me by the 1st Respondent is herewith exhibited as **EXHIBIT P11**.
- o) The 2nd Respondent is a statutory body and its Membership, appointments and tenure of Office of Committee Members are regulated and provided by law, have statutory flavour and are not in any way a privilege, and neither are the regulations on appointment and tenure implemented at the discretion of the 1st Defendant nor whims and caprices.
- p) I know for a fact that despite the subsisting interim Orders against the Respondents, the 1st Respondent has taken deliberate steps aimed at compromising and/or truncating the aforesaid Orders of this Honourable Court.
- q) That the 1st Respondent despite being served with the processes in this matter on 29th of May, 2024, on 3rd June, 2024 issued a query to the Secretary of the 2nd Respondent, Mr. Daniel Tela in respect of facts which were submitted to this Honourable Court for adjudication and which form the basis of the Interim Orders made by this Honourable Court in this suit. A copy of the 1st Respondent's query dated 3rd June, 2024 with an attached copy of Exhibit A is herewith exhibited as **EXHIBIT P12**.

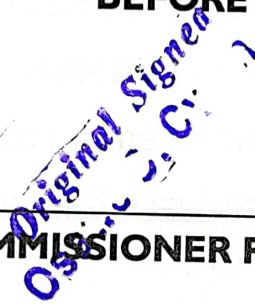
- r) That the 2nd Respondent's Secretary, Mr. Daniel Tela responded to the 1st Respondent's query and confirmed that my appointment as Chairman of the Appointment Committee of the 2nd Respondent was valid and made in compliance with the Regulations of the 2nd Respondent. A copy of Mr. Daniel Tela's Response to the 1st Respondent's query dated 5th June, 2024 with attached letter dated 16th April, 2024 are herewith exhibited as **EXHIBITS P13A and 13B**.
- s) That the 1st Respondent failed to disclose and/or deliberately withheld from this Honourable Court, the fact that he issued the query Exhibit 12 as well as the response of Mr. Daniel Tela, Exhibits 13A and 13B.
- t) The 1st Respondent further directed the 2nd Defendant's Secretary, Mr. Daniel Tela to issue letters of reinstatement to some Committee Members of the 2nd Respondent whose appointments and tenures were unlawfully and unilaterally truncated by the 1st Respondent in a bid to overreach and compromise the claims of the Plaintiff/Applicant before this Honourable Court.
- u) Further to the denial of the depositions of fact set out in paragraph 18 of the 1st Respondent's Counter Affidavit, I know for a fact that the 1st Respondent is unlawfully operating the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN) without authorization from BOSAN.
- v) That the 1st Respondent unlawfully used the name of BOSAN to open a Bank Account with No. 0066193639 at AccessBank Plc without the knowledge and consent of BOSAN and has been collecting monies from Senior Advocates and various persons and bodies under the false impression that the payments were being made to BOSAN.
- w) That **Paul Usoro SAN**, Chairman of BOSAN's Leadership Committee wrote a letter of disclaimer to the 1st Respondent in respect of his unlawful activities in using the name of BOSAN in advertising an Annual Lecture/Colloquium billed for 23rd May, 2024 without the authorization of BOSAN. A copy of the letter dated 16 May, 2024 is herewith exhibited as **EXHIBIT P14**.
- x) That the 1st Respondent, has till date failed to refund monies collected by him to the unsuspecting payees, he has not remitted same to the lawful account of BOSAN and has also not given any account in respect of the monies he collected.
- y) That the 1st Respondent's aforesaid conduct has further tarnished the image and revered office of the Chairman of the Body of Benchers.

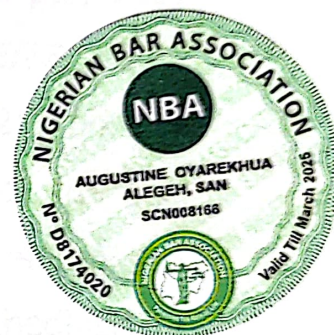
6. That the reliefs sought in this application are preservatory in nature and have become necessary to prevent the Respondents from taking steps to render nugatory any Judgment and/or final Orders of this Honourable Court in respect of the reliefs sought in the substantive suit.
7. That it is in the best interest of justice that the Applicant's Motion on Notice dated 21st May, 2024 be granted by this Honourable Court.
8. That I depose to this affidavit conscientiously believing the same to be true and in accordance with the Oaths Act.


DEPONENT

Sworn to at the Federal High Court Registry, Lagos
this 14th day of June, 2024

BEFORE ME

Original Signed

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS



Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN
LIFE BENCHER

EXHIBIT P10

31st May, 2024

The Secretary,
Body of Benchers
Body Of Benchers Complex
Abuja

Sir,

**RE: NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE BODY
OF BENCHERS**

The above subject matter refers.

Let me acknowledge that at about 12:20pm yesterday the 30th May, 2024 I received a call from you reminding me of a meeting of a purported Committee called "**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**". I note also that at exactly 12:31pm you sent to my **WHATSAPP NUMBER** a notice of reminder of the said meeting. Let me further add for the records that at exactly 12:46pm, you forwarded to me the notice for the said meeting which was scheduled for 1pm.

You would recall that when, in April, 2024, you published a long list purporting to be Appointments into the Standing Committees of the Body of Benchers, I put a call through to you and requested that you should promptly draw the Chairman's attention to the impropriety of the illegalities and legal consequences of his purported actions.

Recall that at the meeting of 10th May, 2024 called by the Chairman for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees which meeting I attended physically *(not because I recognized the existence of any such structure or body known to law under the Benchers Regulation*

but because I saw that as a handy forum to address the Chairman and draw his attention to the illegalities of what he did) I did unequivocally register my protest and rejection of the unlawful changes.

Recall further that at the said meeting of 10th May, 2024, I unequivocally but with great respect told the Chairman that he had no powers under the Benchers Regulation to dissolve any standing Committee or change the name or appellation of any Committee to make it different from what is contained in **Paragraph 11 (3)** of the Body of Benchers Regulation.

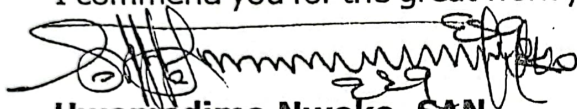
Recall in particular that I, without any equivocation, read out my appointment letter into the **APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE** dated 22nd November, 2022 which gave me a Three Year Tenure and insisted that I remain a member of the Appointment Committee.

Recall also that I clearly referred to and read out **Paragraph 11 (3)** of the Benchers Regulation containing the names and nomenclatures of all Standing Committees. I then submitted that the Chairman lacked the powers to unilaterally dissolve or change the name of "**BODY OF BENCHERS COMPLEX MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**" which I am the chairman to set up an illegal contraption called "**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (*formally known as BUILDING COMMITTEE*). I insisted that the Body of Benchers Complex Management Committee remain intact and I remain the chairman of that Committee, pursuant to the Regulations. It is instructive to note that my appointment as Chairman of that Committee was approved by the General House on 30th November, 2023 pursuant to the gracious nomination by the then Chairman.

I was therefore surprised to receive the notice of the meeting of that purported Committee which is an illegal contraption not known to law in the Body of Benchers. Please, completely discountenance whatever took place at such gathering. Very soon I will call a meeting of the Body of Benchers Complex Management Committee in accordance with the law.

The Body of Benchers is a creation of statute and must operate within the latitude of its Regulations. God forbid, and may the day never come when we would jettison the Regulations and operate according to the whims and caprices of any individual.

I commend you for the great work you are doing for the Body of Benchers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN

Life Bencher

Chairman Body of Benchers

Complex Management Committee



Chief Solomon Awomolo



convenience.

15 May 2024

Please advise on the venue for the meeting.

I have no connection with bloggers, and I am not in any way involved in the social media stories. You will note that there was no social media report before Friday, 10th of May 2024, when I sent the message to the Benchers email platform

14:11 ✓

The great Asiwaju. We have Law School Dinners today so I believe you will be unavailable. I will work towards next

14:56 ✓

Tomorrow looks good. Any time from.
My address is Plot 182 44 crescent cites villas
Gwarinpa

15:08

From 1000am 15:08

Message



EXHIBIT P12



BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA

3rd June, 2024

Mr. Daniel Tela,
The Secretary,
Body of Benchers Nigeria,
Dear sir,

FHC/L/CS/887/2024

AUGUSTINE OYAREKHUA ALEGH, SAN

v

1. CHIEF ADEGBOYEGA AWOMOLO, SAN

2. THE BODY OF BENCHERS

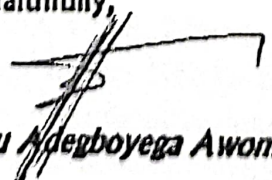
Find herewith letter dated 3rd June 2024 from the immediate past chairman, Hon. Justice Mary Ukaego Peter-Odili, JSC (Rtd) on the above matter.

May I request for your response.

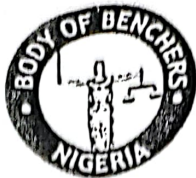
You may forward to me the memo approved by the former chairman where he instructed you to write the letter of appointment, please.

May I request for your response by Tuesday the 4th day of June 2024, please

Yours faithfully,


Asiwaju Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN
Chairman

EA 1817 P13A



BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA

5th June, 2024

Chief A. S. Awomolo, SAN
Chairman, Body of Benchers
Plot 182, 444 Crescent
Citec Villa (Victoria's Court)
Gwarimpa, Abuja.

Sir,

RE: FHC/L/CS/887/2024

AUGUSTINE OYAREKHUA ALEGEH, SAN

V

1. CHIEF ADEGBOYEGA AWOMOLO, SAN
2. THE BODY OF BENCHERS

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 3, 2024, regarding the above subject matter. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify certain issues that have been raised, which I believe are essential to maintaining the integrity and credibility of the Body of Benchers. The letter raises issues of serious concern to me as it bothers on my credibility, integrity and personality.

As the Secretary of the Body of Benchers, I have had the privilege of serving under five Chairmen, including yourself. Throughout my tenure, I have maintained a cordial working relationship with each Chairman, even when we have held differing opinions on certain matters. My approach has always been to advise and guide, while ultimately carrying out the directives of the Chairman, as is my duty.

The Secretariat, which I head, is responsible for the day-to-day administration and execution of the Body's programs and policies. In this capacity, I have received directives from various Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, both orally and in writing. I have never challenged or questioned these directives, even when they may have appeared to contradict the Body's Regulations. At best, I give my opinion and advise accordingly.

Regarding the appointment of Committee members, I wish to clarify that the Secretariat acts only on the directives of the Chairman issued orally or in writing. I say this on my honour. The Secretariat sometimes makes suggestions to the Chairman who is the final authority. In the instant case, I suggested to the then Chairman, Hon. Justice Mary U. Peter-Odili, CFR, JSC (Rtd), DSSRS, that the Chairman of the Benchers Appointment Committee should come from the Bar, given that the previous Chairman had served two consecutive terms from the Bench. Mr. Augustine Alegeh, SAN, being a Life Bencher and past President of the Nigerian Bar Association was subsequently appointed as Chairman, based on the verbal approval of the Chairman.

May I state for the record that the above appointment is not the first to be done based on verbal communication or via SMS. There are other Chairmen and members of Committee whose appointments were made on the basis of such verbal communication. That is why the steps taken on the appointment of Mr. Alegeh, SAN and other members of the Committee was not strange.

Prior to this, I verbally drew the attention of the immediate past Chairman to the expiration of the tenure of the Chairman, Benchers Appointment Committee, Hon. Justice Umaru Abdullahi, CON and some of the members wherein it was agreed that they be notified of the expiration of their tenure, some having served beyond the stipulated tenure. Letters were issued notifying the following of the expiration of their tenure as members of the Benchers Appointment Committee having been appointed on the 8th of February, 2018: Hon. Justice Umaru Abdullahi, CON, Chief Albert Akpomudje, SAN, Ichie L.M.E. Ezeofor, Hon. Justice Oyebola Ojo. This means their tenure ought to have expired on the 8th of February, 2024 having served two (2) consecutive terms.

I further suggested to the Chairman the need to replace the Benchers whose tenure have expired. I specifically suggested that the nominees to serve on the Committee should be Life Benchers in view of the peculiar function of the Committee.

Following the above suggestion, the Chairman requested for the list of members of the Body of Benchers which I forwarded through her PA via

WhatsApp. The Chairman, through her PA nominated Hon. Justice K. B. Akaahs, OFR, Hon. Justice P. A. Galumje, Hon. Justice A. N. Nwankwo and Mr. D. D. Dodo, OFR, SAN. The list was sent to me via WhatsApp. I drew the attention of the Chairman through her PA on WhatsApp that Mr. Dodo, SAN was already a member of two (2) Standing Committees of the Body, and based on the Body of Benchers Regulations (as amended), no Benchers shall serve on more than two (2) Standing Committees of the Body which the PA responded that she will get back to me. Subsequently, the PA sent me the name of Hon. Justice Uzo Anyanwu as replacement for Mr. Dodo, SAN.

It is for the foregoing reason that Hon. Justice P. A. Galumje attended the meeting of the Benchers Appointment Committee held on 22nd May, 2024 and today he remains a member of the Committee.

I wish to emphasize that I have always acted in good faith and in accordance with the directives of the Chairman. I have never unilaterally appointed any Benchers to serve in any Committee, and I cannot do so. My loyalty to the Body and its leadership remains unwavering, even in the face of differing opinions or challenges.

Sir, you may recall that by a letter dated 16th April, 2024, I forwarded the list of members of the Committees of the Body indicating the date of appointment of each Committee member as requested. The names of the aforementioned Benchers were included on the list, particularly at page 5. (Copy attached for ease of reference). Sir, if I was not directed, how could I have included their names on the list of the Benchers Appointment Committee which I forwarded?

Sir, you may further recall my observations to you on the 26th of April, 2024 regarding the reconstitution of the Committees of the Body where I expressed some concerns and reservations and also mentioned the appointment of the Chairman of the Benchers Appointment Committee. However, I still followed your directives being the Chairman and knowing you have the final say and issued appointment letter to Prof. Yusuf O. Ali, SAN as Chairman of the Benchers Appointment Committee as well as other Benchers appointed into various Committees as reconstituted. God forbid that a day will come when the Secretariat will refuse to carry out the directives of the Chairman of the Body on account of the manner in which the directives was issued.

I must state that most instructions given to the Secretariat to act are done orally. It is rare to see a written instruction. As a matter of fact, it is the Secretariat that usually raises a Memo for the Chairman's approval not the other way round. There are several instances where such memos have been raised or letters written to a Chairman for his information and further directives or necessary action and the response comes either orally or via SMS or WhatsApp messages. Out of respect and in line with the usual practice, the Secretariat carries out the directives. With the recent development, should the Secretariat only act upon written directives given to it for the records? To my mind, the answer should be yes. This way, the records will speak for itself.

I have received oral directives from various Chairmen on several occasions which were duly carried out. This include the issuance of appointment letters to Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko and Hon. Justice Sidi Bage as members of the Body of Benchers in October, 2023 under the chairmanship of the immediate past Chairman, the circulation of the list of reconstituted Committees to all members on 29th April, 2024, the directive that appointment should be for a period of two (2) years and issuance of letters to Benchers who objected to their removal from Committees informing them of their continued membership of the particular Committee. I have also received oral directives regarding changes to meeting dates, Call to Bar ceremonies and Traditional Law Dinners.

Permit me to state for the record that after the incidence that took place on the on the 22nd of May, 2024 during the meeting of the Benchers Appointment Committee wherein both Prof. Yusuf O. Ali, SAN and Mr. Augustine Alegeh, CON, SAN claimed to be the rightful chairman of the Committee, I thought it wise to mention to the immediate past Chairman about the embarrassing situation for two (2) reasons; first because the list of nominees for appointment as Benchers which My Lord the then Chairman recommended for appointment was brought up in the course of the meeting and adjourned for consideration on the 26th of June, 2024. Secondly, to draw My Lord's attention to the fact that Mr. Alegeh, SAN who was appointed during her tenure and Prof. Ali, SAN appointed under the leadership of the current Chairman were laying claim to the position of Chairman of the Committee and expressed my worries about the effect of such incident on the image of the Body. I made this call on the 23rd of May, 2024. In

response, My Lord thanked me for the information and also told me not to allow anything disturb me, stating that they will sort themselves out.

To my mind, after the report of the incident, the question as to how Mr. Alegeh, SAN and Prof. Ali, SAN were both appointed to chair the Committee would have risen. But none. On the contrary I was told not to allow anything disturb me and that they would sort themselves out.

I was shocked that by a letter dated 3rd June, 2024 I was issued a query alongside the letter written by the immediate past Chairman dated the same 3rd June, 2024 denying knowledge of the appointment of Mr. Alegeh, SAN. I placed a call to My Lord to find out if the letter actually emanated from her and I was surprised to receive a response to the effect that she tried reaching out to me earlier but I was not picking and she had to put together the letter and does not want anything to do with the issue of the Appointment Committee as it was not her position. I reminded my Lord of our discussion on the issue and the subsequent correspondence but my Lord maintained her position. The conversation ended with a plea that I should 'find a way to help Awomolo'. I said I have been doing so, but with the content of the letter, I kept wondering how? At the detriment of my integrity, reputation and career, because the content of the letter is damaging to my person. I have been pondering on the import of the statement. I have never and will never work against the interest of any Chairman nor betray the trust reposed on me.

I have been inundated with calls on the fact that that the immediate past Chairman did not authorized nor approved the appointment and that I have been queried. I am still wondering how the letter got to the public space.

May I further state that since my assumption of office, this is the first time I am receiving a query from any Chairman of the Body regarding actions I took in good faith and based on approval given by the Chairman.

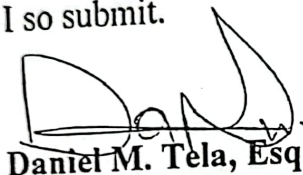
I am concerned about the negative impact of recent events on the Body's image and integrity, it has been a major distraction for me in the smooth operation of the Secretariat. I pray that these events will soon come to an end, and I remain committed to advising and guiding the Chairman with honesty and integrity.

I have always ensured that the image of the Body and that of the leadership is always protected by not making certain comments and actions public even when it sometimes portrays me and the Secretariat in bad light. My loyalty to the Body and its leadership at all levels remains intact.

In my humble view, what is most important at this stage is finding a solution rather than blame game. It is never too late to make things right for the good of the Body.

Thank you once again sir for the opportunity to respond.

I so submit.



Daniel M. Tela, Esq
Secretary, Body of Benchers



BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA

16 April, 2024

Chief A. S. Awomolo, SAN
Chairman, Body of Benchers
Plot 182, 444 Creseent
Citec Villa (Victoria's Court)
Gwarimpa, Abuja

Sir,

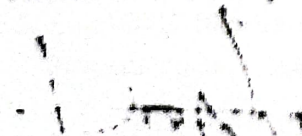
RE: COMMITTEES OF THE BODY OF BENCHERS

Please find attached list of members of the various Committees of the Body of Benchers indicating the date of appointment as requested. The tenure of some members have expired as reflected on the list.

Based on the Body of Benchers Regulations (as amended), a member of a Committee shall serve for a single term of three (3) years. Similarly, the maximum number of members on each Committee shall be thirteen (13) and any member who is absent from meeting twice without apologies tendered or cogent reason given, shall be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn his or her membership.

Sir, kindly confirm if the Constitution/Statute Review Committee will operate as a Standing or Adhoc Committee.

The above is for your information and further directives, sir.


Daniel M. Tela, Esq
Secretary, Body of Benchers

Copy received
16/4/24

16/4/24

MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE BODY OF BENCHERS AND DATES OF APPOINTMENT

ELDERS COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 1. Hon. Justice M.L. Uwais, GCON
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Justice S.M.A. Belgore, GCON
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 3. Mrs. H.A. Balogun, OON
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 4. Hon. Justice Umaru F. Abdullahi
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 5. Elder S.M. Olakunri, SAN
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 6. Hon. Justice M.A. Mukhtar, GCON
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 7. Chief T.J.O. Okpoko, OON, SAN
Past Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 8. Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 9. Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen, GCON
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 10. Alh. Bashir M. Dalhatu
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 11. Hon. Justice (Dr) I. T. Muhammad, GCON
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 12. Chief O.C.J. Okocha, OFR, SAN
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 13. Hon. Justice Olabode Rhodes-Vivour, CFR
Past chairman, Life Bencher | . | Member |
| 14. Chief (Prof) Wole Olanipekun, CFR, SAN | . | Member |

Past chairman, Life Bencher

15. Hon. Justice Mary U. Peter-Odili, CFR . Member
Past chairman, Life Bencher

SCREENING COMMITTEE

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------|----------------------|
| 1. Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON
Vice Chairman, Life Bencher | . | Chairman | 01/04/2024 |
| 2. Hon. Justice B. S. Bansi, OFR
Life Bencher | . | Member | Dec. 2019 (Renewed) |
| 3. Tijjani Inuwa-Dutse, Mnl, Esq
Life Bencher | . | Member | Dec. 2019 (Renewed) |
| 4. Hon. Justice I. N. Ndu, OFR
Life Bencher | . | Member | Nov. 2022 |
| 5. Mr. Augustine Alegeh, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | Nov. 2022 |
| 6. Mr. Tajudeen Oladoja, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | Feb. 2022 |
| 7. Mr. C. A. Ajuyah, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | Nov. 2022 |
| 8. Chief John A. A. Ochoga
Life Bencher | . | Member | May, 2019 (Renewed) |
| 9. Mr. Kamaldeen Ajibade, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | 15/11/2022 |
| 10. Ibrahim E. Mark, Esq
Life Bencher | . | Member | Aug. 2020 (Expired) |
| 11. Mrs. H. A. Turaki
Life Bencher | . | Member | |
| 12. Murtala Aliyu Kankla, Esq
Life Bencher | . | Member | Nov. 2017 (Expired) |
| 13. Hon. Justice Fati L. Abubakar, CON
Life Bencher | . | Member | July, 2019 (Renewed) |

14. Dr. Chuka Agbu, SAN Life Bencher	Member	Nov. 2017 (Expired)
14. Mr. Obafemi Adewale, SAN Life Bencher	Member	Aug. 2020 (Expired)
15. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	Secretary	

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. Hon. Justice Dr. Ishaq Bello, OFR Life Bencher	Chairman	25/02/2022
2. Hon. Justice M.B. Dongban-Mensem, CFR Life Bencher, President, Court of Appeal	Member	19/06/2020
3. Hon. Justice O.O Daniel Kalio Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Awka	Member	30/11/2023
4. Ahmed Mustapha Gonlri, Esq Life Bencher	Member	04/05/2023
5. Mr. Umeh Kalu, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
6. Ebenezer Obeya, Esq Life Bencher	Member	03/07/2018 (Renewed)
7. Mr. Obafemi Adewale, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
8. Hon. Justice Alsha B. Aliyu Chief Judge, Nasarawa State	Member	26/07/2021
9. Hon. Justice Halima Ibrahim Abdulmalik Chief Judge, Niger State	Member	07/08/2023
10. Fidelis Mnyim, Esq Hon. Attorney General, Benue State	Member	30/11/2023
11. Dr. Ben Uruchi Odoh Hon. Attorney General, Ebonyi State	Member	30/11/2023
12. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	Secretary	

RECRUITMENT, PROMOTION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. Hon. Justice Umaru Eri, CON Life Bencher	Chairman	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
2. Hon. Justice A. N. Nwankwo, CON Life Bencher	Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
3. Chief Charles Uwensuyi-Edosomwan, SAN Life Bencher	Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
4. Mrs. H. A. Turaki Life Bencher	Member	
5. S. Ibrahim Tahir, Esq Life Bencher	Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
6. Mr. D. D. Dodo, OFR, SAN Life Bencher	Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
7. Mr. Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, SAN Life Bencher	Member	Nov. 2022
8. Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN Life Bencher	Member	Nov. 2022
9. Mr. Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN Life Bencher	Member	06/01/2020 (Renewed)
10. Prof. Abdulkarim Kana Life Bencher	Member	06/01/2020 (Renewed)
11. Hon. Justice Saldu Sifawa Chief Judge, Sokoto State	Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
12. Mr. Adeniji Kazeem, SAN Bencher	Member	Nov. 2022
13. Sen. Mike Ajegbo, CON Bencher	Member	Nov. 2022
14. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	Secretary	

BENCHERS APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Augustine Alegeh, OON, SAN Life Bencher	Chairman	28/03/2024
2. Hon. Justice A.N. Nwankwo Life Bencher	Member	28/03/2024
3. Chief Adeniyi Akintola, SAN Life Bencher	Member	Feb. 2023
4. Mr. Dele Adesina, SAN Life Bencher	Member	15/11/2022
5. Chief J-K. Gadzama, OFR, SAN Life Bencher	Member	15/11/2022
6. Hon. Justice K.B. Akaahs, OFR Life Bencher	Member	28/03/2024
7. Ahmed Mustapher Goniri, Esq Life Bencher	Member	25/09/2019
8. Hon. Justice P.A. Galumje Life Bencher	Member	28/03/2024
9. Mr. Edward G. Pwajok, SAN Life Bencher	Member	25/09/2019 (Renewed)
10. Mr. Akin Osinbajo, SAN Life Bencher	Member	25/09/2019 (Expired)
11. Chief John A. A. Ochoga Life Bencher	Member	15/11/2022
12. Lady Debbie N. Obodoukwu Life Bencher	Member	15/11/2022
13. Mrs. H.A. Turaki Life Bencher	Member	
14. Mr. Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN Life Bencher	Member	15/11/2022

15. Hon. Justice S. U. Dikko Life Bencher	• Member	25/09/2019 (Expired)
--	----------	----------------------

16. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	• Secretary	
-------------------------	-------------	--

ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1. Chief RA. Lawal-Rabana, SAN Life Bencher	• Chairman	31/05/2019 (Renewed)
--	------------	----------------------

2. Mr. Umeh Kalu, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	27/08/2020 (Expired)
---------------------------------------	----------	----------------------

3. Mr. Joe Abrahams, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	02/08/2019 (Expired)
--	----------	----------------------

4. Ibrahim Eddy Mark, Esq Life Bencher	• Member	
---	----------	--

5. Lady Debbie N. Obodoukwu Life Bencher	• Member	11/06/2019 (Renewed)
---	----------	----------------------

6. Mrs. H.A. Turaki Life Bencher	• Member	
-------------------------------------	----------	--

7. Hon. Justice O. F. Omoleye Life Bencher, Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Akure	• Member	19/06/2017 (Expired)
---	----------	----------------------

8. Dr. Muiz Banire, OON, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	31/05/2019 (Renewed)
--	----------	----------------------

9. (H.E) Mohammed A. Abubakar, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	08/09/2020 (Expired)
--	----------	----------------------

10. Prof. Isa Hayatu Chikoma, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	• Member	02/08/2019 (Renewed)
---	----------	----------------------

11. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	• Secretary	
-------------------------	-------------	--

SPECIAL DUTIES COMMITTEE

1. Mrs. H. A. Turaki Life Bencher	Chairman	March, 2022
2. Hon. Edward G. Pwajok, SAN Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
3. Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
4. Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
5. Hon. Justice S. D. Kawu, OFR Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
6. Sen. Kaka Shehu Lawan, Esq Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
7. Chief Ferdinand Orbih, SAN Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
8. Mr. Joe Agi, SAN Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
9. Prof. Abdulkarim A. Kana Life Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
10. Mr. Adeniji Kazeem, SAN Bencher	Member	19/09/2022
11. Chief Offiong E.B. Offiong, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	Member	15/11/2022
12. Bukhari Bello, MFR, mni, Esq Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	Member	19/09/2022
13. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	Secretary	

MENTORING COMMITTEE

1. Chief J-K. Gadzama, OFR, SAN Life Bencher	Chairman	24/03/2021 (Expired)
2. Hon. Justice Amina Augie, CON	Member	15/11/2022

Life Bencher			
3. Hon. Justice U.M. Abba - Aji Life Bencher, Justice, Supreme Court	.	Member	15/11/2022
4. Prof. Ogugua V. C. Ikpeze Life Bencher	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
5. Hon. Justice H.M. Ogunwunmiju Life Bencher, Justice, Supreme Court	.	Member	06/01/2020 (Expired)
6. Mr. Kamaldeen Ajibade, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
7. Mrs. H. A. Turaki Life Bencher	.	Member	
8. Sen. Kaka Shehu Lawan, Esq Life Bencher	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
9. Dr. T. C. Osanakpo, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
10. Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
11. Hon. Justice U. I. Ndukwe - Anyanwu Life Bencher	.	Member	15/11/2022
12. Hon. Justice John T. Tsoho, OFR Chief Judge, Federal High Court, Abuja	.	Member	15/11/2022
13. Afraimu K. Jingi, Esq Hon. Attorney General, Adamawa State	.	Member	03/09/2020 (Expired)
14. Chief Mike Ozekhome, CON, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	.	Member	09/12/2019 (Expired)
15. Mrs. Olufunmi Oluyede Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	.	Member	15/11/2022

16. Ahmed Abdullahi Yola, Esq Bencher	• Member	03/09/2020 (Expired)
--	----------	----------------------

Daniel M. Tela, Esq	• Secretary	
---------------------	-------------	--

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

1. Sir. G. Ofodile Okafor, OON, SAN Life Bencher	• Chairman	31/05/2019 (Renewed)
2. Hon. Justice J. Y. Tukur Life Bencher	• Member	02/09/2020 (Expired)
3. Mrs. H. A. Turaki Life Bencher	• Member	
4. George Etomi, Esq Life Bencher	• Member	02/09/2020 (Expired)
5. (H.E.) Mohammed A. Abubakar, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	15/11/2022
6. Chief Mike Ozekhome, CON, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	• Member	15/11/2022
7. Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, OON, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	• Member	15/11/2022
8. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	• Secretary	

REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Yusuf O. Ali, SAN Life Bencher	• Chairman	21/06/2022
1. Mr. Dele Adesina, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	21/06/2022
2. Mrs. Nella Andem- Rabana, SAN Life Bencher	• Member	21/06/2022
2. Hon. Justice Pascal Nnadi, OFR Life Bencher	• Member	21/06/2022
3. Dr. Garba Tetengi, SAN, mni	• Member	21/06/2022

	Life Bencher		
4.	(H.E) Mohammed A. Abubakar, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
5.	Hon. Justice Husseinl Baba - Yusuf Chief Judge, Federal Capital Territory	Member	21/06/2022
6.	Chief Emeka Nglge, OFR, SAN Chairman, Council of Legal Education	Member	21/06/2022
7.	Mr. Leslie Arthur Nylander, SAN Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
8.	Mr. Godwin Omoaka, SAN Representative, Nigerian Bar Association	Member	21/06/2022
9.	Daniel M. Tela, Esq	Secretary	

JUDICIARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1.	Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON - Past Chairman, Life Bencher	Chairman	21/06/2022
2.	Mr. O.C. J. Okocha, OFR, SAN Past Chairman, Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
3.	Chief Wole Olanipekun, CFR, SAN Past Chairman, Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
4.	Dr. Olisa Agbakoba, OON, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
5.	Sir G. Ofodile Okafor, OON, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
6.	Chief Okey Wall, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
7.	Dr. Muiz Banire, OON, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
8.	Mr. Paul Usoro, SAN Life Bencher	Member	21/06/2022
9.	Hon. Justice Oyewole Adeyeye	Member	21/06/2022

Chief Judge, Ekiti State

- | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|------------|
| 10. Mr. Y. C. Malkyau, OON, SAN
President, Nigerian Bar Association | . | Member | 21/06/2022 |
| 11. Daniel M. Tela, Esq | . | Secretary | |

BOB COMPLEX MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|------------|
| 1. Mr. Uwemedimo Nwoko, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Chairman | 24/01/2023 |
| 2. Prof. Yusuf O. Ali, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 3. Chief J-K. Gadzama, OFR, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 4. Hon. Edward G. Pwajok, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 5. Mrs. H.A. Turaki
Life Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 6. Hon. Justice Adamu Jauro
Justice, Supreme Court | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 7. Hon. Justice Mosunmola Dipeolu
Chief Judge, Ogun State | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 8. Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, OON, SAN
Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 9. Mr. Adeniji Kazeem, SAN
Bencher | . | Member | 24/01/2023 |
| 10. Daniel M. Tela, Esq | . | Secretary | |

MUSEUM/HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------|------------|
| 1. Hon. Justice P.O. Nnadi, OFR
Life Bencher | . | Chairman | 30/11/2023 |
| 2. Mr. RA Lawal-Rabana, SAN
Life Bencher | . | Member | 30/11/2023 |

3. Mrs. Fatima Kwaku, MFR Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
4. Mr. D.D. Dodo, OFR, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
5. Mrs. H.A. Turaki Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
6. Prof. Zacchaeus Adangor, SAN Hon. Attorney General, Rivers State	.	Member	30/11/2023
7. Daniel M. Tela, Esq	.	Secretary	

EXTRA ORDINARY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL MATTERS

1. Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen, GCON Former Chairman, Life Bencher	.	Chairman	30/11/2023
2. Hon. Justice M.B. Dongban-Mensem, CFR President, Court of Appeal, Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
3. Hon. Justice K.M.O. Kekere-Ekun Justice, Supreme Court, Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
4. Hon. Justice Rabi Umar Chief Judge, Bauchi State, Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
5. Mr. Ibrahim S. Muhammed, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
6. Dr. Mulz Banire, OON, SAN Life Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023
7. Hon. Justice John T. Tsoho, OFR Chief Judge, Federal High Court	.	Member	30/11/2023
8. Hon. Justice B.B. Kanyip, OFR President, National Industrial Court of Nigeria	.	Member	30/11/2023
9. Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko Bencher	.	Member	30/11/2023

10. Mr. Y.C. Maikyau, OON, SAN . Member 30/11/2023
President, Nigerian Bar Association

11. Daniel M. Tela, Esq . Secretary

CONSTITUTIONAL/STATUTES REFORMS COMMITTEE

1. Hon. Justice B.B. Kanyip, OFR . Chairman
President, National Industrial Court of Nigeria

2. Hon. Edward G. Pwajok, SAN . Member
Life Bencher

3. Hon. Justice Abdu Aboki . Member
Life Bencher

4. Dr. Mulz Banire, OON, SAN . Member
Life Bencher

5. Dr. Kayode Ajulo, OON, SAN . Member
Hon. Attorney General, Ondo State

6. Chief Offiong E.B. Offiong, SAN . Member
Representative, Nigerian Bar Association

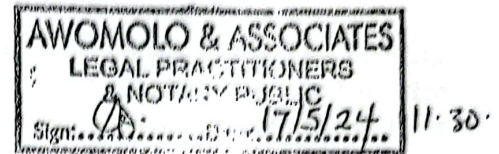
7. Prof. Epiphany C. Azinge, SAN . Member
Representative, Nigerian Bar Association

8. Sen. Mohammed Tahir Monguno . Member
Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary

9. Hon. Wole Oke . Member
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary

Paul Uoro SAN, FCI Arb.

16 May 2024



Asiwaju Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN
Chairman, Body of Benchers
Victoria Court
Plot 182, 444 Crescent
CITEC Villas
Gwarinpa Estate
Gwarinpa, FCT
Abuja

My Revered Egbon

1. My brother and friend, Prof Epiphany Azinge, SAN forwarded to me this afternoon the attached Invitation Card for the BOSAN, Abuja 2024 Annual Lecture/Colloquium scheduled for 23 May 2024. Unfortunately, when he called, I was in an arbitration and couldn't take his call, but I intend to speak with him after sending this note to you, Sir. I truly wished I was consulted before the printing of this Invitation Card, with my name as the Chief Host, because I would, most respectfully, have dissuaded the organizers from this patently divisive course – and I say this with very profound respect Sir.

2. When you graciously lent your voice to my appointment as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee of the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria ("BOSAN") on 10 February 2024, it was my understanding that you were supporting my appointment as the Committee Chairman of a united and indivisible BOSAN, without Chapters or Branches such as an Abuja or Lagos or Port Harcourt or Ado Ekiti Chapters or Branches. I truly believed, Sir, that we had put that specter of factionalization behind us, and it was in that belief that I accepted to serve as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee of the Body – a united, unified and single Body, without Chapters of Branches.

3. It was therefore with regret and quite some tinge of disappointment that I observed that the planned lecture is the 2024 Annual Lecture/Colloquium of the "Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria, Abuja". Let me most respectfully intimate you on how the BOSAN Leadership Committee works and will, by the Grace of God, continue to work under my leadership. Members of the Committee are drawn from all sections of the country and together they plan events which are hosted by the unified Body and not any Chapter or Branch. It is in that circumstance that the Induction Program which has become quite popular in prepping our prospective members for the rank has always been prepared and conducted by the Body and not as the concept

or program of any BOSAN Chapter. The same applies to the Scholarship sub-committee of the Leadership Committee.

4. Before I was favoured with my appointment as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee of the Body, thanks to our members from across Nigeria, I served as the Chairman of the Dinner Committee. Several of the most active members of that Committee are based in Abuja and they contributed in no small measure to the success of the dinner events that have been hosted by the Body in the last several years, the last of which was held in Abuja on 10 February 2024. Those celebrated dinner events were all held under the auspices of the unified Body and not as events of Chapters or Branches of the Body. With the greatest respect, Sir, it cannot be in my time as the Chairman of the BOSAN Leadership Committee that the Committee would begin to endorse the creation of Chapters or Branches and the hosting of factionalized Chapter or Branch events. That course, with great respect Sir, can only lead to the disintegration and collapse of BOSAN and that would be such a monumental pity and shame on all of us, our rank and the profession.

5. When you spoke with me on the sidelines of the National Justice Summit on 24 April 2024 about the need for me to work with the Abuja SANs on BOSAN programmes, I assured you as I have always done that it was my bounden duty to work with all our members across Nigeria under a unified Body. Incidentally, my good friend and brother, Epiphany whom you attempted to introduce to me, in my recollection, has always been a member of the Leadership Committee and my understanding was that whatever ideas he or any other of our colleagues in Abuja would have would be channeled to the Committee for implementation under the auspices of the unified and united Body. Until he called today and sent me the attached invitation letter, I had no idea that a Colloquium is planned for the 23 May 2024.

6. Even as I write, I, as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee, do not know who has been invited for the event, who the speakers are, what topics or issues they will address – indeed, I know next to nothing about that event. With the greatest respect, Sir, that is not how the Leadership Committee of the Body works. When Chief Felix Fagbohunge, SAN was the Chairman of the Leadership Committee and I served under him as the Chairman of the Committee's Dinner sub-committee, I did absolutely nothing without informing and collaborating with Chief Fagbohunge, SAN. I took his inputs and made sure he knew every step I was taking. That way, I not only acknowledged his position as the Chairman of the Committee, I tapped into and from his wisdom. In organizing the Body's Dinners, I did exactly the same thing with all the members of my sub-committee; I consulted them and took their views.

7. It would be setting a terrible precedent for me, as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee, to now "rubber-stamp" the divisive Colloquium of a factionalized BOSAN as "Chief Host", and worse still, a Colloquium that I was not even given the courtesy of knowing anything whatsoever about its planning. With great respect, Sir, the organisers of this event have not been fair to me at all or to BOSAN as a Body and I request, Sir, that you, as our elder and Father please call them to order and dissuade them from this factionalizing course. We inherited a united BOSAN and a united and non-factionalized BOSAN we must maintain, nurture and build for our successors.

Yours sincerely



Paul Usoro, SAN
Chairman
BOSAN Leadership Committee

cc. Mr. Olumide Sofowora, SAN
General Secretary
Body of Senior Advocates Nigeria
2 Ibeju Lekki Street
Dolphin Estate
Lagos