

# CHIEF BOLAJI AYORINDE SAN, FCArb, O.F.R.

Legal Practitioner & Notary Public

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12<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

Mr. Hussani Ishaq Magaji SAN,  
Registrar General,  
Corporate Affairs Commission,  
Plot 420, Tigris Crescent,  
Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama,  
Abuja.



Dear Learned Silk,

**RE: PUBLICATION OF "PUBLIC NOTICE STATUS OF NIGERIA LAW SOCIETY" DATED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2024 BY THE MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION IN THE NATION, THISDAY, AND LEADERSHIP NEWSPAPERS**

1. I am constrained to personally write this letter to you following the publication referred to above by the Management of the Corporate Affairs Commission [CAC] and which Management you currently head as the Registrar General.
2. As you may be aware I am currently the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Law Society [NLS] and I was the 1<sup>st</sup> Plaintiff in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/482/2023 Between CHIEF BOLAJI AYORINDE, SAN, OFR & 5 OTHERS V. COPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION and which Suit was decided on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.
3. In the said Judgment, the Honourable Court clearly granted all the Plaintiffs' claims and specifically directed your Commission to register the Nigerian Law Society. Your commission has failed, refused, and or neglected to obey the judgement of the Federal High Cort and whose judgement remains extant even though you have filed an appeal on record. It is also noted that despite your filing of the same appeal, you have not secured any court order to stay the direction in the judgement.

4. It is therefore shocking that you will cause the publication under reference to be made despite the above.

In the said publication, you alluded as follows:

- I That you have not registered the Nigerian Law Society.
  - II That the members of the Nigerian Law Society including my humble self are committing an offence in breach of the law.
  - III That the activities of the Nigerian Law Society including my humble self are illegal.
5. Furthermore, you deliberately did not make any reference or allusion to the existence of the Judgment in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/482/2023 as aforesaid. This is very misleading.
  6. All the above allusions are indeed untrue, false and misleading in view of the extant Judgement of the Federal High Court as referred to in your publication. The contents of your Public Notice made did not just lower my reputation and other Members of the Nigerian Law Society, but it has totally destroyed my personality and standing in the society as a reputable Legal Practitioner (39 years post call) and as a notable and reputable Senior Advocate of Nigeria (19 years post elevation). Your misleading information and notice has caused great damage to my hard earned image and reputation and will continue to be a threat as long as the publication remains in circulation or same is not withdrawn or retracted.
  - 6 The aforementioned statements under reference are displeasing, contemptuous, ridiculous, scandalous, spiteful, derogatory, offensive and have the capacity to completely obliterate my unscathed reputation and image and induce public disregard and contempt for me and the Nigerian Law Society which I have the privilege and honour to serve as Chairman, Board of Trustees.

7. In fact, ever since the publication of the defamatory statements, I have been inundated with several calls from colleagues, friends, relatives, and business associates in the Country and in diaspora expressing their surprise and disdain over the publication as portrayed that my humble self and the Nigerian Law Society are engaging in illegal activities, amongst other literal meanings.
8. Consequent to the foregoing and in view of the real injury or damage which has been caused, which is being caused and which will be caused to my reputation and the Nigerian Law Society, I hereby demand that you issue an appropriate, sufficient and public Letter of Apology in view of the fact that your defamatory statements are in wide circulation. The Apology which will be deemed appropriate and/or sufficient and which will be accepted by me must be done in a manner acceptable to my humble self and the Nigerian Law Society [NLS]. You are therefore requested to include and publish in the Apology;
  - a) A detailed retraction and correction of the said false and defamatory statements/public notice referring to my humble self and the Nigerian Law Society [NLS] which are contained in your Public Notice dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.
  - b) A direct and clear statement declaring the statements made by you of my humble self and the Nigerian Law Society [NLS] as contained in your Public Notice dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024 as false.
  - c) A clear and unequivocal apology for publishing the false and defamatory statements referring to my humble self and the Nigerian Law Society [NLS] which are contained in your Public Notice dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.
  - d) All of the above (a, b and c) shall be published and circulated in the following medium used by you in distributing the Public Notice dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024:
    - i. The Nation Newspaper.
    - ii. Thisday Newspaper.
    - iii. Leadership Newspaper.

9. My Dear Senior Advocate of Nigeria, I would have expected that you would have been more circumspect in view of the high office of Senior Advocate of Nigeria you now also occupy and refrain from issuing the offensive publication. It would have been a better path to thread. Section 863 (1) and (2) of Companies and Allied Matters Act which you relied on in the publication relate strictly to persons carrying on business as a company, limited liability partnership, limited partnership and does not derogate the rights of freedom of association by my humble self or the Nigerian Law Society.
10. **TAKE NOTICE** that if the retraction sought in paragraph 8 herein is not complied with within 7 days of your receipt of this letter, I will have no choice but to instruct Counsel to proceed to Court and compel you to carry out the retraction. Furthermore, I shall seek monetary damages from you and the Corporate Affairs Commission jointly and severally in the sum of =N=5 Billion Naira.
11. Once again, Learned Senior Advocate of Nigeria, accept my assurances with highest esteem.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



**CHIEF BOLAJI AYORINDE SAN, OFR, FCARB**



- CC: 1. **MELA NUNGHE SAN**  
**[PRESIDENT NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY]**
2. **THE ADMINISTRATOR NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY**
3. **CLEMENT ONWUENWUNOR SAN**
4. **SEYILAYO OJO SAN**