

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/____/2024

BETWEEN:

KEHINDE OGUNWUMIJU O.F.R., S.A.N. CLAIMANT

AND

DELE FAROTIMI, ESQ..... DEFENDANT

WRIT OF SUMMONS

TO: DELE FAROTIMI OF NO. 15A OGBUNIKE STREET, OFF WOLE OLATEJU CRESCENT, LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS, NIGERIA OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT.

You are hereby commanded that within thirty days after the service of this writ on you, inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in an action at the suit of the Claimant and take notice that in default the Claimant may proceed and judgement may be given in your absence.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that parties shall maintain status quo.

Dated this 6th day of December 2024.

Registrar

MEMORANDUM TO BE SUBSCRIBED ON THE WRIT.

NB:

This writ is to be served within three calendar months from the date of issuance, or if renewed, within three calendar months from the date of the last renewal, including the day of such date, and not afterwards.

The Defendant may enter appearance personally or by a legal practitioner either by handing in the appropriate forms duly completed at the registry of the High Court of the Judicial Division in which the action is brought or by registered post to the registry.

NB:

This writ of summons is to be served out of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and in Lagos State.

WHEREOF, the Claimant claims as follows:

1. A DECLARATION that the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, in circulation within and outside the country and the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:
 - i. *"That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.*
 - ii. *"While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52*
 - iii. *We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S. B. Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.*
 - iv. *"But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.*
 - v. *"The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.*

- vi. *"It was around this time we began to hear rumours of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves and the rumours became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below". Page 64.*

as published and distributed by the Defendant, regarding the Claimant is offensive, defamatory, and derogatory and has brought the Claimant into ridicule, odium, disrespect, disrepute, and scorn in the eyes of the right-thinking members of the society.

2. A DECLARATION that the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

- i. *"That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.*
- ii. *"While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52*
- iii. *We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.*
- iv. *"But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.*

v. "The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.

vi. "It was around this time we began to hear rumours of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves and the rumours became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below". Page 64.

as published and distributed by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant has injured the Claimant's character, prestige, pedigree, and reputation as an honest, law-abiding, competent, dutiful, reliable, diligent and trustworthy legal practitioner.

3. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court awarding the sum of ₦500,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Million Naira) only against the Defendant being exemplary and general damages in favour of the Claimant for the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

i. "That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.

ii. "While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52

iii. We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another

law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.

iv. "But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.

v. "The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.

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as published by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant.

4. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court compelling the Defendant to publish an unreserved apology in two (2) widely read National Newspaper retracting the said libellous excerpts as contained in the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

i. "That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.

ii. "While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable,

and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52

iii. *We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud*". Page 56.

iv. *"But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court"*. Page 59.

v. *"The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J."* Page 60.

vi. *"It was around this time we began to hear rumours of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves and the rumours became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below"*. Page 64.

as published by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant.

5. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court directing the recovery and destruction of the book titled "**NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**" authored by the Defendant and currently in circulation across the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court in both hard and soft copy formats from all bookshops, libraries, archives, booksellers, social media and online platforms, etc.

described from publishing, causing to be published or in any other manner circulating the said offensive book titled "**NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**" both in hard and soft copy formats authored by the Defendant regarding the Claimant.

7. **AN ORDER OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT** directing the Defendant to pay interest on the judgment sum awarded to the Claimant at the rate of 10% (ten per cent) per annum from the date of delivery of the judgment in this suit until the judgment debt is fully and finally liquidated.
8. Full taxed cost of this suit.
9. **AND FOR SUCH FURTHER** relief (s) as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

This writ was issued by OPEMIPO VALENTINE OSUNLETI of Afe Babalola & Co, whose address for service is at 24 Madeira Street, Imani Estate, Maitama, Abuja, agent for the Claimant whose address is at 24 Madeira Street, Imani Estate, Maitama, Abuja, FCT.

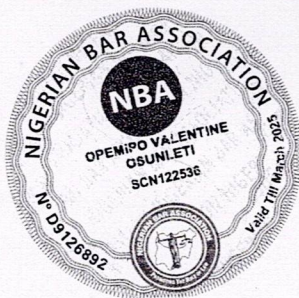
Endorsement to be made on the copy of the writ of summons after service.

This writ was served by me at on the Defendant
by on the ____ day of _____
2024.

SIGNED

ADDRESS

Dated this 6th day of December 2024.



ADEMOLA ABIMBOLA S.A.N.,
✓ OPEMIPO VALENTINE OSUNLETI, ESQ.,
ESTHER JESUDUNMO LONGE.,
CHINATU AUDREY AZUBOGU.,
AFE BABALOLA & CO
(CLAIMANT'S COUNSEL)
EMMANUEL HOUSE,
24 MADEIRA STREET
IMANI ESTATE, MAITAMA, ABUJA.
afeabuja@afebabalola.com; 08132336264

SERVICE ON:

THE DEFENDANT
DELE FAROTIMI ESQ
No. 15A OGBUNIKE STREET,
OFF WOLE OLATEJU CRESCENT,
LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

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SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/_____/2024

BETWEEN:

KEHINDE OGUNWUMIJU O.F.R., S.A.N.....CLAIMANT

AND

DELE FAROTIMIDEFENDANT

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

PARTIES

1. The Claimant is the Managing Partner in Afe Babalola & Co., a leading full-service international law firm renowned for providing innovative, world-class multi-sector legal representation and advisory to various Nigerian, African, and international clients. He has held this position since 2021.
2. The Claimant began his legal career at the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co. as a Youth Corps member in 2005 and has dedicated his entire professional career to the firm.
3. In January 2006, he was transferred to the Abuja office of the firm, where he steadily advanced through the ranks, ultimately becoming the head of the Abuja office in 2012 and, subsequently, the firm's Managing Partner.
4. In 2017, the Claimant was conferred with the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in recognition of his industry, resourcefulness, and contributions to legal practice in Nigeria.
5. The Claimant was also conferred with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) fellowship in 2018.
6. Sometime in 2023, in recognition of his meritorious service to the nation, the then-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), also conferred the National Honour of the Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (O.F.R.) on the Claimant.
7. The Defendant is a legal practitioner and the founding partner of Dele Farotimi & Co. (now DF Legal), located at No. 15A Ogbunike Street, off Wole Olateju Crescent, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos, Nigeria. At all times material to this suit, the Defendant has been based at this location.
8. The Claimant shall, during the trial of this suit, lead evidence to establish that he is:

- i. he is a legal practitioner called to the Nigerian Bar in 2005,
- ii. a distinguished member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA);
- iii. a distinguished member of the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN);
- iv. a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK);
- v. an Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (O.F.R.);
- vi. one of the most distinguished legal luminaries of his generation, renowned both in Nigeria, Africa and globally for his profound contributions to the legal profession with about two (2) decades of uninterrupted legal practice;
- vii. distinguished advocate renowned for handling some of the most celebrated cases in Nigerian legal history, representing prominent clients, including government institutions, multinational corporations, and notable individuals;
- viii. skilled in advocacy across domestic and international courts, with experience that includes serving as a consultant to the Federal Government of Nigeria and various conglomerates;
- ix. one of the most celebrated legal luminaries in the country.

The following documents are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at the trial of this suit: 1. the Claimant's Call to Bar Certificate, 2. the Claimant's Certificate of Appointment to the Rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria, 3. the Claimant's Certificate as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), 4. Evidence of Claimant's current membership of the National Executive Council of the Nigerian Bar Association, and 5. the Claimant's Certificate as an Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (O.F.R.).

BACKGROUND FACTS

9. The Claimant avers that on 2nd November 2024, his attention was drawn to a book authored by the Defendant. This occurred when a lawyer from the firm of Afe Babalola & Co. while travelling through Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, purchased a copy of the book titled "**NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**" authored by the Defendant. Upon reading the book; the lawyer promptly brought it to the Claimant's attention. *A copy of the Defendant's book, NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM", is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at the trial of this suit.*
10. The Claimant avers that the Defendant, in his book, made several defamatory statements against the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co, including all counsel in the law firm.

11. The Claimant avers that following the publication of the book, the Defendant appeared on a live broadcast on Channels TV on 24th August 2024, during which he granted an interview about the book. During the interview, the Defendant reiterated the defamatory statements made in the book against the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co. and the Claimant.

12. The Claimant avers that following the publication of the book and the Defendant's subsequent media conference on Channels TV, social media erupted with widespread discussions about the book. The contents of the book, authored by the Defendant, alleged that the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co. and its lawyers (including the Claimant) were engaged in judicial corruption, exploitation, and bribery to secure favourable judgments by any means necessary.

DEFAMATORY PUBLICATIONS

13. The Claimant avers that in the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, the Defendant stated as follows: -

- i. "That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.
- ii. "While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52
- iii. We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.
- iv. "But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.

12. *"The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.*

vi. *"It was around this time we began to hear rumors of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves and the rumors became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below". Page 64.*

14. The Claimant avers that the offensive, derogatory, and defamatory words aforesaid were published in the Defendant's book titled "**NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**", which was circulated and read by many people in the cities, nooks, and crannies of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, and all the 36 states.

PARTICULARS OF DEFAMATION

- I. The Claimant states that, at all times relevant to this suit, he has worked exclusively at the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co. since the commencement of his legal career.
- II. The Claimant further states that in the publication referenced in paragraph 13 above, the Defendant repeatedly mentioned Afe Babalola & Co. and its lawyers.
- III. The Claimant asserts that, as a partner in the firm, the publication also implicitly refers to him.
- IV. The Claimant avers that, as the Managing Partner of Afe Babalola & Co., an officer of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, a member of the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN), and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), he has never been involved in any form of judicial corruption, exploitation, or bribery.
- V. The Claimant states that he is one of the most distinguished legal professionals of his generation, recognized both in Africa and globally for

his significant contributions to the legal profession, with about two decades of uninterrupted legal practice.

- VI. The Claimant asserts he is a highly accomplished advocate, having handled some of the most celebrated cases in Nigerian legal history and representing high-profile clients, including government institutions, multinational corporations, and individuals.
 - VII. The Claimant avers that the defamatory statements were intended to undermine his reputation, as well as that of Afe Babalola & Co. and its staff, in the eyes of the public and to expose him to hatred, disdain, contempt, and ridicule among right-thinking members of the community.
 - VIII. The Claimant asserts that the defamatory statements were designed to cause right-thinking individuals to shun and avoid him, his law firm, and its staff.
 - IX. The Claimant states that the defamatory statements were intended to discredit him, ridicule Afe Babalola & Co., where he has dedicated his entire professional career, and damage his hard-earned reputation and financial standing.
 - X. The Claimant avers that the defamatory statements have led many Afe Babalola & Co.'s clients, both domestically and internationally, to withdraw their business, terminate professional services rendered by the Claimant and his firm, and seek legal representation elsewhere. The Claimant shall subpoena some of these former clients at the trial.
 - XI. The Claimant avers that the defamatory statements have provoked anger and disdain from right-thinking members of society, particularly those within the legal profession, against him, his law firm, and its staff.
 - XII. The Claimant asserts that, in addition to the damage to his reputation, he is deeply concerned about the impending economic and financial hardship resulting from the loss of clients caused by these defamatory statements.
15. The Claimant avers that the whole book in its entirety is defamatory, with several allegations of judicial corruption being made against the Justices of the Supreme Court, High Court Judges, the Principal Founder of the law office of Afe Babalola & Co., and the Claimant as a partner in the law office of Afe Babalola & Co.

16. The Claimant avers that the book is currently being sold and distributed outside the Federal Republic of Nigeria in countries like the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom. A copy of the book can also be purchased on the online store named Amazon via the link: https://www.amazon.com/NIGERIA-ITS-CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-SYSTEM-ebook/dp/B0D8L8KSJ8/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2VUB6ZVQXY7ZT&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.k5nEXEt34dQUPZtV6U6cyw.vowUwMfQPhO0PJOCGWG18DzZb5PtB_4g5cSuusTZTpU&dib_tag=se&keywords=nigeria+and+its+criminal+justice+system&qid=1733407917&s=digital-text&srefix=nigeria+and+its+criminal+justice+syste%2Cdigital-text%2C577&sr=1-1 for \$18 (Eighteen dollars).
17. The Claimant avers that the above quoted defamatory message written and authored by the Defendant has lowered his estimation in the minds of right-thinking members of the society, colleagues in the international community, friends, relatives, business associates and has dramatically diminished his reputation as a distinguished member of the NEC of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), a prominent member of the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN), and an Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (O.F.R.), providing a wide range of legal services to persons and corporate bodies locally and internationally.
18. The Claimant avers that the Defendant wrote, authored, and published the defamatory publication in issue in this suit.
19. The Claimant avers further that the publication of the Defendant's book has also exposed him to an outrageous scandal, public odium, hatred, contempt, and ridicule, as it has disparaged the Claimant and his hard-earned reputation and business relationships in the society.
20. The Claimant avers that the defamatory statements concerning him are grievous, false, mischievous, and a deliberate attempt to damage the name, image, goodwill, reputation, and business prospects of the Claimant by bringing the Claimant to public disdain, disrepute, and infamy.
21. The defamatory statements which are contained in the Defendant's book are being read by millions of Nigerians daily on several social media platforms, and these social media platforms are the primary sources of current affairs knowledge for a majority of people living in Nigeria and abroad.
22. The defamatory statements originated and circulated since July 2024 which were written and authored by the Defendant, categorically stated that: *"The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers"* to convey a defamatory meaning and make those acquainted with the Claimant to understand that the defamatory meaning conveyed therein, referred to the Claimant.

The Claimant avers that the defamatory effect of the statements circulated by the Defendant in his book, which was published sometime in July 2024, was instant and continuous.

24. The Claimant avers that the Defendant also understood the expected result of the defamatory statements yet proceeded to make the said libellous and malicious publications in a bid to destroy the Claimant's legal practice and the professional services he has been offering his clients across the globe.

25. The Claimant avers that by the said statement in its natural and ordinary meaning of the facts and matters hereinbefore set out, the Defendant meant and was understood to mean that:

- a. The Claimant is corrupt, dishonest, and deceitful, without any regard for the rule of law.
- b. The Claimant is a crook who is insensitive and without regard for the well-being of other legal practitioners, clients, and the general public.
- c. The Claimant is manipulative with no regard for the concept of natural justice.

RELIEFS SOUGHT

26. WHEREOF the Claimant claims against the Defendant as follows:

1. A DECLARATION that the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, in circulation within and outside the country and the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

- i. "That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.
- ii. "While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the

law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52

- iii. We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA' AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.
- iv. "But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.
- v. "The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.
- vi. "It was around this time we began to hear rumours of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves and the rumors became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below". Page 64.

as published and distributed by the Defendant, regarding the Claimant is offensive, defamatory, and derogatory and has brought the Claimant into ridicule, odium, disrespect, disrepute, and scorn in the eyes of the right-thinking members of the society.

2. A DECLARATION that the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over

the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

- i. "That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.
- ii. "While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52
- iii. We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA' AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.
- iv. "But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.
- v. "The battle to quash the warrant opened my eyes to the extent of the rot in the court system and I came to the knowledge of the sickening realities of the systemic putrefaction. The Supreme Court's Judgment was doctored by the confederation of lawyers in Afe Babalola chambers and the law offices of S.B Joseph & Co and the end desired by the confederacy was sought with the active connivance of the head judge of the Lagos Division, Atilade J." Page 60.

- vi. *"It was around this time we began to hear rumours of a return to the Supreme Court by Afe Babalola and his magical elves, and the rumours became real when I got a call from Tokunbo Williams SAN, who informed me of the receipt of a motion on notice before the Supreme Court, seeking to correct an error in the judgment reproduced below". Page 64.*

as published and distributed by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant has injured the Claimant's character, prestige, pedigree, and reputation as an honest, law-abiding, competent, dutiful, reliable, diligent and trustworthy legal practitioner.

3. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court awarding the sum of ₦500,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Million Naira) only against the Defendant being exemplary and general damages in favour of the Claimant for the book titled **"NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM"** authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

- i. *"That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.*
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- iv. *"But even as Atilade J. played the contrition game, she was already part of the game plan being staged together by the grandmaster of judicial corruption in Nigeria, Afe Babalola. I have come to the conclusion that the required form of the application and her ruling were all part of the insidious plans of Afe Babalola, his band of crooked lawyers and coterie of crooked/incompetent justices of the Supreme Court". Page 59.*
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as published by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant.

4. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court compelling the Defendant to publish an unreserved apology in two (2) widely read National Newspaper retracting the said libellous excerpts as contained in the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored by the Defendant, which is in circulation all over the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, excerpts of which read as follows:

- i. *"That Aare Afe Babalola, Olu Daramola, Olu Faro and the law offices of Afe Babalola & Co, (Emmanuel Chambers) compromised the Supreme Court and the remaining semblance of integrity it might have had when they went back to the Supreme Court and got the Court to swim in the sewer of corruption and shameful self-Abnegation". Page X.*
- ii. *"While all this was going on, we had a meeting in the law office of Afe Babalola in Magodo, where Olu Daramola SAN made*

himself unavailable, and had us meet with Olu Faro, a younger counsel... ..but Olu Faro Esq was remarkably insolent and assured that we were made aware of just how powerful the law office he worked for believed itself to be and how much above the law and the practice of law they believed themselves to be". Page 52

- iii. *We quickly realized that the law office of Afe Babalola & Co, Emmanuel Chambers had outsourced the judgement execution to another law office, the firm of S.B Joseph & Co. The firm had fraudulently and deliberately concealed the judgement of AKA'AHS and had underlined the words of Justice Rhodes Vivour to deceive and perhaps mislead Atilade or as is more likely, Atilade was always a part of the original fraud". Page 56.*
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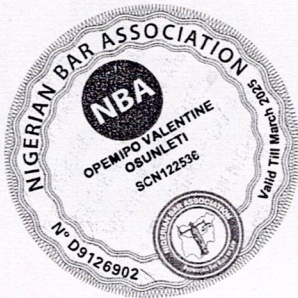
as published by the Defendant and regarding the Claimant.

5. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court directing the recovery and destruction of the book titled "NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" authored

by the Defendant and currently in circulation across the country and within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court in both hard and soft copy formats from all bookshops, libraries, archives, booksellers, social media and online platforms, etc.

6. **AN ORDER OF PERPETUAL INJUNCTION** restraining the Defendant, whether by himself, privies, agents/servants, staff, officers, or any other person howsoever described from publishing, causing to be published or in any other manner circulating or selling the said offensive book titled "**NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**" both in hard and soft copy formats authored by the Defendant regarding the Claimant.
7. **AN ORDER OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT** directing the Defendant to pay interest on the judgment sum awarded to the Claimant at the rate of 10% (ten per cent) per annum from the date of delivery of the judgment in this suit until the judgment debt is fully and finally liquidated.
8. Full taxed cost of this suit.
9. **AND FOR SUCH FURTHER** relief (s) as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

Dated this 6th day of December 2024.



ADEMOLA ABIMBOLA S.A.N.,
✓ OPEIPO VALENTINE OSUNLETI, ESQ.,
ESTHER JESUDUNMO LONGE.,
CHINATU AUDREY AZUBOGU.,
AFE BABALOLA & CO
(CLAIMANT'S COUNSEL)
EMMANUEL HOUSE, 24 MADEIRA STREET
IMANI ESTATE
MAITAMA, ABUJA.
afeabuja@afebabalola.com; 08132336264

FOR SERVICE ON:

THE DEFENDANT
DELE FAROTIMI ESQ
No. 15A OGBUNIKE STREET,
OFF WOLE OLATEJU CRESCENT,
LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/_____/2024

BETWEEN:

KEHINDE OGUNWUMIJU O.F.R., S.A.N.....CLAIMANT

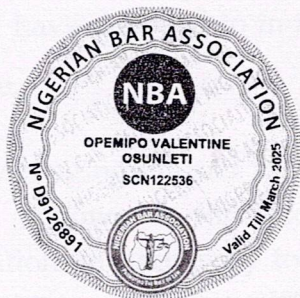
AND

DELE FAROTIMIDEFENDANT

LIST OF WITNESS(ES)

- 1) The Claimant
- 2) Subpoenaed witness(s) including Mr. Ifeanyi Ararume, Mr. Edirin Oghenejode and several others.

Dated this 6th day of December 2024.



ADEMOLA ABIMBOLA S.A.N.,
✓ OPEMIPO VALENTINE OSUNLETI, ESQ.,
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