



**NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY**

**NEWSLETTER**  
October 2025

## **THE NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY MONTHLY INSIGHTS: SPECIAL DEBUT EDITION**

# **2025 AND BEYOND: THE TRENDS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LAW IN NIGERIA**

### **Mission:**

**To continually develop and implement strategies to assist Lawyers in the delivery of their professional and social responsibilities for the achievement of a just and egalitarian society based on international best practices**

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

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### A New Chapter: A Shared Vision

Fellow Members of the Nigerian Law Society,

It is with immense pride and a profound sense of purpose that I welcome you to this debut edition of *NLS Monthly Insights*.

We stand at a pivotal moment for our profession. As detailed in this issue, the legal landscape is transforming at an unprecedented pace, driven by technology, client expectations, and regulatory shifts. But in this era of change, one constant remains: our collective strength and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Building on the formidable legacy of our past executives and the successful momentum of our recent 3rd Annual General Conference, this new administration under the leadership of Chief Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN, is ready to guide us forward. We are not merely observers of the future; we are its architects.

This newsletter is your platform, a beacon for insights, a forum for connection, and a catalyst for the progressive, inclusive, and empowered legal community we are building together. Our mission is to ensure that every member of the NLS is equipped, informed, and inspired to not just navigate the future but to define it.

The journey continues, and it is an honour to share it with you.

Welcome. Let's begin.

**Dr. Onyinyechi Lilian Uche**

National Publicity Secretary, Nigerian Law Society

### 2025 and Beyond: The Trends Shaping the Future of Law in Nigeria

The Nigerian legal landscape is transforming at an unprecedented pace. Driven by technological disruption, evolving client expectations, and significant regulatory shifts, the practice of law is being redefined. For legal professionals, staying ahead of these trends is no longer optional; it's essential for relevance and success. Here's a look at the key forces shaping the future of law in Nigeria.

#### *The Technology Revolution: AI and Legal Tech*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is moving from a futuristic concept to an essential tool in the modern lawyer's

arsenal. AI-powered tools are now being used to automate routine tasks such as legal research, contract review, and document drafting, significantly enhancing efficiency and productivity.

This adoption allows lawyers to offload repetitive work and focus on high-value, strategic advice that requires human judgment and expertise. The goal is not to replace lawyers but to empower them, with some reports indicating that AI has even positively impacted work-life balance and mental well-being for early adopters. Firms that fail to integrate these technologies risk being left behind in an increasingly competitive market.

#### *The New Client: Demanding More for Less*

Today's clients are more informed and expect more than just legal expertise. They demand accessibility, transparency, and convenience. While many still value traditional communication, a growing number prefer digital channels like client portals, mobile apps, and even AI-powered chat support for swift interactions.

This power shift is also reflected in billing practices. The traditional activity-by-activity billing (i.e. appearance fee) is increasingly giving way to fixed-fee arrangements, with over half of law firms planning to adopt them more frequently. Clients appreciate the cost predictability, which makes legal services more accessible and fosters greater trust.

#### *Strategic Expansion and Specialisation*

Nigerian law firms are thinking bigger. We are witnessing a trend of strategic expansion into new markets, both within and outside Africa, through mergers (like Templars' moves in Ghana) and Aluko & Oyeboode, a part of the Africa Legal Network (ALN) Alliance, which extends its reach across multiple African countries, etc.<sup>2</sup>

Concurrently, there is a growing demand for specialised legal expertise. As regulations become more complex in sectors like technology, finance, corporate, and healthcare, firms are developing deep niche practices. This is evident in the surge of data protection compliance work following the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023<sup>3</sup> and the need for lawyers to navigate new realms like AI ethics and cybersecurity.

<sup>1</sup> Legal 500, Legal Rankings Performers, <https://www.legal500.com/c/nigeria>

<sup>2</sup> ALN (Nigeria), <https://aln.africa/our-offices/aln-nigeria/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://cert.gov.ng/ngcert/resources/Nigeria\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Act\\_2023.pdf](https://cert.gov.ng/ngcert/resources/Nigeria_Data_Protection_Act_2023.pdf)



### ***The Regulatory Onslaught: Compliance is Key***

The regulatory environment is becoming more stringent and complex. Landmark legislation like the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023, Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act (as amended in 2024), Nigeria Tax Act (NTA) 2025 have created new compliance burdens for businesses and, by extension, their lawyers.

The focus on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations and corporate accountability is also rising. Law firms must now guide clients through this intricate web of regulations or risk severe penalties. This has made expertise in compliance and risk management a highly valuable commodity.

### ***The Rise of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)***

To avoid the delays and costs of traditional litigation, businesses are increasingly turning to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms like arbitration and mediation. The passage of the Arbitration and Mediation Act (AMA) 2023<sup>4</sup> and the National Policy on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) 2024-2028<sup>5</sup> has further strengthened Nigeria's framework for amicable and efficient dispute resolution.

This trend is supported by the judiciary's encouragement of ADR to alleviate court backlogs. For lawyers, proficiency in arbitration and mediation is now a critical skill for providing clients with practical and swift solutions.

### ***Adapting to Thrive***

The future of law in Nigeria is dynamic, digital, and client-centric. The firms and practitioners who will thrive are those who embrace technology to enhance efficiency and service delivery; Prioritise client experience through transparent communication and billing; Develop specialised expertise in high-demand, regulated fields and adapt their practice to include modern dispute resolution mechanisms.

The change is here. The question is, are you ready for it?  
*To stay updated on these trends and their practical*

*implications for your practice, be sure to follow our future newsletters and events.* <https://nls.org.ng/>

### **NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY 3RD ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2025 AND TRIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The conference was held on 23rd -25th July, 2025—the theme of the conference was titled Democracy in Nigeria, The Journey So Far. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Maxwell M. Gidado SAN, OON. Prof Esu Effiong and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama chaired the sessions. Sponsors of the conference include the former Attorney General of the Federation, Mr Mohammed Bello Adoke, CFR, SAN. With goodwill messages delivered and sent in by our brother associations, NBA, AFBA, PALU, and FIDA.



Inauguration of new executive members at the AGM



Crosssection of pictures at the AGC 2025  
Executive members of the NLS and some members,  
at the AGM

<sup>4</sup><https://www.acerislaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/New-Nigerian-Arbitration-and-Mediation-Act.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>National Policy on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) 2024,





The National Publicity Secretary anchoring the Conference



The keynote speaker Professor Maxwell M. Gidado SAN, OON.



Speakers at the AGC



Prof Esu Effiong Chairing the morning session at the AGC



Group picture taken at the AGC



Prof Peter Akper SAN OON delivering his paper at the AGC



Guest Speaker- Amanda- Lumun Feese



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama SAN chairing the second session at the AGC

### NLSAGC Award Night

At the award night, which was chaired by Mr Maman Usman SAN, awards were presented to the distinguished persons, Chief Asiawaju A.S Awomolo, SAN; Dr Tony Ojukwu SAN; Chief Kunle Ogunba, SAN; Chief K.T. Turaki, SAN, who is the chairman, Elders Committee of the Nigerian Law Society; Dr Olisa Agbakogba, SAN, Chairman BOT, Nigerian Bar Association; Mohammed A. Abubakar, SAN, Fmr. Chairman, BOT, Nigerian Law Society, Chief Bolaji Ayorinde, SAN, Chairman, BOT, Nigerian Law Society, and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Founder, Nigerian Law Society





AT the dinner and award night with Mr Maman Usman SAN



The President of the NLS, Chief Mela Audu-Nunghe, SAN, Bencher, handing over an award to K.T. Turaki, SAN, Chairman, Elders Committee of the NLS



The President of the NLS, Chief Mela Audu-Nunghe, SAN, Bencher, handing over an award to Chief J-K Gadzama, SAN, Founder of the Nigerian Law Society

### 1st Annual Golf Kitty at the Zuma Rock Golf Course, Abuja

The last day of the conference commenced with the golf tournament at the Zuma Rock Golf Resort, where members of the Nigerian Law Society who are golf enthusiasts kicked off the tournament. At the end of the tournament, an award was presented to Mr Ubong Esop Akpan as the winner by Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama SAN, Captain of the NLS Golf Club.



The first and only certified female golfer instructor



Chief Mela Audu Nunghe SAN, President of NLS playing Golf



Presentation of award to the Winner of the golf tournament Mr Ubong Esop Akpan by the Captain of the golf club of the Nigerian Law Society, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama SAN. Flanked on the left is the Chairman of the Zuma Rock Golf Resort, Mr Moyad Alrachid.



### Steering the Course: Your leadership for a new Era

As we navigate the dynamic legal landscape outlined in this newsletter, we are guided by a dedicated team of leaders elected to champion your interests and propel the Nigerian Law Society forward. This esteemed body brings together experience, vision, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, ready to serve our membership and uphold the rule of law in Nigeria.

### Our Current National Officers (2025- 2028)

President: Chief Mela, Audu Nunghe, SAN Bencher

Ist Vice President: Mr Sani

General Secretary: Mr Olasupo Ojo

Asst. General Secretary: Mrs Alice Ogaku Awonugba

Publicity Secretary: Dr Onyinyechi Lilian Uche

Treasurer: Mrs Chioma Ferguson.

### The Honouring Legacy: With gratitude to our National Officers (2022-2024)

We extend our sincere appreciation to the previous administration for their dedicated service and foundational work in building our Society."

### Interim National Officers: 2024 - 2025

- President: – Chief Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN, Honorary Bencher –
- Vice President South: Hon. Nimi Walson-Jack
- Vice President North: Mallam Abdulqadir Alhaji Sani
- General Secretary: Mr Steve Abar
- Assistant General Secretary – Madam Alice Ogaku Awonugba
- Financial Secretary – Madam Zara Umar Yakub
- Treasurer: Madam Chioma Ferguson
- Publicity Secretary: Mr Stephen Uchenna Nwankwo (Steve Sun)
- Welfare Secretary: Mr. Oluniyi Adediji

### 2022- 2024

- President: Kunle Ogunba, SAN
- Vice President: Hon. Nimi Walson-Jack
- General Secretary: Abdulqadir Alhaji Sani
- Welfare Secretary: Olasupo Ojo
- Treasurer: Chioma Ferguson
- Publicity Secretary: Adebayo A. Akinlade
- Financial Secretary: Zara Umar Yakub
- Assistant Secretary: Alice Ogaku Awonugba
- Asst. Publicity Secretary: Hassan Olalekan Sherif

### Our Foundational Vision

While our elected executives guide our present, our journey began with a singular vision. The Nigerian Law Society stands on the foundational pillar laid by a

renowned legal luminary whose foresight and dedication brought this community to life.

We proudly acknowledge and celebrate our founder: Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN

His enduring leadership and unwavering support, exemplified by his role as Captain of the NLS Golf Club and host of the Conference's barbecue night, continue to inspire our path forward.

### Building Bridges: Our Affiliations and Partnerships

Beyond our national membership, the NLS is a connected node in the global legal network. Our affiliations with the **African Bar Association (AFBA)** and the **Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU)** ensure our members are part of the broader African legal conversation. Closer to home, we deeply value our fraternal relationships and ongoing collaborative efforts with our brother associations in Nigeria, including the **Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)**, the **International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)**, and other vital legal associations. We believe in a united front for the advancement of the legal profession.

Furthermore, the NLS remains a steadfast supporter of the Judiciary and the Bench. We are committed to protecting the independence of the judiciary and advocating for the resources and respect our judges deserve to administer justice effectively. We stand in solidarity with all arms of the justice system in upholding the rule of law.



## About the Nigerian Law Society

The Nigerian Law Society (NLS) is the premier professional association for legal practitioners in Nigeria. We are a Society of Lawyers enrolled as Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court under the Legal Practitioners Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Nigerian Law Society is led by a Council of elected representatives from across the country. Our Council members are committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in the legal profession, and to promoting the interests of our members and the wider legal community.

As a member of the Nigerian Law Society, you will have access to a range of benefits and services designed to support your legal career and professional development. These include continuing legal education, networking opportunities, and access to a range of legal resources and publications.

At the Nigerian Law Society, we are committed to promoting excellence, professionalism, and the rule of law in Nigeria. We invite you to join our community of legal professionals and to work with us towards a better future for all Nigerians. <https://nls.org.ng/>

**Lilian O. Uche, PhD**  
**National Publicity Secretary**