

JUSTICE OKEZIE (he/him)

Toronto, ON

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/justiceokezie/>

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Osgoode Hall Law School <i>LLM – International Business Law</i>	2024
Nigerian Law School, Nigeria <i>Licentiate Degree in Law</i> <i>First Class Honours – Ranked 6/4,600</i> <i>Director-General’s Award for obtaining the First Class grade</i>	2015
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria <i>Graduated Magna cum laude – Ranked 4/200</i> <i>Awards in Oil and Gas Law, Criminal Law, Torts</i> <i>Bachelor's Degree in Law (5 years of full time in-class learning)</i>	2014

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Jolex Solicitors and Advocates, Lagos, Nigeria <i>Lawyer, Principal Partner</i>	2022 – 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As head of Legal Practice, used client management strategies to assist corporate clients and start-ups, having advised a start-up which is building a revolutionary geolocation applicationHaving an entrepreneurial mindset, established a fast-growing and profitable law firm with a book of business exceeding total earnings as a senior associate lawyer in a top firm	
Aalex, Legal Practitioners and Arbitrators, Lagos, Nigeria <i>Senior Associate Lawyer, Team Leader</i>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advised on structuring an infrastructure finance guarantee transaction for the development of LNG facility with a planned capacity of 2,1000MT/day from two (2) liquefaction trainsUsing excellent communication and organisational skills, assisted South African Airways maintain operations in Nigeria through competition-compliant restructuring of ticketing infrastructureAdvised the government of South Africa through its Public Investment Corporation SOC Limited on its proposed investment in an international development finance corporation in Africa	
G. Elias, Barristers and Solicitors, Lagos, Nigeria <i>Senior Associate Lawyer</i>	2016 – 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinated the advisory teams of local and foreign counsel in a project finance transaction involving CA\$1.3b to finance the rehabilitation of the Port Harcourt Refinery in NigeriaLed the due diligence and transaction advisory team of over 8 lawyers in the merger of 2 of Nigeria’s national pension companies valued at C\$16m and held the pen on the Shareholders’ AgreementResearched on the state of Water laws in 14 Nigerian States and conducted field research,	

advised the World Bank on its C\$1.1bn Nigeria Sustainable Urban and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program

- Reviewed hundreds of material contracts, litigation case files and compliance filings in a due diligence exercise, and prepared the opinion on claims and litigation in Nigeria's first telecon IPO
- Drafting skills in drafting pleadings, briefs, court motions in commercial disputes and acted for Ossiomo Investments Ltd. in a suit against Unity Bank Plc to recover over ₦5bn debt.
- Advocacy skills in conducting trials, appellate hearings, arguing contentious motions; conducted client interviews while acting in defence of Ecobank entities in a ₦22.5bn suit over proceeds of sale of shares in Airtel Networks Limited, Nigeria's premier telecom operator.

Solola & Akpana, Barristers & Solicitors, Lagos, Nigeria

2016

Associate Lawyer

- Utilized advanced digital fluency to conduct extensive legal research supporting a busy legal practice acting in defence of international oil companies in environmental suits arising from oil spills
- Responsible for administrative tasks such as proofreading, document review and drafting of commercial contracts such as Assignment of Marginal Fields

PUBLICATIONS

- Drafting and Negotiating "Governing Law and Jurisdiction" Clauses in International Commercial Transactions with a Comparatist Approach
- Co-author, "Getting the Deal Through: 2022 M&A Litigation Guide" available on <https://lnkd.in/d2Jbdvqu7>
- Jurisdiction over new Naira note debacle – how to approach
- Unconventional Insolvency powers - AMCON

MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- Toronto Lawyers Association September 2023
- ITL- NCA Network June 2023
- Nigerian Bar Association 2015 – Present

INTERESTS

- Taking road trips
- Avid Arsenal fan