

'NONSO AZIH Esq

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SUMMARY

A diligent, focused, confident and dedicated legal practitioner, with strong commitment to ethics, integrity, youth, and community development.

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate in Maritime Dispute Resolution and Arbitration (Lloyd's Maritime Academy Uk)	2024
Certified Mediator (Lagos State Multidoor Courthouse)	2023
University of Lagos (LL.M)	2023
Nigerian Law School (B.L)	2006
University of Nigeria (LL.B)	2005

EXPERIENCE

Principal Counsel, Azih & Azih (Legal Practitioners) ***September 2020 – present***

- I advise and represent diverse clients in court of first instance and on appeal in respect of general commercial litigation, maritime and shipping claims ie cargo claims, collision, arrest of ship, limitation of liability, bunker supply, employment and labour, family law, debt recovery, data protection, and other related and consequential matters. I also handle alternative dispute resolution via mediation, negotiation and arbitration.
- I provide legal advisory services on commercial law, maritime law, employment and labour law, cabotage and local content matters; port stakeholder/government relations management, as well as legal and regulatory compliance.

Head of Legal and Compliance, APM Terminals Apapa Limited (Subsidiary of AP Moller-Maersk Group) – December 2017 - August 2020

- Managing commercial, maritime, shipping, port operation, concession, labour and employment related litigation. I instructed and managed high profile external counsel and consultants.
- Advised management on all legal issues relating to terminal operations, and the concession agreement.
- Managed relationship with government authorities/stakeholders such as Nigerian Port Authority (NPA), Nigerian Maritime Administration & Safety Agency (NIMASA), Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Infrastructure Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), the Federal Ministry of Transport (FMoT) etc as well as the Federal legislature in their oversight functions in the port.

- Negotiated, drafted, and finalized contracts such as Share Purchase Agreements, Concession Agreement, Transportation, SLA, Lease, Sales, Services, Supply, Employment and CBA etc.
- Monitored and evaluated port operations and practices - to ensure same are in line with relevant laws & legislation.
- Supported different departments to ensure that Company business complies with local and international compliance laws and regulations on anti-corruption, foreign trade control and competition/anti-trusts; reviewing and standardizing company compliance rules and regulations to reflect local realities where applicable.
- Advised management on legal/regulatory and compliance matters.
- Managed, negotiated, and settled shipping lines and customers' cargo and marine claims.
- Updated and advised management on the development of legislation and monitoring and evaluating changes in Nigerian law that may affect the business.
- Liaising with external counsel in handling corporate restructuring and setting up new business entities.
- Managed compliance with data protection regulations.

Senior Associate, Banwo & Ighodalo.

January 2015- November 2017

- Team Lead of the Shipping, Aviation & International Trade (SAIT) Practice Group of the firm
- Managed the Shipping and admiralty litigation/advisory portfolio of the Firm, and also handled commercial litigation.
- Advised and represented diverse clients in court in respect of general commercial litigation, general maritime and shipping claims comprising of cargo claim, collision, and arrest of ship, limitation of liability, bunker supply and related matters.
- Co-ordinated legal advisory services in respect of ship finance, aviation, employment and labour law, debt recovery cabotage and local content matters; as well legislative compliance in respect of port operations.
- Worked for Clients including: Bourborn InterOil Nigeria Limited, Onesubsea, Schlumberger, Gulf Petrochem, Monjasa, Endofa Group, BSI System Management Group, Germanischer Lloyds, Swedish Club Greece, BMS Bunkers (HK) Limited, Nepal Group, Quest Shipping Limited etc.
- Worked as the lead Counsel in Suit No. HU/11CA/2016 between Bourbon InterOil Nigeria Limited (BINL) v Internal Revenue Service of Akwa Ibom State, wherein we secured judgement on appeal in favour of BINL setting aside the criminal summons filed by the Internal Revenue Service of Akwa Ibom at the Revenue Court of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, against BINL for alleged failure to remit over Seven Hundred Million Naira (=N=700,000,000) as purported personal income tax to the government of Akwa Ibom State, on account of BINL operations offshore Akwa Ibom. The judgement was delivered by Hon. Justice A.E Archibong on July 25, 2017.

Counsel, ACAS-Law**March 2012 – August 2014**

- Handled litigations comprising of general cargo claims, insurance claims and subrogation, charter party and bill of lading disputes, in rem proceedings, contentious port dues and regulations, and related matters at the Federal High Court and several appeals at the appellate court.
- Advised clients on legislative developments on port operations and compliance as well compliance with the laws and regulation of key government agencies such as the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), the Nigerian Customs, the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and related agencies.
- I was part of the team that represented three major oil and gas companies as Plaintiffs in a suit at the Federal High Court Lagos against the NPA on the validity of the imposition of offshore stevedoring charges, pilotage and sundry dues for its offshore drilling operations.
- I was a member of the team that represented an international offshore drilling company against NIMASA on the applicability of 2% Cabotage Surcharge on the company's drilling rigs for its offshore operations.
- Advised a leading port terminal operator on relevant laws and compliance regimes as well as defending cargo claims and general liability suits against the company.
- Represented international ship owing interest on arrest and release of vessels including major Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs.
- Rendered strategic opinions on third party claims and contractual indemnities in claims arising under offshore drilling operations/contracts.
- Advised national and international clients especially shipping and oil gas entities on admiralty, shipping, oil spillage and environmental issues, liability in offshore drilling contracts, local content and cabotage compliance, commercial law and international trade etc
- I was part of the team that advised a leading international insurer on third party claims in connection with an oil spill at the Bonga FPSO operated by SNEPCO in the Bonga Deepwater
- Field offshore Warri Nigeria: I was part of the team that advised an insurer on its contractual liabilities and indemnities arising out of a blow out on oil drilling rig.
- Conducted general contract negotiations for charter parties and other carriage contracts for leading offshore service companies.
- Conducted extensive research and rendered comprehensive legal opinion to international and local clients on relevant areas of the law.

Associate Counsel, Foundation Chambers**October 2009- February 2012**

- Handled contentious and non-contentious matters on Maritime/shipping and commercial litigation/corporate and commercial Practice at the Federal and State High Courts and appellate courts.
- Provided legal advice to clients on diverse areas of law including admiralty, shipping, international trade, cabotage and local content in Oil and Gas, labour law, marine insurance, etc.;

- Contract negotiations, documentation, general legal/legislative drafting.
- Research Assistant to Mr. L. Chidi Ilogu (SAN) the Principal Counsel of the firm and consummate maritime law practitioner.

Junior Counsel, The Chambers of Ubong Akpan

October 2008-June 2009

- Worked directly with the Principal Counsel Mr. Ubong Akpan - a protégé of Afe Babalola SAN.
- Commercial litigation and Criminal litigation.
- Drafted court processes used in prosecuting clients' claims.
- Conducted extensive research to assist with brief writing.
- Prepared and reviewed contracts, legal opinions and general correspondences for clients.

Pupil State Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Minna, Niger State

2007-2008

- Worked with the Office of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and the Director of Civil Litigation (DCL) - attending Courts and conducting legal research, preparing and filing Court Processes etc;
- Represented indigent prisoners in Court under the Corps Legal Aid Scheme of the NYSC

Law School Intern, Udom & Udom - Legal Practitioners

2006

- Attended Court with Senior Counsel on commercial litigation.
- Research Assistant to the Principal Counsel.
- Preparation of court processes, contracts and general legal drafting.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Nigerian Maritime Law Association (NMLA) – currently serving as a member, Nigerian Admiralty Law and Practice Reform Committee.
- Employment and Labour Lawyers Association of Nigeria (ELLAN) - currently serving as the Lead of New Member Admission Team.
- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) - currently serving as a member of the NBA National Litigation Committee and the NBA Lagos Branch Human Rights Committee.

REFERENCE:

- **MR. LUKE CHIDI ILOGU (SAN)**
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2 Idowu Taylor Street
Victoria Island, Lagos
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