THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

PMB's ADMINISTRATION SCORECARD 2015-2022

NIALS

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE





The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is Nigeria's apex institution for research and advanced studies in law. It was a brainchild of the legal academic community established in March 1979. One of the main ideas in founding the Institute was to establish it as a centre for advanced legal research for all Nigeria's universities with Faculties of Law, so that all postgraduate work could be undertaken there under the joint auspices of the most experienced and learned academic lawyers available in the country, whether indigenous or foreign. The Library would be the best equipped collection of law books and publications. This would, no doubt, assist in resolving the difficulties hampering the organization of postgraduate studies needed to fill in the gaps in the training of Nigerian lawyers at the time.

At inception, the Institute was funded with generous financial and academic support from external agencies such as the Ford Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Such assistance, however, declined over time. The National Universities Commission also funded the Institute through the University of Lagos until 1984 when by virtue of Decree No. 18 of June 27, the Institute became autonomous under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Justice. This development greatly enhanced the mandate and institutional capacity of the Institute to discharge its functions.

Additionally, in 1995 the enabling law of the Institute, now fully incorporated into the Laws of the Federation 2004, Cap. N112, was amended to mandate the Institute to run post-graduate courses in legislative drafting. Consequently, the Institute's Post Graduate School (PGS) was established in 1997 as the Post Graduate Studies Unit with the sole aim of running a Post-Graduate Diploma in Legislate Drafting (PGDLD) and Master Degree in Legislative Drafting (MLD). This was the first of its kind, not only in Nigeria, but Africa as a whole . The Institute has also recently commenced a PhD Programme in Legislative Drafting.

MANDATE/FUNCTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

The mandate and functions of the Institute as set out in its enabling law include:

(a) Providing information, supervision, guidance and advice to postgraduate students and other researchers who are working for post graduate degree of any University in the field of law and related subjects;

(b) Conducting research into any branch of the Law or related subjects with a view of applying the result in the interest of the country;

c) Organising, hosting, arranging and conducting national or international seminars, symposia, round tables, conferences, workshops or lectures on any branch of law or related subjects;

(d) Preparing and publishing books, records report or journal for the dissemination of its research findings, seminars, symposia, conference, roundtable, workshop and lectures.

(e) Co-operating with Nigerian Universities, the Nigeria Law School, the Nigeria Law Reform Commission and such other bodies in Nigeria or elsewhere engaged in any major field relating to Law reform, development or research with a view to mobilising the country's research potentials for the tasks of national development and dissemination of research findings for the use of policy makers at all levels; and

(f) Carrying our other activities as are necessary and expedient for the full discharge of any of its functions.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The affairs of the Institute as provided under the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) Act are managed by the Governing Council, the office of the Director-General, principal officers, and other key officers of the Institute.

The Governing Council is responsible for the determination of the overall policy and programmes of the Institute and for ensuring their implementation. The Governing Council which is usually chaired by the sitting Chief Justice of the Federation comprises of Eighteen (18) members drawn from Deans of law faculties of various universities, the Nigerian Law School, an array of other eminent legal scholars, and a representative of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). The current Governing Council which was duly constituted and inaugurated on 28th May 2019 by the Attorney General and Minster Justice of the Federation, Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN is chaired by Hon Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON who was appointed Chief Justice of Nigeria in June 2022.

By virtue of section 5 of the NIALS Act, the Director-General who is appointed by the President, is responsible for the execution of the policies and decisions of the Governing Council and the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Institute.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES, COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Institute, as the apex law institution, frequently engages in collaborative undertakings for funding, in-depth research and interrogation of relevant areas of law. Within the period under review the Institute has been able to establish and is currently in collaboration with notable local Institutions including the Nigerian Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT), Nigerian Maritime and Safety Administration Agency (NIMASA) and its parent ministry, Federal Ministry of Justice. The Institute also collaborating with several notable international organisation including UNODC, UNDP, GIZ, RoLAC and the MacArthur Foundation. Some of these collaboration undertakings and specific obligations areas listed below

a. NIALS/UNDP PROJECT ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN THE NORTH-EAST

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in September 2017, entered into a collaboration with NIALS for the implementation of the research project titled "Support to Access to Justice and the Rule of Law in the North-East of Nigeria". The project seeks to provide support for the re-establishment of core justice and security services in accessible areas of places affected by insurgence.

The implementation of the research project continued in 2018, with the second phase of the project. This phase involved the coordination of UNDP appointed consultants in developing content six modules for the Train-the-Trainers Manual. The Institute subsequently organised a Train the Trainers Course to Enhance Efficiency of Services in Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law in North-East.

b. NIALS-CENTRE FOR COMPARTIVE LAW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The NIALS-CCLA research partnership is funded by the TY Danjuma Fund to conduct research into Law and Policy Development in Africa. The research partnership which began since 2014 is currently on-going. In 2017-2018, the collaboration focused on Energy Law and Policy. The collaboration produced a book titled "Ending Africa's Energy Deficit and Law: Achieving Sustainable Energy for all in Africa (2018)".

In 2020, the collaboration focused on the training of young scholars from the Institute and on conducting research into the regional integration in Africa. Due to the pandemic and the closure of international borders, the training of young scholars in the Institute was postponed.

Work on the book project dedicated to exploring thematic issues related to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the quest for regional integration commissioned in 2019 continued in 2020.

c. NIALS/BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION COLLABORATION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPLEX CASEWORK GROUP (CCG) FOR FEDERAL PROSECUTORS

This collaboration between the Institute and the British High Commission is for the organisation of workshops to equip federal workers in the criminal justice sector for prosecution of complex and high profile criminal cases.

d. NIALS/MACARTHUR FOUNDATION COLLABORATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT IN NIGERIA PROJECT

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies with the support of the MacArthur Foundation flagged off the three-year project aimed at supporting the implementation of the Administration of the Criminal Justice in Nigeria in 2017. The research project seeks to enhance the understanding of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 and its state counterparts, to facilitate proper implementation through the development of institutionalised curricular and guidance instruments for relevant stakeholders.

e. NIALS/MACARTHUR COLLABORATION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN NIGERIA 2.0

The project seeks to enhance the understanding of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015 and the state replica by facilitating implementation through among other things, the development of institutionalised curricula and guidance instruments (Component A); development of rules of courts under the ACJA (Component B); and development of case digests and case bulletins on the ACJA (Component C).

Following the end of the MacArthur funded project for the NIALS ***Support for the Implementation of and Compliance with Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015***, (2017- 2020), the Institute was awarded another cycle of funding from the same funders for ***Collaboration on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Nigeria 2.0.*** The current phase began in January 2021 and will be concluded in December 2023.

f. DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW AND VALIDATION OF THE GUIDE BOOK FOR INTEGRATING ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (ACJA) 2015 IN THE TEACHING OF RELEVANT LAWS IN NIGERIA.

Realising the need to institutionalise the reforms within the criminal justice system and the absence of a comprehensive literature on the subject for teachers of Law, the Institute through Component A under MacArthur 2.0, developed and published the ***Guidebook for the Integration of Administration of Criminal Justice ACJA in the Teaching of Relevant Laws in Nigeria.*** This Guidebook aims at institutionalising a training curriculum that will enhance the teaching of the reforms in the criminal justice system contained in the ACJA 2015 and the state replicas in relevant Laws in faculties of Nigerian Universities and the Nigerian Law School.

The Guidebook as developed by the Institute lead research team, was reviewed and validated under the partnership with the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers in a 2-day Review and Validation Meeting which held from 5th to 6th of October, 2021. Dignitaries at the event included the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN (ably represented by the Special Assistant to the President on Justice Reforms, Juliet Ibekaku- Nwagwu); Professor Isa Chiroma, SAN Director General of the Nigerian Law School; Professor Usman Shuaibu, President, National Association of Law Teachers (NALT) and an array of seasoned erudite law professors.

g. NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM FOR THE JUSTICES OF THE APPELLATE COURTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

The Institute identified in its grant proposal that consensus on the interpretation of various innovative provisions of the ACJA among justices is an important requirement for the effective implementation of the criminal justice reforms contained in the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the state replicas. To this end, the Institute partnered with the National Judicial Institute to organised a Colloquium for appellate justices from 3rd to 4th November 2021. The



event which took place at the Frasier Suites, Abuja, was conducted with support of MacArthur Foundation. The purpose of this colloquium was to afford justices of appellate courts the opportunity to intellectually engage in robust discourse around pertinent issues in the ACJA. Such robust discussions contribute to enhanced development of the legal jurisprudence of the Nigerian Criminal Justice System. The discussions at the colloquium highlighted the pitfalls in the ACJA that needs to be addressed and the colloquium offered the participants an opportunity to identify these pitfalls in some sections of the ACJA which will be considered for amendment. The in-depth discussions were conducted among seventeen (17) Appellate justices- two (2) Supreme Court Justices and fifteen (15) Court of Appeal Justices.

h. DEVELOPMENT OF RULES OF COURT: DELTA, EDO AND PLATEAU STATES



Group photograph with some NIALS staff. Sitting third from left is Prof. Peter Akper. Standing first from left, Chibueze Okike, fifth from left is Dr. Ibe Ifeakandu and Dr. Nkiruka Madueke

A key component of MacArthur 2.0 is ensuring that justice sector stakeholder have a firm grasp of the meaning of provisions contained in the state ACJLs. The Institute identifies that aiding states in the drafting of Rules of Court as an efficient pathway to further the overriding objectives of the ACJA/L which is the speedy and efficient dispensation of justice; ensuring justice for the victims, the offender and the state; promote proper case management practices as well as improve the implementation of the ACJA/L generally.

In other to achieve this, the Institute is collaborating with the Chief Judges of the relevant State High Courts to ensure that the provisions introduced were not contrary to the principal enactment or the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. Notably, the Institute under MacArthur 1.0 had concluded and published earlier in 2020, Rules of Court of Court for Kano, Sokoto, Ekiti, Benue and Rivers State. The consultative and technical review meetings in 2021 has led to the drafting and publishing of the Rules of Court on Administration of Criminal Justice for Delta, Edo and Plateau States respectively.

Current Adjustments to the Reality of the prevalence and effect of the COVID-19 virus has made it imperative that all facets of society be properly guided on the implementation of guidelines and protocols relating to operating in and adjusting to the new normal. The Institute from an in- depth review of available resources with respect to operating amidst the pandemic among justice sector stakeholders, identified the absence of a comprehensive guide that summarily highlight responsible practices for justice sector stakeholders, including law lecturers as necessary parties as the trainers of the feed lot of the justice system. This gap justified the development of the Guidelines for the Justice and Legal Education Sectors to Facilitate Adherence to the National Implementation of COVID-19.

I. DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE JUSTICE AND LEGAL EDUCATION SECTORS TO FACILITATE ADHERENCE TO THE NATIONAL COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The Guideline which was developed by a team of researchers in the Institute over a period of three (3) months. Following the review of expert reviewers, the draft document was presented for further review and validation by stakeholders in the justice and legal education sector. The review and validation event chaired by the Director-General of the Nigerian Law School, (ably represented by the Deputy Director-General, Abuja) provided an avenue for stakeholder input and buy-in.

j. COMPENDIUM ON COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ACJLs (VOL.3)

The Institute engaged in critical analyses of the five state laws on criminal justice administration. The analyses adopt the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 as the baseline tool for assessing the various state laws. The Institute had earlier completed of the analyses of twenty three (23) states and published same as two volumes under the ended MacArthur 1.0 grant. The aim of the analyses and the resultant publication was to provide a comprehensive database for relevant stakeholders.

As it currently stands, the Institute has conducted an in-depth analysis of twenty eight (28) state laws on the Administration of Criminal Justice Law.

k. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY BULLETIN

Four (4) Policy Bulletins were prepared based on the following topics:

a. ACJA: A Hybrid Law?

b. Towards Effective Prosecution of Human Trafficking and Maritime Offences under the ACJA.

c. Arrest in Lieu: An Analyses of Cases Based on Selected State ACJLs.

d. The ACJA, Human Rights and Legality of the Death Sentence on Pregnant Women. A Guideline to facilitate the preparation of the Bulletins were sent to assigned NIALS Researchers and a first draft of the Bulletin was prepared between August and October 2021. The Bulletins were reviewed by Expert Reviewers between October and November 2021, and corrections based on said review were effected by the researchers in December 2021.

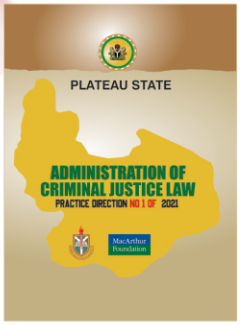
The four (4) Policy Bulletins are currently being edited and will be printed and disseminated to justice sector actors within the first quarter of 2022.

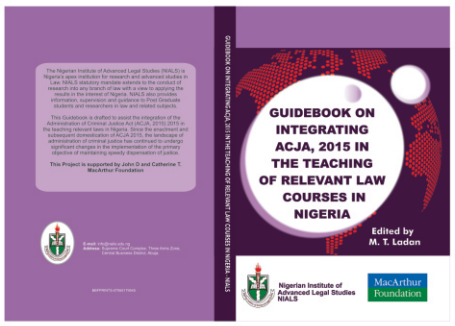
I. DEVELOPMENT OF CASE DIGEST

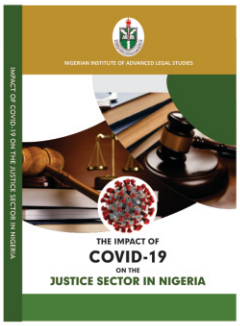
The mandate involved the collation and analysis of Court of Appeal and Supreme Court rulings and judgments to be published as a Digest of Cases (Volume III of 2021). These judgments are based on the ACJA 2015 and Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 ('NAPTIP Act).

Case collection and analysis, based on case collection templates and guidelines prepared by Component C, were completed by NIALS Researchers by October 2021. This analysis was collated in a draft Case Digest and Expert Reviewers in the field of criminal law and human rights carried out a review of the draft from November to December 2021. A Case Digest Review Template was also prepared by Component C to guide the Expert Reviewers in their task.

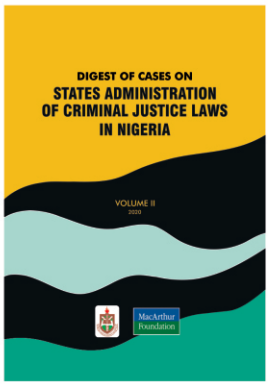
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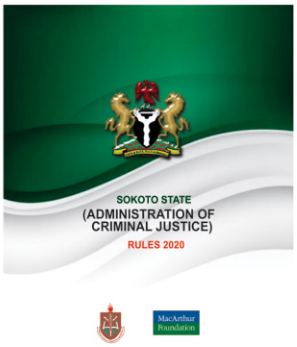


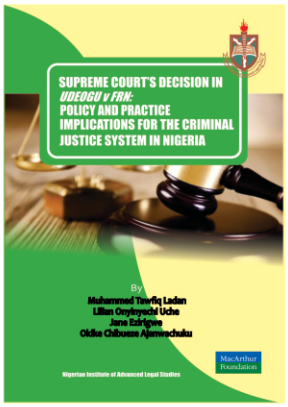




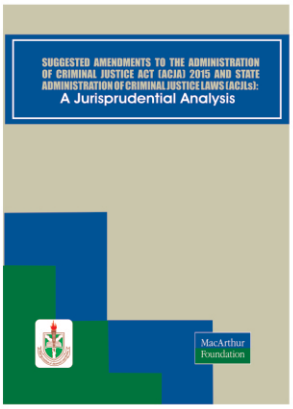




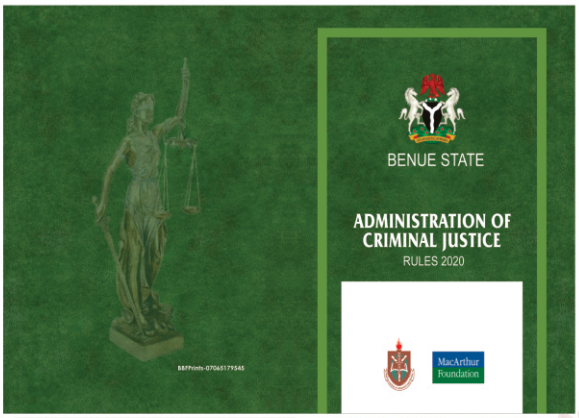


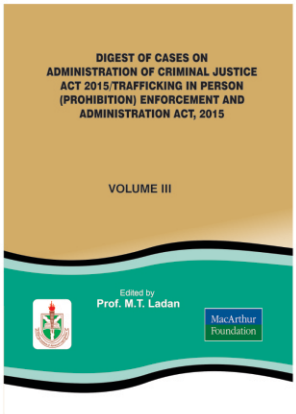


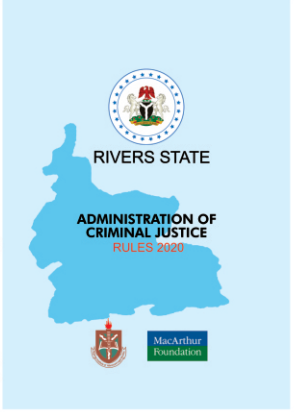


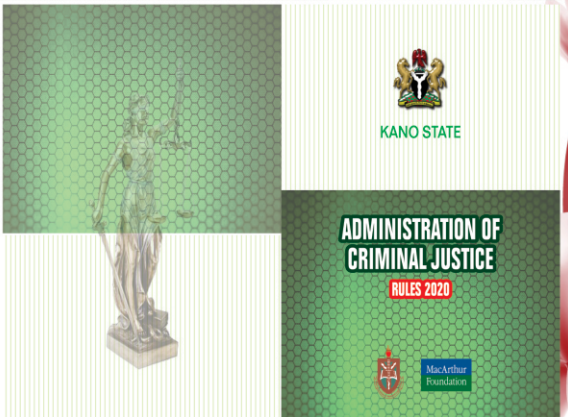




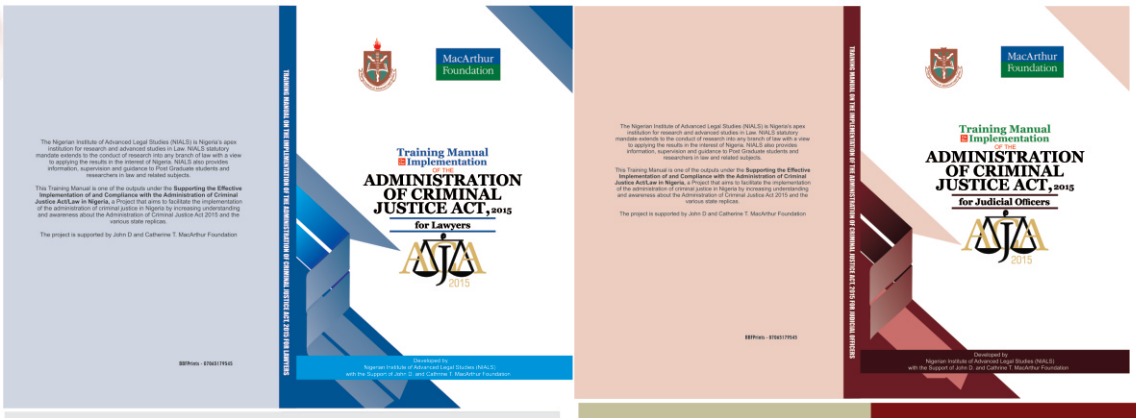


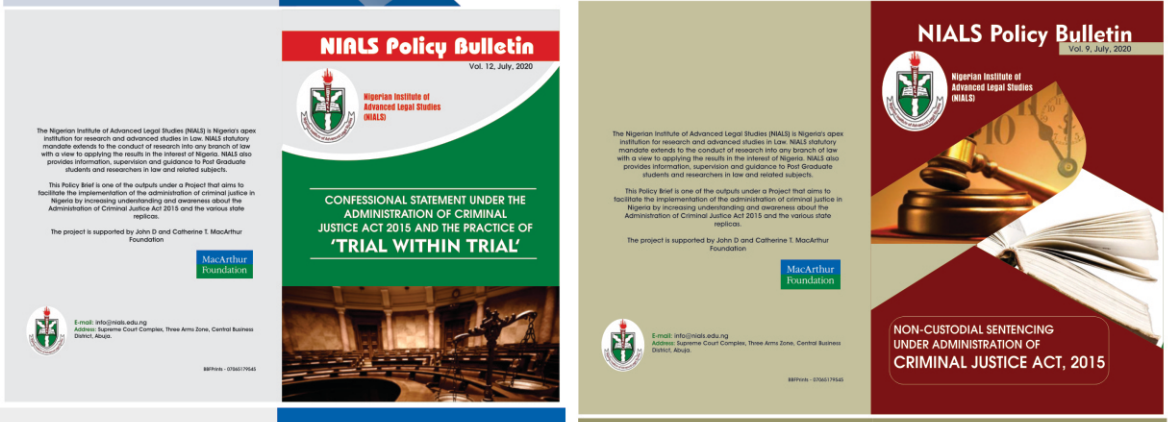


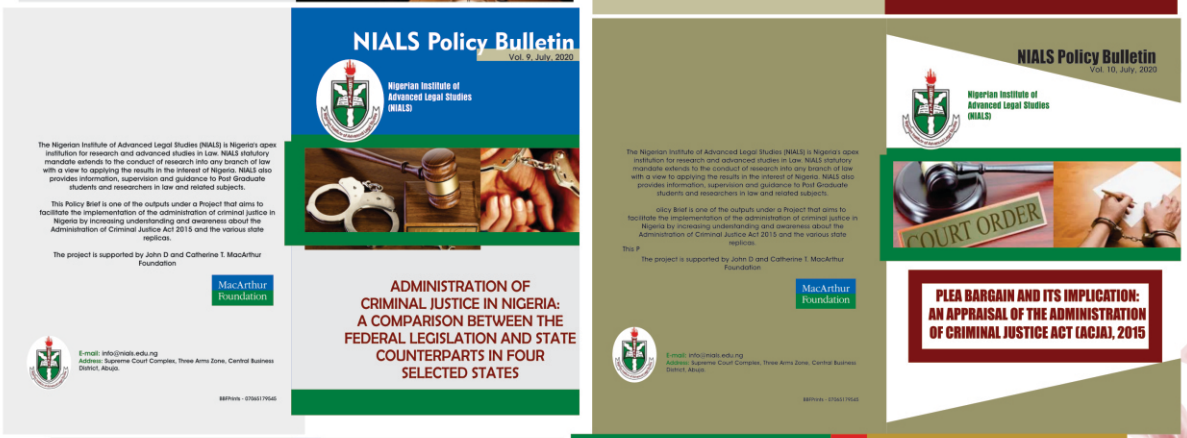


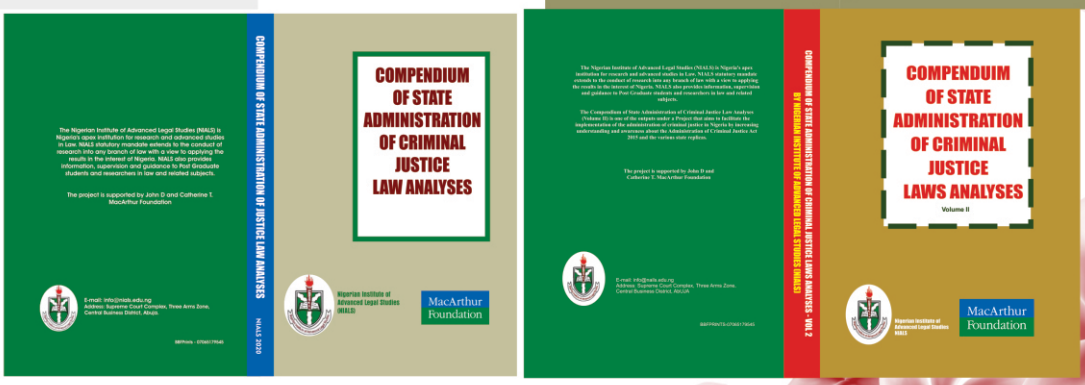


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m. NIALS- NIMASA COLLABORATION ON ADMIRALTY LAW ISSUES

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in collaboration with Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency and National Judicial Institute held 1st NIMASA/NIALS Admiralty/ Maritime Law Colloquium. The event took place at Radisson Blue Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos from 15th to 16th April, 2021. It was the first in its series, having been rebranded from the Strategic Admiralty Law Seminar for Judges, which had run for nine (9) consecutive years. The Colloquium expanded in scope to include selected legal professionals and Court of Appeal Justices. The Colloquium was attended by the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, Justices of the Federal High Court and Judges of State High Courts in littoral states in Nigeria. The theme of the Colloquium, '***Achieving Maritime Safety, Security and Shipping Development ('TRIPOD-S') Through Enforcement of Legislation and the Implementation of the Deep Blue Project: The Role of the Judiciary and State Actors***' was enriched by presentations of expert resource persons from the perspectives of various legal and maritime actors. The Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences (SPOMO) Act 2019 constituted the main legislation from which issues of maritime safety, security and shipping were discussed at the Colloquium.

Professor Muhammed T. Ladan was one of the participants at the 2nd edition of Nigerian Admiralty Law Colloquium held from 8th to 9th March, 2022 at Radisson Blu Anchorage Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos. Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in her remarks maintained that judicial officers must take cognizance of the fact that the desired balance expected in maritime dispute is maintained at all cost, in order to boost confidence in the court system, as well as maritime operations and managements.

Justice Olayinka Faaji, a Justice of the Federal High Court, Lagos who presided over the case involving the high jacking of a Chinese vessel of the Ivorian Coast, state that there is a huge reduction and indeed absence of piracy cases in recent times.

The Director General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Bashir Jamoh in his submission said that ***the records of convictions of criminals and their sentencing between 2021 to date has sent a clear message to all would be practitioners of piracy and sea criminality that Nigeria waters would never be a save heaven for them again.***

The Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Muhammed T. Ladan in an interview maintained that the jurisdiction on internal waters rest solely on the state governments only and not the Federal government.

The colloquium was held to x-ray a better understanding of the suppression of piracy and maritime offences Acts, to promote synergy among key players among the Justice system.



n. COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO

The Institute in the last quarter of 2021 began talks with UNESCO on possible collaboration to conduct training on Freedom of Expression in Africa and the Safety of Journalists. In furtherance to this proposal, the Institute was invited to nominate participants to engage in a Train of Trainers Workshop from 29th November to 4th December, 2021 in Kenya. Dr. Irekpitan Okukpon and Dr. Hazard Habila were the Institute's nominees. The purpose and objective of the workshop was to train trainers from Judicial training institutes in Africa on Freedom of expression and safety of journalists. Other participants at the training included judges and staff of judicial training institutes from Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Senegal and Sudan. Arrangements are currently on-going to finalise the collaboration activities.



o. EU-UNICEF-FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (FMOJ) COLLABORATION WITH PARTNER INSTITUTION ON CHILD ACCESS TO JUSTICE



The Institute on 5th August, 2021 was inaugurated as part of team partnering on Child Access to Jusitce. Other partner institutions include United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), NPG, Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Legal Aid Council (LAC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and the United Nations Children's Fund.

p. NIALS-ROLAC-NILDS-FMoJ COLLABORATION FOR THE TRAINING OF DRAFTERS IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Institute collaborated with ROLAC, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) and Federal Ministry of Justice (FMOJ) to design and train legislative drafters in national institutions. The partnership resulted in a four (4) day Training workshop for forty-five drafters of various national institution from 7th to 10th December, 2021.



q. NIALS-UNODC PARTNERSHIP IN THE AREA OF COUNTER-TERRORISM RESEARCH AND STUDIES

NIALS partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the task of developing the Manual for Investigators and Prosecutors in Counter Terrorism in Nigeria. The published Manual produced under the funding of the European Union was launched the output on the 21st of October, 2021.

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes(UNODC)/ Office of the National Security Advisor(ONSA) launched the second Nigerian Training manual on counter terrorism measures for Justice



sector Actors/Institutions on Friday, 18th March 2022 at the Transcorp Hilton hotel, Abuja.

The training manual which was developed by the UNODC, ONSA and NIALS is aimed at supporting Justice sector Actors/Institutions in developing and incorporating counter terrorism elements as part of their curricular.

The event had in attendance the Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan Ph.D, the UNODC Country Representative, the European union delegation to Nigeria; Peace and Security manager and Rear Admiral Musa, Coordinator of Counter-terrorism Centre, Office of the National Security Adviser.



r. NIALS-HARVARD COPYRIGHT X COLLABORATION

The partnership commenced in 2013. The purpose of the collaboration is for the conduct of a 12-week course organised to propagate knowledge of copyright, create an informed community of copyright owners and users, and encourage more people, particularly students, to develop interest and expertise in the subject. The Institute successfully conducted the 2021 course, including exams between March and June 2021 for 19 participants.

s. NIALS- WAYAMO COLLABORATION ON THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF ICL AND IHL IN NIGERIA

The Institute has since 2019 been in collaboration with WAYAMO, a non- profit organisation established to strengthen the rule of law and promote international criminal Justice. The objective of the partnership is to equip Nigerian institutions with the necessary skill to train their network of legal practitioners and actors in International Criminal Law (ICL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). To this end, the parties have cooperated in organising several Train of Trainers (ToT) courses.

t. NIALS -WIPO PARTNERSHIP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY IN NIGERIA

The Institute began discussions with the WIPO Country Representative on possible areas of collaborations with respect to intellectual property policies in Nigeria.

u. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION-NIGERIAN FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (EFCC-NFIU)

The purpose of the collaboration is to establish a working group with the mandate to identify customised human capacity development needs of NFIU.

v. NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES (NILDS)

This collaboration is geared towards information dissemination, collaboration on capacity building and legal research. Currently, NIALS has assisted NILDS with printing of their journals and will continue to do same over the next four (4) years. Proposed areas of collaboration include training of NILDS staff and publication of NILDS resources.

w. THE NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)

The collaboration with NITDA includes training of NIALS ICT Unit by NITDA, training of law officers of the NITDA on legislative drafting, development of training modules on IT law and policy, NIALS serving as liaison between NITDA and National Assembly to facilitate and fast track IT legislation. This proposed collaboration is backed by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties

x. INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION COOPERATION

NIALS began talks with the International Law Association to convene the International Law Association Conference 2020, using its facilities in Lagos. The outbreak of the virus disrupted arrangements for a physical 2020 conference. In July 2020, the partnership between the Institute and ILA resulted in the hosting of the NIALS/ILA Public Lecture Collaboration themed ***"Progressive Realisation of SDGs in Nigeria During and Post Covid-19 era."***

y. CONSULTATION FOR THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION

As the parent Ministry, the Institute usually provides advice were requested, to the various departments under the office of the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation. One of such remarkable consultations was the production of an ***Amicus*** Brief in ***Esso Exploration and Production Company Limited and Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited v. Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited to the US Court of Appeal.*** The Institute put together a formidable team to provide the necessary opinion on the subject matter in contention in the case.

z. COLLABORATION WITH DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FUR INTERNATIONALE SUSAMMERNARBEIT (GIZ)

The Institute has continued to work with GIZ in improving Criminal Justice Administration in Nigeria. In 2020, the Institute collaborated with GIZ to draft a training manual on modern Investigative techniques. The collaboration also involved the organisation of trainings for prosecutors in the Federal Ministry of Justice and Lagos State Ministry of Justice.

RESPONSE TO CALL FOR MEMORANDA FOR LAW AND POLICY REVIEW

Law and Policy Reviews

The Institute participates regularly in law and policy reviews this is in furtherance of its mandate to aid in shaping good law and policy in Nigeria. The submissions in response to a call for memoranda on specific policy or law (and attendance of public hearings) are essential process in this regard.

A. Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Repeal Treaties (Committee on Treaties, Protocol & Agreement), March 2021:

Professor Peter Akper represented the Institute at the public hearing where the Institute's response to the Call for Memoranda was presented.

B. Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiation (NOTN) Call for Memoranda, March 2021:

The Institute also responded to the NOTN's on Call for Memoranda on NOTN Call for Memoranda the protocols on Intellectual Property Rights, Competitive Policy, Sustainable Investment and E-commerce under the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement. The NIALS team for drafting the memoranda consisted of Professors Adebambo Adewopo SAN, Peter Akper, SAN, OFR; Emmanuel Okon and Dr Franscisca Nlerum.

C. Call for Submission of Memoranda on the Harmonisation of Copyrights Bills October 2021

Another highlight under this form of activities was Institute's submission in response to the call for submission of memoranda on Harmonisation of the Copyrights Bills and the subsequent public hearing held 12th October, 2021 at the National Assembly Complex. The process of amending the Copyright Act started sometime in 2012 when the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) works closely with major stakeholders and international IP communities to produce a draft copyright bill. The NCC opened the draft bill for comments in 2015 to repeal the extant Act and re-enact a new law in Nigeria. The draft bill was approved eventually by FEC in 2018, which was thereafter sent to the National Assembly for consideration earlier this year. There is also a private member Copyright Bill sponsored seeking to amend the extant Copyright Act. It is this development that necessitated the Senate (joint committee on Trade and Investment, and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters) to organise a public hearing on the harmonisation of the bills. The submitted memoranda registered the Institute's reservation and made recommendations in relation to the provisions on voluntary registration of works, liabilities of Internet Service Providers, criminal sanctions, provisions on the regulatory agency, criminal sanctions and collective management of rights.

D. Call for Memoranda on the Review of 2018 Guidelines on the Conferment of Senior Advocate of Nigeria

The Review Sub-Committee of the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee on 15th November, 2021, requested the Institute to submit a memoranda on areas in the current guideline for the Conferment of SAN and all matters pertaining the rank that require amendment. The Director- General on the 18th of November set up a three-man Committee of erudite professors to present the Institute's position.

E. Climate Change Legal Working Group

The Climate Change Legal Working Group comprises of technical experts working on developing the appropriate legal framework to address the lapses in the Climate Change Billl.



The Institute was well represented at these meetings by Assoc. Prof. Irekpitan Okukpon, Nkiruka Chidia Maduekwe and Mrs Izuoma Egerough Adindu

F. National Technical Working Group on the Protection and Promotion of Geographical Indicators (GIs) in Nigeria

Geographical Indications (GIs) is an aspect of Intellectual Property Rights that applies to products whose unique attributes, characteristics, features or popularity is obtained from their geographical origin. Nigeria has about ten thousand (10,000) potential geographical indications products. Among them are Benue-yam (which is misappropriated and rebranded as Ghana yams in overseas markets), cotton from Taraba, Nsukka yellow pepper (Ose Nsukka), Potatoes from Plateau region, etc.

The goal of the Technical Working Group is to develop and submit an appropriate bill for the protection and promotion of GIs in Nigeria. The TWG on GI of which NIALS is a member, has been working assiduously on this goal since September 2021.



G. Submission of Memoranda to National Assembly on the Review of the Legal Practitioners Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, Legal Education Bill and Legal Aid Council (Amendment) Bill

The Senate of the National Assembly called for a Public hearing on the 15th November, 2021 for the under listed Bills and referred them to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, and Legal Matters (The Committee), for further legislative actions. The Bills are:

a. Legal Practitioners Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2021.
b. Legal Education (Amendment) Bill 2021 and
c. Legal Aid Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

In response to the call, the Institute delegated Okike Ajawachukwu, Prudence Okparavero and Benjamin Poopola to review the Bills and make presentation at the Public hearing.

Speaking on behalf of the Institute (NIALS,) Prudence Okparavero drew the attention of the house to sec. 1(3)(n)-(q) of the bill for LPA stating that by virtue of their political standing and elective office, persons listed in the above sections are members of the Legislature and should not be appointed members of the Body of Benchers. Also sec. 7(2) of the LPA should adopt the listing paragraph style of drafting. The last line of sec. 14(4)(b) should read "…affidavit or any other legal document whatsoever." Attention was also drawn

to the first line of sec. 15 where reference was made to section 13 instead of section 14.

h. FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes , Judiciary and Human Rights on Thursday 17th February, 2022 held a One (1) Day public hearing to get key insight from critical stakeholders responsible for fighting financial crimes, and also to provide backing to anti-corruption related crimes when it becomes Acts of Parliaments.

Proposed Anti- corruption legislations discussed at the event were; Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Bill 2021), Public Complaints Commission (Repeal and Re-enactment Bill 2022), and Proceeds of Crimes (Recovery and Management Bill 2021).

Sabi Abdullahi, Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate in his remark said ***the Bill rein enforced the commitment*** of ***the Administration to the fight against corruption, and that all hands must be on deck to reduce, possibly eliminate the menace using all legitimate means possible***.

Senator Suleiman Kwari, in his submission maintained that the views and comments during the public hearing will form basis of recommendations to the senate plenary.

The Governor of Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele, who was represented by a Director in the apex bank , Chibuzor Efobi said that the amendment of the existing Money Laundering Prevention Acts will save the interest of Nigerians, and a Repeal and Re-enactment of a new law.

The Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minster for Justice aired their views on the establishment of the Commission to manage the proceeds of crimes, being sought for by the Proceed of Crime Recovery and Management Bill.

According to George Ekpungu, EFCC Secretary, ***we should remember the government white paper on the reduction of the establishment of new agencies, so creating a new one is not necessary.***
The Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Justice, Godwin Iheabunike emphasized that the creation of the Commission will block loopholes, help recovery of stolen assets.

The Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Muhammed T. Ladan in his submission said ***we support the need to strengthen the operational capacity of the existing Public Complaints Commission.***

The event had critical stakeholders from the Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes, Judiciary and Human Rights, Civil Society Organizations among others in attendance.

2020 WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES

With the COVID-19 restrictions in place, the Institute embraced the virtual space by hosting most of its activities using various virtual platforms. The public lectures conducted on these platforms included the Law and Policy webinar series; public lecture collaborations and virtual roundtables.

A comprehensive list of Online activities for public consumption hosted by the Institute as contained in the Table:

S/NO.	PUBLIC LECTURES AND DATES	Title
A	Public Policy Lectures	
1.	Public Policy Lecture (Research Update) 19th May, 2020	NIALS Update on COVID-19 Coverage
2.	Public Policy Lecture Series 27th May, 2020	The Mandate And Activities of the African Court on Human and Peoples ''Rights'' Arusha Tanzania
3.	Public Policy Lecture Series (Research Update) 9th June, 2020	Presentation of NIALS Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Justice Sector in Nigeria
4.	Public Policy Lecture Series 4 th June, 2020	Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Measures to COVID-19 in Nigeria: Challenges and Policy Recommendation
4.	Public Policy Lecture Series 19 th August, 2020	How not to Amend the Nigerian Constitution: Imperatives & Dilemmas
5.	Public Policy Lecture Series 21st August, 2020	Highlights on the Evolving Jurisprudence of the African Court on Human and People's Rights
6.	**Public Policy Lecture Series 25th August, 2020**	**Webinar on Asset Recovery and the Asset Management Regime in Nigeria**
7.	Public Policy Lecture Series 13th November, 2020	Fake News and Hate Messages: Threat to National Integration and Security, Human Rights and COVID-19 Response Measures
B.	**VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES**	
8.	Virtual Roundtable 12th November, 2020	From Waste to Wealth: Ensuring a Sustainably Developed Nigeria
9.	Virtual Roundtable 24th November, 2020	Single Digital Identity Policy in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects

C.	PUBLIC LECTURE COLLABORATIONS	
10.	NIALS/ Tax Academicians Association of Nigeria 25th June, 2020	Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Businesses, Taxation and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation for Sustainable Development.
11.	NIALS/ International Law Association (ILA) 21st July, 2020	Progressive Realisation of SDGs in Nigeria During and Post COVID-19 Era
12.	NIALS/ African Students Union Parliament 24th July, 2020	Role of Youths in Upholding the Rule of Law and Promoting Development in Africa

Law and Policy Webinar Series

The 2020 Law and Policy Webinars provided an avenue for the Institute to showcase well researched opinions on contemporary issues bedevilling the Nigeria and beyond. The presentations also contain practical law and policy suggestion that can be used to address the identified challenges. The Institute conducted seven (7) public policy webinars

The NIALS webinar on ***'Regulatory and Cyber Security Law and Policy: Challenges and Prospects in Nigeria'*** focuses on current drive by the Federal Government to ensure the digitalisation of the Nigerian Economy and related outcomes to enhance economic growth and development. The Chairman of Webinar the Honourable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Professor Isa Pantami in his opening remarks highlighted the existence of a strong regulatory framework in Nigeria and consequently challenged stakeholders to effectively implement, monitor and enforce it, to drive the digital economy.

In a bid to contribute to national discourse and critical review of Nigeria's progress in exploring innovative infrastructure projects financing options and entrenching sustainability into infrastructure financing the Institute on 2nd March 2021, congregated virtually relevant stakeholders to discuss the theme '***Financing Infrastructural Projects for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects***' The webinar which was well attended by over hundred (100) participants focused on key issues such as financing infrastructure projects, SDGs and infrastructure development and finance, Public Private Partnership in infrastructure projects and environmental considerations for infrastructure projects among others. Presentations and discussions were led by Prof. Olufumi Saibu of the Department of Economics, University of Lagos. Other speakers included Engr. Chidi K. C. Snr, (Director-General, ICRC); Professor Damilola Olawuyi, SAN (Deputy VC, ABUAD); Professor Yinka Omoregbe, SAN (former Hon. Attorney General, Edo State); Dr. Sam Amadi (Baze University, Abuja); Dr. Ahmed Rabiu (Faculty of Law, Bayero University, Kano); Dr. Maryam Shehu Mohammed (Company Secretary, Kaduna Electricity Distribution Plc); Dr. George Nwangwu, Director (Global Centre for Law, Business and Economy, Abuja) and Professor Peter Akper SAN, Director of Research, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Institute in its quest for knowledge that makes the difference, did not rest on its oars in its research activities in 2020. Several of the Institute's existing collaborative undertakings and new partnerships, birthed several research projects undertaken by the Institute either as new or a continuation of on-going endeavours.

i. Independent Law and Policy Reviews

The Institute participates regularly in legislative processes. This is in furtherance of its mandate to aid in shaping good legislation in Nigeria whether at the Federal or State level. The Institute in February, 2020 provided comments ***on the Draft Kaduna State Plan 2021-2025.*** By highlighting key issues that required further consideration, Institute contributed to improving a strategic document that aimed to reflect past, present and future performance outcomes in the priority areas of economic development, social welfare, security and justice as well as governance in the state.

In June 2020, the Institute through the Department of Public Law, responded to a call for comments/submission of memoranda for a review of the Criminal Code Law, CAP C16, Laws of Ekiti State of Nigeria 2012. A confirmation of receipt of our e-mail was received, with many thanks to NIALS for the timely review of the said law.

Similarly, in October 2020, the Institute also responded to a call for submission of memoranda by the Criminal Law Review Committee of Lagos State, under the Ministry of Justice for a review of the Criminal Law, CAP CH17, Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 2015. This review was submitted with a cover letter via e-mail to the Criminal Law Review Committee on 6th November 2020.

ii. Guidelines for Libraries in Nigeria and their Users (GLAN) Project

The Institute in November 2020 began a research project on a Guide for Libraries in Nigeria and their Users (GLAN). The project aims to develop a concise but clear guide for libraries in Nigeria to help their personnel and patrons familiarise themselves with the basics of the Nigerian copyright law.

The substantial lack of knowledge of and information on copyright law in Nigeria even among relatively educated people operating in different settings, creates a high percentage of innocent 'infringers' of copyright. This contributes to the high rate of copyright infringement in Nigeria. Conversely, lack of knowledge of opportunities to freely access works also abound and many people lack a clear understanding of their privileges or advantages over copyright works. Library managers and their users are not exempted from this conundrum and the consequential need for a simplified primer to ensure the proper use of copyright laws for both work owners and users. The Guide will be made publicly available on the internet and widely circulated.

iii. Creative Commons (CC) Translation Project

In June 2020, the Institute was invited by the CC Community to execute part of a small grant project from Open Education for a Better World (OE4BW). The project consists of three parts as follows:

I Translation of the CC licenses to the Yoruba language. (To be executed by the project lead).

ii Create local "case study" on CC licence use in Nigeria The case study is to be translated in English and in Yoruba. (To be executed by the members of the Nigerian CC community).

iii Proof reading the translation and case study and suggesting any edits that might improve translation.

NIALS was responsible for (iii), while supervising the activities in (ii) above.

iv. NIALS/York University Joint Research on Canada's Human Rights Role in Sub- Saharan Africa (CARISSA)

In 2019, NIALS, in collaboration with the York University, Canada, submitted a partnership development grant proposal entitled 'Research Dissemination Network on Canada's Human Rights Role in Sub-Saharan Africa (CARISSA). The objective of the research project is to analyse and theorise the nature, attainments, challenges and prospects of governmental Canadian Human Rights engagements in sub- Saharan African countries like Nigeria.

A Project Commencement Meeting (held virtually via Zoom) of all ten (10) partner institutions/individuals held from 19 – 21 October 2020 to introduce the partners to the project. NIALS presented its proposal titled "***The Right to a Healthy Environment as a Panacea to Environmental Degradation in Nigeria"*** prepared by its Research Team: Professor Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, PhD (DG NIALS); Professor Animi Sylvanus- Pepple (Director, CLECREIL) and Assoc. Prof. Irekpitan Okukpon (Senior Research Fellow/ Acting Head of Department, Public Law).

v. Research on Tackling Nigeria's Energy Poverty through Sustainable Waste-to- Energy Initiatives

In 2020, the Institute having won the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) grant programme, began activities in the research project titled "***Tackling Nigeria's Energy Poverty through Sustainable Waste-to-Energy Initiatives***". The research seeks to provide directions for Lagos State and Nigeria generally regarding utilisation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for energy generation in Nigeria and the need for legal reform of currently existing legislation on waste and energy. The Research Team is comprised of the following persons: Ifeoluwa

Etomilade-Oduola (Research Fellow I); Damilola Sawyerr (Research Fellow I); Kemi Omodanisi (Research Fellow II). Professor Muhammed T. Ladan, PhD (DG NIALS); Professor Animi Sylvanus-Pepple (Director, CLECREILP); and Assoc. Prof. Irekpitan Okukpon (Senior Research Fellow/Acting HOD, Public Law) are the academic advisors of the project.

v. National Colloquium of Federal High Court Judges on Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 in Nigeria

The Institute identified in its grant proposal that consensus on the interpretation of various innovative provisions of the ACJA among justices is an important requirement for the effective implementation of the criminal justice reforms contained in the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the state replicas. To this end, the Institute partnered with the National Judicial Institute to organise a Colloquium primarily for the Federal High Court judges. The event which held in collaboration with National Judicial Institute (NJI) on the 24th - 25th February 2022, focused on identifying and collating the challenges and perspectives of the Federal High Court Judges on the implementation of ACJA.

The activity also afforded Judges of Federal High Courts the opportunity to intellectually engage in a robust discourse around pertinent issue in the ACJA, with other key criminal stakeholders such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), on how to achieve the objectives of the ACJA on speedy dispensation of justice in Nigeria. Key areas interrogated centred around Sentencing and Consequential Orders under ACJA; Practical Application of ACJA from a Judge's Perspective and an impact assessment of Appellate Court decisions on Criminal Justice in Nigeria.

The colloquium had 30 participants from Judges of Federal High Court, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).



vi. Train of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on the Application of the Guidebook on Integrating ACJA 2015 in the Teaching of Relevant Law Courses in Nigeria

Recognising the need to institutionalise a training curriculum to enhance the teaching of the reforms in the criminal justice system contained in the ACJA in faculties of Nigerian Universities and the Nigerian Law School, the Institute in October 2021 developed the Guidebook for the Integration of Administration of Criminal Justice ACJA in the Teaching of Relevant Laws in Nigeria. Following the review and validation of the Guidebook, the Institute organised the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for specific law lecturers on how best to put it into use.



The workshop which was held in a hybrid form on the 2nd and 3rd of November, 2022 had in attendance 65 participants. 45 law teachers attended the physical event held at Rockview Classic Hotel Abuja while 11 law teachers joined virtually.

The resource persons for the TOT were drawn from seasoned academics who are knowledgeable in the area of Criminal Justice.

vii. Jurisprudential Review of the Compatibility of Sections of the ACJA/State ACJLs with 1999 Constitutional Provisions

Researchers under the project sought to review ACJA's compatibility with the 1999 Constitution and to identify areas for as well as proposed amendments based on the reviews. This mandate under the project also requires NIALS support to civil society organisations in engaging the National Assembly and State ACJLs to propose amendments to sections of the ACJA/State ACJLs. The outcome of the research was published in August 2022

viii. Case Digests Reflecting Procedural and Substantive Decisions on the ACJA 2015 & NAPTIP Act 2015

In 2021, researchers in the Institute under the Project worked on the collation and analysis of Court of Appeal and Supreme Court rulings and judgments based on the ACJA 2015 and Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 ('NAPTIP Act). The draft underwent a rigorous review process before it was approved for publication. The Digest was published in May 2022 and is currently being disseminated nationwide.

ix. Policy Bulletins on Topical Issues Pertaining to the Application of the ACJA 2015 and State ACJLs

Research into topical issues pertaining to the implementation of the ACJA 2015 and the State replicas to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Nigerian criminal justice system were conducted in 2022. Flowing from the research, two policy bulletins- ***Towards Effective Prosecution of Human Trafficking and Maritime Offences under the ACJA*** and ***The ACJA, Human Rights and Legality of the Death Sentence on Pregnant Women*** were printed in September 2022 These policy bulletins are being disseminated nationwide.

x. Research on the Guidelines for the Appointment of Judges in Nigeria

The process of recruitment and elevation of Judges in Nigeria has been a subject of controversy. The debate which centres around two key- issues appointment/ selection of Judges and elevation to a higher bench- has raised serious concerns and has been linked to the lack of trust in the judicial system. To ensure a corrupt-free and well-motivated, justice-driven court system, it is important to draw clear principles and guidelines on the process of appointment and selection of judges in Nigeria.

The Institute under the MacArthur funded Project 2.0 in November 2022, commissioned the research on the existing policy governing the appointment and elevation of judges in Nigeria. The key objective of the research is to support the process of enhancing judicial integrity and increasing transparency in judicial appointments and elevation. The proposed review of guidelines, policy and rules of courts, utilising as the yardstick standard principles and criteria in line with global best practices, will also address the challenge of welfare, conditions of service and security of tenure of appointment of judicial officers. The findings and recommendations will form an integral contribution to the Technical Meeting of Stakeholders on Judicial reform which is to take place in 2023.

xi. NIALS/CARISSA Project 2020 -2022

A collaboration between the Research/Dissemination Network on Canada's Rights Role in Sub-Saharan Africa (CARISSA) domiciled and implemented by the University of York, Canada and NIALS commenced in 2020, and was estimated to be completed in 2022. The objective of the research project included shaping the understandings and actions of policy-makers/practitioners in Canada and Africa with respect to Canada's contribution to the rights landscape in Africa.

In achieving this goal amongst others, CARISSA, in collaboration with NIALS and other partners held a series of virtual workshops in October 2020 and December 2021. A further hybrid Workshop to determine the progress of CARISSA partners with their research took place in July 2022) in Pretoria, South Africa. NIALS was represented at the Workshop by Nnenna Uche-Eboh (Senior Research Fellow), whilst the DG NIALS, Professor Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, PhD; Professor Animi Sylvanus-Pepple (Director of Research) and Assoc. (Prof.) Irekpitan Okukpon, PhD attended and participated at the same event via Zoom virtual platform.

In fulfilment of its obligations under the Project, NIALS' prepared and submitted a 5,000-word research study titled '***The Right to a Healthy Environment in Nigeria: A Panacea for Environmental Degradation in Nigeria***' in October 2022. The research study examined the practical application of The Right to a Healthy Environment (TRHE) as a human right in Nigeria, using the Canadian approach as a case study. The study utilised qualitative and quantitative research tools, focusing on three oil-rich key States in Nigeria for the empirical study. The research study is currently being reviewed by the CARISSA/University of York team and feedback is expected by January 2023.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PUBLIC

In furtherance of its continuing legal education mandate, the Institute designed and executed several public lectures. these lecture comprised of Annual Lectures, in collaboration with other organizations, NIALS Fellowship Conferment Lecture/Award

53rd NALT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Association of Law Teachers held its 53rd Annual Conference at Bayero University, Kano on Tuesday, February, 8-11th, 2022 with a theme ***"Law, Democracy and Electoral Process".***

The Vice President of Nigeria, His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON who was the Special Guest of Honor at the event, said that it was the Federal Government's commitment to improving the Electoral process, noting that the Bill is in the process of being passed into law. He added that it has been a robust engagement between government and civil society groups, noting that it is hoped that would be one with the broader consensus of all stakeholders.



Director General NIALS Prof M T Ladan led HE the Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN, GCON and the Executive Governor of Kano State HE Dr Umar Ganduje, the VC of BUK Prof. Sagir, His Royal Highness the Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero and the NALT President/ Dean of law BUK Prof UM Shuaibu in unveiling the NALT Citation guide for legal research in Nigeria at

He also called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to improve its capacity by developing the appropriate technology to conduct free, fair and credible elections in 2023.

The Vice President, however unveiled NALT's Manual on Legal Research Basic Guide for Law Faculties and Legal Research Institutions in Nigeria. The Book was adopted in 2015 and revised in 2021.

A. B. Mahmoud, SAN who was the Chairman of the occasion, maintained that the choice of the theme was apt as it captured many issues concerning the interpretation of electoral process, legal system and democracy in Nigeria, saying that he was confident that the conference would critically address them.

The Executive Governor of Kano State, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje in his remark expressed appreciation over the NALT's decision to hold its 53rd Conference in Kano, saying that the theme is all encompassing as far as electoral process and democracy are concerned.

The three (3) days event had in attendance His Excellency, The Vice President of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON, The Executive Governor, His Excellency Dr. Umar Ganduje, His Royal Highness, The Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero, The Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, The Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, PhD, NALT President/Dean of Law Bayero University, Professor Usman M. Shuaib among other stakeholders in the Judiciary Sector.

17th CONFERMENT OF NIALS HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022 held its 17th Conferment of the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute at the Shehu Musa Yaar'adua Centre, Abuja with the theme ***"A Decade of the 2011 Evidence: Development, Problems and Prospects".***

Speaking in his presentation at the event, Professor Taiwo Osipitan who was the Guest Lecturer/ Honoree called on both the National Assembly and the Judiciary to look into the nation's decade old ***Evidence Act*** with the view of making it more relevant and useful in the judicial system.

He admitted that even though the Act has positively impacted on the development of our Law of Evidence, there are problems and issues associated with the Act which merit Legislative and Judicial attention.

The legal luminary and Scholar therefore called for the deletion of ***Law of Evidence*** in the Executive Legislative List of the National Assembly. This, he said is necessary in view of the growing public calls and a strategy for reducing the scope of powers of the National Assembly.

In his welcome address, The Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Muhammed T. Ladan eulogized the Honorees who he said were carefully selected for the award in view of how they have excelled and distinguished themselves by the way they have been adding exemplary values to the law profession in Nigeria and beyond. The DG said that apart from being respected legal experts that have carved a niche for themselves in the law world, they have all taught at a various times in law faculty in one Nigerian University or



the other.

The President of the Court of Appeal, Honorable Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, Justice of the Supreme Court, Honorable Justice Chima Centus Nweze, Honorable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr Abubakar Malami SAN, Professor Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu of the Faculty of Law, Bayero University, Kano, Professor Taiwo Osipitan, SAN of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, and Professor Paul O. Idornigie SAN, of the Faculty of Law, Veritas University, Abuja.

Also, speaking at the event, the Chairman, NIALS Body of Fellows and Chairman of the Occasion, Retired Honorable Justice Umaru Abdullahi, commended the Director General for the wonderful and unprecedented work he is doing at the Institute. He called on all previous Directors General of the Institute and other influential stakeholders to team up with Professor Ladan to make the Institute the pride of all, being the first of its kind not only in Nigeria, but in Africa.

Professor Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu, on behalf of the Honorees, gave a vote of thanks at the event.

Roundtables

The Institute's roundtables provided a platform to engage relevant stakeholders in addressing front-burner issues in the local and the international scene. Furthermore, it offers the opportunity to enlighten members of the public on the matters interrogated. The Institute organised six roundtables in 2022. These roundtables took an innovative turn in the year under review, with the respective academic department hosting most of the events on behalf of the Institute. The Institute roundtables were as follows:

i. The Review of Nigeria's Trade Law and Policy Discussions on the Finance Act, 2021

This roundtable which the Commercial Law Department hosted on behalf of the Institute, was held on Monday, 31, January 2022. Dr John Isemede, a Trade Law Expert and former Director-General of NACCIMA, served as the lead speaker at the event.

ii. Treaties in Force and Domestication of Treaties in Nigeria

The roundtable hosted by the International Law Department was held on the 15th of March, 2022. The roundtable focused on the jurisprudence of treaty development and domestication in Nigeria. Professor Peter Akper, OFR, SAN and Professor Emmanuel Okon were key speakers at the event.

iii. The Role of Customary Law and Customary International Law Jurisprudence in the 21st Century

Professor Ibidapo-Obe, as the keynote speaker, interrogated misconceptions on the relevance of African customary law, which is linked to failure to appreciate it as a living and evolving jurisprudence and a failure to constantly assess and delineate the limitations of implementing African customary law in the 21st century. A recommendation at the roundtable was the review of the current curriculum of law in the universities to ensure that it reflects African Customary law as a living law concept.

The roundtable, which held on the 15th of March 2022, was hosted by the African and Comparative Law Department.

iv. Creative Economy Law and Policy Roundtable

With 2021 designated the year of the creative economy by the United Nations, it became imperative to increase public awareness within the national space of the importance of the creative sector and its proper regulation. The roundtable organised by the Institute provided a platform for stakeholders to consider pressing issues revolving around the interplay between human creativity and ideas and intellectual property, knowledge and technology. The roundtable was held as a hybrid event on the 27th of July, 2022, with Dr J.O Aisen (Director-General, Copyright Commission) and Professor Animi Sylvannus-Pepple (Director of Research NIALS) serving as the Keynote speaker and Chairperson, respectively.

v. The Role of Private Law in Africa's Economic Integration

The roundtable sought to highlight several complex issues regarding the applicable legal regime or approach in protecting and enforcing the rights of private persons and entities involved in the different transactions, particularly in the context of the emergence of AfCFTA in 2019, as an indicator of the pursuit of economic integration in Africa. The webinar featured two keynote speakers in the persons of Prof Richard Oppong and Dr Garth J Bouwers, whose presentations were titled 'The Blurring of the Public and the Private Law in International Trade Law: Problems & Prospects for Effective Economic Integration in Africa' and 'Private International Law Systems in African Countries: Problems & Prospects for Effective Economic Integration in Africa.' A pertinent recommendation arising from the event was the need for all states to embrace Pan-African rules of private international law to regulate the rights and provide effective remedies for private parties to boost intra-Africa trade and commerce.

The Private & Property Law Department hosted the roundtable.

vi. Electoral Democracy in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities under the Electoral Act

With the enactment of the Electoral Act 2022, various stakeholders have raised concerns about the implementation of its provisions and the implication for the upcoming elections. The institute, through this roundtable, provided perspectives on pertinent electoral issues arising from the Act. The Public Law Department hosted the roundtable on the 22nd of September, 2022.



2022 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKINGS

The standing of the Institute as the apex legal research institution requires that it constantly engages in collaborative undertakings for funding in-depth research and dissemination. The Institute in 2022, continued with the fulfilment of existing arrangements with international and local organisations while working to establish new partnerships and collaborations. Some of the existing and new partnerships include:

NIALS- NIMASA Collaboration on Admiralty Issues

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in collaboration with Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency and National Judicial Institute held the 2nd NIMASA/NIALS Admiralty/ Maritime Law Colloquium. The event took place at Radisson Blue Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos from 8th -9th March, 2022. The Colloquium was attended by Hon.Justice Kudirat Kekere-E k u n, Justice of the

Supreme Court of Nigeria, President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, Justices of the Federal High Court and Judges of State High Courts in littoral states in Nigeria. The theme of the Colloquium, '***Maritime Safety, Security and Shipping Development: Reflections and the Way Forward***' was enriched by presentations of expert resource persons and the perspectives of various legal and maritime actors.

Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMTI)

This collaboration which began in 2020, involves including NIALS as a member of the National Action Steering Committee of the AfCFTA, facilitated by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment. Under the collaboration, 2 members of staff are currently representing the Institute in the work stream on Legal, Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

Ministry of Justice, Republic of Gambia

The Institute entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Ministry of Justice, Republic of Gambia. The MoU which was signed on Wednesday, 6th April,2022 is to enable the Institute design and deliver capacity building services the Ministry of Justice, Gambia.

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)

The Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA) developed the second Nigerian Training Manual on Counter-Terrorism Measures for Justice sector Actors/Institutions. This Manual was launched on Friday, 18th March 2022 at the Transcorp Hilton hotel, Abuja.

NIALS/MacArthur Collaboration on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Nigeria 2.0

The project seeks to enhance the understanding of the Administration of Criminal Justice

Act (ACJA), 2015 and the state replica by facilitating implementation through, among other things, the development of institutionalised curricula and guidance instruments (Component A); development of rules of courts under the ACJA (Component B); and development of case digests and case bulletins on the ACJA (Component C).

Following the end of the MacArthur-funded project for the NIALS Support for the Implementation of and Compliance with Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 (2017-2020), the Institute was awarded another cycle of funding from the same funders for Collaboration on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Nigeria 2.0. The current phase began in January 2021 and concluded in December 2023.

Under the Project, the Institute organised:

- The 2nd Colloquia for Justices on 'Administration of Criminal Justice Act/ Laws for Judges of The Federal High Court' on the 24th of February 2022 and
- The Training of Trainers Workshop on the Application of the Guidebook on Integrating ACJA 2015 in the Teaching of Relevant Law Courses in Nigeria
- Research into various aspects of justice administration in Nigeria with the publication of 3 policy bulletins and a jurisprudential analysis of suggested amendments as outputs for 2022.

The Institute has also undertaken extensive dissemination of various Institute publications sponsored by MacArthur in 2022, as part of the strategy to enhance knowledge about the criminal justice administration under ACJA 2015 and the state replicas.

National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons

Professor Muhammed T. Ladan, PhD on Friday, 15th July, 2022 played host to The Honourable Federal Commissioner for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs, Honorable Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim who was on a courtesy visit to discuss establishing strategic partnerships between the two organisations.

Collaboration with Commercial Law Research Network Nigeria (CLRNN)

The Institute in 2020 began talks with the Commercial Law Research Network Nigeria support the hosting of an international conference as well as a methodology workshop in that year. However, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, the events could not hold. The partnership was thereafter revived in 2022 with renewed talks of hosting a hybrid International Conference on Insolvency Law in Nigeria in collaboration with other organisations such as the Afronomic Law; University of Readington and Middlesex University

The two organisations also agreed to collaborate in providing some training on research for early career researchers (ECRs) in Nigeria as a side event during the Conference. The

workshop, which was fully sponsored, was open to all ECRs, and doctoral candidates, as well as those within either the first 7 years of completing their PhDs or 7 years of their first academic posts.

The Stakeholders Conference and Workshop on Debt and Insolvency Law in Africa: National and Transnational Issues, as well as the ECR Methodology trainin, held at Wells Carlton Hotel, Asokoro, Abuja from 6th -8th July 2022.

NIALS-TETFUND Collaboration

The Institute formally entered into collaboration discussions with Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) when the Director General with some members of Management Staff paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Arch. Sunday T. Echono. Arc Echono on Thursday, 28th July, 2022. During the visit, the Chief Executives explored five (5) areas of strategic collaboration, including Advanced Legal research, capacity building of tertiary institutions and support for NIALS's capital project development.

NIALS-Harvard Copyright X Collaboration

The NIALS-Havard Copyright X partnership commenced since 2013. The collaboration aims to conduct a 12-week course organised to propagate knowledge of copyright, create an informed community of copyright owners and users, and encourage more people, particularly students, to develop interest and expertise in the subject. The Institute successfully conducted the 2022 course between March and June 2022 for 43 participants.

UNESCO Collaboration

The Institute, in the last quarter of 2021, began talks with UNESCO on possible collaboration to conduct training on Freedom of Expression in Africa and the Safety of Journalists. In furtherance of the proposal, 2 specialised training workshops for High Court Judges on 'Freedom of Expression, Safety of Journalists, and Access to Information for State High Court Judges were organised in Abuja and Lagos from the 6th to 10th June 2022 and 13th to 18th June 2022 respectively.

NIALS' National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)-Romanian Ambassador Facilitated Collaboration

With the issues of trafficking in persons and migration of great concern, the Institute on the 3rd of June, 2022, facilitated discussions for establishing a tri-partnership involving NIALS, Nigeria's Ambassador to Romania Dr Safiya Ahmad and the Director General of NAPTIP, Associate Professor Fatima Waziri-Azi. The facilitated partnership is focused on migration, development and security.

NIALS- Pan African Strategic and Peace Research Group (PAN AFSTRAG) Collaboration

NIALS and the Pan African Strategic and Peace Research Group (PAN AFSTRAG) established a collaboration to conduct research and review of the African Union Constitutive Act 2022. The

collaboration hosted distinguished experts from Senegal, Brazil, Canada, USA, Ghana, Cape Verde, South Africa and Nigeria to a virtual meeting on Monday 15th August, 2022.

Submissions and Attendance in Response to Call for Memoranda for law and Policy Reviews

The Institute participates regularly in law and policy reviews. This is in furtherance of its mandate to aid in shaping good law and policy in Nigeria. The submissions in response to a call for memoranda on specific policy or law (and attendance of public hearings) are essential process in this regard.

I. NITDA Bill Stakeholders' Engagement for Government Regulatory and Affiliated Agencies. In February 2022, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) hosted key stakeholders to an engagement to discuss the provisions of the NITDA (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2021. The Institute was in attendance at this event and also made relevant contributions to the discussions

ii. Submission of Memoranda on Financial Crimes and Related and Public Complaints Bills.

The Joint Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes, Judiciary and Human Rights and Legal Matters requested the Institute to make submission on the following bills:

- Money laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Bill 2021 (SB 642 and Sb789);
- Public Complaints Commission (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2022 (Sb644);
- Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management Bill 2021 (Sb645).

The Institute made written and oral submissions at the public hearing held on the 17th of February 2022.

iii. Senate Public Hearing for Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 920) & 6 others

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal matters invited the Institute to make submission on the following bills:

- Administration of Criminal Justice 2015 (repeal and Re-Enactment Bill 2022 (SB 920);
- Federal High Court Act LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2022 (Sb745);
- Firearms Act Cap F20LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2022 (SB 889);
- Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Nill 2022 (SB 926);
- Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshot Act 2017 (Amendment) Bill 2021 (SB 748);
- Franchise Regulation Bill (SB969); and

- African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Domestication and Enforcement) Bill 2021 (SB 763).

The Institute submitted its written memoranda and made its oral submission at the public hearing held on the 20th of July 2022 at the Senate Conference Hall.

iv. Review of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Statelessness Status Determination (SSD)

The Institute was invited by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons comment on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The event was organized by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), 1-3 November 2022.

v. 2-Day Stake holders' Workshop to Validate the Draft African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Domestication and Enforcement) Bill 2022.

To improve awareness and garner support of relevant stakeholders, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organised the stakeholders' workshop on the 16th-17th of November 2022. The Institute was well represented at the event and make submissions.

vi. 2 Day Stakeholder Validation Event for the Data Protection Bill Organised by the Nigeria Digital Identity for Development (Nigeria ID4D) Project under the National Identity Management Commission

The Institute was invited to comment on a draft document of the proposed data protection bill. The intense 2-Day Stakeholder Validation held on the 3rd and 4th of October focused on commenting and amending the draft provisions of the bill before the transmission of same to the National Assembly as an Executive Bill. The draft with the incorporated comments represents a reworked version of the bill the President had earlier rejected to give his assent.

2022 CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Institute receives a very lean capital budgetary allocation. However, this has not tarnished the drive to ensure the Institute operates with the necessary facilities and from a conducive environment in terms of physical infrastructure. Consequently, the Institute focused on enhancing ICT and improving its physical infrastructure in 2022.

Physical Renovations in 2022

Despite a lean capital budgetary allocation, the Institute undertook an extensive renovation of the Lagos office building in the year under review. The final lot of the 2021 Capital Budget Implementation funds released in the first quarter of 2022 and funds from Capital budgetary allocation of the year under review were utilised for the exercise. The renovation, which was triggered in October 2021 following the submission of a technical report on the structural integrity of the Institute building, was carried out in two phases. Phase one renovation ended in March 2022, while phase two began in July 2022. The renovation completed in September 2022 resulted in

- The rectification of the structural stability issues identified in the technical report;
- Painting of the internal and external walls;
- upgrade of the convenience facilities at the Professor Ajomo Lecture Theatre;
- installation of new air conditioners in several offices, including the Augustine Nnamani Lecture Theatre;
- Tiling works in the foyer and dining sections of the Institute building;
- Rug and door replacements in several offices;
- Newly refurbished and equipped computer room in Lagos Office.





NIALS PERMANENT SITE

The Institute also continued with work on its permanent site with the completion of the fencing and the painting of the perimeter fence and security post as well as earth work on Admin. block foundation (light blinding) towards full blown infra-structural transformation with anticipated improved funding in 2023 and beyond.

ICT AND DIGITALISATION

ICT and digitalisation remained a priority for the Institute in 2022. In January 2022, the Institute renewed and purchased new subscriptions for several online resources for the Academic directorate. These e-resources included the Law Pavilion, Legalpedia, Grammarly, Eagle Scan and HeinOnline.

Several ICT-related infrastructures obtained in the period under review include Video Conferencing and other ICT Equipment for the Abuja Conference Room, and the extension of Network connectivity (Phase 1) to the Akinola Aguda Post Graduate School to enhance better work productivity and output was completed in June 2022.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ABUJA LIBRARY

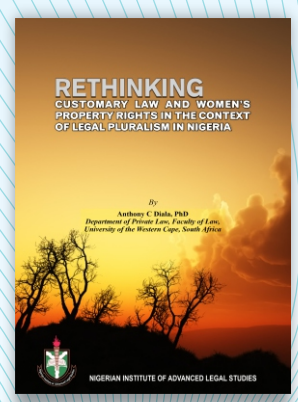
Abuja-based staff suffered a handicap of access to the rich resources of the Taslim Elias Library for research purposes. In the past, academic researchers had to travel physically to Lagos to conduct significant research in the library or utilise alternatives such as sourcing research materials from various law collections in law libraries or court premises.

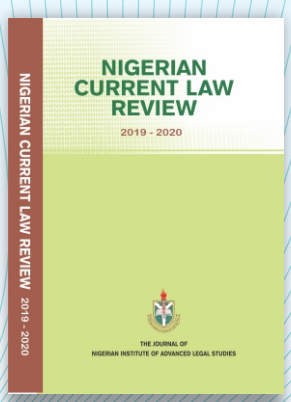
The current administration thus deemed it essential to invest in establishing a Library in the Abuja office, stocked with relevant titles ranging from reference books, journals, law reports and serials.

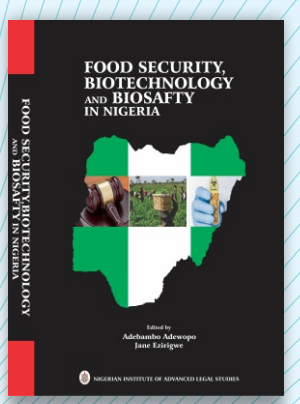
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

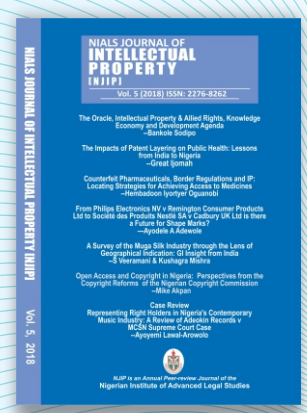
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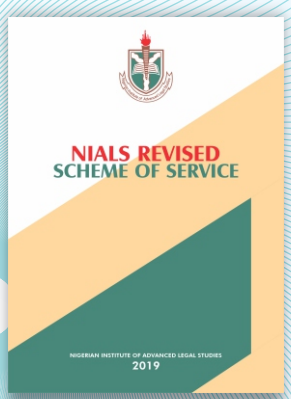


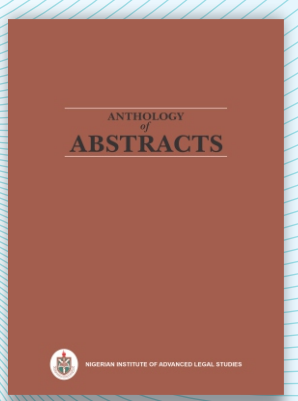




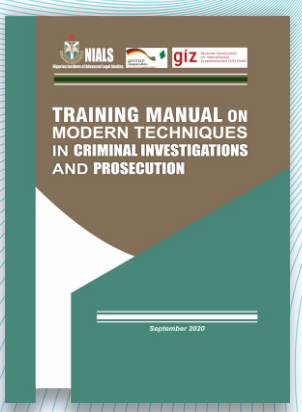


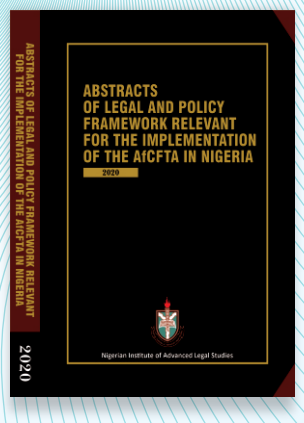


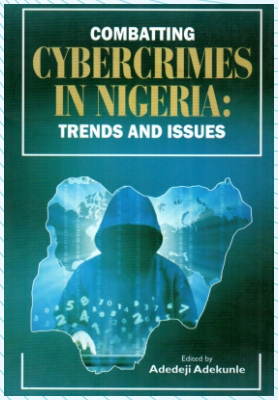








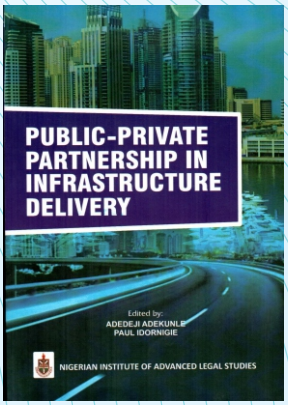












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