

NIALS DIGEST

MAY, 2025

NIALS Digest

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan

EDITORIAL CREW

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Okafor Henry Ndubuisi
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Ebong Ndifreke

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CONTACT
08100363602
Abuja: Supreme Court Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja
P.M.B 385 Garki, Abuja
info@nials.edu.ng www.nials.edu.ng

09012443547
Lagos: University of Lagos Campus Akoka, P.M.B 12820,
Yaba, Lagos - Nigeria

MOTTO

Knowledge that
makes the Difference.

MISSION

To be the nucleus and hub
of legal research and advanced
studies in law in Nigeria.

OUR VISION

To be a world class institution that is the primary source of information, training and advice at the highest level of policy formulation on legal matters, effectively impacting on local and international institutions in the development of law.

NIALS ENABLING ACT

Commencement Establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

(1) There is hereby established an institute to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (in this Act referred to as "the Institute" which shall have the functions assigned to it by this Act.

(2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL, etc.

(1) There shall be established for the management of the affairs of the Institute a body to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Council in this Act referred to as "the Council"

(2) The Council shall consist of the following members, that is
   a. A Chairman to be appointed by the President;
   b. A representative of the Federal Ministry of Justice;
   c. A representative of the Federal Ministry charged with responsibility for higher education;
   d. Six Deans or Heads of Faculties, or other formations of Nigerian Universities offering degree courses in law at not less

CONTACT
08100363602
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info@nials.edu.ng www.nials.edu.ng
09012443547
Lagos: University of Lagos Campus Akoka, P.M.B 12820,
Yaba, Lagos - Nigeria

than post-graduate level, to be appointed by the President; the Director-General of the Nigerian Law School; one member of the Judiciary nominated by the Chief Justice of Nigeria; the President of the Nigerian Bar Association; five persons of whom one shall be a woman to be appointed by the President; and the Director-General of the Institute.

(3) The provisions of the Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters therein mentioned.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

i. Council shall be responsible for the determination of the overall policy of the Institute and in particular for the financial and operational programmes of the Institute and for ensuring implementation of such policies and programmes.

ii. Without prejudice to the generality of subsection of this section, it shall be the duty of the Council to approve the research and training programmes of the Institute, determine the fees to be paid for research, consulting, training and any other services that may be offered by the Institute and promote or undertake any other activity that in the opinion of the Council is calculated to help achieve the purposes of the Institute.

NIALS ANTHEM

Ever questioning, Ever Probing,
Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies!
Vision foretold by founding fathers,
Ideas nurtured by patriotic fervor,
Urging us to make the difference,
And be the nucleus of legal studies,
With passion and hope our mandate deliver,
And be the best that we can be,
A truly world class institution,
Nigeria's law abode!

25TH NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES AT NIALS CONCLUDES WITH ENLIGHTENING PRESENTATIONS AND ENGAGING DISCUSSIONS

The 25th National Workshop on Legal Information Services on Law Libraries was successfully hosted by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) at its Lagos Campus on the 6th and 7th of May, 2025. The Director General of NIALS, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, welcomed the participants and highlighted the significance of the workshop in addressing challenges related to managing data and materials in legal information services.

The workshop featured esteemed resource persons who shared their expertise with the participants. Day one saw Professor Uluocha Anyaogu discussing the maintenance of OPAC with Open Source Software, followed by Mr. Agwu Patrick's insights on securing digital footprints in the AI era.

On the second day of the workshop, participants were treated to insightful presentations by distinguished resource persons. Professor Rita John-Okeke delved into the intricacies of cataloguing and classification using the Moys Classification Scheme. Following her, Mr. Felix Azubuike and Professor Jide Owoeye both presented practical approaches to indexing and abstracting of legal materials, providing valuable knowledge and perspectives.

The closing ceremony of the workshop marked the culmination of the engaging intellectual discourse. Amidst various activities, the event came to a successful end.







NIALS APPOINTS NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICERS



The Governing Council of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) has announced the appointment and ratification of three Principal Officers during an extraordinary meeting held under the Chairmanship of Hon. Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, GCON, the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

In a statement issued by the outgoing Institute Secretary and Secretary to the NIALS Governing Council, Mr. Tiamiyu Adamola Sharafadeen, on Friday, May 9th, 2025, the newly appointed officers are Mrs. Regina Ugonna Macaulay as the Institute Secretary, Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Olaniyan as the Institute Bursar, and Professor Rita John-Okeke as the Institute Librarian.

Mrs. Regina Ugonna Macaulay holds a Bachelor's Degree in Linguistics from the University of Uyo in 1998, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Lagos in 2006. She brings over 25 years of experience to the Institute, having risen through various roles to Director of Human Resource Management and Marketing. She holds professional memberships with the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) and the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria (CIPM).

Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Olaniyan, FCA, a seasoned professional with 22 years of experience in accounting, joined the University of Ilorin's Bursary Department

in 2009 and steadily climbed the ranks to become Deputy Bursar in October 2019. Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, a Post Graduate Diploma in Banking and Finance, and being a Fellow Chartered Accountant of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mr. Olaniyan is well-equipped to lead the financial operations of the Institute.

Renowned Librarian and academic, Professor Rita John-Okeke, is poised to bring a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. With a Ph.D in Library and Information Systems, Professor John-Okeke has established herself as a distinguished figure in the field, boasting an impressive portfolio of publications focusing on Library and Information Technology.

Having joined the Institute in 2000, Professor John-Okeke's career has been marked by a commitment to excellence and a dedication to advancing legal research. Her professional affiliations with key organizations such as the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria and the National Library Association underscore her standing in the Library community.

As she takes on the challenge of repositioning the Institute Library, Professor Rita John-Okeke is set to leverage her esteemed pedigree and scholarly capacity to elevate the Institute as a premier hub for Legal research on a global scale.

NIALS HOSTS CUSTOMER FORUM WITH PREMIUM PENSION LIMITED



The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in collaboration with the Premium Pension Limited, recently organized a Customer's Forum at the NIALS Lagos office on the 12th of May, 2025.

The aim of the program was to provide clarity on various pension related issues. The Premium Pension delegation was led by Mr. Gelele Yusuf Abdulmaleek, one of the prominent figures in the organization.

During the forum, Mr. Gelele addressed a range of important topics concerning the pension scheme, which includes; the 25% Equity Shares, the Differentiation between old and new pension schemes, and the Handling of Health Challenges faced by contributors while in service.

Regarding the 25% Equity Contributions which NIALS staff sought clarification, Mr. Gelele emphasized the statutory nature of the contributions and outlined the criteria that contributors must meet to access their funds. He also highlighted the varying processing fees charged by different PFAs, noting that Premium Pension Limited offers the easiest and lowest fees, coupled with the highest returns on funds.

Furthermore, Mr. Gelele shed light on the distinctions between the Old and New Schemes, emphasizing that contributors under the Old Scheme must await the release of their 4 years of Pension Savings with the Federal Government before accessing their funds managed by PFAs.

The Customer's forum provided valuable insights and clarity on crucial pension related matters.







NIALS COLLABORATES WITH MACARTHUR FOUNDATION IN ADVANCING JUDICIAL CAPACITY IN ANTI-CORRUPTION FIGHT



The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), in collaboration with the MacArthur Foundation, recently organized a landmark two-day workshop aimed at enhancing judicial capacity in the fight against corruption. The workshop, held on the 12th and 13th of May 2025, targeted Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court, FCT High Court Judges, and Judges of the Code of Conduct Tribunal.

During the event, key figures such as the Director General of NIALS, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, Nigerian Bar Association's (NBA) President, Mazi Afam Osigwe, and representatives of heads of courts emphasized the detrimental impact of corruption on Nigeria's development, public trust, and rule of law. Various speakers highlighted the Judiciary's crucial role in enforcing anti-corruption laws, leveraging tools like the ACJA, and upholding ethical standards.

Professor Fidelis Oditah, KC, SAN, delivered a thought-provoking Keynote lecture addressing systemic Judicial

challenges and recommended measures such as improved Judicial funding, merit-based appointments, asset declarations, and curbing interlocutory appeals. More significantly, is his rigorous analysis of civil and criminal consequences of corrupt practices, coupled with a compelling call for stringent legal accountability to deter misconduct and uphold Judicial probity.

Recognizing the evolving legal landscape, Hon. Chief Justice Montomori Kekere-Ekun highlighted the Judiciary's steadfast commitment to combatting corruption. She emphasized the significance of continuous education and engagement to equip Judicial officers with the necessary tools to address corruption effectively, given the enactment of laws like the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (ACJA).

The workshop delved into various important topics such as Typologies of Corruption, Judicial Ethics in Adjudicating Corruption Cases, and Procedural Requirements under the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act (ACJA) of 2015.

The workshop underscored the significance of promoting transparency, accountability, and the fight against corruption.









NIALS COMMITS TO ADVANCING LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES IN NIGERIA COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES, BYU, STRENGTHENED





The Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, has reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to deepening scholarship and research in Law and Religion Studies across Nigeria. He made this known during a strategic meeting held with development partners and funders on the 13th of May, 2025 at the Institute's headquarters.

The meeting featured delegates from the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University (BYU), United States, and was led by Professor Ahmed Salisu Garba, Vice-Chancellor of Al-Muhibbah Open University. Also present were Professor Hannah Smith, Associate Director at BYU, and Professor Renata Uitz, a renowned scholar from Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Central European University.

In his opening remarks, Professor Abikan welcomed the delegates and acknowledged the longstanding relationship between NIALS and the Law and Religion Studies network. He

emphasized the Institute's pivotal role in promoting legal research in this area, noting that NIALS was created as a response to the aspirations of Law Deans across Nigerian universities for a center of excellence in legal scholarship.

Professor Hannah Smith appreciated the warm reception and commended NIALS for its continued support of global academic partnerships. She conveyed greetings from Professor Brett Scharffs, Director of the BYU Center, and highlighted the relevance of Nigeria in the global discourse on Law and Religion.

Professor Renata Uitz, who has worked with the Center for over two decades, expressed gratitude for the collaboration and underscored the importance of comparative legal studies in enriching academic curricula.

During the deliberations, the partners outlined the purpose of the visit, which included:

- Leveraging NIALS' Convening Power to facilitate nationwide academic engagement on Law and Religion.

- Case Collection: A joint effort to collect, review, and publish landmark Nigerian cases on Law and Religion in the BYU casebook, which has been translated into over 10 languages.

- Sustained Collaboration: Ensuring continuity through the involvement of NIALS in convening Deans of Law and key stakeholders across Nigerian universities.

In response, Professor Abikan assured the partners of NIALS' commitment to supporting the initiative. He reiterated the Institute's capacity to manage projects with transparency, noting its successful record with the MacArthur Foundation and other international partners. He also raised concerns about delayed reimbursements from the previous workshop and called for improved funding mechanisms to support the active participation of Nigerian stakeholders.

The Director-General announced plans to set up team at NIALS to spearhead the case collection across the six geopolitical zones, focusing on decisions from appellate courts including the Federal High Court, Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court.

Professor Smith and Professor Garba acknowledged past logistical challenges and assured the DG that a more efficient funding channel had been established to prevent future delays. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to fast-track the collection and submission of cases ahead of the upcoming September conference.

This partnership marks another significant milestone in NIALS' journey to bridge global research with local legal realities, fostering a deeper understanding of the intersection between law and religion in Nigeria and beyond.

NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES COMMENDS MACARTHUR FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS IN NIGERIA



The Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, has commended the MacArthur Foundation for its sustained partnership in advancing Criminal Justice Reforms across Nigeria. He made this statement while delivering his opening remarks at a one-day meeting held on the 15th of May, 2025 for the Validation and Adoption of the Administration of Criminal Justice Practice Direction 2025 of Kwara State.

He emphasized the critical role of the Practice Direction in operationalizing Kwara's criminal justice laws, stating that, “Without practical tools like this, even the best laws remain unimplementable. This document belongs to Kwara's Judiciary, and its success hinges on the stakeholders here today.”

Professor Abikan confirmed that hundreds of copies of the finalized document would be printed and distributed free of charge to the State's Judiciary upon the Chief Judge's endorsement.

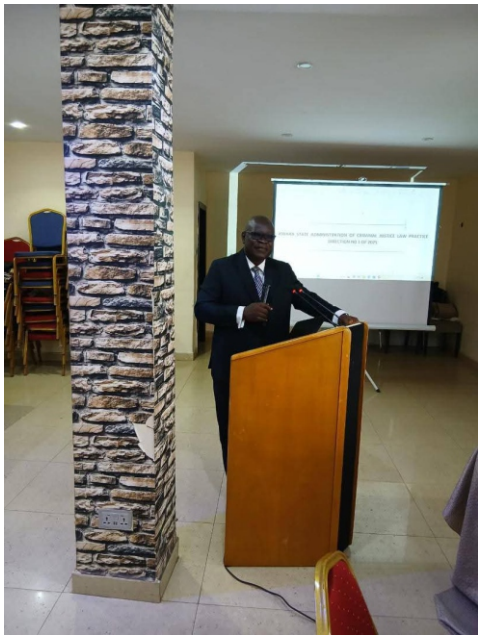
The Validation and Adoption exercise, organized by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) in collaboration with Kwara State Judiciary, supported by the MacArthur Foundation was held at the Sinclair Hotel, Ilorin, Kwara State, becoming the 16th Nigerian state to collaborate with NIALS and the

MacArthur Foundation in developing localized criminal justice guidelines.

The Chief Judge of Kwara State, Honorable Justice AA.Adebara, commended the meeting as a significant achievement for Kwara State's legal system. He emphasized the importance of collective commitment in ensuring efficient and transparent justice. While hailing Professor Abikan and the Institute for their dedication, he acknowledged the committee members for their valuable contributions, stating that, "Your sacrifices have birthed a document that will redefine Justice Administration in Kwara."

The Practice Direction is designed to align Kwara's Judicial procedures with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015. The primary focus is on minimizing delays, improving accountability, and safeguarding the rights of citizens. Once the validation process is complete, the document will undergo final scrutiny before formal adoption by the Kwara State Judiciary. The implementation of these guidelines is expected to strengthen public trust in the legal system and expedite the resolution of criminal cases.

This initiative highlights Kwara State's dedication to aligning with nationwide Judicial Reforms and cultivating a Justice system built on transparency, effectiveness, and adherence to the Rule of Law.







NIALS ABUJA REGISTRY HOSTS INAUGURAL INTERNAL TRAINING SESSION

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) Abuja Registry recently held its inaugural training session on May 19th, 2025, at the ICT Unit in Abuja. The training was attended by staff members from the Registry and ICT Units and aimed to enhance professionalism and efficiency within the Registry.



In her opening remarks, the Director of HRM/Marketing welcomed participants and expressed her enthusiasm for the training initiative, which is set to be a monthly occurrence as endorsed by the Director General, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan. She emphasized the need to restore the Abuja Registry as a hub of professionalism.

The training covered key topics, including Confidentiality, Ethics, and Compliance, Time and Task Management, Fundamentals of Registry Documentation, and Storage and Location of Files in the Registry. Facilitators included the Director of Council Affairs, Mr. Danjuma Tangni, the Director of Human Resource Management/Marketing, Mrs. R. U. Macaulay, the Deputy Institute Secretary, Head of the Registry Unit, Barr. I. J. Agwu, and the Head of ICT unit, Mr. J. O. Oniosun.

Key observations from the training included the necessity of orienting staff on handling government business and office documents, the importance of maintaining accurate and efficient records, and the need for a registry stamp for authentication purposes.

The training session concluded with participants acquiring impactful knowledge and skills.

NIALS ABUJA OFFICE HOSTS FEDERAL MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING TEAM



On Thursday, May 22, 2025, a team of supervisors from the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning visited the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) office in Abuja to assess the Institute's level of compliance with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system.

The visiting team, led by Mr. Olabanji Kolade and Mrs. Oluchi Richards engaged productively with the NIALS Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinating Committee which comprised of the Institute Bursar, Mr. John Yawe, the Director, Human Resource Management/Marketing, Mrs. Regina Macaulay, Head of Department, Private and Public Law, Associate Professor Osato Eruaga, Special Assistant to DG on ICT & Information, Mrs. Jauda I. Yusuf and Head of Unit, Planning, Research & Statistics (PRS), Mr. Alkali Ugbede.

The Committee provided detailed briefings on NIALS' compliance level in areas such as work plans, strategic plans, communication systems, and data management. The visiting team acknowledged NIALS' progress in strengthening its M&E framework, commending the Institute's efforts and commitment to improvement. Valuable feedback was also provided, highlighting areas for further development to enhance NIALS' M&E capabilities.

The visit underscores NIALS' dedication to best practices in monitoring and evaluation and its ongoing efforts to refine its systems and processes.

NIALS AND RED CARE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) COLLABORATE ON HEALTH SENSITIZATION PROGRAM

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Abuja, in collaboration with Red Care Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), organized a health sensitization program for staff on May 26th, 2025. The program focused on common cancers (breast, prostate, and cervical) and their prevention, as well as addressing concerns regarding healthcare service delivery under the HMO scheme.



The Director, Human Resource Management/Marketing, Mrs. Regina Macaulay in her opening remarks emphasized the importance of the program in addressing health issues and clarifying staff concerns.

Dr. Stephanie Oni-Ogunbor, Regional Care Coordinator, Abuja/North, Red Care HMO, and her team delivered an informative presentation on common cancers and their prevention.

The HMO team addressed staff concerns, provided clarifications, and committed to improving service delivery.

A dedicated helpline, email, and WhatsApp support channel were introduced for real-time assistance.

Free medical checks were conducted for staff members.

The program successfully bridged knowledge gaps and enhanced the relationship between Red Care HMO

and NIALS staff. Continuous engagement and feedback are expected to strengthen service delivery and health outcomes under the scheme.

The event demonstrates NIALS' commitment to prioritizing staff well-being and promoting preventive healthcare practices. The collaboration with Red Care HMO underscores the importance of effective healthcare partnerships in enhancing staff health and productivity.













GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN FOCUSES ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA

In a groundbreaking collaboration, the Centre for Comparative Legal Advancement (CCLA) and The Nelson Mandela School have joined forces with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) to host the Global Conference on "Reimagining Cooperation on Trade and Sustainability: An African Perspective." The prestigious event took place on Monday, 26th to Tuesday, 27th May 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Distinguished scholars, legal experts, and policymakers from across Africa and beyond including the Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan gathered to discuss key issues surrounding trade and sustainability on the continent. The conference aimed to explore innovative strategies and solutions that promote cooperation and foster sustainable development in African nations.

Delegates engaged in lively discussions, shared insights, and proposed recommendations to address pressing challenges in trade relations and sustainable practices in Africa. The conference served as a platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and fostering partnerships to drive positive change in the region.






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ABUJA OFFICE:
Supreme Court of Nigeria Complex, Three Arms Zone,
PMB 385, Garki Abuja.
www. nials.edu.ng
info@nials.edu.ng

LAGOS OFFICE
University of Lagos Complex, PMB 12820, Akoka Lagos State.