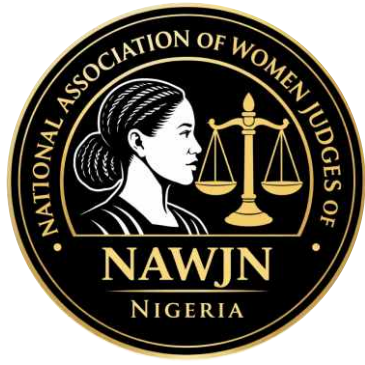




INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN JUDGES

IAWJ AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME

Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice



8TH - 12TH OF JUNE, 2026

📍 BODY OF BENCHERS COMPLEX, NO 12, Y.C.
MAIKYAU CRESCENT, INSTITUTION & RESEARCH
DISTRICT, FCC PHASE III, ABUJA, FCT



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN JUDGES



NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand,
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honoured,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request,
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

NATIONAL PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria, my country
To be faithful, loyal, and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her honor and glory
So help me God.

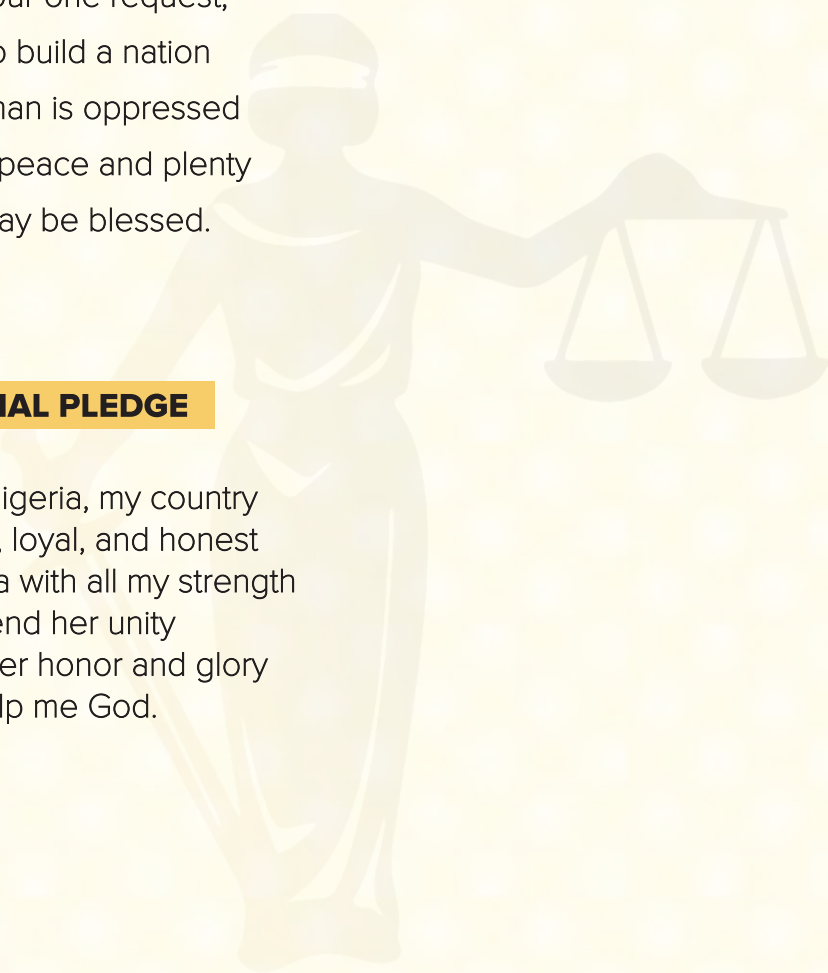




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 - 1.4 THE HON. MINISTER OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT)
 - 1.5 THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA (CJN)
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His Excellency
Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



Her Excellency
Senator Oluremi Tinubu CON
First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria



HON. JUSTICE
K. M. O. KEKERE - EKUN, GCON
CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA



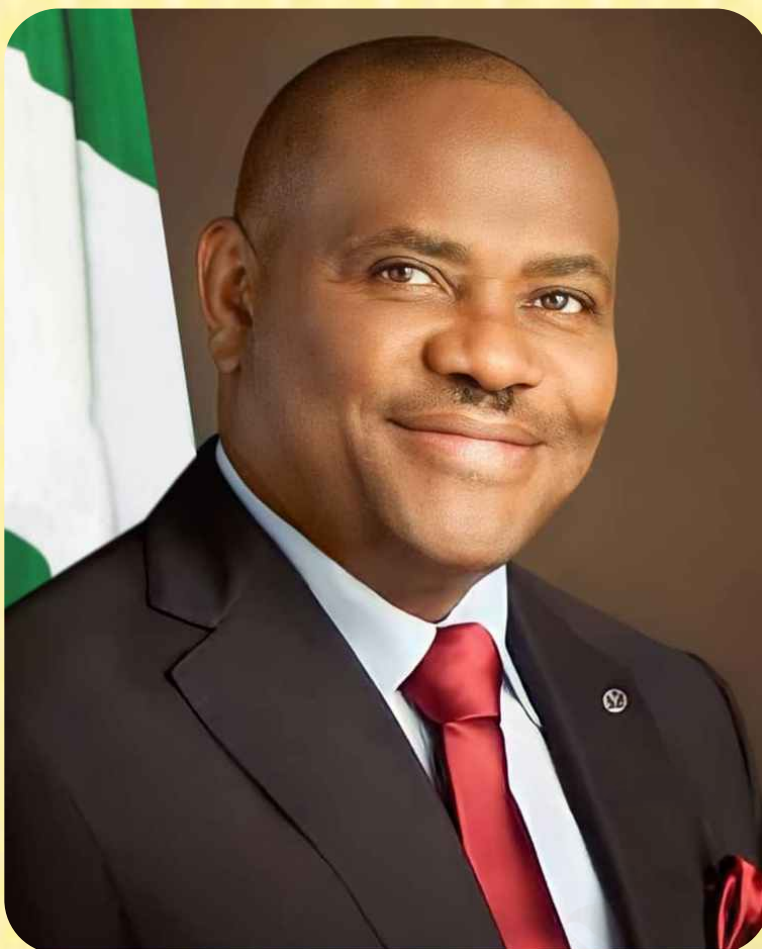
HON. JUSTICE
MONICA BOLNA'AN DONGBAN-MENSEM, CFR
JP+, FCI Arb, FNIALS
PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL,
PRESIDENT OF NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
MINA SOUGRATI
PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN JUDGES



His Excellency
LATEEF O. FAGBEMI SAN
Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice



His Excellency
EZENWO NYESOM WIKE, CON
Hon. Minister, Federal Capital Territory

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES EXCO MEMBERS



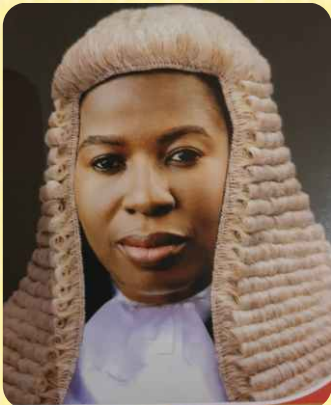
HON. JUSTICE
ENENI OJOKO ABRAHAM
SECRETARY, NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
MONICA BOLNA'AN DONGBAN-MENSEM, CFR
JP+, FCIArb, FNIALS
PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL,
PRESIDENT OF NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
THELMA ADANNA ACHOM
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
YILWA HAUWA JOSEPH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
ONYEKACHI AJA OTISI, PJCA
VICE PRESIDENT OF NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
BOLATITO FLORENCE AJIBADE
PRO, NAWJN



HON. JUSTICE
RALIYA UTHMAN MUHAMMED
FINANCIAL SECRETARY, NAWJN

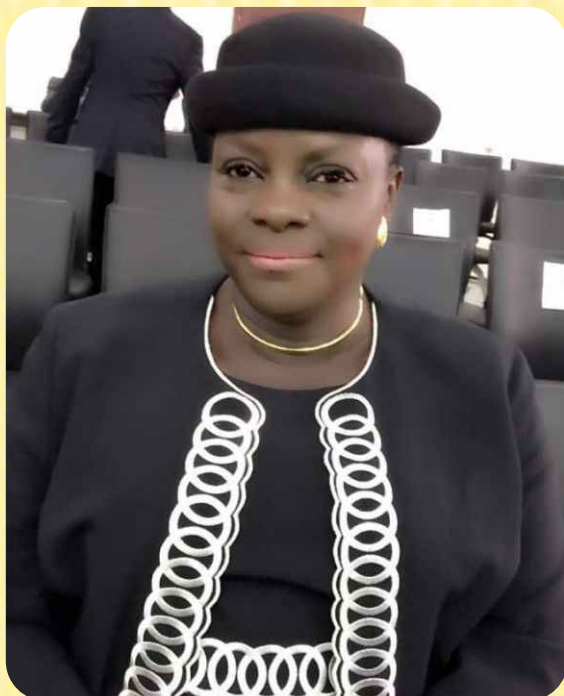


HON. JUSTICE
SAFIYA BADAMASI UMAR
TREASURER, NAWJN

IAWJ AFRICAN REGIONAL DIRECTORS



Lady Justice
HENRIETTA WOLAYO
Eastern & Central African Region



Hon. Justice
ROLI HARRIMAN
West & Southern African Region



PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

12 Noon – 5:00 pm

Venue:

MONDAY JUNE 8:

Arrival /Registration of Participants.

Body of Benchers Complex, Abuja

DAY TWO

8:00 AM - 9:00AM

Arrival and Registration of Participants.

9:00AM - 9:55AM

Arrival of Invited Guests and Dignitaries

9:55 AM - 10:00 AM

Arrival of The Special Guest, Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria

OPENING CEREMONY:

10:00 -10:05AM

National Anthem

Welcome Address: By the President, Court of Appeal and President, National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Monica B. Dongban-Mensem CFR

Goodwill Messages:

- President, International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Hon. Judge Mina Sougrati.
- Hon. Attorney General of the Federation and Minister for Justice, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN
- Hon Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, His Excellency Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, CON

Special Remarks:

Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, The First Lady of Nigeria.

Keynote Address & Official Opening: Hon. Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, GCON, FNJI, FNIALS, Chief Justice of Nigeria.

National Anthem

Group Photographs

PROGRAMME

12.15 PM

Tea Break

12.55 PM

Energy Break

1:00PM

1ST PLENARY SESSION: Paper on “Judiciary as a Catalyst for Social Change: Implementing the IAWJ Principles”

Speaker: Hon. Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo
Kekere-Ekun, GCON, FNJI, FNIALS, Chief Justice of Nigeria.

Chairman of Session: IAWJ President, Judge Mina Sougrati

Discussants:

Ghana
Kenya
Cote d'Ivoire.

2.30PM

Lunch

6:00 – 7:30PM

Cocktail at Court of Appeal Headquarters, Abuja



PROGRAMME

DAY THREE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10:

8:30AM – 9.00AM

Arrival of Participants

9:00AM

Brief Recap of Day Two

9:15AM – 10:15AM

2nd Plenary Session – Paper on “Nurturing/Mentoring the Next Generation of African Women Judges.

Speaker: Hon. Justice Amina Augie, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Rtd

Chairman of Session

Hon. Justice Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Discussants:

- Uganda
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Republique de Benin.

10:45AM - 11:20AM

Tea Break

11:20 - 11:25AM

Energy Break

11:30AM - 12:30PM

3rd Plenary Session- Paper on “Work/Home Management balance”

Speaker: Hon. Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo - Principal Judge of the Republic of Uganda.

Chairman of Session: Hon. Justice Binta Nyako, Past President IAWJ.

Discussants:

- Malawi,
- Tanzania
- Republic of the Congo

1.30PM

Lunch

2:45PM

IAWJ Africa Regional Business Meeting

PROGRAMME

DAY FOUR

THURSDAY JUNE 11:

8:10AM – 8:15AM

Arrival of Participants

9:00AM

Brief Recap of Day Three.

9:15AM - 10:45AM

4th Plenary Session-Paper on “Interactive comparative Conversations/Reflections on Judiciary as a catalyst for Social Change”

Panel: Countries

- Kenya
- South Africa
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Nigeria

Moderator of Panel: Nigeria

Hon. Justice Uwani Musa Abba-Aji, CFR, Justice of the Supreme Court.

10:50AM - 11:20AM

Tea Break

11:20AM

Energy Break

11.30AM - 12:10PM

5th Plenary Session – Presentation:
“Women's Health and Wellness”

Speaker: Dame Dr. Sarah E. Efobi

Chairman of Session: Ghana.

12:15PM - 12:30PM

Question & Answer Session

PROGRAMME

12:40PM

Communique:

Conference Rapporteurs

1. Hon. Justice A. O. Obaseki-Adejumo, JCA
2. Hon. Justice Bolatito Ajibade (PRO, NAWJN)
3. Hon. Justice (Prof.) Elizabeth Oji
4. Hon. Justice Iyabode Oshodi
5. Hon. Justice Theresa Obot
6. Hon. Justice Nauma Jennifer Bibonga
7. Barr. Fatmah Yahaya, NJI
8. Barr. Sa'adat Dati, NJI

1.30 PM

Lunch

2:40PM – 5.00PM

Sightseeing

7:00PM

Venue:

NAWJN Dinner/Gala Night

Abuja Continental Hotel, 1, Ladi Kwali Street,
Wuse Zone 4, FCT, Abuja.

DAY FIVE

FRIDAY, JUNE 12:

Departure

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES



On behalf of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all participants at the IAWJ Africa Regional Conference taking place in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 2026.

This conference provides an important opportunity for women judges from across Africa to come together to share experiences, strengthen professional networks, and exchange ideas on advancing justice, protecting human rights, and promoting gender equality within our judicial systems.

Across the African continent, women judges continue to demonstrate outstanding leadership in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that courts remain accessible, fair, and responsive to the needs of all members of society. The work being done by our members contributes significantly to strengthening public confidence in the judiciary and advancing justice for women, children, and vulnerable communities.

I commend the National Association of Women Judges, Nigeria, and the Africa Regional leadership of IAWJ for their dedication and commitment in organizing this important gathering.

I wish all participants a productive conference and a memorable stay in the vibrant city of Abuja, and I look forward to the continued impact of the IAWJ network across Africa.

Hon. Lady Justice Mina Sougrati
President
International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)



WELCOME ADDRESS BY
HON. JUSTICE MONICA B. DONGAN-MENSEM,
CFR, HPCA, JP+, FCI Arb, FNIALS
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN JUDGES OF NIGERIA (NAWJN)
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES (IAWJ)
AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ABUJA, NIGERIA 8–12 JUNE 2026

PROTOCOLS

On behalf of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) and in collaboration with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), it is my great honour and privilege to warmly welcome Your Excellencies, Your Lordships, distinguished delegates, and our esteemed guests to the IAWJ African Regional Conference holding here in Abuja, Nigeria, from the 8th to the 12th of June 2026.

We are deeply honoured by the gracious presence of Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Her Excellency Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON.

Her Excellency's enduring advocacy for the mentorship of young women and the youth, as well as the welfare and empowerment of women continues to inspire progress across our nation. This aligns closely with the theme of this conference - "Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice".

We are profoundly grateful for the presence of My Lord, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun GCON FNJI whose leadership of the

Nigerian judiciary remains a pillar of integrity, independence, and judicial excellence.

We also warmly welcome the distinguished Chief Justices and Heads of Courts from other jurisdictions whose participation reflects the spirit of cooperation and shared purpose among judiciaries across Africa and the wider international community.

Distinguished guests, this conference gathers an extraordinary assembly of judicial officers, legal practitioners, policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders in the justice sector. Your presence demonstrates our collective resolve to strengthen the administration of justice and promote judicial excellence across our jurisdictions.

The theme of this conference, "Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice," speaks directly to the core mandate of the judiciary. In a rapidly evolving global landscape characterized by complex legal challenges, technological advancements, and increasing public expectations, the judiciary must continue to uphold the highest standards of integrity, competence, fairness, and accountability.

For us as women judges, this gathering carries special significance. Across many jurisdictions, women have made remarkable strides within the judiciary, yet noticeable representation gaps still remain. Platforms such as this conference allow us to share experiences, exchange ideas, and develop strategies that strengthen our institutions and expand opportunities for women within the justice sector.

The National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria, as host of this important regional gathering, remains firmly committed to advancing judicial capacity, promoting gender equality within the judiciary, and fostering collaboration among women judges across Africa and beyond.

Over the course of this conference, we shall engage in thoughtful deliberations, panel discussions, and collaborative sessions designed to deepen our understanding of the challenges confronting the justice sector and to explore innovative solutions that promote judicial excellence and strengthen public confidence in the courts.

Your Excellencies, Your Lordships, distinguished guests, we are confident that the conversations and partnerships forged during this conference will contribute meaningfully to the advancement of justice, the strengthening of judicial institutions, and the promotion of the rule of law across our nations.

Once again, on behalf of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria, I warmly welcome you all to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, and to this important gathering of judicial leaders.

May our deliberations be fruitful and may this conference mark another significant step toward excellence in the administration of justice.

For our visitors, please find time to see our beautiful and calm federal capital city and enjoy the hospitality of our vibrant and hardworking citizens in the natural habitat of African heritage.

Thank you and welcome. Bien venue a tous.





GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The Africa Regional Directors of the International Association of Women Judges are pleased to extend their warmest greetings and best wishes to all participants attending the Africa Regional Conference of Women Judges, scheduled to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, from June 8, 2026. The event will be graciously hosted by the National Association of Women Judges, Nigeria (NAWJN).

This conference is a vital gathering of judicial leaders from across Africa who share a common commitment to strengthening the rule of law, promoting gender equality, and advancing justice for all. It provides a valuable platform for dialogue, collaboration, and sharing best practices in the delivery of equal justice to all.

Africa has made significant progress in recent decades, with more women taking on senior judicial leadership roles, including as Chief Justices and Presidents of Supreme and Constitutional Courts. These milestones not only symbolize progress but also serve as important reminders that women in judicial leadership enhance the credibility, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of our justice systems.

As we gather in Abuja for this important regional conference, we celebrate the achievements of women judges across Africa while renewing our shared commitment to support one another, mentor the next generation of women in law, and promote justice that is fair, accessible, and responsive to everyone's needs. Together, through collaboration, learning, and solidarity, we continue to build a stronger and more inclusive judiciary for Africa.

The Africa Region of the International Association of Women Judges remains committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the skills of women judges, promote equal access to justice, and foster mentorship and professional growth within the judiciary. Events like this conference demonstrate the strength of collective effort and emphasize the importance of building robust networks of judicial collaboration across our continent.

We believe this conference will promote meaningful discussions, enhance professional connections, and generate practical ideas to improve justice administration in our respective jurisdictions. Today, issues like cybercrime, digital evidence, artificial intelligence, and online exploitation are increasingly coming before our courts. These realities require judges who are not only rooted in legal tradition but also ready to address the evolving needs of modern justice systems. That is why gatherings like this are so vital. They allow us to learn from each other, strengthen our networks, and collectively shape the future of justice in Africa.

Another essential responsibility we share is mentorship. Across our continent, countless young women lawyers aspire to leadership within the judiciary. They look to us not only for legal guidance but also for inspiration. One of the most lasting legacies we can leave is a judiciary that is stronger, more inclusive, and better prepared for the future.

We commend the National Association of Women Judges, Nigeria, for their leadership and dedication in organizing this important regional event in the lively city of Abuja. Their efforts embody the spirit of partnership and solidarity that continues to characterize the work of women judges across Africa.

To all participants, we wish you a productive and enriching conference. May your discussions help move forward the shared vision of a judiciary that is independent, inclusive, and responsive to society's needs.

Please accept our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a successful and impactful conference.

Signed

-Honorable Justice Roli Harriman
Africa Regional Director, West & Southern Africa

-Honorable Justice Henrietta Wolayo, Rtd
Africa Regional Director, East & Central Africa



Hon. Justice

Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo

KEKERE-EKUN, *GCON, FNJI, FNIALS*
Chief Justice of Nigeria.

SPEAKER

DAY TWO - TUESDAY JUNE 9TH

1st Plenary Session

Paper on "Judiciary as a Catalyst for Social Change: Implementing the IAWJ Principles".

Born on May 7, 1958, in London, United Kingdom, Honourable Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun is the daughter of Late Senator Hassan Adisa Babatunde Fasinro, OFR, LL.D, a renowned legal practitioner, politician, author and devout Muslim; and Chief Mrs. Winifred Layiwola Ogundimu (née Savage), a distinguished public health practitioner and current head of the Savage Family, a large and prominent Lagos family.

Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun's academic journey began with her early education briefly at St. Saviour's School, Ikoyi, Lagos and later Corona School, Ikoyi, Lagos from where she gained admission into the prestigious Queen's College, Yaba, Lagos for her secondary education. She earned her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from the University of Lagos in 1980 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1981. She later obtained her Master of Laws (LL.M) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London in 1983.

After practicing as an associate at M.O. Oseni & Co. (1985-1989), Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun transitioned into public service, starting as a Magistrate Grade II in 1989 and rising to Chief Magistrate Grade II by 1993. In 1996, she was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos State, where she contributed significantly to judicial reforms.

During her tenure as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos State, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun played a prominent role as a member of the Committee that piloted the amendment of the High Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules in 2004, a landmark reform that introduced front-loading procedures, pre-trial conferences, the application of ADR mechanisms to accelerate the dispensation of justice and filing of witness statements on oath, which required witnesses to provide written statements of their evidence prior to trial. These innovations, now adopted across Nigeria, reflect her forward-thinking

approach and commitment to enhancing the efficiency of the judicial process. As a member of the Steering Committee of the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse, she also championed court-connected alternative dispute resolution, which has since become an integral part of Nigeria's legal framework. In 2004, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun was elevated to the Court of Appeal, where she served in the Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Makurdi and Akure Divisions and presided over key appellate decisions. She was the pioneer Presiding Justice of the Makurdi Division. Her ascent to the Supreme Court on July 8, 2013, as the 5th female to be elevated to that Court marked her entry into the highest court in Nigeria. Her work at the Supreme Court has shaped important legal precedents and Constitutional interpretations.

Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun is a prominent advocate for gender equality, through her membership of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and was the immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Judges Nigeria (NAWJN). She is also a Life Bencher, a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), National Judicial Institute (NJI) and the International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI).

Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun has received numerous honours and awards including the National Honour of Commander of the Order of the Federal

Republic (CFR) in October 2022 and recently, Grand Commander of the Order of Niger (GCON). Her awards from the Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum and the Lagos State Judiciary, to name a few further highlight her exceptional contributions to law and justice.

Sworn in as Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria on August 23, 2024, and subsequently, as the substantive Chief Justice of Nigeria on September 30, 2024, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun now leads the nation's judiciary, bringing her decades of experience and a forward-thinking vision to the role. Her leadership is expected to drive the continued advancement and reform of Nigeria's legal system, reinforcing her legacy as one of the most respected jurists in the country.

A well-rounded individual, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun has a passion for Information Technology and enjoys music, traveling, and reading novels. She is a devoted wife of a very supportive husband, Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, OFR; a proud mother of children who are all excelling in their chosen fields and a grandmother.



Hon. Justice Amina
Augie, CFR, JSC (Rtd)

SPEAKER

DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH

2nd Plenary Session

Paper on "Nurturing/Mentoring
The Next Generation of
African Women Judges."

Hon. Justice Amina Augie, CFR, JSC (Rtd) is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. With a career spanning over four decades, she served in various judicial capacities, including as Presiding Justice of various Divisions of the Court of Appeal, before her appointment to the Supreme Court in 2016, from which she retired in 2023.

A dedicated scholar and mentor, Justice Augie combined her judicial duties with teaching and legal advocacy, inspiring generations of legal minds. She has authored numerous works on human rights, women's rights, and child protection, and has spoken at different fora over the years, on the subject of legal reforms, financial crimes, electoral disputes, and ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), amongst other subjects.

A recipient of the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR), which is one of the National Honours

conferred on Nigerians, who have rendered service to the benefit of the Nation, and many other accolades, Justice Augie is widely respected for her unwavering integrity, legal expertise, and commitment to justice. She is presently the Pro-Chancellor, and Chairman of the Governing Council of Wigwe University, Rivers State, a Private University in Nigeria.

Hon. Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo holds a distinguished legal career that spans the full extent of Uganda's criminal justice system. From her formative years as a State Attorney, she rose steadily through the ranks of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; serving as Resident Senior State Attorney, Principal State Attorney, Senior Principal State Attorney, and ultimately as head of the Anti-Corruption Department.

Between 2018 and 2020, she served as a Judge of the High Court (Criminal Division), where she championed plea bargaining and was the Focal Point Person for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence cases within the Judiciary.

From April 2020 to November 2025, Hon. Justice Abodo served as the Director of Public Prosecutions; the first woman to hold that office. In that capacity, she transformed Uganda's prosecutorial landscape: she expanded the ODPP's regional reach, established Uganda's first prosecutors' virtual academy in East Africa, spearheaded landmark prosecutorial guidelines, strengthened anti-corruption enforcement, and championed gender-sensitive prosecutions. Her tenure was marked by an unwavering commitment to integrity, institutional reform, and public trust.

In November 2025, she assumed her current role as Principal Judge of the High Court of Uganda, the third highest judicial office in Uganda, where she now provides strategic leadership and oversight for the operations of the High Court and subordinate courts.

Her influence extends beyond Uganda. She has served on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Prosecutors, as Secretary General of the Eastern Africa Association of Prosecutors, and as Vice President (Eastern Africa) of the Africa Association of Prosecutors. She has led Uganda's delegation to the United Nations



HON. LADY JUSTICE JANE FRANCES ABODO PRINCIPAL JUDGE

SPEAKER

DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH

3rd Plenary Session

Paper on "Work/Home
Management balance"

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and is a published author on international criminal justice, human trafficking, and alternative justice systems.

A scholar as much as a practitioner, Hon. Justice Abodo holds a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre, and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the prestigious Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. She further enriched her expertise with a Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies from Makerere University, and she is currently a doctoral candidate at the University College of Africa.

Dr. Sarah E. Efobi

SPEAKER:
DAY FOUR - THURSDAY JUNE 11TH
5th Plenary Session
Presentation:
"Women's Health and Wellness"



Physician with keen interest in occupational health, safety, and medical research and over three decades of experience, applying and imparting the knowledge of medical science and technology in a select spectrum of professions and walks of life.

Healthcare giver, advisor, and promoter of individualized lifestyle and attitudinal modifiers of health and wellness, with in-depth expertise in occupational hazards and effects management.

Adept at developing safety protocols and implementing comprehensive health and safety frameworks focused on quality health outcomes and reduction of liabilities.

Intuitive editor and medical research reviewer dedicated to upholding the best practices for scientific accuracy and compliance with global medical publication standards.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES (IAWJ)

The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) is a global non governmental organization founded in 1991 and committed to promoting equal justice and the rule of law worldwide.

The Association brings together women judges from different countries and legal systems to advance judicial integrity, human rights, gender equality, and access to justice. IAWJ provides a platform for collaboration, mentorship, judicial education, and international dialogue on issues affecting the administration of justice.

Founded by a core group of 50 visionary women judges from around the world, the Association has grown into a highly respected global judicial network with over 6,500 judges in more than 100 countries and territories worldwide.

Through its programs and partnerships, IAWJ works to strengthen the capacity of women judges, eliminate barriers within judicial systems, promote gender responsive courts, and support fair and impartial justice for all.

The current President of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) is Hon. Judge Mina Sougrati of Morocco, who serves at the Administrative Tribunal of Casablanca, Morocco.

ABOUT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES OF NIGERIA (NAWJN)

The National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) is the Nigerian affiliate of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), a global organization committed to advancing human rights, promoting equal justice, and strengthening the role of women within the judiciary worldwide.

NAWJN is dedicated to advancing the cause of women in the Nigerian judiciary by promoting access to justice, supporting an equitable legal system, and initiatives that strengthen judicial integrity, gender equality, and the effective administration of justice.



FOUNDING MEMBERS & PAST PRESIDENTS

1. Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar CJN (RTD) GCON
2. Hon. Justice Atinuke Omobonike Ige JCA (LATE)
3. Hon. Justice Olufunmilola Adekeye JSC RTD.
4. Hon. Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa PCA OFR, CFR
5. Hon. Justice Rose Nonyerem Ukeje CJ RTD
6. Hon. Justice Rahila Hadea Cudjoe OFR, CJ RTD
7. Hon. Justice Aisha Dahiru CJ (RTD)
8. Hon. Justice Hansine Napwaniyo Donli
9. Hon. Justice Clara Bata Ogunbiyi JSC
10. Hon. Justice Constance Aisha Rakiya Momoh CJ Rtd
11. Hon. Justice Dorothy Nsa Eyamba-idem CJ (RTD)
12. Hon. Justice G. O. Olateru-olagbegi CJ RTD
13. Hon. Justice Funlayo Ola Oni-okpaku (RTD)
14. Hon Justice Dolapo Akinsanya (RTD)
15. Hon. Justice Cecilia Nzeako JCA RTD
16. Hon. Ibitola Adebisi Sotuminu CJ (RTD)
17. Hon. Justice Titilola Mabogunje
18. Hon. Justice Udom Azogwu JCA (LATE)
19. Hon Justice Oyetunde Ag. CJ (LATE)
20. Hon. Justice Oluyemisi Ajayi
21. Hon. Justice Omosede Omorodion (LATE)
22. Hon. Justice Oyindamola Olomajobi
23. Hon. Justice Raliatu Erelu-habeeb CJ (RTD)
24. Hon. Justice Elizabeth Kenta Membere (RTD)
25. Hon. Justice Sotoye Denton-west JCA
26. Hon. Justice Adzira Gana Mshelia
27. Hon. Justice Uche (Late)

PAST PRESIDENTS

1. Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar CJN (RTD), GCON
2. Hon. Justice Atinuke Ige JCA (LATE)
3. Hon. Justice Zainab Aliyu Bulkachuwa PCA, CFR (RTD)
4. Hon. Justice Rose Ukeje CJ (RTD)
5. Hon. Justice Clara Bata Ogunbiyi, CFR, JSC (RTD)
6. Hon. Justice R. P. I. Bozimo CJ, OFR (RTD)
7. Hon. Justice Binta Nyako
8. Hon. Justice Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju, CFR, JSC
9. Hon. Justice Uwani Musa Abba Aji, CFR, JSC
10. Hon Justice Mary Peter Odili, CFR, JSC, RTD
11. Hon Justice Jummai Hannatu Sankey, OFR .
12. Hon Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, GCON.

CURRENT PRESIDENT

13. Hon. Justice Monica Bolna'an Dongan-Mensem, CFR, HPCA, JP+, FCI Arb, FNIALS

GOODWILL MESSAGES

It is my great honour to extend warm goodwill on behalf of the Judiciary of Kano State at this important gathering of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) African Regional Conference here in Abuja. I must commend the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria for its consistent leadership in promoting judicial integrity and empowering women within the justice sector. The contributions of women judges remain vital in advancing a more inclusive, responsive, and humane justice system. I wish us all fruitful deliberations and a successful conference.

Hon. Justice Dije Abdu Aboki
Chief Judge,
Kano State, Nigeria.

Each of us here is part of a chain. We were once the beneficiaries of someone's encouragement, someone's correction, someone's belief in our potential. The strength of that chain depends on our willingness to add our own link — to teach, to sponsor, to advocate, and to model what principled leadership looks like in practice.

I wish us all a very meaningful and rewarding conference.

Hon. Justice Eunice Aderonke Alade
President, Customary Court of Appeal,
Ondo State, Nigeria.

My Lords,

I am pleased and proud to be a member of the National Association Of Women Judges since I became a judge in the year 2000. The association has been greatly beneficial and impactful in the area of capacity building, welfare, and exposure of women judges around the world through its various conferences and trainings. I appreciate the number one woman judge of our jurisdiction, Nigeria, our amiable Honourable CJN, whom God has graciously given to us and has been delivering impactful and enviable leadership to us. I identify with and commend our colleagues who are instrumental to organising this Abuja Conference. I wish the entire body of women judges all over the world well. I have no doubt in my mind that this conference will be as successful and impactful as it has always been. I therefore encourage all of us to stay focused and draw out the best that this conference promises, for our take home.

I thank my noble lords.

Hon. Justice Oyebola Adepele Ojo,
Hon. Chief Judge,
Osun State.

It is with great pride and a deep sense of purpose that I convey this goodwill message to our esteemed President, members of NAWJN, and all participants gathered for this landmark African Regional Conference of the IAWJ. We recognize the vital role played by members of IAWJ, African Region, in advancing justice across our continent. The work of women judges has been transformative, not only in the decisions delivered from the bench but also in the example set for generations of legal practitioners and citizens who look to our courts as guardians of fairness and equity, inspiring admiration and recognition for their vital role. May our deliberations be fruitful. God bless us all.

Hon. Justice Matilda Abrakasa Ayemieye
Chief Judge, Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm goodwill to My Lords present on the occasion of the African Regional Conference 2026. As we deliberate, share experiences, and forge stronger collaborations, it is my hope that this conference will yield meaningful insights, actionable outcomes and renewed commitments towards all-round Judicial excellence. I wish us all a successful and impactful conference.

Hon. Justice Ijeoma O. Agugua
Acting Chief Judge of Imo State

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm goodwill to NAWJN and IAWJ on the occasion of the Africa Regional Conference. The theme of the Conference is both timely and significant, reflecting our shared commitment to strengthening judicial integrity, efficiency, and access to justice across the continent. It is my earnest hope that this conference will produce meaningful discussions and practical outcomes that will enhance the administration of justice in our respect. Please accept my best wishes for a successful and fruitful conference.

Hon. Justice M. Oluwatoyin Abodunde, FCARB
President
Ekiti State Customary Court of Appeal

On behalf of the Abia State Judiciary, I say a most hearty welcome to my noble sisters from every corner of our continent and beyond to the 20th African Regional Conference of Women Judges of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), convened in our vibrant capital city Abuja. I commend the leadership of the IAWJ for their remarkable achievements and continuous commitment to supporting and empowering women within judicial systems worldwide. I must also pay a well-deserved tribute to the leadership of the NAWJN under its President, Hon. Justice Monica B. Dongban-Mensem CFR, HPCA, whose relentless industry and administrative sagacity has made this 20th African Regional Conference of IAWJ a reality. I am confident that our deliberations will yield innovative practices that will elevate judicial excellence, broaden inclusive representation, and secure meaningful access to justice for all. I eagerly anticipate the resolutions of this year's conference, knowing its power to shape the trajectory of justice delivery in the Region. Congratulations to us all!

Hon. Justice Lilian Abai
Chief Judge of Abia State, Nigeria.

Congratulations to the IAWJ/NAWJN and all participants of the Africa Regional Conference 2026 themed: Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice. I am confident that this conference will foster meaningful dialogue and further strengthen the administration of justice across the region. I wish all participants a successful and rewarding conference.

Hon. Justice Blessing Dalyop
President, Customary Court of Appeal,
Plateau State.

It is my honour, as the Hon. Chief Judge of Bauchi State, to extend warm goodwill to this distinguished gathering of women judges and justice sector leaders from across Africa on the theme "Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice." This conference comes at a critical time when the demand for integrity, inclusiveness, and accountability within our justice systems has never been greater. The convergence of experienced jurists and stakeholders provides a valuable platform to share knowledge, strengthen judicial integrity and advance equitable access to justice for all, particularly for marginalized groups. I am confident that the deliberations will inspire innovative approaches, reinforce professional excellence, and further enhance the role of women in shaping a responsive and credible justice system across our continent. I wish you all fruitful deliberations and a successful conference.

Hon. Justice Rabi Talatu Umar
Chief Judge of Bauchi State.

It is with great pleasure and deep sense of honor that I extend this good will message to all participants gathered here for this important conference.

I must first of all commend the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria for their vision foresight and commitment in bringing the Distinguished participants together for knowledge sharing and meaningful engagement. As you deliberate over the coming days, I encourage you to engage constructively think boldly and collaborate extensively .Let the conference not only generate insightful discussions but also produce actionable strategies that will drive sustainable ground strengthen institutions and enhance regional collaboration across Africa.

Hon Justice Kulu Aliyu, OFR
Chief Judge, Zamfara State.

It is with immense pride and a profound sense of solidarity that I felicitate with the National Association of Women Judges in Nigeria (NAWJN) on the occasion of the Africa Regional Conference 2026. This gathering represents a pivotal moment for the judiciary across the continent, providing a vital platform to strengthen the rule of law, advocate for gender justice, and foster the intellectual exchange necessary to navigate the evolving legal landscapes of our diverse nations. I am confident that the deliberations held during this conference will not only inspire transformative leadership among women in the temple of justice but also leave an indelible mark on the pursuit of equity and judicial integrity throughout Africa; I wish all participants a most rewarding and impactful session.

Hon. Justice Halima Sadiya Mohammed
Chief Judge, Gombe State

CONFERENCE RAPPOORTEURS

1. Hon. Justice A. O. Obaseki-Adejumo, JCA Court of Appeal, Kaduna Division
2. Hon. Justice Bolatito Ajibade (PRO, NAWJN) High Court, Ondo State.
3. Hon. Justice (Prof.) Elizabeth Oji National Industrial Court, Lagos Division.
4. Hon. Justice Iyabode Oshodi High Court, Lagos State.
5. Hon. Justice Theresa Obot High Court, Akwa-Ibom State.
6. Hon. Justice Nauma Jennifer Bibonga High Court, Taraba State.
7. Barr. Fatmah Yahaya National Judicial Institute.
8. Barr. Sa'adat Dati National Judicial Institute.



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NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS

SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

1. HON. JUSTICE KUDIRAT MOTONMORI OLATOKUNBO
KEKERE-EKUN, GCON, CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA
2. HON. JUSTICE UWANI MUSA ABBA AJI, CFR.
3. HON. JUSTICE HELEN M. OGUNWUMIJU, CFR.
4. HON. JUSTICE JUMMAI H. SANKEY, SAN, OFR.
5. HON. JUSTICE CHIDIEBERE NWAOMA UWA, OFR.
6. HON. JUSTICE NWOSU IHME, OFR.

COURT OF APPEAL

7. HON. JUSTICE MONICA BOLNA'AN DONGBAN-MENSEM, CFR, PCA
8. HON. JUSTICE OYEBISI FOLAYEMI OMOLEYE, PJCA
9. HON. JUSTICE UCHECHUKWU ONYEMENAM, PJCA
10. HON. JUSTICE ONYEKACHI AJA OTISI, PJCA
11. HON. JUSTICE MISITURA O. BOLAJI- YUSUF, PJCA
12. HON. JUSTICE AMINAAUDI WAMBAL, PJCA
13. HON. JUSTICE YARGATA NIMPAR, PJCA
14. HON. JUSTICE OLUYEMISI E. WILLIAMS DAWODU, PJCA
15. HON. JUSTICE ABIMBOLA OSARUGUE OBASEKI ADEJUMO, PJCA
16. HON. JUSTICE PATRICIA AJUMA MAHMOUD, PJCA
17. HON. JUSTICE BALKISU BELLO ALIYU, JCA
18. HON. JUSTICE FOLASADE AYODEJI OJO, JCA
19. HON. JUSTICE OLASUMBO GOODLUCK, JCA
20. HON. JUSTICE ADEBUKUNOLA I. BANJOKO, JCA
21. HON. JUSTICE SYBIL ONYEJI NWAKA GBAGI, JCA
22. HON. JUSTICE HANNATU AZUMI LAJA BALOGUN, JCA
23. HON. JUSTICE BINTA TAFIMA ZUBAIRU, JCA
24. HON. JUSTICE ASMA'U MUSA MAINOMA, JCA
25. HON. JUSTICE JANE ESIENANWAN INYANG, JCA
26. HON. JUSTICE HADIZA RABI'U SHAGARI, JCA
27. HON. JUSTICE ZAINAB BAGE ABUBAKAR, JCA
28. HON. JUSTICE NGOZIKA UWAZURUONYE OKAISAHOR, JCA
29. HON. JUSTICE RUQAYAT OREMEI AYOOLA, JCA
30. HON. JUSTICE EBERECHI SUZZETTE NYESOM-WIKE, JCA
31. HON. JUSTICE OYEJOGU OYEBIOLA OYEWUMI, JCA
32. HON. JUSTICE NEHIZENA IDEMUDIA AFOLABI, JCA
33. HON. ASMA'U AKANBI-YUSUF, JCA
24. HON. JUSTICE VICTORIA TOOCHUKWU NWOYE, JCA

FEDERAL HIGH COURT

25. HON. JUSTICEB. F.M. NYAKO
26. HON. JUSTICE I. I. OJUKWU
27. HON. JUSTICE P.M. AYUA
28. HON. JUSTICE M. O. OLAJUWON
29. HON. JUSTICE N. E. MAHA
30. HON. JUSTICE M. T. SEGUN-BELLO
31. HON. JUSTICE O. A. AGBAJE
32. HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
33. HON. JUSTICE HAWAU BUHARI

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT OF NIGERIA

34. HON. JUSTICE M. N. ESOWE
35. HON. JUSTICE F. I.KOLA-OLALERE
36. HON. JUSTICE O. A. OBASEKI OSAGHAE
37. HON. JUSTICE A. N. UBAKA
38. HON. JUSTICE R. B. HAASTRUP
39. HON. JUSTICE S. O. ADENIYI
40. HON. JUSTICE A. A. ADEWEMIMO
41. HON. JUSTICEO. O. OGUNBOWALE
42. HON. JUSTICE E. A. OJI, Ph.D
43. HON. JUSTICE Z. BASHIR, Ph.D
44. HON. JUSTICE A. J. DAMACHI ONUGH

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

45. HON. JUSTICE A. O. OTALUKA
46. HON. JUSTICE A. S. ADEPOJU
47. HON. JUSTICE B. MOHAMMED
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50. HON. JUSTICE S. U. BATURE
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52. HON. JUSTICE F. E. MESSIRI
53. HON. JUSTICE M. A. HASSAN
54. HON. JUSTICE J. O. E. ADEYEMI-AJAYI
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57. HON. JUSTICE B. DOGONYARO
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60. HON. JUSTICE H. L. GUMMI
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62. HON. JUSTICE O. V. ARIWOOLA
63. HON. JUSTICE M. I. TANKO

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS

ABIA

1. HON. JUSTICE LILIANABAI (HCJ)
2. HON. JUSTICE C. O. ONYEABO
3. HON. JUSTICE J. E. ADIELE
4. HON. JUSTICE ORYZIK-IKEORHA
5. HON. JUSTICE C. C. JONESUDEOGU
6. HON. JUSTICE OGECHI OKEHIELEM
7. HON. JUSTICE U. D. ENWEREJI
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9. HON. JUSTICE P. NWEKE
10. HON. JUSTICE P. E. ALVAN OKORONKWO

ADAMAWA

11. HON. JUSTICE MOMSISURI BENARE BANSI- ODO

AKWA IBOM

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ANAMBRA

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BAUCHI

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24. HON. JUSTICE NANA FATIMA JIBRIL
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BAYELSA

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28. HON. JUSTICE EMENI O. ABRAHAM
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BENUE

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47. HON. JUSTICE HADIZA GREMA MUSTAPHA

CROSS RIVER

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70. HON. JUSTICE RITA NGOZI OSSAI
71. HON. JUSTICE BRIDGET ONOME OJEIKERE

EBONYI

72. HON. JUSTICE CHINYERE M. KEN-EZE (HC)
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74. HON. JUSTICE STELLA UKENI-OGOKE (HC)
75. HON. JUSTICE ESTHER AWO OTA (HC)

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76. HON. JUSTICE RUTH OBAJI OKEH (HC)
77. HON. JUSTICE BLESSING IBEABUCHI CHUKWU (HC)
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EDO

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82. HON. JUSTICE M. E. ITSUELI
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84. HON. JUSTICE E. EBOIGBE
85. HON. JUSTICE M. OJO

EKITI

86. HON. JUSTICE MONISOLA OLUWATOYIN ABODUNDE (PCCA)
87. HON. JUSTICE OLUFOLAKEMI OLUFUNKE OGUNDELE
88. HON. JUSTICE OYINKANSOLA OLUWAMAYOMA OLUBOYEDE
89. HON. JUSTICE BLESSING OLUBUKOLA AJILEYE

ENUGU

90. HON. JUSTICE C. I. NWOBODO
91. HON. JUSTICE E. N. OLUEBO
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93. HON. JUSTICE C. A. B. ONAGA
94. HON. JUSTICE C. C. ANI
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100. HON. JUSTICE H. U. EZUGWU

GOMBE

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102. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA MUSA
103. HON. JUSTICE Z. A. RASHEED
104. HON. JUSTICE DAURABO S. SIKKAM

IMO

105. HON. JUSTICE I. O. AGUAGUA (AG. CJ)
106. HON. JUSTICE C. A. ONONEZE MADU
107. HON. JUSTICE S. I.
108. HON. JUSTICE I. GCHUKWUNYERE
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117. HON. JUSTICE U.M. AMAGWU NJOKU
118. HON. JUSTICE O. C. CHUKWUMAEZE
119. HON. JUSTICE A. P. NOSIRI

JIGAWA

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KADUNA

122. HON. JUSTICE HAJARATU TANI DAMI GWADAH (HC)
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125. HON. JUSTICE RABI SALISU-OLADOJA (HC)
126. HON. JUSTICE JOYCE ASADE AKA'AH (HC)
127. HON. JUSTICE NANA FATIMA MOHAMMED (HC)
128. HON. JUSTICE LINDA AMINA YAROSON (CCA)
129. HON. JUSTICE DORCAS TABITHA ATUNG (CCA)

KANO

130. HON. JUSTICE DIJE ABDU ABOKI, (HCJ)
131. HON. JUSTICE AISHA I. MAHMOUD
132. HON. JUSTICE HADIZA SULEIMAN
133. HON. JUSTICE ZUWAIARA YUSUF
134. HON. JUSTICE MARYAM AHMED SABO
135. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA ADAMU
136. HON. JUSTICE HAUWA LAWAN UMAR MINJIBIR
137. HON. JUSTICE FARIDA RABU DANBAFFA
138. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA ALIYU NASIR
139. HON. JUSTICE AISHA MAHMOUD

KATSINA

140. HON. JUSTICE HAJARATU HAJJO LAWAL
141. HON. JUSTICE BARAKA ILYASU WALI
142. HON. JUSTICE SAFIYA BADAMASI UMAR
143. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA LAWAL BAGIWA
144. HON. JUSTICE MARYAM UMAR ABDULLAHI

KEBBI

145. HON. JUSTICE NUSIRAT IBRAHIM UMAR
146. HON. JUSTICE MARYAM ABUBAKAR
147. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA IBRAHIM UMAR
148. HON. JUSTICE LAURATU JAGWADEJI

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS

KOGI

- 149. HON. JUSTICE A. O. SALIHU
- 150. HON. JUSTICE R. A. ALFA
- 151. HON. JUSTICE A. U. MUHAMMED
- 152. HON. JUSTICE H. E. YUSUFU
- 153. HON. JUSTICE C. TOLUWASE
- 154. HON. JUSTICE O. R. HARUNA
- 155. HON. JUSTICE B. A. EZEAMA
- 156. HON. JUSTICE MARYANN O. OTARU

KWARA

- 157. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA A. SALEEMAN
- 158. HON. JUSTICE SEFIYA T. ABDULKADIRZ
- 159. HON. JUSTICE ADENIKE O. AKINKPELU
- 160. HON. JUSTICE AMINA L. ISHAQ
- 161. HON. JUSTICE FUNSHO D. LAWAL
- 162. HON. JUSTICE FATIMAH FUNSHO ABDURAZAQ
- 163. HON. JUSTICE OLUWATOSIN A. ADENIYI

LAGOS

- 164. HON. JUSTICE O. A. IPAYE
- 165. HON. JUSTICE NICOL-CLAY
- 166. HON. JUSTICE M. A. DADA
- 167. HON. JUSTICE R. I. B. ADEBIYI
- 168. HON. JUSTICE Y. A. ADESANYA
- 169. HON. JUSTICE O. A. AKINLADE
- 170. HON. JUSTICE O. I. HARRISON
- 171. HON. JUSTICE I. O. AKINKUGBE
- 172. HON. JUSTICE S. I. SONIAKE
- 173. HON. JUSTICE OGUNGBESAN
- 174. HON. JUSTICE I. E. ALAKIJA
- 175. HON. JUSTICE Y. R. PINHEIRO
- 176. HON. JUSTICE O. I. OGUNTADE
- 177. HON. JUSTICE O. SULE-AMZAT
- 178. HON. JUSTICE AIGBOKHAEVBO
- 179. HON. JUSTICE O. A. ODUSANYA
- 180. HON. JUSTICE O. J. AWOPE
- 181. HON. JUSTICE M. I. OSHODI
- 182. HON. JUSTICE Y. J. BADEJO-OKUSANYA
- 183. HON. JUSTICE O. A. POPOOLA

NASARAWA

- 184. HON. JUSTICE AISHA MOHAMMED USMAN, (HCJ)
- 185. HON. JUSTICE ROSE G. SOJI
- 186. HON. JUSTICE HANATU MOHAMMED KABIRU
- 187. HON. JUSTICE HAFSAT T. SANDA
- 188. HON. JUSTICE ESTHER MAMI EJEH

NIGER

- 189. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA I. ABDULMALIK
- 190. HON. JUSTICE MARIYA M. ISMAILA
- 191. HON. JUSTICE ZAINAB ALIYU SADAT
- 192. HON. JUSTICE MAIMUNA A. ABUBAKAR

OGUN

- 193. HON. JUSTICE M. A. DIPEOLU (HCJ)
- 194. HON. JUSTICE O. O. MAJEKODUNMI (HC)
- 195. HON. JUSTICE C. C. OGUNSANYA (HC)
- 196. HON. JUSTICE O. O. OSUNFISAN (HC)
- 197. HON. JUSTICE A. O. ADEWOLE (HC)
- 198. HON. JUSTICE O. O. ADEBO (HC)
- 199. HON. JUSTICE O. F. OSISANYA (CCA)
- 200. HON. JUSTICE O. A. SOFOWORA (CCA)
- 201. HON. JUSTICE A. O. FEMI-SEGUN (PCCA)
- 202. HON. JUSTICE B. A. AWOYOMI (CCA)

ONDO

- 203. HON. JUSTICE OLUYEMI AKINTAN-OSADEBAY
- 204. HON. JUSTICE (PROF.) ALERO AKEREDOLU
- 205. HON. JUSTICE BOLATITO AJIBADE
- 206. HON. JUSTICE JUSTINA KPEMI

OSUN

- 207. HON. JUSTICE OYEBOLA ADEPELE OJO (HCJ)
- 208. HON. JUSTICE ADEDOTUN A. GACE ONIBOKUN
- 209. HON. JUSTICE AYODELE ADEPELE AJEIGBE
- 210. HON. JUSTICE ADEDOJA OLAYINKA AYOOLA
- 211. HON. JUSTICE OLAMIDE FOLAHANMI OLOYEDE
- 212. HON. JUSTICE KUDIRAT MORAYO AKANO
- 213. HON. JUSTICE OLAYINKA MUYIBAT OJO
- 214. HON. JUSTICE GANIYAT OMOBOLALAWAL
- 215. HON. JUSTICE CHRISTIANA OLUWAKEMI
OBADINA-OLOKEDE
- 216. HON. JUSTICE OLOYEDE OLAMIDE FOLAHANMI

OYO

- 217. HON. JUSTICE I. S. YERIMA
- 218. HON. JUSTICE R. B. AKINTOLA
- 219. HON. JUSTICE O. O. OLATUNJI
- 220. HON. JUSTICE M. I. SULE
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- 222. HON. JUSTICE O. O. AJADI
- 223. HON. JUSTICE O. T. ADEMOLA-SALAMI
- 224. HON. JUSTICE S. A. OYEDIRAN

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS

PLATEAU

- 225. HON. JUSTICE B. L. DALYOP
- 226. HON. JUSTICE N. L. MUSA
- 227. HON. JUSTICE V. J. DADOM
- 228. HON. JUSTICE P. N. NJAR
- 229. HON. JUSTICE G. E. DASHE
- 230. HON. JUSTICE E. I. ANGAI
- 231. HON. JUSTICE M. A. IZAM
- 232. HON. JUSTICE T. N. KPARBONG
- 233. HON. JUSTICE DIANNE NKWAP
- 234. HON. JUSTICE GAVOU M. BATURE

RIVERS

- 235. HON. JUSTICE T. S. OJI
- 236. HON. JUSTICE E. N. THOMPSON
- 237. HON. JUSTICE M. O. OPARA
- 238. HON. JUSTICE HARRIBA J. DAGOGO-JACK
- 239. HON. JUSTICE C. K. DAPPA-ADDO
- 240. HON. JUSTICE L. NGBOR
- 241. HON. JUSTICE C. C. ODILI
- 242. HON. JUSTICE C. A. NSIRIM-NWOSU
- 243. HON. JUSTICE O. DANIEL KALIO
- 244. HON. JUSTICE B. I. EMMANUEL-OKERE
- 245. HON. JUSTICE O. NWIBANI
- 246. HON. JUSTICE I. I. M. OBU

SOKOTO

- 247. HON. JUSTICE RALIYA UTHMAN MUHAMMED
- 248. HON. JUSTICE MARYAM MUHAMMED SLFAWA
- 249. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA AHMADU SUKA
- 250. HON. JUSTICE AMINA MODI YABO
- 251. HON. JUSTICE MARIYA HARUNA DOGONDAJI
- 252. HON. JUSTICE HADIZA SAHABI JAREDI
- 253. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA HASSAN
- 254. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA SAIDU MOHAMMED

TARABA

- 255. HON. JUSTICE CLARA JUMMAI KATAPS
- 256. HON. JUSTICE KAZERA BLESSING KODIYA
- 257. HON. JUSTICE JENNIFER NAUMA BIBONGA
- 258. HON. JUSTICE MANSURA BAGARMI MOHAMMED

YOBE

- 259. HON. JUSTICE KARIMATU BULAMA YUSUF
- 260. HON. JUSTICE HADIZA LAWAN MUSA
- 261. HON. JUSTICE AMINA SHEHU

ZAMFARA

- 262. HON. JUSTICE KULU ALIYU
- 263. HON. JUSTICE RABI BASHIR

RETIRED JUDGES

- 264. HON. JUSTICE BULIAASABEKYENTU (PCCA Rtd)
- 265. HON. JUSTICE ESTHER Y. B. LOLO
- 266. HON. JUSTICE ESTHER O. HARUNA (Rtd)
- 267. HON. JUSTICE MARGARET I. AKPOMIEME (Rtd)
- 268. HON. JUSTICE CHRISTINE DABUP (Rtd)
- 269. HON. JUSTICE FATIMA O. AKINBAMI JCA (Rtd)
- 270. HON. JUSTICE UZOAMAKA I. NDUKWE ANYANWU JCA (Rtd)
- 271. HON. JUSTICE PHILO EKPE JCA (Rtd)
- 272. HON. JUSTICE I. JOMBO OFO
- 273. HON. JUSTICE ADEREMI ADEBANKE ADEKEMI (Rtd)
- 274. HON. JUSTICE CHIKERE-CHINWE LAURETTA (Rtd)
- 275. HON. JUSTICE ROSELYN KANENG SHA (Rtd)
- 276. HON. JUSTICE TANI YUSUF (Rtd)
- 277. HON. JUSTICE CHIOMA ADA (Rtd)
- 278. HON. JUSTICE NGOZI P. EMEHELU (Hon.C.J.Rtd)

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Republic of Benin

1. Edwige Fifamè Aklou Tangni
2. Geneviève Boko Nadjo
3. Elsa Candide Kokossou
4. Grâce Folakè Odjo – Benin

Congo, Democratic Republic

5. Georgette Makonga Lenge
6. Giddish Kaseba
7. Mireille Mbayu Kabongo
8. Bongo Pasi Nsapu
9. Nsana Nsaka Sandra
10. Divine Bafundinsoni
11. Glaudhyel Tumba
12. Tabita Bamungu
13. Yolande Kaboba Mwamba

Côte d'Ivoire

14. Aimée Zebeyoux
15. Charles Laure Aimée Désirée Apisahi Ale

Ghana

16. Malike Awo Woanyah Dey
17. Rosemary Hayford
18. Gifty Dekyem
19. Paul Dickson Dekyem
20. Janapare Bartels-Kodwo
21. Mariama Owusu
22. Hannah Taylor
23. Spencer Francis Taylor
24. Eudora Dadson
25. Alberta Amponsah
26. Marie-Louise Simmons
27. Charity Asem
28. Sheila Crabbe
29. Stella Amedogbe
30. Akosua Anokyewaa
31. Mavis Andoh
32. Amma Gaisie
33. Merley Wood

Kenya

34. Everlyne Achieng Olwande
35. Fatuma Sichale
36. Susan Njoki Ndungu
37. Jacqueline Osiako Ingutiah

38. Caroline Nzilani Ajuoga
39. Charity Seleina Kisotu
40. Fridah Boyani Mokaya
41. Rebecca Jepng'etich Kiplagat
42. Sophia Wanuna Ng'anga
43. Rose Macharia
44. Hon. Lady Justice Hellen
45. Hon. Lady Justice Jamila
46. Hon. Lady Justice Nancy
47. Hon. Irene Marcia Kahuya
48. Hon. Elizabeth Nyarangi
49. Hon. Lady Justice Sophie
50. Hon. Noelle Mutheu
51. Hon. Lorraine Dinna Akinyi
52. Hon. Dr. Sheila Karimi
53. Hon. Lady Justice Jane
54. Hon. Lady Justice Josephine Wayua
55. Ms. Evelyn Mutheu
56. Hon. Letizia Muthoni
57. Hon. Lady Justice Lilian
58. Hon. Jecinta Atieno Orwa
59. Hon. Lady Justice Lucy
60. Hon. Lilian Akumu
61. Hon. Clarence Awuor
62. Hon. Grace Atieno
63. Hon. Betty Chepkemei
64. Hon. Mary Anjao Otindo
65. Hon. Margaret Wanjeri
66. Hon. Muhiyidin Mohamed
67. Hon. Alice Barbara Akinyi
68. Hon. Hassan Omar Daffa
69. Hon. Monicah Kemunto
70. Mobunde Nyamoita Nyakundi

Malawi

71. Margaret Khobili
72. Lisa Chingoli
73. Cecilia Lettiena Onsewa

South Africa

74. Betty Mahalelo
75. Smangele Maryjane Lethiba
76. Sharon Chesiwe
77. Mikateko Octovia Mabobo
78. Audrey Mashigo

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Tanzania

79. Sharmillah Sarwatt
80. Mary Aloyce Moyo
81. Neema Mwangi
82. Jane Lyimo
83. Magdalena Malaba
84. Magdalene Kulwa Malaba
85. Josepha Mwenda
86. Agnes Zephania Mgeyekwa
87. Mary Caroline Levira
88. Salma Magimbi
89. Salma Mussa Maghimbi
90. Pamela Meena
91. Chausiku Kuya
92. Nabwike Mbaba
93. Patricia Kisinda
94. Rose Ally Ebrahim
95. Asha Komba
96. Marygoreth Shangai
97. Aisha Ally Sinda
98. Sophia Wambura
99. Gladys Nancy Barth
100. Winfrida Beatrice Korosso
101. Butamo Kasuka Phillip
102. Monica Otaru
103. Eleanora Okoedion
104. Lilian Itemba

Uganda

105. Jane Frances Abodo
106. Nyakairu Edger
107. Anna Bitature
108. Racheal Nakyazze
109. Mary Babirye
110. Linda Lillian Tumusiime Mugisha
111. Atto Franca Okello
112. Henrietta Wolayo
113. Allen Rukundo

114. Josephine Kayondo
115. Aisia Suzzane Musooli
116. Doreen Ajuna
117. Stella Maris Amabilis
118. Daphine Ayebare
119. Ketty Joan Acca
120. Nambuya Riziki
121. Kebirungi Natukunda Joy
122. Kyembe Karim
123. Godlive Nayebari
124. Hope Bagyenda
125. Elizabeth Musoke
126. Elizabeth Jane Alividza
127. Sarah Tusiime
128. Jeneva Natukunda
129. Aisha Nabukeera
130. Winny Epiphany Afoyorwoth
131. Betty Lunkuse
132. Betty Acikani
133. Angel Kyomugisha
134. Jacqueline Mwondha
135. Atwongeyire Grace
136. Henrietta W
137. Catherine Agwero
138. Olive Kazaarwe
139. Judith Tendo Nambasi
140. Jackline Kagoya
141. Lillian Bucyana
142. Nikitta Akakpo Ilele
143. Zulaika Nanteza
144. Esther Lydia Nakadama Mubiru
145. Winifred Nabisinde

United Kingdom

146. Martha Gayoye

Zambia

147. Catherine Lombe

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue Details:

BODY OF BENCHERS COMPLEX,
NO 12, Y.C. MAIKYAU CRESCENT,
INSTITUTION & RESEARCH DISTRICT,
FCC PHASE III, ABUJA, FCT

Participants:

Please bring along proof of identification (ID, Passport or Driver's License) to ensure that we can process your registration onsite correctly.

Please always wear your conference tags to be allowed access into the conference venue.

Medical Services

1. Medical services will be available at the conference venue.
2. Participants who have any medical condition they wish the event organisers to be aware of are welcome to provide such information through the following email addresses:
nawjn2025@gmail.com,
Malameyilwa@yahoo.com,
and thelmaachom@gmail.com.
All information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Travel Plans and Logistics

International participants are kindly requested to submit their travel itineraries to the following email addresses to facilitate seamless logistics arrangements:
nawjn2025@gmail.com,
Malameyilwa@yahoo.com, and
thelmaachom@gmail.com.

Transport:

Participants are informed that buses will depart from the designated conference hotels at 7:45 a.m. daily to convey

participants to the Conference Venue at the Body of Benchers Complex, Main Hall, Abuja.

Transportation will also be provided at the close of each day's proceedings to convey participants back to the designated conference hotels.

Translation:

Translation services will be available throughout the Conference for the benefit and convenience of our French-speaking participants.

Safety and Security:

Please take care of your personal belongings, conference bag and electronic devices as the organisers will not be held accountable for the loss or damage suffered during the conference. Safety Officers will be deployed to manage the access and ensure that only registered participants with appropriate tags are allowed access to the conference.

Wi-fi Service:

Wi-fi network for internet will be available during the conference.

Scan the QR Code on your tag to access the soft copy of the conference brochure.

Programme Update and Changes:

Changes in the programme will be communicated via the slides within the conference venue.

Dress Codes:

Cocktail: Traditional or Semi-formal.

Conference Days: Black Suit, Business Smart.

Gala Diner: Traditional or Black Tie

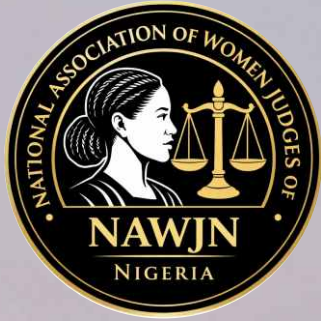
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