

REPORT OF THE 4TH ANNUAL INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEWLY APPOINTED SENIOR ADVOCATES OF NIGERIA, HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2021 AT THE FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 General Introduction

1.1 Introduction.....2
1.2 The Objective.....2
1.3 The Organising Team.....2

2.0 Summary of Sessions

2.1 Opening Preliminaries.....3

2.2 Session One: Excellence and Professionalism in the Practice of Law

- Understanding the Culture and Demands of Continuous Excellence at the Inner Bar (The Supreme Court Perspective) 3
- Understanding the Culture and Demands of Continuous Excellence at the Inner Bar (Court of Appeal Perspective) 4
- The Senior Advocate of Nigeria: A Rebuttable Presumption of Excellence in Legal Practice (A View from the Bar) 4
- The Senior Advocate of Nigeria: A Rebuttable Presumption of Excellence and Ship in Legal Practice (A View from the Bench) 5

2.3 Session Two: Legal Practice as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria 5

- The Duty of Senior Advocates to the Society5
- The Relationship of Senior Advocates with other Lawyers 6
- The Relationship of Senior Advocates with the Courts

2.4 Session Three: Accountability and Discipline of Senior Advocates of Nigeria.....8

- Professional Misconduct and Discipline of Senior Advocates of Nigeria.8
- Advocacy Through Legal Research9

2.5 Session Four: General Introduction and the Role of Legal Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law10

- Ethics of the Legal Profession and Professionalism10

3.0 Summary of Interactive Session11

4.0 Closing Formalities..... 12

5.0 Appendixes.....12

6.0 Communique 15

- Appendix 1 – List of the New Appointees13

1.1 General Introduction

The Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN) is a platform that brings together all Senior Advocates in Nigeria towards achieving the same objectives in the Judiciary including to maintain the highest standards of professional ethics, conducts, etiquette and discipline; to ensure and maintain the dignity of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria; and to promote the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and the highest professional standards of legal practice. The Annual Induction Programme is one of the pre-swearing in activities organised by the BOSAN for the newly appointed members of the Inner Bar before their conferment. The theme for the 2021 induction programme was ‘**Legal Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law**’. It was the fourth in a row since the recommendation and directive were first made in 2018.

1.2 The Objective

The Induction programme was a recommendation by the Chief Justice of Nigeria as an orientation for the newly appointed Senior Advocates of Nigeria on their leadership role in the legal profession, professional ethics and conduct as members of the Inner Bar. It also serves as a platform to provide insights into the expectations from Senior Advocates and to remind them of the Rules of Professional Ethics, conduct and professionalism in the legal profession.

1.3 The Organising Team

The induction ceremony had a team and a faculty with the following members:

a. Facilitators:

- i. Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Mohammad, JSC
- ii. Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko, JSC
- iii. Hon Justice Helen Ogunwumiju, JSC
- iv. Hon. Justice Mojeed Owoade, JCA
- v. Hon. Justice Obietonbara Owupele Daniel-Kalio, JCA
- vi. Chief ‘Folake Solanke, CON, SAN
- vii. Mr. Olumide Sofowore, SAN
- viii. Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN
- ix. Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN
- x. Professor Fabian Ajogwu, SAN

b. Induction Programme Co-ordinators:

- i. Prof. Olanrewaju A, Onadeko, SAN - Induction Programme Co-ordinator

- ii. Mrs Nella Andem-Ewa Rabana, SAN
- iii. Dr. Muiz Banire, SAN
- iv. Dr. Dapo Olanipekun, SAN
- v. Ms. Linda Odia
- vi. Mr. Fatiu Badmus

2.0 Summary of Sessions

2.1 Opening Preliminaries

The orientation programme commenced at 10:00am and was anchored by the induction programme co-ordinator, Prof. Olanrewaju Onadeko, SAN and Prof. Fabian Ajogwu, SAN.

Prof. Onadeko, SAN formally welcomed everybody present at the event. He stated that the essence of the programme was to further introduce the ethics of the profession to the appointees; to reiterate the seriousness of the ethics of the profession to those who are already aware and to generally put them through on the expectations from them. He added that the rules of the profession are and should be taken seriously by all members. He apologised for the errors on the programme brochure relating to the names and photos of some of the appointees and promised that the mistakes would be corrected to avoid any problem in the future. On behalf of the Induction Committee, the Learned Silk congratulated and welcomed them to the Inner Bar.

2.2 Session 1 Sub- Theme: Excellence and Professionalism in the Practice of Law

This session had four facilitators who discussed the sub theme from different perspectives.

The first discussion was on the topic '**Understanding the Culture and Demands of Continuous Excellence at the Inner Bar (The Supreme Court Perspective)**' by Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Mohammad, JSC.

The Hon. Justice noted that from the beginning, most practitioners already have ideas about what they would be in the profession. He congratulated the newly appointed Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs) for accepting to be known positively as that is prestigious. He stated that most of them have been mentored and now have juniors in their chambers. He enjoined them to ponder on the qualities of their mentors that they would want to imbibe. In response, the following qualities were echoed – integrity, honesty, excellence, professionalism, absolute respect for the rule of law. The Hon. Justice added that there should be continuity in mentorship

from those they look up to (their mentors); and that as advocates, they should think about those who would take over the mantle from them.

He also noted that the Judiciary must be transparently clean. Citing the assessment by the ICPC in which the Judiciary occupies the first position on the corruption index in the country, the Hon. Justice emphasised that the allegation against the Judiciary as the most corrupt body in the country would be mitigated if they, as Senior Advocates, act right. He reminded them that their actions are judged by the public; and that the Judiciary is a very important body for without the Judiciary, there would be no peace in the country.

In conclusion, Hon Justice Musa Dattijo Mohammad, JSC stated that the elevation to Senior Advocate of Nigeria comes with enormous responsibility. So rather than congratulate them, he would pray that they live up to the enormous responsibilities.

Hon. Justice Mojeed Owoade, JCA made the second presentation on the topic '**Understanding the Culture and Demands of Continuous Excellence at the Inner Bar (Court of Appeal Perspective)**'. In his presentation, the Hon. Justice reiterated that to be appointed as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a person should have a profound knowledge of the law such that the society knows him for that. He added that there is also the need for knowledge of information technology. The Hon. Justice also noted that integrity is a moral issue and that an advocate should demonstrate same at all times. He emphasised that they must pass down qualities such as punctuality, dignity and decorum to their mentees who are ambassadors of their various chambers. The Hon. Justice enjoined the appointees not to join the band of lawyers who like to write petitions. According to him, they can get what they want without petitions. He further advised them not to grant interviews, if they must, with their wigs on, and that they should not denigrate their colleagues.

The third presentation was on the topic '**The Senior Advocate of Nigeria: A Rebuttable Presumption of Excellence in Legal Practice (A View from the Bar)**' by Mr. Olumide Sofowora, SAN.

The Learned Silk stated that presumption is an assumption taken by the court as a fact unless otherwise proved. To qualify for conferment as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mr. Sofowora, SAN stated that a person must have practiced law for not less than 10 years among other requirements. He added that Senior Advocates must see themselves as role models who go out of their way to develop others; and who do not aid or abet corruption by frustrating fights against the menace. The Learned Senior Advocate further added that Senior Advocates and

indeed legal practitioners should refrain from using interlocutory applications to slow down matters in court. He advised the newly appointed Learned Silks to be tolerant for a better and smoother relationship with the court, adding that respect begets respect. The Learned Silk also stated that legal practitioners should speak with energy, with clarity and cohesion, and that they should maintain absolute frankness, noting that improper behaviours in court hardly go unnoticed. He advised that the relationship in the profession should be guided by the popular and common maxim ‘do unto others what you want others to do unto you’. In conclusion, he reminded them that some Senior Advocates of Nigeria have been suspended for conducts not befitting of a Senior Advocate. He however expressed his wish that such would not happen to any of them.

Hon. Justice Obietonbara Owupele Daniel-Kalio, JCA made the fourth presentation on the topic ‘**The Senior Advocate of Nigeria: A Rebuttable Presumption of Excellence in Legal Practice (A View from the Bench)**’.

The Hon. Justice stated that to take the silk shows the appointees have good knowledge of the law and leadership quality; that they must have also impressed the committee on issues such as the number of juniors in their chambers and the quality of their libraries. He noted that the rank is conferred on persons who have attained high standing in practice or academics - those who have distinguished themselves by making substantial contribution to law through teaching and research. He opined that a Senior Advocate is not expected to be perfect as nobody is without faults, so that the presumption of excellence therefore remains a fact, though rebuttable. Noting that many Senior Advocates are in the habit of blaming the juniors in their chambers for faults emanating from their chambers, Hon. Justice Daniel-Kalio stated that SANs are the ones who carry out most of the high-profile cases and that they should admit faults from such actions. He reminded them that the conferment is a privilege, not a right and so can be suspended or withdrawn on certain grounds that are unworthy of the status. He however admitted that many Senior Advocates have carried themselves appropriately in courts, adding that the conferment comes with enormous expectations.

2.3 Session 2 Sub- Theme: Legal Practice as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria

The first presentation in this session was made by Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko, JSC on the topic ‘**The Duty of Senior Advocates to the Society**’.

In his opening statement, the Hon. Justice noted that a Senior Advocate is like a knight in the church. Discussing the requirements, he stated that a Senior Advocate must have been called

to the Bar, practised for at least 10 years, and is selected among many legal practitioners. He must possess high moral standards and demonstrate excellent skills in the practice and usage of the law for the administration of justice. He noted that moral bankruptcy and embezzlement can disqualify a person from being elevated. He also stated that a Senior Advocate must be seen as being above-board in all that he does, both in integrity and character, as the society expects more from them.

Chief ‘Folake Solanke, CON, SAN took the second presentation in this session on the topic **‘The Relationship of Senior Advocates with other Lawyers’**

The learned Senior Advocate stated that members of the Inner Bar are expected to respect the court and the law, as well as respect the juniors; that they should treat other lawyers politely and not contemptuously; and that they should collaborate with other lawyers to support and promote the NBA. According to the respected learned silk, Senior Advocates should apologise and offer explanations when they are late to court. They should teach the juniors the value of time as punctuality is very important. They should also demonstrate a superb and friendly relationship with the courts.

She noted that the rule against advertisement is a strict one and that it is not a defence that they were not consulted before the advertisement. She reminded them that until they are sworn in, they should not be seen robed. Chief ‘Solanke, CON, SAN enjoined the Senior Advocates to ensure an adequate remuneration of junior lawyers in line with the number of hours under Labour Law. Reminding them that the junior lawyers also have a life outside the office and practice, the learned Senior Advocate stated that overtime should not be a daily thing. She spoke against bullying of junior lawyers while adding that they should not be too busy to supervise the junior ones. She noted that all men are equal before God and so they should do to others what they want done to them.

Going further, the learned Silk advised the Senior Advocates:

- To teach the juniors time management
- To ensure that their juniors cultivate the habit of reading, as a person who reads well speaks and writes well.
- to teach juniors to seek advice before rendering legal advice
- to make the juniors understand that they owe a duty to seniors, the court and to clients and should yield their seats to seniors if there are no chairs. Courtesy is one of the pillars of the legal profession.

- To make the juniors understand that bowing is a part of the profession

Chief ‘Folake Solanke, CON, SAN also stated that legal practitioners should be corruption-free. She advised that every practitioner should maintain a clients’ account and ensure integrity and good character. Lawyers should be impeccable in their dressing. Submitting that legal practitioners should not keep silent in the face of injustice, she opined that bandits, rapists and kidnappers all inflict terror and are all terrorists. She reminded them that intellectual research is demanding, and that Senior Advocates have the discretion to demand for honorarium for their presentations and lectures.

The third presentation was taken by Mrs. Miannaya Essien, SAN on the topic ‘**The Relationship of Senior Advocates with the Courts**’.

The learned Senior Advocate started by reading out the oath which the new appointees would be sworn to at their conferment. She reminded the newly appointed Senior Advocates that they would not be appointed without being lawyers called to the bar – they are therefore bound by the rules guiding legal practitioners. She stated that in presenting a matter in court, a lawyer should not conceal important authorities that are necessary for the trial of the matter. She added that as legal practitioners, they owe the duty to disclose all authorities, even if they are against them because legal practitioners must not mislead the court or fabricate evidence.

The learned Senior Advocate noted that a Senior Advocate is expected to show example to the juniors. He should always conduct himself properly and with decency; rise when being addressed by the court and should not engage in degrading conducts. She stated that a legal practitioner should appear in dignifying manner and should not attract unnecessary attention to himself. He should not create the impression that he is seeking favour from the court and should not carry himself as to show he has a relationship with the court. He should not engage in the exchange of banter with other lawyers. Senior Advocates should allow the juniors to sit with them when the court is congested rather than leaving them to stand. According to the Learned Silk, there is a symbiotic relationship between the Senior Advocates and other lawyers. She emphasised that the privileges attached to conferment are exercisable solely in courts.

Newly appointed members are not to robe when they have not been conferred and the ceremonial apparels are restricted to ceremonies.

2.4 Session 3 Sub- Theme: Accountability and Discipline of Senior Advocates of Nigeria

The first presentation on this session was taken by Hon Justice Helen Ogunwumiju, JSC on the topic **‘Professional Misconduct and Discipline of Senior Advocates of Nigeria’**

The learned Justice started by thanking the organisers of the induction ceremony for inviting her and extolling the idea of a workshop for the newly appointed Senior Advocates. She stated that senior advocates are expected to be role models and beacons of discipline and accountability for the Outer Bar. They are held to the highest standards of professional etiquette and behaviour and must adhere to same in every situation. They are expected to have poise, panache, and grace without arrogance. She noted that there is a controversy as to the appropriate body for the discipline of Senior Advocates and which body would impose sanctions to erring senior advocates - whether it is the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) or the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC). The Guidelines of 2018 stipulates what constitutes an inappropriate behaviour of a senior advocate. It also empowers the Privileges Committee to withdraw the rank of a member for actions found incompatible with dignity and honour of a senior advocate.

She noted that the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) prescribes appropriate behaviour and decorum for all lawyers including Senior advocates. On the other hand, the Guidebook prescribes appropriate behaviour and sanctions for infraction for senior advocates who are first lawyers before they are elevated to the rank of senior advocates. This means that for a senior advocate to be sanctioned by the Privileges Committee, he must first be found culpable of infamous conduct by the LPDC. Thereafter the Privileges Committee can either withdraw the rank, admonish, or suspend the senior advocate as the case may be.

She stated that the process of punishing an erring senior advocate twice under both disciplinary committees appears to lead to double jeopardy. In the opinion of the learned justice, the Outer Bar and the Inner Bar will need to decide on a single disciplinary body for both sections of the Bar to eliminate the apparent hardship in the disciplinary process of the members of the Inner Bar. She suggested that the single independent body should comprise of eminent practitioners and judges who are retired from active practice and service respectively. The Hon. Justice further stated that regardless of what body seized with the responsibility to discipline the members of the Inner Bar, a Senior Advocate must avoid any circumstance that will trigger the disciplinary process including the removal of their names from the privileged list.

She also stated that Senior Advocates have a duty to ensure the excellence of the legal profession. All counsel have a duty to respect other lawyers and the courts. The newly

appointed Senior Advocates must be humble, always pondering on how their career started and how far they have come.

She noted that some lawyers discuss the conduct of judges in cases that are *sub judis*, particularly at the high court stage while some participate in suing judges. She described these cases as not being the best for the reputation of the Inner Bar and enjoined the newly appointed members to desist from such. She further stated that members of the Inner Bar are supposed to be up to date with law reforms, case law, etc on specific issues. A Senior Advocate must not denigrate himself because of a particular brief no matter how highly charged. According to her, there will be many other briefs. They must also desist from frivolous appeals.

The Hon. Justice condemned the practice of some lawyers who instigate the court to ignore existing decisions by making contradicting submissions in different jurisdictions on the same issue, just to win in a matter, thereby confusing the judges and leading to conflicting decisions from different judges on the same issue. She enjoined the newly appointed Senior Advocates to avoid such practice.

The second presentation was made by Prof Olujemisi Bamgbose, SAN on the topic **‘Advocacy Through Legal Research’**.

In her presentation, the Learned Silk noted that one of the prerequisites for the conferment of the rank is a visit to the law chambers of intending Senior Advocates. According to her, this prerequisite denotes the importance of research in the practice of a Senior Advocate. She spoke on the requirement that senior advocates should have a well-stocked and up to date library with standard textbooks, statute books and law reports, pointing to the need for high quality legal research. She stated that a senior advocate has a tripartite duty - to his client, the court, and the society. In discharging these duties, Professor Bamgbose SAN noted that the senior advocate must also contribute either significantly or substantially to the development of legal practice. This applies to both those in the academia and fulltime practice. It is through research that senior advocates who have been in practice for over a decade or more, contribute significantly or substantially to the development of legal practice. She emphasised that to whom much is given, much is expected. She identified ways to make significant/substantial contribution after conferment. These include through:

- Ground-breaking publications
- Counselling and mentorship of law students
- Review of rules of court, books, and substantive laws
- Development of new areas of law and practice

- Analysing of judgements

The Learned Silk further identified the disadvantages of poor or lack of legal research which include:

- The Senior Advocate will not be up to date with current advancements both in law and practice
- Issues of personal liability may arise from clients suing the Senior Advocate for lack of diligent prosecution or representation.

In conclusion, the learned Professor noted the ways through which senior advocates can keep abreast of the development of law and practice as well as make the required contribution through legal research. She advised the new appointees to consider the following:

- Deliberate investment in personal development through attendance of conferences and workshops
- Mandatory continuing legal education
- Mentorship of junior lawyers within and outside their chambers
- Dedication to student supervision
- Engaging in pro bono work including teaching at the universities around the country

2.4 Session 4 Sub- Theme: General Introduction and the Role of Legal Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law

The presentation in this session was made by Prof. Fabian Ajogwu on the topic ‘**Ethics of the Legal Profession and Professionalism**’.

The erudite Professor and senior advocate stated that there is something in being professional and in being validated by one’s profession. He noted that conferment as a Senior Advocate is a rare point of the legal profession and that they need to work harder to remain at that point.

On dressing, the learned silk stated that senior advocates must dress appropriately as members of the Inner Bar and of a regulated profession. He added that clients equally consider the Senior Advocate’s apparel and charged them to look at the book on dress code and decorum, and grade themselves and other over 600 Senior Advocates in Nigeria. He noted that the rank confers privileges and comes with responsibilities. They must show respect to the court and provide leadership by according respect to judges. Junior colleagues should also be treated civilly and courteously. He added that the rank is the apex of law practice.

Going further, the learned Senior Advocate emphasised on the rule against advertisement, adding that it is a strict liability rule. They must not be seen robed until they are conferred with the rank on the appointed date. They must not grant interviews in their official attire, must show respect to colleagues, and not denigrate the Inner Bar. He emphasised that the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria is a privilege which can be withdrawn within appropriate circumstances. He noted that the standard of decorum for members of the Inner Bar is much higher. He enjoined members to embrace the tenets of professionalism which includes knowing when to say no, what to do and what not to do. This should also reflect on the sensitive client-attorney relationship in good faith, honesty and integrity. It is important to provide leadership both for the Inner and the Outer Bar.

On the issue of professional fees, the Learned Silk stated that a Senior Advocate is a premium service provider and there are no excuses for providing less quality services at this level. The Senior Advocate can charge premium fees as he provides premium services with fewer mistakes and infractions. On how to structure fees along newly acquired status, Prof Ajogwu, SAN advised the Senior Advocates to seek guidance from colleagues, as they would guide them on how not to appear cheap or be priced out of the market.

In closing, he stated that the best lawyer is he who gains satisfaction from what he does. He noted that there are two sides of corruption - the initiator and the person accepting same. The newly appointed Senior Advocates must avoid corruption at all costs and assist other officers of justice to keep their oaths of office. He decried the culture of petition writing against judges, adding that it weakens the resolve for justice.

3.0 Summary of Interactive Session

At the end of the presentations, there was an interactive session where questions, observations and contributions were entertained from the newly appointed Senior Advocates of Nigeria. During this session, Chief Mrs. Solanke, SAN noted that mentorship remains an important duty of Senior Advocates. She however added that mentorship or correction should be done carefully and in a graceful manner, making sure the junior ones do not feel disgraced.

On the question relating to the rule against robing as a senior advocate, before being officially conferred, Prof Ajogwu, SAN stated that although the newly appointed members have been requested to submit photographs in their ceremonial regalia for the publication of a compendium before the induction date, the due date for submission of photographs is not cast in stone and cannot be a basis for the waiver of the rule against robing before induction. He

advised that the newly appointed senior advocates can request for extension of time within which to submit the photographs.

On a question regarding the issue of double jeopardy arising from the disciplining of senior advocates by two different bodies, Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju, JSC stated that a senior advocate who has been accused of an infamous conduct must first be found guilty by the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee and then the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee can go ahead to impose sanction(s).

On whether a senior advocate can invite a member of the Outer Bar to sit in the front row, Prof Ajogwu, SAN stated that there must be a need to invite a member of the Outer Bar to sit with the Senior Advocates. He added that the inviting Senior Advocate must seek the consent of other senior advocates present and also seek for leave of court before giving such invitation. Chief Solanke, SAN added that the consent should be sought from the most senior member of the Inner Bar present, who then can ask the court and invite the member of the Outer Bar himself. In her reaction, Mrs Essien, SAN, stated that normally, most colleagues will not expect to be invited where there is no need to do so.

On the issue of liability where a congratulatory message is posted on social media without the knowledge of a new Senior Advocate, it was stated that senior advocates should show examples to others; that they should make efforts not to violate these rules which were made by the NBA, and to be respected by all. Mr Emeka Ngige, SAN, in his reaction advised that it is best to inform friends and family that advertisement is strongly discouraged.

4.0 Closing Formalities

Prof. Olanrewaju Onadeko, SAN gave an overview of the presentations. He stated that the hallmark of a member of the Inner Bar is the ability to give the court maximum respect. According to him, in the Inner Bar, your appearance will speak for you sometimes. He emphasised that a senior advocate should not be seen shabbily dressed. This extends to combination in dressing and in native attires.

Mrs. Essien, SAN stated that it is possible that a senior advocate will turn down briefs, however it will be worth it in the end. There is also the possibility of income dropping significantly. Senior Advocates should not despair as it would pick right back up.

Mr. Olumide Sofowora, SAN admonished the newly appointed Senior Advocates not to be intimidated by older senior advocates. Do not let anyone belittle your achievements and rank;

resist any disrespectful treatment by older Senior Advocates but show respect to those who got the rank before you. Where an old senior advocate is late, a young Senior Advocate could offer his seat to the older one, but do not be intimidated into giving up your seat.

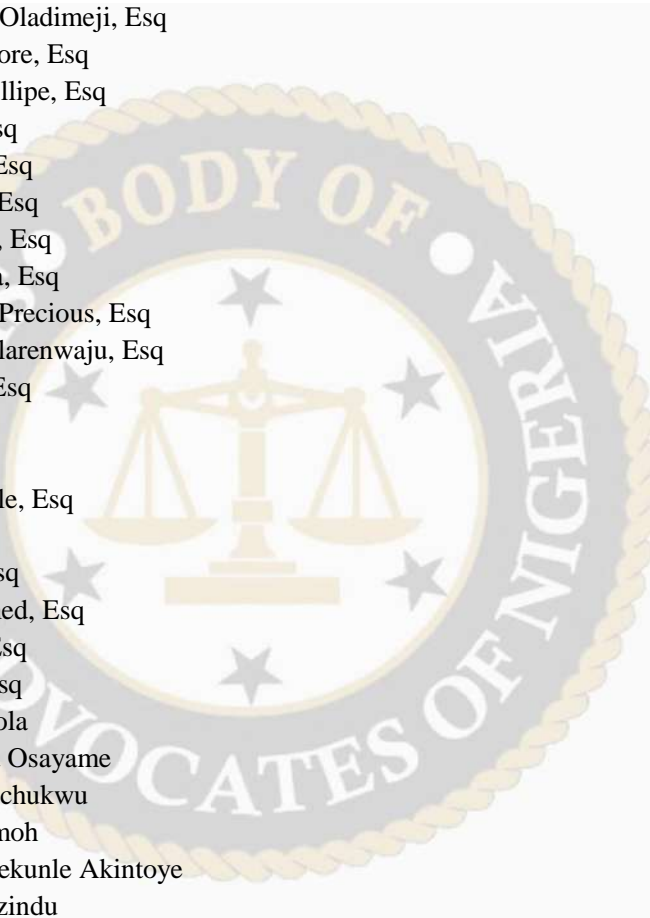
Chief Mrs. Solanke, SAN added that the new Senior Advocates should not feel superior to the local NBA branches but should rather relate with the local branch and be a role model there.

At the end of the induction programme, plaques were awarded to all the facilitators at the programme. As part of the swearing in requirements, certificates of attendance were presented to the newly appointed Senior Advocates of Nigeria.

5.0 List of New Appointees

1. Adeniyi Anthony Ademuyiwa, Esq
2. Umeh Philip Ndubuisi Evaristus, Esq
3. Ovwah Ogaga, Esq
4. Afuba Peter Aguigom, Esq
5. Ajose-Adeogun Olaotan Olusegun, Esq
6. West-Idahosa Ehiogie, Esq
7. Awa Uche Sunday, Esq
8. Mekwunye Charles Dumbiri, Esq
9. Oladoja Tajudeen Olaseni, Esq
10. Akaraiwe Ikeazor Ajovi, Esq
11. Omotosho Francis, Esq
12. Onuzulike Felix Anayo, Esq
13. Oru Marcelluous Eguvwe, Esq
14. Ihua-Maduenyi Charles Udoka, Esq
15. Agbola Adeleke Olaniyi, Esq
16. Uzuegbu Benjamin Chukwudi, Esq
17. Akinola James Akingbola, Esq
18. Ihediwa Uchenna Chinyere, Esq
19. Adeluola Olukayode Oluwole, Esq
20. Olotu Bolarinwa, Esq
21. Hassan Usman El-Yakub, Esq
22. Olorunfemi Ayo Abraham, Esq
23. Atabo Reuben Okpanachi, Esq
24. Fapohunda Adekola Olawale, Esq
25. Okoli Ikenna, Esq
26. Mordi Mark Okeibunor, Esq
27. Seriki Sheriff Rotimi, Esq
28. Opara Victor Ugwuezumba, Esq
29. Ndayako Mohammed, Esq
30. Ojo Adekunle Akanbi, Esq
31. Adele John Ogwu, Esq
32. Wodu Kemasuode, Esq

33. Ayinla Salman Jawondo, Esq
34. Obiorah Edwin Sunday Chukwujekwu, Esq
35. Abdulhamid Mohammed, Esq
36. Atung Samuel. Esq
37. Itula Fredricks Ebos, Esq
38. Anuga George Audu, Esq
39. Mustapha Dauda Adekola, Esq
40. Idris Ibrahim Agbomere, Esq
41. Gbadamosi Kazeem Adekunle, Esq
42. Aliyu Kabir, Esq
43. Nworka Chidi Benjamin, Esq
44. Abdul-Rasheed Muritala Oladimeji, Esq
45. Kotoye Adeyinka Moyosore, Esq
46. Obegolu Emeka Jude-Phillipe, Esq
47. Aruwa Shaibu Enejoh, Esq
48. Somiari Sammie Abiye, Esq
49. Onwuenwunor Clement, Esq
50. Omotunde Adeola Rasaan, Esq
51. Mogboh Anthony Obinna, Esq
52. Emeka Chijioke Ogugua Precious, Esq
53. Ogungbade Oluwasina Olarenwaju, Esq
54. Lough Simon Asamber, Esq
55. Adedipe Ayodeji, Esq
56. Kuti Afolabi Fatai, Esq
57. Fatogun Eyitayo Ayokunle, Esq
58. Eko Ejembi Eko, Esq
59. Usman Jacob Johnson, Esq
60. Sani Abdulaziz Mohammed, Esq
61. Burkaa Matthew Gwar, Esq
62. Hussaini Ishaq Magaji, Esq
63. Prof Oyewo Ajagbe Toriola
64. Prof Omorogbe Oluyinka Osayame
65. Dr Ojukwu Anthony Okechukwu
66. Prof Ijaodola Rasheed Jimoh
67. Prof. Sodipo Bankole Adekunle Akintoye
68. Dr. Wigwe Christian Chizindu
69. Dr Agbonika Josephine Aladi Achor
70. Prof Sanni Abiola Olaitan
71. Prof Omoregie Edoba Bright
72. Prof. Abdullahi Ibrahim



COMMUNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

The 4th induction programme was organised by the Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BOSAN) for the newly appointed Senior Advocates. It was one of the pre-swearing in activities for the new members before their conferment on December 8, 2021. It was the 4th in a row since the recommendation and directive were made in 2018. The programme served as an orientation for the new members and as a platform to provide insights into the expectations from the new members of the Inner Bar. The Induction Programme was attended by the new Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs), a few old SANs, the Induction Committee members, and the following facilitators: Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Mohammad, JSC, Hon. Justice Ejembi Eko, JSC, Hon Justice Helen Ogunwumiju, JSC, Hon. Justice Mojeed Owoade, JCA, Hon. Justice Obietonbara Owupele Daniel-Kalio, JCA, Chief 'Folake Solanke, CON, SAN, Mrs. Miannaya Essien, SAN, Mr. Olumide Sofowore, SAN, Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose, SAN and Professor Fabian Ajogwu, SAN. The theme of the Induction Programme, '**Legal Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law**' was enriched by discussions of the erudite facilitators on the following perspectives:

1. Excellence and Professionalism in the Practice of Law
2. Legal Practice as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria
3. Accountability and Discipline of Senior Advocates of Nigeria
4. General Introduction and the Role of Legal Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law

The following are observations and recommendations from the induction programme:

OBSERVATIONS

1. The allegation against the Judiciary as the most corrupt body in the country would be mitigated if members, as senior advocates, act right.
2. Without the Judiciary, there would be no peace in the country.
3. Actions of the senior advocates are judged by the public.
4. The elevation to Senior Advocates of Nigeria comes with enormous responsibilities and expectations.
5. To be appointed a senior advocate, a person should have a profound knowledge of the law such that the society knows him for that.
6. Moral bankruptcy and embezzlement can disqualify a person from being elevated.
7. There is the need for knowledge of information technology.
8. Senior advocates can get what they want without joining the band of petitions writers.
9. Requesting for the submission of photographs of the newly appointed members in their ceremonial regalia before the induction date can lead to a new senior advocate having to rob before conferment.

10. Senior advocates must see themselves as role models who go out of their way to develop others.
11. Many Senior Advocates are in the habit of blaming the juniors for faults emanating from their chambers.
12. The conferment is a privilege, not a right and so can be suspended or withdrawn on certain grounds.
13. The privilege attached to conferment are exercisable only in courts.
14. The rule against advertisement is a strict one and it is not a defence that members were not consulted before the advertisement.
15. Junior lawyers have a life outside the office and practice and overtime should not be a daily thing.
16. Bandits, rapists, and kidnappers all inflict terror and are all terrorists.
17. Senior Advocates are bound by the rules guiding legal practitioners.
18. Some legal practitioners conceal important authorities while presenting matters in courts
19. There is a controversy as to the appropriate body that disciplines senior advocates and which body imposes sanctions on erring members of the Inner Bar – whether Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) or the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC).
20. Punishing an erring senior advocate twice under both disciplinary committees would amount to double jeopardy.
21. Some legal practitioners make contradicting submissions in different jurisdictions on the same issue and instigate the court to ignore existing decisions just to win in a matter. These practices have led to conflicting decisions from different judges on the same issue.
22. There may be cases where congratulatory messages are posted on social media without the knowledge of the new Senior Advocates (being congratulated) despite the strict liability rule against advertisement.
23. Some junior lawyers rebuff attempts at correction.
24. The culture of petition writing against judges weakens the resolve for justice.
25. Some lawyers discuss the conduct of judges in cases that are *sub judis*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The rules of the profession are solemn and should be taken seriously by all members.
2. There should be continuity in mentorship from those the Senior Advocates look up to (their mentors).
3. The Judiciary must be transparently clean.
4. Integrity is a moral issue, and an advocate should demonstrate same at all times.
5. Senior advocates must pass down qualities such as punctuality, dignity and decorum to their mentees who are ambassadors of their various chambers.
6. Senior advocates should not be too busy to supervise the junior ones.

7. If a senior advocate must grant interviews, he should not do so with his wigs on.
8. Senior advocates should not denigrate their colleagues.
9. Senior advocates must not aid or abet corruption by frustrating fights against the menace.
10. Legal practitioners owe the duty to disclose all authorities while presenting matters in courts, even if the authorities are against them. They must not mislead the court or fabricate evidence.
11. Conferment as a senior advocate is a rare point of the legal profession and members need to work harder to remain at that point. The standard of decorum for them is much higher.
12. Members of the Inner Bar should respect the court, the law, as well as respect the juniors. They should collaborate with other lawyers to support and promote the NBA.
13. Legal Practitioners should refrain from using interlocutory applications to slow down matters in courts.
14. Members should be tolerant for a better and smoother relationship with the court. Respect begets respect.
15. Legal practitioners should maintain absolute frankness, as improper behaviours in court hardly go unnoticed.
16. Attempts to correct junior lawyers should be done carefully and in a graceful manner, making sure the junior ones do not feel disgraced.
17. Senior advocates are expected to show example to the juniors by conducting themselves properly and with decency and not engaging in degrading conducts.
18. Until they are sworn in, newly appointed senior advocates should not be seen robed.
19. The due date for submission of photographs by new members is not cast in stone and cannot be a basis for the waiver of the rule against robing before induction. Members can request for extension of time to submit photographs.
20. The relationship in the Profession should be guided by the golden rule that you 'do unto others what you want others to do unto you'.
21. Senior Advocates should admit faults from actions emanating from their chambers and not shift blames on the juniors.
22. A senior advocate should not carry himself as to show he has a relationship with the court.
23. Senior Advocates should apologise and offer explanations when they are late to courts.
24. Senior Advocates should allow the juniors to sit with them when the court is congested rather than leave them to stand.
25. They should teach the juniors time management and demonstrate a superb and friendly relationship with the courts.
26. Senior advocates should ensure an adequate remuneration of junior lawyers in line with the number of hours under Labour Law.

27. The rule on advertisement was made by the NBA and should be respected by all. Senior advocates should show examples to others by making efforts not to violate these rules. It is best to inform friends and family that advertisement is strongly discouraged
28. Senior advocates are to teach the juniors to seek advice before rendering legal advice.
29. They are to teach the juniors to yield their seats to seniors if there are no chairs as courtesy is one of the pillars of the legal profession.
30. Every practitioner should maintain clients' account and should ensure integrity and good character.
31. Senior advocates are expected to have poise, panache, and grace without arrogance.
32. There should be a single independent disciplinary body seized with the responsibility of disciplining the members of the Inner Bar. This body should comprise of eminent practitioners and judges who are retired from active practice and service respectively.
33. Senior advocates should desist from the practice of discussing the conduct of judges in cases that are *sub judis*. They have a duty to ensure excellence in the legal profession.
34. Senior advocates should ensure personal development through attendance of conferences, workshops and engaging in research. This will keep them abreast of the development of law and practice.
35. There must be a need for a senior advocate to invite a member of the Outer Bar to sit with member of the Inner Bar, although most colleagues will not expect to be invited where the need has not arisen. It is usually the most senior member of the Inner Bar present whose consent is sought and who by himself invites the member of the Outer Bar subject to the consent of the court.
36. Senior advocates should not be seen shabbily dressed. This extends to combination in dressing and in native attires.
37. Senior Advocates of Nigeria should not feel superior to the local NBA branches. They should rather relate with the local branches and show examples to others