



PUMP COURT
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OBA NSUGBE QC, SAN

Has cultivated an impressive reputation in the Nigerian market, representing clients in a range of oil and gas and energy-related disputes, handling several disputes in the wake of high-profile corporate insolvencies

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Regarded as a leading practitioner in the UK and Nigeria, Oba Nsugbe QC, SAN has a broad international practice focussing on Africa related litigation and dispute resolution. He provides high-level advice and representation for individuals, corporate clients and other organisations, (including NGOs), in matters ranging from business crime and corrupt practices to contractual and corporate disputes. His ongoing international work includes advising the Swiss Government in its case against Nigeria before ITLOS, acting as joint lead Counsel for two US companies in only Nigeria's second case at ICSID, and Counsel in a multi-jurisdictional claim for families of multiple victims of the Dana Air Crash in Lagos in 2012. He advised and appeared for the Lagos State Government in arbitral proceedings instituted against it following the collapse of Enron and the termination of various related contracts entered into by the State. Oba has also provided expert advice and evidence on issues of Nigerian law to a wide range of institutional, corporate and individual clients ranging from the Treasury Solicitors to leading City firms and business entrepreneurs.

Called to the Bar in 1985, when Oba took silk in 2002 aged only 39, he was described in a leading law commentary as "a rising star of the Bar of England and Wales". He commands considerable respect from both clients and peers. Numerous entries in Chambers and Partners over the years have described him as "a first-class advocate" as well as "a true gentleman who deserves his fabulous reputation", adding that he has a "fine forensic mind" and is admired for his "technical excellence". Contributors to the directory have also remarked that he is "fabulously personable, easy-going, and adored by judges and juries", "works extremely well in a team" and "impresses interviewees with his calm and genial manner".

Family Law

- **Re: O and O**
Whether partner of deceased entitled to share of estate; whether parties validly married at Isoko native law and custom; requirements for a valid marriage under customary law; whether valid if bride not present at ceremony; whether valid if deceased's family not present.
- **Re: LM (a child)** (Instructed by Shakespeare Martineau and Mordi & Co)
Child with dual nationality (Nigerian/British). Father, Nigerian and British nationality. Mother, Nigerian and US nationality. -application for Child Arrangements Order, Specific Issue Order and Prohibited Steps Order by Father – advising on law relating to parenting of children and rights and responsibility of parents in Nigeria – whether mirror orders obtainable in Nigeria for orders of English courts; procedure for registration and enforcement, if any, of English Orders.
- **N v D** [2015] EWFC 28 (Before Jackson J)
D and N had four children between them however a dispute arose as to whether they had been validly married at native law and custom. N contended that they had been married in a customary marriage in their native Nigeria in 2005. D stated that the ceremony had been no more than a n “introduction”. Advising on nature and status of “introduction” in Nigeria; whether they are any different in the Igbo and Yoruba traditions; the essential components of a valid marriage at native law and custom for the Igbo and Yoruba; whether registration of marriage essential.
- **Re: JO (a child)** (Instructed by London Borough of Greenwich)
Local Authority seeking permanent placement of British/ Nigerian child with relatives in Nigeria after findings that there had been failures to protect him from harm by mother and unsuitable parent. Expert evidence requested by Judge in respect of Nigerian care laws for placement of child; English orders necessary for placement; whether enforceable in Nigeria; whether mirror orders could be made by Nigerian court and law generally to ensure child and Nigerian foster parents adequately protected in law: adoption of child, procedure and effect.- Child's Rights laws; Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgment Act; Constitution of Nigeria.
- **Re: EN (a child)** (Instructed by Lancashire Borough Council)
Whether orders of English High Court (Family Division) registrable and enforceable in Nigeria. Whether Nigerian Court has power to make “mirror orders” to that of the English Court. Advising on powers of Nigerian Family Court to make orders in the interests of protecting child to be resettled in Nigeria with relatives of parents.
- **Re: MA (a child)** (Instructed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department)
Recognition of Foreign Adoption Order made by the Family Court of Osun State in Nigeria. Whether Order made satisfies Nigerian law. Whether Order should be registered in England and Wales.
- **A & A – Central Family Court** (Instructed by Waterfords Law – joint instruction)
English Divorce Proceedings – ownership of assets owned in Nigeria – whether owned by husband of by children of marriage – effect of deed of assignment under Nigerian law – procedure for registration of property – effect of delay.

- **Re: M** – Central Family Court (Instructed by Radcliffes Le Brasseur)
Whether parties validly married at Nigerian customary law – requirements. Whether validly divorced. Whether divorce procedural or non-procedural proceedings – whether divorce falls to be recognised under section 46 of the FLA 1986.
- **Chief O.E and O.A.** – High Court, Family Division Principal Registry (Instructed by Fitzpatrick & Co)
Wife arriving in UK on holiday with children. On arrival issues divorce proceedings and puts children into school in UK. Couple married in Nigeria. Whether English Courts have jurisdiction over children. Parental rights under Nigerian native law and custom and statute.
- **O and O and Ricky International Group** – High Court, Family Division (Instructed jointly by Hodge Jones & Allen and Svedbergs Solicitors)
Parties allegedly married in Nigeria under the Civil law. Husband disputed marriage. Alleged that marriage certificate forged. Whether marriage registered in customary court or at registry – effect of non-registration. Expert Opinion sought as to requirements for valid marriage under Nigerian civil law and native law and custom – requirements for valid divorce under Nigerian law. Whether marriage valid if husband married to someone else at time of marriage.
- **Re: N** (Instructed by Mordi & Co)
Application for letters of administration from Probate Registry in UK. Applicant and deceased married at Nigerian native law and custom. Deceased alleged to have abandoned applicant whilst alive. Whether validly divorced at native law and custom – requirements – effect of absence of divorce certificate requested by Registry.
- **Re: In the matter of F. O.** (Instructed by Howard Kennedy Solicitors)
Advising Executors of deceased’s estate. Will devised property both in Nigeria and abroad. Interpretation of Will under Nigerian and English law as regards persons entitled to benefit under Will. Conflict of laws. Advisability of issuing a construction summons in English Court.
- **U and U** – High Court, Nottingham District Registry (Instructed jointly by Campions Solicitors for Petitioner and Respondent in person)
Validity of ceremony gone through by Petitioner and Respondent challenged. Respondent saying only ceremony of blessing and of no legal effect. Petitioner alleged marriage ceremony and parties validly married. Expert opinion sought as to different forms of legal marriage in Nigeria, requirements; nature of “introduction”, meaning and effect; whether an agreement to pay bride price in the future sufficient for valid marriage.
- **Re: E. A** (Instructed by TWM Solicitors LLP)
Service of English Divorce Petition in Benue State, Nigeria. Requirements under Nigerian Law for valid service. Carrying out instruction to serve husband. Whether personal service or substituted service effective under Nigerian law. Rules as to substituted service.
- **Re: Owodunni and Owodunni** – High Court Lagos, Mercantile Court, England & Wales, (Instructed by Nigerian & UK Solicitors) Sale of shares belonging to Estate by Agent. Whether Agent acted outside power; Whether Executors entitled to bring proceedings under Nigerian Law; Whether UK or Nigerian jurisdiction-appropriate forum for the action.

- **Re: S.O. B.** (Instructed by Royal Borough of Greenwich)
Age of party in dispute. Whether applicant a minor. Council's duties in respect of him depending on true age. Whether birth certificate, school certificates, genuine. Whether to be returned to Nigerian. Position under Nigerian law as to duties of State in respect of minor if returned.
- **Re: O O** (A child) (Instructed by Secretary of State for the Home Department)
Recognition of Foreign Adoption Order made by the Anambra State Magistrates Court. Whether Order valid and in accordance with Nigerian Law. Whether Order should be registered in England and Wales.
- **Ogbogbo and Ogbogbo**
Letters of administration taken out by "second wife" of deceased. Whether entitled to letters of administration in UK. Whether parties validly married at native law and custom.
- **Re: A Minor** (Instructed by RTE Solicitors)
Civil claims for alleged sexual Assault Defendant claiming believed no offence being committed. Advising on Nigerian law. Age of Consent Whether religion making a difference.

Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), Hull University
- Barrister at Law, England and Wales
- Barrister & Solicitor, Supreme Court of Nigeria

Professional associations

- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- British Nigeria Law Forum (Founder & Past Chair)
- Criminal Bar Association
- COMBAR

Professional activities

- 1999: Appointed Crown Court Recorder
- 2002: Appointed Queen's Counsel
- 2004/8: Chair of the British Nigeria Law Forum
- 2004: Gray's Inn Advocacy Trainer – Grade A
- 2005: Elected Bencher of Gray's Inn

- 2006: Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)
- 2006/10: Legal Advisor to Central Association of Nigerians in the UK (CANUK)
- 2007: Head, Pump Court Chambers
- 2007: Legal Assessor for the General Medical Council
- 2010: Visiting Professor of Law, City University
- 2011: Trustee of the Africa Centre
- 2013: Legal Assessor to the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- 2014: Legal Assessor to the General Pharmaceutical Council
- 2020: Chair Africa Centre, United Kingdom

Overseas Appointments:

- 2005: Appointed Senior Advocate of Nigeria
- 2005: Member Body of SANs, Nigeria
- 2006: Chair of g50 business group (Investing in Nigeria)
- 2007: Fellow Nigeria Leadership Initiative (“NLI”)
- 2010: Board Member, Oxford and Beaumont Solicitors, Ghana
- 2014: National Competitiveness Council of Nigeria on the appointment of H.E. Goodluck Jonathan
- Appointed to the Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre Court of Arbitration