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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

A conference presented by the IBA Judges Forum

IBA Judges Forum: In defence of justice

9–10 July 2026

Transcorp Hilton Abuja Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria

Working programme

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All submitted speaker materials and biographies can be found at www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2830

Conference Co-Chairs

The Hon Justice Mark Livesey *President, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of South Australia, Adelaide; Chair, IBA Judges' Forum*

The Hon Justice Dr Ngozika Okaisabor *FCIArb, Court of Appeal, Abuja; Advisory Board Member, IBA Judges' Forum*

Thursday 9 July

All working sessions will take place in Congress Hall room
Coffee/tea breaks will take place in the foyer of the Congress Hall room
Lunch will take place in the Upper Mezzanine

0900– 1700 **Registration**

Transcorp Hilton Abuja Hotel - foyer of the Congress Hall room

1000 – 1010 **Opening remarks**

The Hon Justice Mark Livesey *President, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of South Australia, Adelaide; Chair, IBA Judges' Forum*

1010 – 1020 **Introductory remarks**

Babatunde Ajibade SAN *SPA Ajibade & Co, Lagos; Chair, Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI)*

1020 – 1050 **Goodwill messages**

The Hon Justice Walter Barone *International Association of Judges, São Paulo*

The Hon Justice Monica Bolna'an Dongban-Mensem CFR *President, Court of Appeal of Nigeria, Abuja*

Prince Lateef Fagbemi SAN *Hon Attorney General of the Federation, Abuja*

The Hon Justice Ricardo Claudio Monteiro Gonçalves *Community Court of Justice ECOWAS, Abuja*

Barr Ezenwo Nyesom Wike CON *The Honourable Minister, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja*

Mazi Afam Josiah Osigwe SAN *President, Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja*

Leo Stan Ekeh *Zinox Group, Abuja*

The Hon Justice Blaise Tchikaya *African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Arusha*

Claudio Visco *Lipani Legal & Tax, Milan; IBA President*



Conference luncheon sponsor



Cocktail reception, cultural night and dinner sponsors



Thursday continued

1050 – 1120 **Keynote speech**

The Hon Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun GCON, CFR *Chief Justice of Nigeria, Abuja*

1120 – 1130 **Group photograph**

1130 – 1200 **Coffee/tea break**

1200 – 1315 **The true role of an independent judiciary; a comparison across the jurisdictions**

Moderator

The Hon Justice Dr Ngozika Okaisabor *FCIArb, Court of Appeal, Abuja; Advisory Board Member, IBA Judges' Forum*

Speakers

The Hon Justice Walter Barone *International Association of Judges, São Paulo*

Justice Jose Igreja Matos *President, Porto Court of Appeal, Porto*

The Hon Justice Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju, CFR *Supreme Court of Nigeria, Abuja*

Ngozi Rosetta Offonry *Grand & Machyle Solicitors, London*

1315 – 1415 **Lunch**

1415 – 1530 **At trial or on appeal, strategies for modern judging, is fairness out of fashion?**

Moderator

Steven Kay KC *9BR Chambers, London; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Judges' Forum*

Speakers

Justice Russell Coleman *High Court, Hong Kong*

Judge Taoheed Olufemi Elias *International Court of Justice, Washington, DC*

Joe-Kyari Gadzama SAN *J-K Gadzama, Abuja*

The Hon Justice Nallini Pathmanathan *Federal Court of Malaysia, Putrajaya; Vice Chair, IBA Judges' Forum*

1530 – 1600 **Coffee/tea break**

1600 – 1715 **Judicial education – What is happening and what should be done?**

Moderator

The Hon Justice Olasumbo O Goodluck *FCIArb, Court of Appeal, Abuja*

Speakers

The Hon Justice Abiodun Adebara *Chief Judge Kwara State, Ilorin*

Judge Roland Kempfle *International Association of Judges, Munich*

Justice Gerald Joseph McAlinden *High Court Judge, Belfast; Co-Website Officer, IBA Judges' Forum*

1900 – 2100 **Cocktail reception, cultural night and dinner (business attire / traditional)**

National Judicial Institute

All registered delegates and speakers are invited to attend.

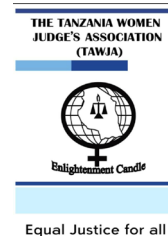
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Transport will be provided. Shuttle service departs at 1830 from the Transcorp Hilton Abuja Hotel.

Gala dinner sponsor



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Lunch will take place in the Upper Mezzanine

0830– 1400 **Registration**

0900 – 1015 **How should judges and advocates use AI?**

Moderator

Recorder Nicola Williams *Crown Court Recorder, London*

Speakers

Silvester Tinotenda Chiware *Judicial Service Commission, Harare*

Aruse Okaisabor *Paul Weiss, London*

Justice Fabienne Schaller *Ministry of Justice, Paris; Treasurer, IBA Judges' Forum*

Alexandre Vagenheim *Jus Mundi, Paris*

1015 – 1130 **Advocacy - What do judges want?**

Moderator

The Hon Justice Nene Amegatcher *Sam Okudzeto & Associates, Accra*

Speakers

Babatunde Ajibade SAN *SPA Ajibade & Co, Lagos; Chair, Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI)*

The Hon Justice Reginald Fynn *Court of Appeal of Sierra Leone, Freetown*

Justice Liam Kennedy *High Court of Ireland, Dublin; Secretary, IBA Judges' Forum*

The Hon Justice Mark Livesey *President Court of Appeal, Adelaide, South Australia; Chair, IBA Judges' Forum*

1130 – 1200 **Coffee/tea break**

1200 – 1315 **Natural selection? From where should judges come?**

Moderator

Justice Liam Kennedy *High Court of Ireland, Dublin; Secretary, IBA Judges' Forum*

Speakers

The Hon Justice Adewale Abiru *Supreme Court of Nigeria, Abuja*

Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei *Supreme Court of Ghana, Accra*

Olivier Laude *Laude & Associes, Paris; Secretary, Africa and Middle East Working Group, IBA Litigation Committee*

Her Honour Nancy Finda Sammy *National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, Monrovia*

The Hon Lady Justice Bubile Shonga *High Court of Zambia, Lusaka*

1315 – 1330 **Closing remarks**

The Hon Justice Dr Ngozika Okaisabor *FCIArb, Court of Appeal, Abuja; Advisory Board Member, IBA Judges' Forum*

1330 – 1430 **Lunch**

1430 – 1630 **Court tour**

National Judicial Council, *Supreme Court and Court of Appeal*

Transport will be provided. Shuttle service departs at 1430 from the Transcorp Hilton Abuja Hotel.

1900 – 2100 **Gala night (black tie / full traditional)**

National Judicial Institute

All registered delegates and speakers are invited to attend.

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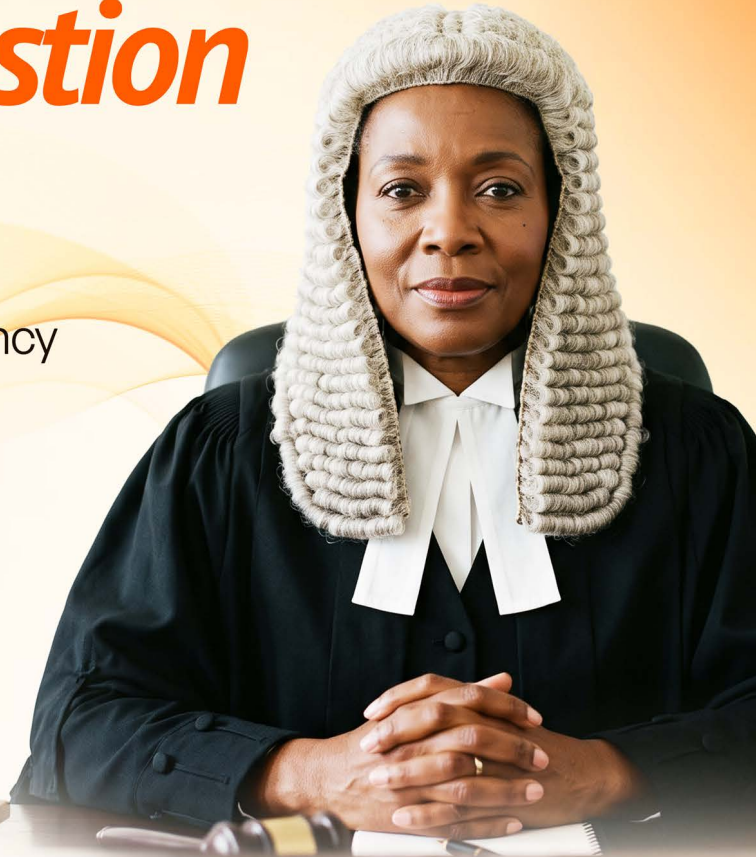
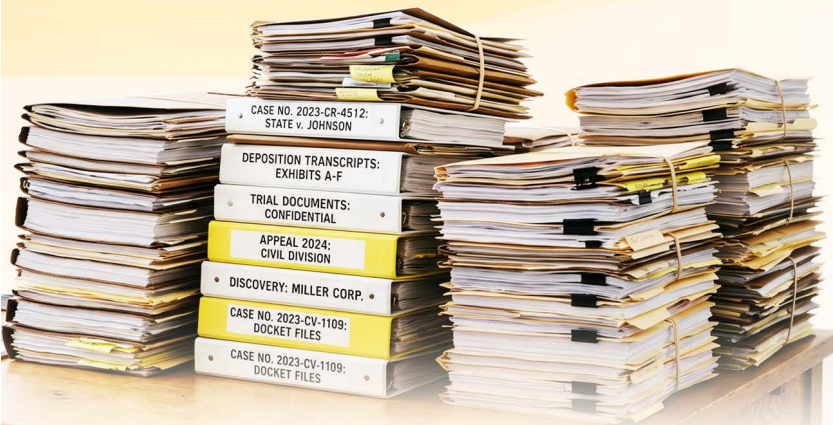
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