Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details
Title: Dr
Family Name: ONYEMA
Given Names: Nneka Emilia

Public Output from Research Activity

Book:

Articles in Refereed Journals:


Chapter in Books/collections:


Online publication:

Book Reviews:

Other publications:

Blogs:
37. Blog for I-Arb
38. Blog for Investment Claims
39. Blog for TDM

Papers Delivered at Conferences
1. 22-24 August 2019: Spoke at the 18th CBA International Arbitration Conference in Brasilia on ‘Arbitration and interpretation of contracts involving state institutions. This conference was attended by 600 people.
2. 10 June 2019: Spoke at the Mauritius Arbitration Week in Port Louis on ‘Mauritius as a dispute resolution seat for African investment disputes”. This conference was attended by about 200 people.
3. 7 May 2019: panel presentation on London as a dispute resolution hub for international parties, Norton Rose Fulbright Offices with about 200 people in attendance. Panel starts the first London International Disputes Week events.
4. 3 April 2019: Presentation of the SOAS Arbitration in Africa Survey at the first African Arbitration Association (AFAA) Arbitration conference at Radisson Blu, Kigali (attended by 260 people).
6. 9-11 December 2018: spoke on the attitude of English courts towards enforcement of arbitral awards under the New York Convention, Sharm El Sheikh CRCICA conference (attended by about 250 people).
7. 29 November 2018: spoke on the interpretation of force majeure and hardship clauses in contracts by courts in English speaking African countries at the 38th Annual
8. 22-23 November 2018: I spoke on the role of arbitrators and arbitral institutions in promoting arbitration in Africa, at the Libya CICA conference in Tunis (attended by about 100 people).
10. 6 September 2018: spoke at the China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law on the topic, “Effective Dispute Settlement Mechanisms as a driver for achieving common prosperity” in Beijing. About 100 people were in attendance.
11. 02 July 2018: Chaired a panel discussion on “The Global South in an Era of Shifting Geopolitics” hosted in the London offices of Wilmer Hale LLP. Attended by 75 people.
12. 26-29 June 2018: Gave the lead paper, “Establishing a framework for Resolving Intra-African Commercial Disputes” at the 12th annual Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law conference, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Nigeria. The conference was attended by 900-1,000 lawyers.
13. 14 June 2018: Invited to speak on “Actors of arbitration systems in Africa: focus on legal profession” at the first conference of AfricArb titled Arbitration in Africa: quo vadis? State of play, trends and perspectives” at Universite Paris II, Sorbonne. The conference was attended by about 160 people made up of academic, researchers and practitioners.
15. 2-4 May 2018: I organised the fourth SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference on the role of arbitration practitioners in the development of arbitration in Africa. This conference was co-hosted by the Kigali International Arbitration Centre in Kigali.
16. 6-7 March 2018: I chaired the panel on “Energy poverty in energy rich countries: a drive for disputes? At the 3rd annual conference on Energy Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in the Middle East and Africa, at the offices of Herbert Smith Freehills in London.
17. 3-4 November 2017: 3rd Casablanca Arbitration Days in Casablanca: I chaired the panel on “The Recent Developments in African Arbitration Law and Practice”.
20. 24 October 2017: 2nd ICAMA Arbitration Roundtable on “Growing and Sustaining Domestic Arbitration and ADR in Africa” at Abuja: spoke on the panel on “Growing and sustaining arbitration and ADR in Africa: historical background, policy objectives and issues”.
21. 19-20 July 2017: CIArb Africa Regional Conference, Johannesburg, to speak on fees and cost on the panel discussing arbitral practice in civil and common law styles.
22. 4-6 July 2017: UNCITRAL 50th Anniversary conference in Vienna (attend as participant)
23. 22 June 2017: Africa Research Institute launch of their counterpoint on How ADR made a comeback in Nigeria’s court: Justice without lawyers: how Lagos fashioned an alternative to litigation. I spoke on the MDC scheme in Nigeria and access to justice.
24. 9 June 2017: spoke on the panel that discussed, ‘Are arbitrators bringers of justice or dispute resolution service providers, and does it matter?’ in the 3rd SIA Alumni Conference on “Due Process Paranoia and Justice … Fairy tales or reality in
international arbitration?” at Clyde & co LLP, London offices [about 60 people attended]
25. 25 May 2017: spoke on my views of arbitration in Africa at the UNCITRAL/APAA
Arbitration conference in Yaounde, Cameroon. [about 250 people attended]
26. 27 April 2017: moderated a panel discussion on the education of the girl child in
Nigeria at the SOAS Centenary celebration, Civic Centre, Lagos. [about 150 people attended]
27. 4-5 April 2017: Organised and gave a welcome address at the SOAS/CRCICA 2017
Arbitration in Africa Conference on “The Role of African States and Governments in
the Development of Arbitration in Africa” [about 150 people attended]
28. 4-6 Dec 2016: Nairobi International Arbitration Centre Conference, Intercontinental
Hotel, Nairobi. I spoke on the New York Convention and African states. [about 400
people attended].
29. 23 Nov 2016: Law & Development in Africa annual seminar at Hunton & Williams
LLP. I spoke on state immunity. [about 50 people attended].
spoke on attitude of African courts towards arbitration. [about 178 people attended].
31. 8 Nov 2016: I delivered a guest lecture at the Anglia Ruskin University School of
Law (Cambridge) on the continued relevance of the state in arbitration.
32. 2 Nov 2016: BIICL Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law & White & Case Rule of
Law Seminar on Arbitration & the Rule of Law: Challenges, changes and
contradictions. I spoke on Arbitration in Africa in the last 20 years. 70 people
attended and event was chaired by Sir William Blair of the Commercial Court.
33. 10-12 August 2016: Lead facilitator in arbitration training at the Ghana Arbitration
Centre, Accra on the topic.
34. 14-15 July 2016: African Commercial Law Foundation Inaugural Conference at
Murray College, Cambridge University.
35. 22-24 June 2016, SOAS/LCA Arbitration in Africa conference in Lagos, “Rethinking
the role of courts and judges in supporting arbitration in Africa”. I spoke on the
symbiotic relationship between judges and arbitrators. I co-organised this conference.
36. 19-21 June, 1st ICC Africa Regional Arbitration Conference, Lagos: I spoke and
moderated the panel: “Abuse of process in International Arbitration: role of Counsel”.
37. 8-11 May, ICCA Mauritius conference: I spoke on the panel: “The interface between
domestic courts and arbitral tribunals”.
38. 13 April 2016: I delivered the Transnational Justice Lecture for the Transnational
Justice Lecture Series by Georgetown University at Gray’s Inn, London. I spoke on
OHADA Commercial law harmonisation tool and its impact on Africa.
39. 31 March 2016: I moderated a half-day conference on “The urgency of Greater
Participation by African Stakeholders in Arbitrations involving African Interests”
hosted and co-organised by Shearman & Sterling LLP, London Offices, and ICC
YAF: this event was attended by over 100 attendees and a summary of proceedings
and photos was published in GAR.
40. I was member of a panel discussion on investment arbitration in Africa; organised
by Queen Mary, SciencePo Law School; ICDR Y&I, in Paris on 9 December 2015.
41. I presented a paper on “Appointment of African arbitrators in ISDS: case
study of ICSID at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) Nigerian branch 2015
annual conference at Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja, on 2-4 November 2015.
42. I gave a keynote speech on educating the girl child at a charity event organised
by The Girl Effect at Holiday Inn, Brent Cross, London, on 3 October 2015.
43. Chaired a panel discussion on “Dispute Resolution in Africa” in honour of
Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf, VP, ICJ at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr,
LLP, London on 02 September 2015


46. Invited to speak on the Panel, “Influences of local habits: what works and what doesn’t”, at the 30th Anniversary of the School of International Arbitration, QMUL on 22 April 2015 in the London offices of Norton Rose Fulbright LLP.

47. Invited to deliver a paper and participate in the Fourth High Level Meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration, in Castries, St Lucia, on 23-24 October 2014.

48. Invited to chair the 10th Annual LCIA/CIArb London branch joint arbitration seminar which was on the topic “Africa and Arbitration: Predicting the future through Historical Lenses” on Thursday 11 September 2014 at London Offices of Stephenson and Harwood LLP.


53. ‘Developments and enforcing arbitration awards in developing countries: surmounting the difficulties in each of these growth areas of revenue: Middle East and Africa’, at the Cross Border Arbitration Dispute Resolution Conference, 15 & 16 November 2010 in London.


56. Arbitration in Africa paper presented at a seminar by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators London branch on 03 March 2010 at Edwin Coe LLP.

57. Comments on modernising the framework for arbitration in Jamaica, 18 February 2010 at the University of West Indies, Mona Campus – delivered at the workshop in Kingston, Jamaica.


61. Colloquium on the Draft OHADA Uniform Contract Law, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 15 – 17 November 2007 where the draft law was debated.

Academic Qualifications

*Queen Mary, University of London: September 2002 to 2007*

PhD Research (International Commercial Arbitration) My thesis is titled *The Arbitrator’s Contract*. My supervisors were: Prof. Loukas Mistelis and Prof. (Dr) JDM Lew, QC. My thesis examines the contractual nature of the relationships between the disputing parties, arbitrators and arbitration institutions. It concluded that each arbitrator upon accepting appointment under each arbitral reference concludes an arbitrator’s contract with either the parties or arbitration institution and owes contractual obligations under this contract while also has contractual rights arising from the same contract. I was examined by Prof Sir Roy Goode and HH Humphrey Lloyd, QC on 3 April 2007 and the degree of PhD awarded by the University of London in June 2007.

*King’s College, University of London: September 2000 to August 2001*

LLM (Commercial and Corporate Law) 2001 – I majored in the law and practice of international commercial arbitration; Alternative dispute resolution methods; International trade law (studied the CISG, COGSA, English Sales law, Trade Finance, & Marine Insurance) and Company Law with emphasis on company directors.

*University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria September 1984 to June 1988*


Professional Qualifications

*Senior Fellow, Higher Education Academy, 2017.*

*Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Feb 2010*

Awarded the fellowship on completion of the Postgraduate certificate in learning and teaching undertaken at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.

*Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, October 2008*

*Solicitor, Supreme Court of England & Wales July 2002,*

I was admitted as a solicitor after successfully completing the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test with the College of Law, London.

*Nigerian Law School, Lagos: September 1988 to August 1989*
Bar examinations to qualify to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and subjects studied included Nigerian Law of Evidence, Company law, Legal Drafting, Criminal and Civil Procedure. I was admitted to the Nigerian Bar in December 1989.

**Current Employment**

Reader in International Commercial Law, School of Law, SOAS.

**Teach and supervise dissertations in the following LLM courses:**
- International Trade Law (full unit)
- International Commercial Arbitration (full unit) which is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators for associate membership. I proposed this course and continue to develop it.
- International Investment Law and Arbitration (half unit).
- I contribute to the following courses: on the LLM: International Comparative Law (2 hours); Law and Development in Africa (one term).
- Law of Commercial Arbitration (UG, half unit).

**PhD Research Supervision:**
- I am currently the first supervisor to three (3) PhD research students with three of these on arbitration and one on the ECOWAS commission; and as a member of the supervisory committee of four other research students three of who have obtained their research degrees. One of my PhD students that I first supervised successfully defended his thesis on 14 November 2016.
- Examined the following PhD submissions:
o External examiner: Thesis titled, submitted by Mr Mojeed Alabi of University of Leicester, 30 April 2013.

Administration:
- LLM Convenor, from 2017
- Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, SOAS, August 2013 to July 2016.
- Formerly, chair of departmental learning and teaching committee for the Law Department, SOAS.
- Act as personal advisor to both LLB, LLM & MA students.
- External examiner at Centre for Commercial Law Studies, QMUL.

Third party activities:
- Member editorial team of Journal of Lagos Court of Arbitration, appointed in 2014.
- Co-general editor of the Journal of African Law since summer of 2013 (and member of the Editorial board since May 2009).
- Organised a 2 week fee earning workshop for 25 members of the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Transportation in SOAS in October 2008.
- Attended the International Arbitration Moot with a group of students in Vienna (April 2010) being the first team to represent SOAS at the moot and continue to do so.
- As academic advisor to the Research & Enterprise Office (REO) on their ‘governance and leadership in Africa’ one week fee earning summer course in SOAS scheduled for September 2010.
- I gave 2 lectures on conflict resolution to students of St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington on 12 January 2009 and students of Oaklands School, Tower Hamlets on 20 March 2009. These are nearby schools on the Widening Participation program here SOAS.

Staff Development:
I have attended the following staff development workshops:
- Toolkit for Law Teaching at the University of Birmingham in September 2007: for new law lecturers with presentations on combining teaching and research; giving conferences papers and preparing to publish; large group teaching; and technology in teaching law.
- Content Management System and writing for the web as part of the search engine optimisation training for staff here at SOAS.
- Copyright uncovered: on what materials need permission for reproduction and how to obtain relevant permission/consent.
- Workshop for SOAS research degree supervisors – November 2007 with sessions on supervising a PhD.
- Workshop on getting published held at SOAS in 2008.
- Completed Part II of the Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching programme at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2009 and became a fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2010.
- Bloomsbury Echo 360 Showcase (May 2010).
- Arbitration Workshop on “effective Management of Arbitrations Without Fear of Challenge”, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury Square,
London, led by David Brynmor Thomas and Marion Smith, QC both of 39 Essex Chambers.

- 12-13 Dec 2017: Teaching Pedagogy workshop for the SoL led by Prof Rick Glofcheski from Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong. Discussed feedback; authentic learning and assessment in law; and self-directed task-based authentic learning and assessment in law.
- 8 June 2018: SOAS Learning and Teaching Conference on ‘Motivating and transforming learning throughout the student journey’. I attended various sessions.