
aina**blankson**^{LP}





Aina Blankson, LP: **THE FIRM**

Over the years, Aina Blankson has grown to become a leading global law firm renowned for professionalism and excellence in service delivery. We are consistently regarded as one of the foremost Nigerian law firms in the areas of arbitration, dispute resolution, litigation, corporate commercial law, oil & gas, transaction advisory amongst others.

We have achieved our laudable feats through selective recruitment and engagement of only the best minds. This we believe is crucial to the quality and consistency of the AB brand. Our existing and prospective clients choose us not for our size, but for our ability and output, and the confidence that whatever jurisdiction, we will deliver high quality service with recognizable commercial and practical approach.

We provide expert practical advice that assist in solving our clients' challenges. AB staff are expected to be imaginative and unorthodox in proffering acceptable alternatives rather than merely pointing out legal objections.

At Aina Blankson, our aim is to help clients achieve their objectives efficiently while minimizing the legal and regulatory risks, both within Nigeria and Internationally. Although first-class legal advice is always important, the ability to

deliver that advice in a coherent and relevant way, combined with excellent transaction management and presentation skills, is essential to the supply of high-quality legal services. When your destination is clear but the path is unfamiliar, it helps to have an experienced guide. The combination of knowledge and foresight is fundamental for any meaningful guide. With the surge of interest in Africa, the need for high-quality legal advice and appropriate guide at the local level and, in cross-border transaction management has never been more profound.

Aina Blankson has an experienced and well-recognized wealth of talented senior lawyers and associates with qualifications and work experience in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States of America. Our lawyers work on domestic matters and transactions, and on international and cross-border advisory mandates for a wide range of clients.

KEY PARTNERS AND ADVISORY BOARD



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Senior Partner



KEHINDE AINA
Partner



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Partner



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Member Advisory Board



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Member Advisory Board

Track Record

Aina Blankson has been involved in many large and complex cross-boarder transactions and other matters for multinational clients.

Largest Merger Transaction in Nigeria

Within the 6months deadline from the country's Central Bank, coordinated and structured the merger of 9 commercial banks including follow on representation and integration

BP Oil International

In various transactions and operations in West Africa including extensive due diligence, advisory and representation

Export-Import Bank of America

In the financing of a fleet of aircrafts for a Nigerian airline and subsequent transactions of similar genre in Kenya and South Africa

Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad & Tobago

In the refinancing of the \$350Million Atlantic LNG project in Trinidad;

Multi-million dollar claim for the theft of trade secrets

Acting in an arbitration conducted under the London Court of International Arbitration rules and defending a multi-million dollar claim for the theft of trade secrets and breach of a collaboration agreement for the development of equipment for tactical fighter aircraft.

R 500 Million Golf Estates

The Firm has continuously acted as the legal advisors and transaction counsel to Praxis Partners LLC, a middle market investment company focused on Africa in its numerous transactions including the R 500 Million (Five Hundred Million Rand) acquisition of four premium golf estates in South Africa.

International Center for Energy

In its string of power projects In Mozambique and Kenya including bids such as the Kisumu Transmission line construction project and the first independent power producers in Nigeria

Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria

In its 20Billion pounds oil spillage negotiations in concert with Hogan Lovells

Catalogue of Banking Related Representation

From Standard Chartered Bank, Nigerian Export Import Bank, GT Bank to Wema, UBA, Stanbic IBTC, First Bank, Access, Zenith and Ecobank, we represent majority of the Nigerian banks on varied transactions including syndicated loans, Eurobonds to series of Private Placements, deal structuring and capital raise

Complex Multi-Billion Dollar Corporate Structuring

In a very complex multi-billion dollar corporate structuring transaction which resulted in a court action on the validity of the merger and the plea bargain entered into by the erstwhile Chief Executive, it was Aina Blankson that provided the initial opinion and eventual representation for the acquiring Bank.

New York firm, Nova Capital Partners

In its \$161Million Dollar Capital raise for an African Bank and series of similar transactions in Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia

Mellon Capital

Advising joint managers and book-runners in a \$300 Million regulation preferred security offering

Grand Hyatt Hotel

In the structuring and documentation towards the construction of a condominium and 5star hotel project in Nigeria with an unusual ownership structure

.Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project

With a \$100 million loan from the IFC and another \$100 million syndicated loan from 15 commercial banks, advised on managing the aftermath of the construction of the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development Pipeline Project .

Mediation & Arbitration Matters

The reputation of Aina Blankson with regard to mediation and arbitration is second to none in Nigeria. Quite apart from our pioneering work in this field, we represent governments and multinational corporations in a wide range of cross border mediation and arbitration matters

Corporate Affairs Commission and all 23 Banks

When Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission and all 23 Banks became embroiled in a dispute which extended the frontiers of mandatory disclosure principle, it was Aina Blankson that the regulatory body turned to for representation in the courts; .

Dispute over compliance with the regulatory framework

When oil conglomerate Chevron engaged BNP Paribas in its attempt to divest interest in one of its major subsidiaries and a dispute arose over compliance with the regulatory framework on takeover bids in Nigeria, Aina Blankson was the firm of choice;

Impeachment proceeding before a judicial panel

Quite apart from the string of representations on election related disputes in Nigeria, Aina Blankson recently led a team of Lawyers from other firms in successfully defending an incumbent State Governor on an impeachment proceeding before a judicial panel;

Private Placement Resulted in Litigation

Following in its recognition as the firm of choice on banking and finance transactions, Aina Blankson represented a South African bank when questions on the rights and obligations of Parties under a private placement arrangement resulted in litigation;

Corporate Structuring Transaction

In a very complex multi-billion dollar corporate structuring transaction which resulted in a court action on the validity of the merger and the plea bargain entered into by the erstwhile Chief Executive, it was Aina Blankson that provided the initial opinion and eventual representation for the acquiring Bank.

Some of our landmark cases which got recognition within the Nigerian Law Reports include:

Emelogu Vs. The State (1988) 5 SCNJ 79

Dickson Arisa Vs. The State (1988) 7 SCNJ 73

Anieze Vs. Ude (1993) 5 SCNJ 151

Nzeribe Vs. Dave Engineering (1994) 9 SCNJ 161

Mbadinuju Vs. Ezuka (1994) 10 SCNJ 109

H. C. Nnoli Vs. Unth (1994) 10 SCNJ 71

Owhonda Vs. Ekpechi (2003) 9 – 10 SC 1

Ndoma-Egba Vs. Uba (2005) 7 SC (PT. III) 27

Chigbu Vs. Tonimas (2006) 4 SC (PT. II) 186

A.G. Anambra Vs. A.G. Federation (2005) 5 SC (PT. I) 73

Nwankwo Vs. Nwankwo (1995) 5 SCNJ 44

Ubn Plc Vs. Bonimakus (2005) 7 SC (PT. II) 70

Chief T. A. Orji & Anor. Vs. P. D. P (2009) 14 NWLR (PT. pp1161) 310 CA.

Uba Vs. Etiaba (2010) 10 NWLR (PT. 1202) 343

Our Practice Areas

Transaction Advisory Practice

As a result of our knowledge of practical matters such as the structuring of negotiations, tendering processes and the conduct of due diligence, we are able to add substantial value to the efforts of an in-house or external advisory team seeking to bring a complex transaction to a successful and cost efficient conclusion. We assist enterprises in structuring and restructuring their domestic and international transactions and operations with a view to securing the best possible strategic advantage.

Energy & Natural Resources Practice

Successful financing of large-scale energy infrastructure projects depends on coordination of multiple resources, talent, and capital flows. Our service to clients is founded on the depth of our industry knowledge, which enables us to effectively act as a value-added extension of our clients legal and business teams on practice areas ranging from onshore and offshore exploration projects, Oil Mining Lease (OML), Joint Operations transactions, Joint Ventures, various technical partnerships amongst others.

Litigation Practice

The global litigation practice of Aina Blankson has a track record of dealing with many major financial and commercial crises over the past 25 years. Whenever and whatever difficult and critical business, political and financial disputes arise, Aina Blankson will be there fighting the client's corner, as well as advising on the commercial implications of the dispute. Our aim is not only to take charge of our clients' disputes but to vigorously pursue and protect our clients' interests until a successful closing, whether through negotiation, settlement or a judicial or arbitral decision. A number of our landmark cases are contained in the Nigerian Law Reports.

Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Practice

The Arbitration and Mediation Practice of Aina Blankson represents clients in high-stakes international arbitrations around the world. Our members have extensive experience in investment treaty arbitration and a broad range of international arbitration rules, including the UNICITRAL Arbitration Rule, ICC Rule, Rule of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the AAA International Rules for the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). The group's clients include multi-nationals and industry leaders across a wide variety of businesses, investors,

financial institutions and state-owned enterprises

Corporate Advisory & Tax

The range of services offered by our specialist professionals within the Corporate Advisory & Tax Practice include financial structuring, capital raise, project finance and advisory, incubation of start-ups, portfolio management, tax audit, management and advisory, public revenue management and tax revenue promotional services. The synergy between the members of our Corporate Advisory & Tax and Transaction Advisory Practice makes Aina Blankson the one stop firm of note.

Maritime Law Practice

Our Shipping and maritime law practice focuses on transactional and litigation matters for clients across the world and in Nigeria. We act for clients across the spectrum of the maritime industry including shippers, carriers, ship owners, stevedores, energy companies, cruise lines, non-vessel-operating common carriers, salvage companies, shipyards, and insurers. Our service offering includes legal guidance and representation on ship brokering, chartering agreements, ship financing, maritime liens, ship registration, mortgages, claims & liens, arrests and release, accidents, salvage, carriage of goods, and damage claims amongst others.

Intellectual Property

To remain competitive, adequate protection of technologies and brands is of virtual importance the world over. It is for this reason that our Intellectual Property Group was established. With the scientific and technical background of some of our IP attorneys, we combine legal and business experience with relevant scientific knowledge to achieve integrated solutions to complex legal challenges.

AB- Entertainment Practice

Aina Blankson Entertainment ('AB-Entertainment') is a diversified and dynamic practice which represents a wide array of high-profile and burgeoning clients in Film and Television, Performing Arts, Animation, Music, Digital Media, Visual Arts, and Design. Given our working relationship with renowned talent management firm, ECP (Entertainment Creative Partners) and financial institutions, our clients are well positioned and adequately empowered to transform their imaginative content into enduring artistic and creative works with long-lasting cultural relevance and global impact.

Words on Marble

Never in the history of our professional relationships have we worked with a firm with such an uncanny sense of professionalism and work ethics such as yours. We truly look forward to further collaboration in the years ahead.

Robert Leaver
President & CEO, New Commons Inc, USA

There is a high level of partner involvement and they showed panache and quality of thinking ; quite brilliant.

Praxis Partners

*"Our interaction this year has added appreciable value to us.
The depth of your understanding in the energy sector
has made our work in Africa quite pleasurable".*

Francis O'brien
International Center for Energy, Washington DC

*"Their knowledge as captured in their contributions on issues
regarding the capital market is very sublime,
commendable and worthy of note"*

International Financial Law Review (IFLR)

"While he is often commended for being the brains behind the Multi-Door Courthouse concept in most judiciaries in Nigeria, it is hardly remembered that Mr Kehinde Aina financed the establishment of the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse, spent time away from his lucrative law practice to build, grow and entrench the new project and at the appropriate time handed over the project to the judiciary. He never earned a kobo. This in my view is commendable. I believe his example is worthy of emulation."

Hon. Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, GCON
(Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nigeria)



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