



ainablankson

A T T O R N E Y S



## 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.

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.



## 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

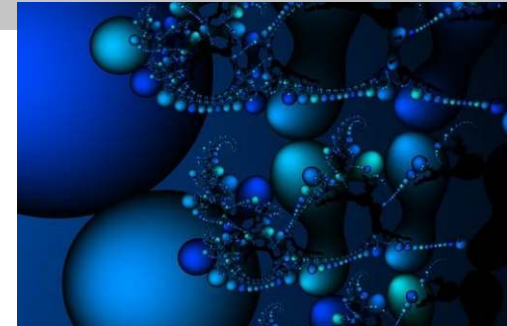
Successful financing of large-scale energy infrastructure projects depends on coordination of multiple resources, talent, and capital flows. Our service to clients is founded on the depth of our industry knowledge, which enables us to effectively act as a value-added extension of our clients legal and 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 UNCITRAL 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.

#### Entertainment and Creative Practice

The Entertainment & Creative Practice (ECP) of Aina Blankson is a diversified and dynamic full-service entertainment practice which represents a wide array of high-profile and upcoming clients in the Film and Television, Performing Arts, Animation, Music, Digital Media, Visual Arts, and Design industries. Our thriving Entertainment Law Practice offers innovative and diligent legal representation through our team of experienced and innovative attorneys. Through strategic partnerships with renowned talent management agencies, we also offer our clients financial and managerial services towards helping them navigate complex, regulatory terrain and proactively cultivate meaningful growth amongst talent.





## Mode of Operation



### Aina Blankson Nigeria:

As West Africa's unrivalled economic powerhouse, Nigeria's business culture is vastly different from that of the rest of the world, and even its regional neighbors. With adequate understanding of the nuances and protocol in the country, Aina Blankson Nigeria enables investors to navigate difficult business situations and ensures strict compliance with local and international laws.

### Aina Blankson Africa:

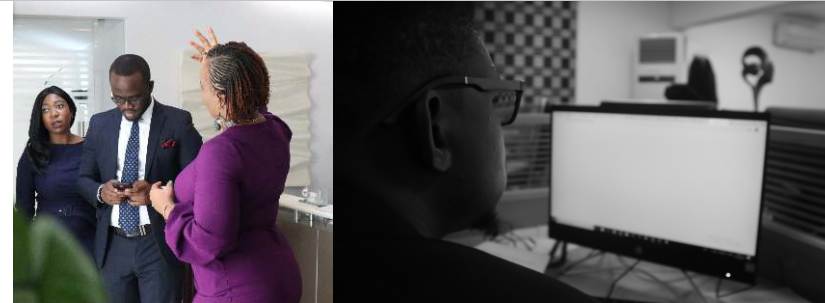
Termed the 'final frontier' and "land of opportunity," Africa encompasses 10 of the world's fastest growing economies. Africa hosts the world's youngest populations, significant natural resources and numerous countries anticipated to double economically at rates exceeding 7% per year, dwarfing western economies in terms of investment potential. With Aina Blankson Africa "AB Africa", we simplify and enhance the ability of our clients to explore and capitalize on vast opportunities present in all emerging markets located in Africa.

### Aina Blankson International:

With decades of experience and expansive global network, Aina Blankson International is predominantly focused on providing top notch legal and business services to our multinational and international clients operating in diverse sectors of commerce including International Asset Tracing and Recovery, Mergers and Acquisitions, Securities, Banking and Finance, Antitrust and Competition, International Commercial Arbitration and Litigation and cross-border transactions covering Singapore, United Kingdom, United States of America, Africa and United Arab Emirates.



## Distinct Value Proposition



### AB Responsible: Our CSR

Someone once famously said that the “business of business is business”. We think differently. As a socially responsible Firm, Aina Blankson through AB Responsible remains committed to justice sector reform and peacebuilding. In this regard, we continuously maintain a balance between economic growth of the Firm and the welfare of the society and the environment towards meaningful change.

Established in 1996 at the offices of Aina Blankson, LP, Negotiation and Conflict Management Group International (NCMG International) is responsible for remarkable justice sector reforms in Africa. In 2002, NCMG in collaboration with Aina Blankson established the first court connected ADR Centre in Africa; the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse which has been replicated in almost twenty states in Nigeria including the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Nigeria.

While we associate with the August 19, 2019 Business Roundtable Statement in Washington DC which redefines the purpose of a corporation, Aina Blankson has never wavered and has no intention of wavering in its overall commitment to the larger good.

### AB Culture: Our Essence

The Aina Blankson Culture is carefully designed to influence how people within Aina Blankson think, feel and act not only on the job, but in all they do.

The 5 prong Culture that defines the mode of operation within the Firm including approach of individuals and members of the Aina Blankson fold are as follows:

- Quality First
- Service & Speed
- Atmosphere & Cleanliness
- Accountability & Responsibility
- Class, Decorum & Influence



### People First

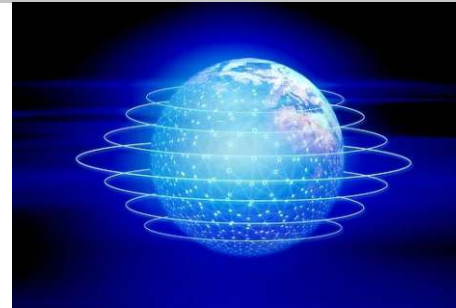
To fulfill our vision of being a leading global Law firm with distinctive world class standards, we believe our most important asset of all is our people as they are the primary Clients, Owners and Leaders of the Firm.



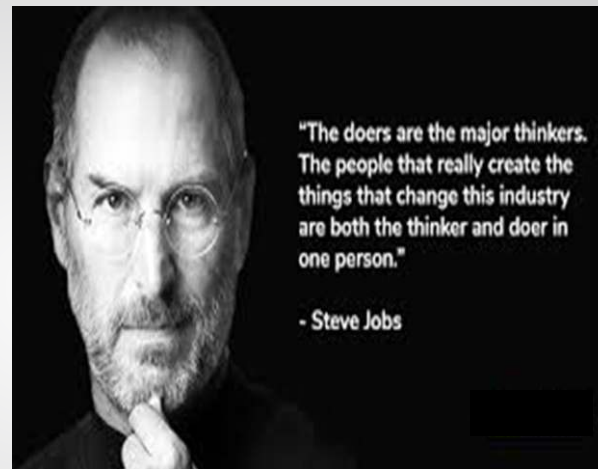
We remain committed to our People centric philosophy as the comfort, happiness and career growth of our staff underpins the success of the Aina Blankson Brand



## Our Credo



The success stories of greatest companies and brands ever built cannot be told without the place of imaginative thinking. At Aina Blankson, imaginative thinking is second to none on the requirements of business success. Our success thus far as a Firm is one that has been influenced by imaginative thinking which resonates in the way and manner Partners, Associates and Administrative Staff discharge their responsibilities. For us, Imaginative Thinking is the number one factor which influences every step we take and second only to the Aina Blankson Culture and Core Values.





## Track Record



### Transaction Advisory

Our Transaction Advisory Practice ranges from mergers and acquisition, capital markets, corporate finance, restructuring to Maritime, Oil & Gas and Insurance amongst others. Some of our recent transactions include the following:

- Lead Advisor in a consortium of seven law firms on the drafting of ministerial regulations for the oil and gas industry
- Facilitation of development of local content and indigenous capacity in Guyana with respect to the oil and gas sector
- Engaged as Consultant and Compliance Advisor by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on the \$200million Chad-Cameroun Pipeline Project involving ExxonMobil, Chevron, Petronas and Cameroon Government.
- Advised and represented a large Oil Company in a multimillion-dollar insurance claim, subject to arbitration, for the cost of rebuilding an oil refinery damaged by an explosion and fire.
- Provided advisory services to the financiers of ship owners concerning a multi-million arbitration with Korean ship builders about the delivery of two defective bulk carrier vessels.

### International Commercial Arbitration

- Acted in numerous arbitrations conducted under the London Court of International Arbitration Rules, ICC and SIAC Rules ranging from 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.
- Acted in multi-party arbitration proceedings and parallel litigation in England and Kenya concerning substantial claims and counterclaims between a European contractor and an Africa government entity.
- Acted as mediator and co-negotiator with Hogan Lovells in a £20 billion oil spillage dispute involving a multinational oil corporation and Niger-Delta community
- Acted as lead mediator in a \$33Million dispute in the oil & gas industry.
- Recovered fees for a UK bank from a Central European Government department by a UNCITRAL arbitration conducted in Vienna.
- Mediation of the multi-million dollar National Identity Management Commission dispute with a consortium of service providers





### Litigation Notable Engagements

- Successfully defended a number of Nigerian Banks in numerous bank/customer disputes; notably Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Ecobank, GTBank amongst others on and breach of contracts.
- Successful defended a One billion Naira Suit filed against Africa Reinsurance Corporation by the Industrial Trust Fund for payment of statutory contributions
- Represented Corporate Affairs Commission in a dispute with 23 Nigerian Banks which extended the frontiers of the mandatory disclosure principle in corporate law.
- Aina Blankson was the firm of choice 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.
- Led a team of Lawyers from other firms in successfully defending an incumbent State Governor in one of the Northern States in Nigeria on an impeachment proceeding before a judicial panel;
- Represented a South African bank when questions on the rights and obligations of Parties under a private placement arrangement resulted in litigation;
- Provided the initial opinion and eventual representation for the acquiring Bank 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

### Landmark Justice Sector Reforms

When it comes to reforms in the justice sector, no other law firm in Africa can be equated with Aina Blankson. In this regard, Aina Blankson has been responsible for a number of firsts including:

- Establishment of the first court connected ADR Centre in Africa (The Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse) in collaboration with NCMG International
- Initiated and established the Court of Appeal Mediation Centre, the first and foremost court connected appellate mediation centre in Africa
- Initiated the establishment of the Supreme Court Mediation Centre and drafted the Supreme Court Mediation Rules and Practice Direction.



## KEY CONTACT PERSONS



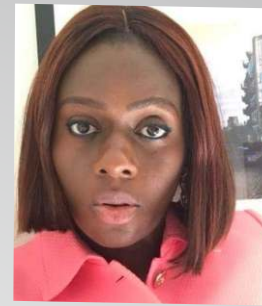
**CHIEF NNORUKA UDECHUKWU, SAN**  
*Senior Partner*



**KEHINDE AINA**  
*Partner*



**FAYO ADELEYE**  
*Partner*



**FOLASHADE ADELOYE**  
*Partner*



**DR. TOLU TAIWO**  
*Partner*



**LAURETTA HALIM-AREGBE**  
*Director*



**KEITH AUSTIN**  
*Member, Advisory Board*



**HANS PETER FRICK, DR. IUR.**  
*Member, Advisory Board*



**TUNJI AKANDE**  
*Member, Advisory Board*



**EDWIN GLASGOW, QC, FCI Arb**  
*Member, Advisory Board*



**JEREMY LACK**  
*Member, Advisory Board*



## 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*

*"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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