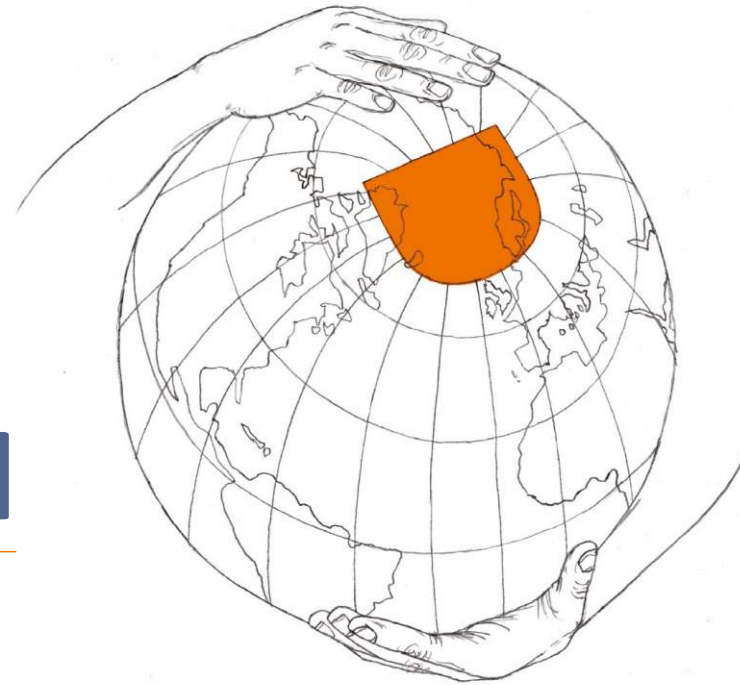


Aina Blankson International



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Welcome Note

Given the increase in the rate of cross-border transactions across the world on a daily basis and the influence of technology in that regard, today's competitive landscape stretches to a global horizon. With decades of experience and expansive global network, Aina Blankson is poised to provide top notch legal and business services to our multinational and international clients operating in diverse sectors of commerce.

Our expertise in cross-border transactions, Energy & Natural Resource, Mergers and Acquisitions, Securities, Banking and Finance, Antitrust and Competition, International Commercial Arbitration and Litigation affords us the unique opportunity to proffer an array of creative and truly innovative solutions across board. Armed with deep industry knowledge and global awareness of the business needs of our clients, we are able to offer multilingual solutions spanning Singapore, United Kingdom, United States of America, Africa and United Arab Emirates.

Our aim is to provide our clients with the legal and business services they need to succeed. We are not limited by distance, language or location, we will provide value- where and when required anywhere in the world.



Dr. Tolu Taiwo
Partner



Prof. Eduardo Pereira
Director



Reg Fowler
Director

Land of Opportunities

Termed the ‘final frontier’ Africa encompasses 10 of the world’s fastest growing economies. Early investors overcoming initial stigmas and fears now stand as an example of proven returns doing business in Africa. 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.

Whilst Africa offers the world’s highest return on foreign direct investment, it encompasses 54 very different countries with equally diverse business considerations, each demanding specific regional expertise.

Successful business operations in Africa are largely predicated on a firm understanding of regional subtleties, public sector networks and influence, and reliable professional advice which reflect industry expertise at accustomed international standards.

Africa

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A New Leader

For years, Western observers and media had been talking about the rise of Asia in terms of its massive future potential. But the time has come for the rest of the world to update its thinking—because the future arrived even faster than expected.

One of the most dramatic developments of the past 30 years has been emerging Asia's integration into global flows of trade, capital, talent, and innovation. In the decades ahead, Asia's economies are in transition from participating in these flows to determining their shape and direction. The question today is no longer how quickly Asia will rise; it is how Asia will lead. In recent decades, several Asian countries have propelled themselves into the ranks of middle-income and even advanced economies.

This reflects the region's ongoing industrialization and urbanization, its rising demand and productivity growth, and its dynamic corporate sector. These trends represent a real shift in the world's center of gravity.

Accessing and having a strong presence in the Asian market requires a deep understanding of the terrain, diverse key sectors, multiple regulations and a trusted partner.



Asia

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Sustaining

Europe is in prime position when it comes to global trade. The openness of the trade regime has positioned the European Union as the biggest player on the global trading scene. The European Union has achieved a strong position by acting together with one voice on the global stage, rather than with separate trade strategies.

The EU is an attractive market to do business with. With over 500 million consumers looking for quality goods, the world's largest single market with transparent rules and regulations and secure legal investment framework that is amongst the most open in the world, Europe provides the most open market to developing countries in the world and has become deeply integrated into global markets.

As investors thrive in a stable, sound and predictable environment, and are constantly seeking for investment barriers to be dismantled and investments to be protected, a renowned partner that can help them navigate the hurdles becomes a necessity.



Europe

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

Power & Energy

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.

Oil and Gas:

We have a long-standing experience in the international oil and gas industry. Through advising in hundreds of transactions, projects and other oil and gas developments, we have amassed a wealth of knowledge in this industry across the jurisdictions we cover. The breadth of our practice and our experience with a diversity of jurisdictions and oil and gas companies enables us to provide clients with the most sound and effective advice and representation. Our client base includes oil and gas producers and oilfield contractors worldwide, as well as various sovereign nations. In addition to the strong technical capabilities of our Oil and Gas Attorneys, we are also equipped with experience in most aspects of the day-to-day operational issues faced by petroleum exploration and production companies, LNG producers, refiners, marketers, services companies and precise understanding of the regulatory landscape in diverse jurisdictions across the globe.

Cross-border Transaction Advisory:

The increasingly complex nature of financial deals necessitates deep industry knowledge and transaction experience. Aina Blankson's dedicated global transaction advisory specialists have executed hundreds of cross border transactions spanning finance, asset management, energy and international mergers and acquisitions. Our transaction advisory team has a strong track record which is attested to by our recent ranking by IFLR 1000 and Legal 500 as one of the leading law firms in this practice area.



International Asset Tracing and Recovery:

Leveraging on our membership of the International Asset Tracing and Recovery Group ("IATR"); a multi-jurisdictional network of Asset Tracers and recovery experts with a global spread including Asia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Africa and the United Arab Emirates, we have been involved in multiple multi-billion dollar recoveries across jurisdictions. Our impressive track record of consistent, high volume tracing and recovery of obligors' debts and assets hidden outside jurisdiction by leveraging on cutting-edge technology, strong international affiliations undoubtedly stands us out.

International Commercial Arbitration:

We act in International Commercial Arbitrations across the globe which are subject to many different systems of law. We are experienced in conducting arbitrations held under the auspices of institutions such as the ICE, ICC, LCIA, LMAA, GAFTA and FOSFA. We assist with the drafting and negotiation of forum selection clauses and multi-tiered dispute resolution clauses including international arbitration agreements to take advantage of treaty protections, as well as planning and managing potential future disputes. We have successfully represented multinationals and Governments in multi-billion dollar arbitration disputes. We are defined by our rare approach towards speedy resolution of disputes driven by our understanding of the nature of our clients' businesses across diverse jurisdictions.

Cross-border Litigation and Dispute Resolution:

Our cross-border litigation and dispute resolution team is highly renowned as a leader in the market for complex and high profile international commercial disputes. Working for a range of clients across key industry sectors, we provide expert and strategic advice; and unparalleled dispute resolution services to the world's most prominent corporations including financial institutions; energy; infrastructure, mining and commodities; transport; technology and innovation; and government institutions.



Our 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 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

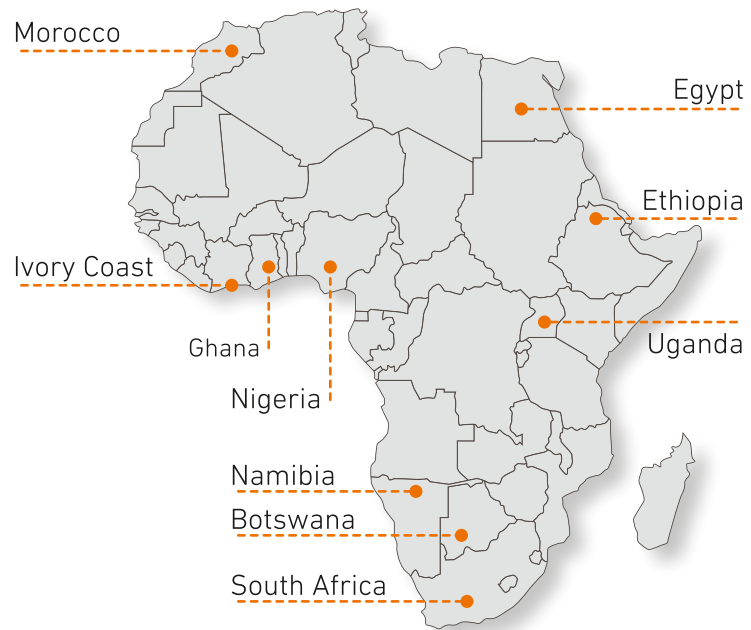
Landmark Justice Sector Reforms

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:

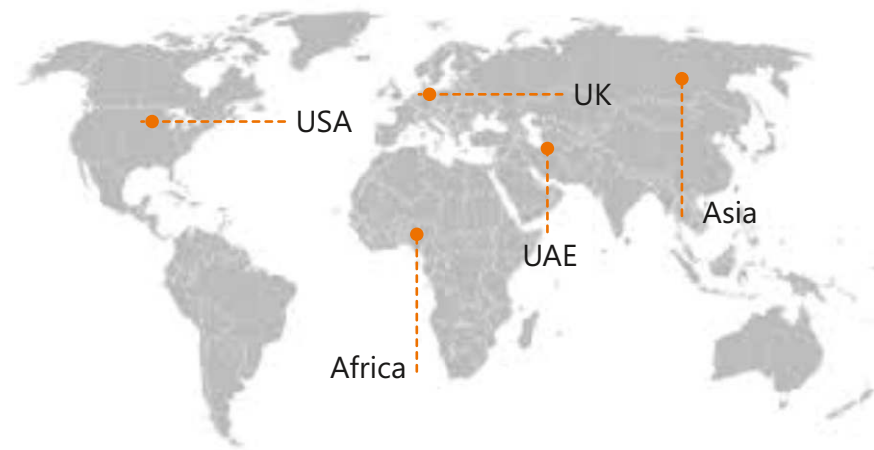
- Establishment of the first court connected ADR Centre in Africa (The Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse) in collaboration with NCMG International
- Initiated and established the Court of Appeal Mediation Centre, the first and foremost court connected appellate mediation centre in Africa
- Initiated the establishment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



Africa Spread



Global Spread



Unique Value Proposition

International expertise:

As business becomes more global, so do the disputes spawned by it. Clients increasingly become involved in cross-border disputes and disputes in unfamiliar jurisdictions. Our global litigation practice offers unrivalled expertise in the management and co-ordination of international disputes. We have assembled a formidable team with considerable experience of managing and resolving disputes. We conduct cases at all levels of courts and tribunals.

Understanding our clients' needs:

We make it our practice to have a clear understanding of our clients' objectives and to chart with them a dispute resolution strategy which best meets their needs. Successful litigation and dispute resolution depends to a large extent on good judgment, skillful negotiation and tactical flair. We do not shirk from being tough if such an approach is needed. However, we do not engage in posturing and pointless sideshows for their own sake.

Dispute avoidance and speed

Everyone wants to avoid disputes if possible. We advise clients on how to structure dispute resolution procedures and how to minimize and manage the risk of disputes occurring. We are not defined by our problem solving skills, but our ability to guide clients through disputes. Our resources and experience enable us to move quickly and decisively. We have particular expertise in applying our skills to help resolve disputes in complex or unusual cases for which special thinking and management are called.



Why Choose AB-I

“The Aina Blankson asset tracing and recovery team is the leader on the African continent given their impressive track record which has overtime grown to become second to none”

Becker Law, USA, 2017

“The team at Aina Blankson – praised for its ‘industry knowledge, depth in analysis and distinct approach towards transactions”

Legal 500 UK

“Aina Blankson is regarded by their peers as one of the world’s leading practitioners in this field ”

Who’s Who Legal, 2016

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ABOUT US

We are a leading full service global law firm, with significant depth and range of resources to exceed clients' expectations and offer a unique leverage in the global market place. Ranked by IFLR 1000 and Legal 500 as one of the leading law firms in Nigeria, we are retained Attorneys to an array of domestic and international companies, financial and government institutions. Given the professionalism and client-centric approach of Aina Blankson, we have earned the accolade of "the Law Firm of note and reference" by Legal 500 and IFLR 1000, the two leading Directories of Law Firms world-wide.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS


Given our international spread and network in strategic locations across the globe including our connection with the International Centre for Energy (ICE), International Energy Law Advisory Group (IELAG) and our membership of International Asset Recovery Group (IARG), International Asset Tracing & Recovery Group (IATR) we are poised to offer clients access to a global network of seasoned legal experts across diverse jurisdictions ensuring you get the best service.







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