

ARBITRATION & DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTICE

ainablanks^{on}

ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION



The delivery of innovative, creative and cost-effective solutions through ADR has for many years been a pivotal aspect of the pre-eminent Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Practice of Aina Blankson. Our unique dispute prevention approach is the first test for every brief referred to the Firm.

By this, we ensure that alternative dispute mechanisms are applied as may be relevant and practical; prompt resolution of commercial disputes are by this method assured regardless of any existing adjudicatory processes. Our team includes skilled accredited arbitrators, negotiators and mediators versed in the LCIA, ICC, NYC, LCA Arbitration rules. We have a reputation for always securing the best deals for clients irrespective of the complexities of the disputes.

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.

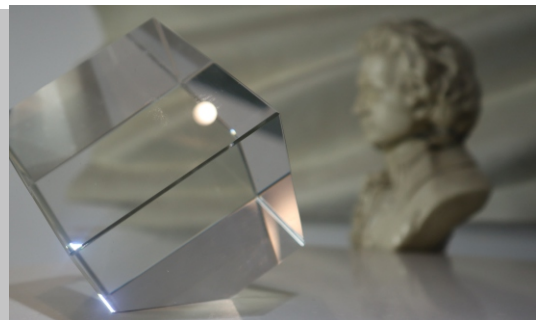
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

The Arbitration Practice Team of Aina Blankson represents clients in high-stakes international commercial 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), Arbitration Rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the AAA International Rules for the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). Our Arbitration attorneys have widespread industry knowledge, are intimately familiar with numerous different legal systems and cultures; and many have practiced law in both common and civil law jurisdictions. The group's clients include multinationals and industry leaders across a wide variety of businesses, investors, financial institutions, state-owned enterprises and national governments.



We work imaginatively and constructively to ensure that our clients' commercial objectives are met and that our clients' interests and reputations are protected. Our partners and staff are committed to providing clients with the highest standards of services, professional excellence and value for money. We seek to establish and maintain a high level of personal contact with our clients, to anticipate developments and to stretch ourselves to perform above our clients' expectations.

Working out creative business oriented solutions to disputes involves more than the arbitration proceedings itself, we bring to our clients expansive knowledge and wide-ranging experience with both arbitration and ancillary proceedings such as mediation. Our attorneys are highly skilled at mediation and other means to reach a negotiated solution where appropriate, but they do not hesitate to vigorously pursue arbitration awards if no mutually agreeable result is reached.



INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: OUR CUTTING EDGE

- **GETTING OUT OF COURT**
Companies may be sued, even in a foreign country, despite an applicable arbitration clause in the contract. Our attorneys have wide experience with removing cases from (foreign) courts and forcing plaintiffs to arbitrate instead. Even if there is no obvious applicable arbitration clause, we have successfully moved cases to arbitration through submission agreements or by applying arbitration clauses in ancillary agreements.
- **COST EFFICIENT**
Arbitration is cost efficient: our attorneys resolve most arbitration matters within a year, and many in less, obtaining significant savings over what it would have cost to litigate the matter. Nearly 50% of parties engaged in arbitration say it saves cost and feel it offers better value than litigation.
- **SEEKING AN EARLY RESOLUTION**
Our attorneys have extensive mediation experience enabling them to reach a favourable negotiated solution if the client decides such to be in its best interest. The vast majority of companies that explore mediation in resolving disputes report additional cost saving as a result.
- **AN EFFICIENT ALTERNATIVE TO LITIGATION**
Some cases need to be fought hard to the end, and we have successfully done so many times. Even then, flexible arbitration procedures, privacy of the process, ability to choose arbitrators, absence of lengthy appeals, and virtual world-wide enforceability of arbitration awards has enabled us to make arbitration an efficient alternative to litigation.

"An innovative full service Law firm leveraging on the creative minds of its team of diverse specialists to meet clients' interests and exceed expectations"



RECENT ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

We act in arbitrations both in Africa and abroad which are subject to many different systems of law. We are experienced in conducting arbitrations held under the auspices of institutions such as the ICC, LCIA, LMAA, GAFTA, FOSFA AND ICE. We also conduct arbitrations on an ad hoc basis. We have substantial experience in acting as advocates before arbitral tribunals and, where appropriate, we act in conjunction with local lawyers. We also assist overseas clients in enforcing foreign arbitration awards in Africa. Our recent experience includes:

Construction Arbitrations: Acting for building owners, contractors and engineers in construction arbitrations both on land and offshore, in various parts of the world, involving the presentation of expert technical evidence to support or rebut claims for defective work and design, delays and cost overruns

A 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.

Rebuilding an oil Refinery: Acting for a large Oil Company in a multi-million dollar insurance claim, subject to arbitration, for the cost of rebuilding an oil refinery damaged by an explosion and fire.

Advising on an international arbitration: Advising on an arbitration being conducted under the Rules of the International Chamber of Commerce in connection with the implementation of a national utility system in the Middle East

Advising the financiers in a ship building dispute: Advising the financiers of ship owners concerning a multi-million arbitration with Korean ship builders about the delivery of two defective bulk carrier vessels.

Arbitration subject to laws of varied jurisdictions: Acting in numerous arbitration proceedings and hearings with millions of dollars at stake, seated in London subject to laws of varied jurisdictions.

Multi-party arbitration proceedings: Acting in multi-party arbitration proceedings and parallel litigation in England and Africa concerning substantial claims and counterclaims between a European contractor and an Africa government entity.

SINGAPORE CONVENTION & MEDIATION TRACK RECORD

One of the major highlights of 2019 for players in the arbitration and dispute resolution world was the official launch and signing of the Singapore Convention on August 7, 2019. When the backend stories of the Singapore Convention ever gets written, the role of Aina Blankson and especially Kehinde Aina, a Partner in the Firm and a leading figure in mediation cannot be ignored.

Our track record in mediation includes the following:

- a) Establishment of Lagos multi-door courthouse, the first court connected multidoor courthouse in Africa and successful replication in several other states in Nigeria.
- b) Establishment of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Mediation Centres, the foremost mediation centre at the appellate courts across Africa.
- c) Establishment of Unilag - NCMG College of Negotiation.
- d) Regional World Bank Representative for seven countries



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