

LITIGATION PRACTICE

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The capabilities of the Litigation Practice Team of Aina Blankson extend across the world with dedicated and experienced litigators drawing on the integrated and specialist support of all the practice areas of the Firm. We provide cutting-edge representation to multinational corporations, banks, governments, professional bodies and private institutions across a wide range of business sectors. Our team also offers case management and legal audit services as well as conduct due diligence in respect of non-contentious corporate governance and compliance issues.

We are supported by cutting edge technology and lead the field in innovation. Whatever the dispute; whatever the remedy, Aina Blankson litigators, arbitrators and mediators operate as effective dispute advisers.

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.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION

We are at the cutting edge of criminal prosecution and defence cases, having been involved in many of the most significant cases over the past decade. Our experience in this field is second to none. Our criminal lawyers are highly sophisticated, astute and supportive. We are particularly well known for our skill in providing strategic advice and for our ability to keep high profile cases out of the public eye. We enjoy an excellent international reputation as our work increasingly involves investigations in multiple jurisdictions and mutual legal assistance. Such cases require a sophisticated understanding of foreign law and practice and its impact in the Nigeria. We have developed a network of lawyers around the world with whom we work.

"We are constantly in search of creative solutions for our diverse range of clients thus positioning us as the law firm of note in Africa."



COMMERCIAL LITIGATION



Our commercial litigation team is dedicated to advising on all contentious issues arising in the banking and capital market fields including on operational and reputational risks facing our finance clients. Within the group, specialist litigators work with our transactional experts on problems with derivatives, securitisations, equity and debt issues, asset and trade finance, fund management, and corporate and project finance.

Our specialist knowledge of the law on secured credit transactions stands us in a vantage position to advice and implement cutting edge solutions to debt management and recovery for Banks, other financial institutions and venture capitalist firms for whom we act as Attorneys. We have been engaged by leading commercial banks in the design and implementation of effective multilateral debt recovery schemes.

INTERNATIONAL ASSET TRACING & 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.

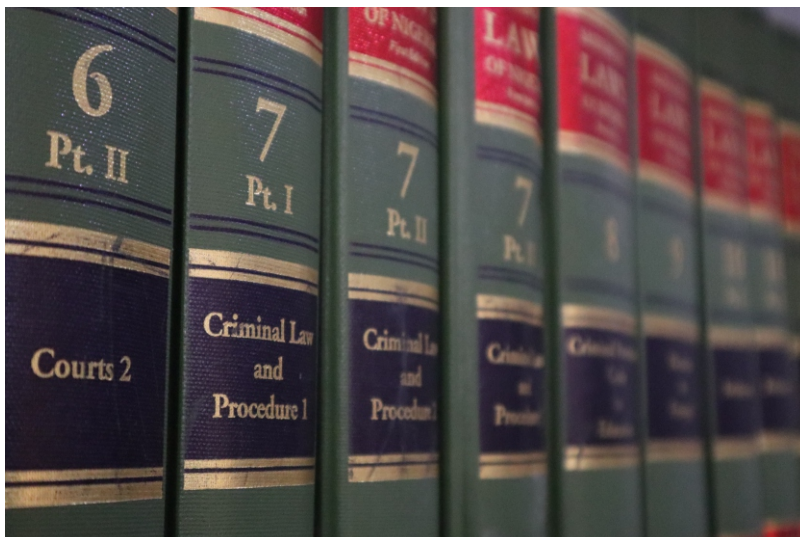
Aina Blankson Asset tracing process involves the following key steps:

- Identification of assets
- Verification of asset ownership
- Information sifting and data analysis
- Tracing of financial and physical assets
- Forensic accounting
- Recovery and repossession management

“With decades of experience and expansive global network, Aina Blankson is predominantly focused on providing top notch legal and business services to our multinational and international clients”

Our Due Diligence extends to:

- Layering of disclosed/ undisclosed entities structure to understand potential ownership
- Quantum of funds and wealth in various asset classes
- Credit defaults against assets or charges registered against assets
- Detailed analysis of investments in fixed assets and investment pattern in subsidiaries, if any to obtain
- Evidence that assets represent the proceeds of a fraud or other crime



“We are known for our ability to provide support from project initiation to execution and throughout the lifespan of a project, anticipating pitfalls and regional nuances to ensure a project’s success.”

LITIGATION PRACTICE: OUR CUTTING EDGE

- **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 coordination of international disputes. We provide excellent advice and service based on the quality and commitment of our lawyers. 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 problemsolving 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.

OUR EXPERIENCE:

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

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