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Aina Blankson: **ABOUT Us**

Aina Blankson, a member of the Aina Blankson Global, a Swiss Verein, is a leading one-stop brand for best-in-class professional services in law, finance, tax including corporate services, energy and consulting. As the parent firm of Aina Blankson, it has afforded adequate global recognition by clients as a leading professional firm providing best-in-class services. 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.



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.

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.

Cutting Edge

Litigation Practice:

- **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.



"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."

Cutting Edge

ArbitrationPractice:

- **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**

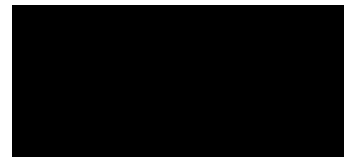
Arbitration is cost efficient: our attorneys resolve most arbitration matters within a year, and many in less, obtaining significant savings over what it would have cost to litigate the matter. Nearly 50% of parties engaged in arbitration say it saves cost and feel it offers better value than litigation.

- **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.



Notable Litigation Engagements

- Aina Blankson has remained the firm of choice within the financial sector defending banking institutions in commercial transactions and prosecuting financial crimes.
- Successfully 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
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Notable Transaction Engagements

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.

Notable Arbitration Engagements

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

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
- Replicated the MDC concept in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
- Merger & Acquisition Dispute Resolution Program in Nigerian Banks
- Peace Award which recognize and honour individuals and organizations that exhibit exemplary leadership, as well as make outstanding contribution to the pursuit of peace, justice building, which strongly enhance the capacity of people to live in peace and harmony
- The 18 month World Bank sponsored project which established MDCs in Abia & Kaduna States in Nigeria.
- 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.



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*

"About ten years ago, a young lawyer, with great vision, approached some of the topmost men in the country. That young lawyer was exceedingly restless in regard to what could be done to improve our justice system. He saw that the pace of administration of justice in the country was ridiculously too slow and damaging to the economy of the nation. The justice system to be meaningful, he claimed, must be revolutionized. That young man is Kehinde Aina, a seasoned lawyer, imbued with the spirit of selfless service. He is an asset to the country".

*Hon. Justice Kayode Eso, CFR
(Former Justice, Supreme Court of Nigeria)*

"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*



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