

Profile of Professor Paul Obo Idornigie, PhD, FCIS, MCIArb(UK)

Professor Paul Obo Idornigie, a University Scholar, holds a doctorate degree in International Commercial Arbitration, is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (London), a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), Member, London Court of International Arbitration, a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Member, International Bar Association and Commonwealth Lawyers Association. He is a Resource Person to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). He is on the Panel of Neutrals at the Abuja and Lagos Multi Door Courthouses, Nigeria and the Panel of Arbitrators at the Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos, Nigeria and Nigerian Communications Commission, Abuja, Nigeria. He is a Notary Public for Nigeria

He retired as a Senior Lecturer at the Nigerian Law School, Abuja where he taught Company Law & Practice (including Arbitration and ADR Processes) and Law of Evidence and later took up appointment as a Research Professor of Law at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja. He was formerly at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), the National Secretariat of the National Council on Privatization where he was a World Bank/Department for International Development Adviser (Consultant) and General Counsel/Head of Secretariat. In this capacity, he was the Legal Adviser to BPE and thus was involved in the drafting and negotiation of the privatization, commercialization and concession transactions and conversant with infrastructure regulation. He was also involved in drafting the laws for the reform of the transport and power sectors. On the passage of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of March 11, 2005, he was involved in the unbundling of the former National Electric Power Authority. Indeed he supervised the incorporation of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc and its successors (one transmission company, six generation companies and 11 distribution companies) and actually drafted the Management Contract in respect of the Transmission Company of Nigeria Plc before further action was stayed on the privatization of the successor companies. He also drafted all the gazettes for the transfer of assets and liabilities of the National Electric Power Authority to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc and thence to the successor companies. He was involved in the negotiation and drafting of the lease agreements (concession) of the ports in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Warri.

As Head of Secretariat at the Bureau of Public Enterprises, he was Secretary to the Management Committee (MC) of BPE, Secretary to the Technical Committee (TC) of the National Council on Privatization (NCP) and also Assistant Secretary to the NCP. In this capacity, he was involved in the drafting and processing of minutes/papers/memos for these organs. Indeed he attended all NCP/TC/NCP Meetings from 2003 till January 2009 when he left BPE.

He wrote legal opinions on various areas of reform and restructuring of the key sectors of the economy. He is conversant with the World Bank procurement processes and

procedures and that of the Bureau of Public Procurement (established under the provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2007), that of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (established under the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007) and that of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (established under the provisions of the Public Enterprises (Privatization and Commercialization) Act, 2004.

He taught previously at the University of Jos, Jos, Plateau School of Accountancy and Management Studies, Jos and the ANAN College of Accountancy, Jos, Nigeria. He has held positions in the Government of Nigeria such as the Personal Assistant to the Honourable Minister of State for Works and Housing and served on national committees like the National Committee on the Review of Arbitration Laws (2006). He is also Director of Research at the Legal Research Initiative – a not-for-profit organization.

He has conducted several arbitrations, mediations and other negotiations. He has appeared before arbitral tribunals as Counsel. He has participated at several workshops/seminars/training sessions and delivered papers in various aspects of Arbitration/ADR, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Project Financing. He is a Legal Consultant, Arbitrator and PPP Specialist advising federal (including the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development and Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission) and state governments and private entities (including the Rivers Monorail Company Ltd jointly promoted by the Rivers State Government and TSI Property and Investment Holdings Ltd) on PPP and ADR processes.

He attended Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, Essex, UK, the University of Jos, Nigeria and the Nigerian Law School, Lagos, Nigeria. He has published extensively in local and international journals. He is on the editorial boards of several Journals and the Editor of NIALS Journal of Business Law. He is also External Examiner to Universities and other Professional Bodies.

Professor Idornigie was born at Ayogwiri-Uzairue, Etsako West Local Government Area, Edo State on 24 February, 1951.