

PROFILE OF
HON. JUSTICE ADEKUNLE STANLEY LAWAL, FICMC, F.DRI,
HON. PRESIDENT CUSTOMARY COURT OF APPEAL OF THE
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA.

Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal, FICMC, F.DRI, was born in Ilara-Mokin, present day Ondo State, South West, Nigeria, into the family of Chief S. B. Lawal and Mrs Aderosola Lawal (nee Fakuade) both of blessed memory. He had his primary education at Muslim Primary School, Ilara-Mokin, People's Primary School Molete, Ibadan and Anglican Central School, Ilare, Ile-Ife, after which he proceeded to CAC Grammar School, Ibadan (1976 – 1977) and Lagelu Grammar School, Ibadan (1976 – 1977). Upon completion of his secondary education, he gained employment as an Audit Clerk at the Internal Audit Department of the University of Ibadan from 1977 to 1980.

Despite having a seemingly good job as an Audit Clerk, with the temptation to wanting to build a career therein, the young Adekunle Stanley Lawal, had his eyes on greater heights and wasn't going to be distracted by any situation or condition. It was therefore not surprising when in 1980, he enrolled at the famous Ibadan Grammar School, where he obtained a Higher School Certificate (HSC/GCE "A" Level), in 1982. In the same year, he gained admission to the prestigious University of Ibadan to pursue a lifelong ambition of becoming a lawyer, a dream he fulfilled when he obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1985, and proceeded to the Nigerian Law School, Victoria Island, Lagos and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1986 as Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Upon his call to the Nigerian Bar, the newly wigged Barrister Adekunle Stanley Lawal had his mandatory National Youth Service at the law Firm of Messrs H.O. Davies & Co as a Legal Officer between 1986 and 1987. From 1988 to 1994, he practiced as Solicitor and Advocate in the law firm of Messrs Olagbegi Saraki & Co, where he cut his teeth as a Legal Practitioner, before setting up his own private practice of Kunle Lawal & Co, as Founding/Principal Partner, in 1994 and for well over a decade, the vibrant, erudite, versatile and highly mobile Barrister Lawal, traversed virtually all the Courts in the land, doing what he loved best to do and in the process, carved a niche for himself as a reliable and dependable advocate, earning the respect and admiration of clients and adversaries alike.

Despite enjoying success and satisfaction as a private legal practitioner, he had his eyes on higher goals. Little wonder therefore, when in 2009, the opportunity

came, he grabbed it and took appointment as a Judge of the FCT Customary Court of Appeal, a Superior Court of Record. As a Judicial Officer, the Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal has continued to distinguish himself creditably, especially in the quality and industry of his judgments both at the Customary Court of Appeal and at Election Tribunals where he has been privileged to serve.

On 14th October, 2022, the Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal was appointed as Hon. Acting President of the FCT Customary Court of Appeal and on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023, his lordship was sworn in as the 3rd substantive President and Head of Court, FCT Customary Court of Appeal, a position he holds till date. It is on record, that since his lordship's assumption of office as President/Head of Court, he has initiated and continue to advance unprecedented policies of staff welfare, which has earned him an **Exemplary Leadership Award** by the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria as part of the 2003 May Day celebration

Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal has undertaken various ad-hoc assignments at the FCT Customary Court of Appeal, including but not limited to Member/Chairman of the FCT Customary Court of Appeal Law Reports Committee, Chairman, FCT Customary Court of Appeal and Customary Court (Civil Procedure) Rules Amendment Committee, Treasurer, Forum of Grand Kadis and Presidents of Sharia and Customary Courts of Appeal in Nigeria, amongst others. He has attended and participated at several Trainings, Workshops, Conferences and Seminars within and outside Nigeria, on diverse areas of law.

Hon. Justice Lawal is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC) and fellow of the International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI). He has also authored a book, Practice and Procedure in the Customary Court of Appeal (2009).

Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal, FICMC, F.DRI, is married and the marriage is blessed with three (3) beautiful and amazing children.