The Legal Profession and the Young Lawyer's Road

Volume III of the Nigerian Legal System teaching books

A TEACHING VERSION

Prepared for

VANGUARD SOLICITORS
Barristers' Chamber · Makurdi · Nigeria

Vanguard.48HourRFPRescue.com
Info@Vanguard.48HourRFPRescue.com

Imprint

The Legal Profession and the Young Lawyer's Road — Volume III of the Nigerian Legal System teaching books. This volume stands in the FREE class of the library: it is freely given, and anyone may collect it online.

This volume is an original house teaching book, prepared for **Vanguard Solicitors**, a barristers' chamber in Makurdi, Nigeria. It teaches the law in general words, at the world standard, and it is **educational material, not legal advice**. No textbook in copyright is copied, and no code or constitution is reproduced wholesale: principles are taught, authorities are named only where verifiable, and everything is said in the book's own teaching words.

Authorities named in this book include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Legal Practitioners Act, the Evidence Act 2011, and the Arbitration and Mediation Act 2023 — named by name; the reader who needs the law itself must read those instruments in their official texts.

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The measure of this book is the world standard; local law is honoured as local fact where it is named.

The Place — Nigeria

Nigeria is a federation of thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. Its law is the subject of this book; its map stands here so the reader always knows the ground the law governs. Makurdi, where the chambers stand, is marked beside Abuja, the federal capital.



Map of Nigeria — drawn by the house from public-domain Natural Earth boundary data. Abuja and Makurdi are marked at their positions; the map is a geographic outline, not a survey.

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Chapter 1

How a Lawyer Is Made — The University and the Law School

No one practises law in Nigeria by talent alone; the road is built, and every step is guarded. It begins with the university: a Bachelor of Laws degree — the LL.B. — from a faculty of law accredited for the purpose, where the student studies the core subjects the profession requires: the legal system, constitutional law, contract, tort, land law, criminal law, equity and trusts, jurisprudence, and the rest of the prescribed course. The universities are regulated in their standards, and admission to the profession's own school turns on a qualifying degree.

From the university the road passes to the Nigerian Law School, run by the Council of Legal Education — the profession's own teaching house, with campuses across the country. There the degree is turned toward practice: civil and criminal litigation, corporate law and practice, property law practice, legal drafting and conveyancing, professional ethics, and advocacy — taught by exercises, moots, and externship attachments in courts and law firms. Graduates of foreign universities first take the Bar Part I course, which grounds them in the Nigerian system their foreign degree did not teach; the professional course proper is Bar Part II.

Examination at the Law School is the gate. Those who pass are qualified for call; those who fail must return for the part that defeated them — the gate does not lower itself for sympathy, because the public did not agree to be practised upon by the unready. The teaching point is dignity in the design: the length of the road is the profession's promise to strangers who will trust its members with their liberty, property, and secrets.

Notice what the road assumes: that law is both a learning and a craft. The university teaches what the law is and why; the Law School teaches what a lawyer does on Monday morning. A young lawyer who despises either half — the scholar who cannot draft, the drafter who cannot reason — is half-made, and the road's two halves exist to prevent exactly that.

Worked example

A brilliant graduate of a foreign law faculty demands to be called directly, saying his degree 'speaks for itself'. The teaching answer walks the road: his degree must first be recognised, the Bar Part I course grounds him in Nigerian law and institutions, then Bar Part II, examination, and call. The gate is not doubting his brilliance; it is requiring the Nigerian half of a Nigerian lawyer.

Chapter summary

A Nigerian lawyer is made by an accredited LL.B., then the Nigerian Law School under the Council of Legal Education — Bar Part I for foreign graduates, Bar Part II for all — examined as the profession's gate before call. The road joins learning to craft by design.

Discussion questions

1. What does each half of the road — university and Law School — contribute that the other cannot?

2. Why does the profession examine at the gate instead of trusting degrees alone?

3. What is the purpose of the Bar Part I course for foreign graduates?

Practice problems — with guided outlines