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Profile

Prince I. Nwafuru is the Managing Partner at The Law Suite, a commercial law firm based in Lagos Nigeria with offices in Abuja and Port Harcourt. As the Managing Partner, Prince has successfully led the firm to its current status where it serves major corporate clients in different sectors of Nigeria's economy. Prince has a reputation as a savvy legal mind, an astute and resourceful commercial and well-rounded lawyer with vast experience in commercial litigation, arbitration and transaction. At The Law Suite, Prince leads the Firm's Practice Group that advises clients on a wide range of practice areas such as commercial litigation, arbitration, maritime & international trades, energy, Banking & Finance, Innovations & Blockchain, Employment Relations, SMEs & Startups, Telecommunications, Taxation, Government Policies & Regulations, Sports Law, White & Blue Collar Criminal Defence and political Disputes. Before co-founding The Law Suite, Prince was a Sector Head, Arbitration and Capital Market Disputes at Paul Usoro & Co, a top commercial law firm in Nigeria. He also co-led the Firm's Financial Services, Arbitration, Corporate Services and Taxation Practice Group.

When he is not advising on banking, energy, environment, maritime, solid minerals and other commercial issues, Prince is busy working on white-collar crime litigation and numerous pre & post-election petitions – an area where he has gained a reputation as a leading young expert. In 2019, Prince played the role of a mid-level Team Lead in the Legal Team that defended the election of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mr Udom Gabriel Emmanuel right from the Election Petition Tribunal up to the Supreme Court. Similarly, in 2015, Prince played an active role in the Team that represented the Governor of Akwa Ibom State and all the winners of the House of Representative and Senatorial elections in Akwa Ibom State both in pre and post elections disputes up to the Supreme Court.

In 2021, as a young expert in policy matters and electoral laws, Prince was appointed by the Nigerian Bar Association as a member of NBA Committee on Electoral Reforms and worked with the National Assembly in the reform of the Electoral laws. His inputs formed parts of the novel provisions of the new Electoral Act, 2021. Prince has appeared with and against some of the Legal Profession's most prominent and renowned Senior Advocates and has been involved in numerous high-profile cases spanning various practice areas. He has also advised and represented some of the Nigeria's largest banks in various transactions and litigation spanning loan advising, restructuring and recovery and cross border dealings. Prince is very savvy and commercially aware lawyer with numerous thought-provoking articles and insightful publications on legal and policy matters to his credit. He regularly engages in Career Mentorship and grooming of budding and aspiring lawyers.

As a tech enthusiast, Prince is a Member (Expert Category) of the Stakeholders in Blockchain Technology Association of Nigeria (SIBAN) and has equally advised some tech startups on transactions relating to blockchain, cryptocurrency and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), etc. With the coming into force of the treaty establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (**AfCFTA**), Prince has been advocating for the implementation of the free trade agreement to drive industrialization through value-chain creation and economic development in Africa. He worked with

one of the Committees in Nigeria tasked with coordinating inputs on the AfCFTA Phase I Negotiations in 5 priority service sectors including legal services.

Outside core legal practice, Prince is a Board Secretary and Governance at the Pitch Coach for Africa, a non-profit located in Silicon Valley, California USA, with the mission to help African Entrepreneurs, Startups and Founders prepare their pitch decks and pitch to investors. Prince is a columnist and business analyst for Nairametrics, a leading financial information digital newspaper based in Lagos, Nigeria. He speaks and writes regularly on the AfCFTA and other commercial and legal issues. Prince is the founder of the AfCFTA Legal Network, a network of African and Black lawyers both in Africa and in diaspora.

He is a Founding Trustee, Board Secretary and Legal Adviser at Wati Foundation For Digital Inclusion and STEM Advocacy and is responsible for advising the Foundation on legal and regulatory issues.

Institutions attended and Certificates Awarded.

Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State (LLB)	-	2010
Nigerian Law School, Lagos Campus (BL)	-	2012
University of Lagos, Akoka Lagos (LLM)	-	in view

Career History

- (a) Managing Partner at The Law Suite – January 2023 to date
- (b) Co-Founder/Partner at The Law Suite - February to December 2022 to date
- (c) Paul Usoro & Co - Team Lead, (Advocacy & Dispute Resolution) - February 2019 - January 2022
- (d) Paul Usoro & Co (Associate 2) - July 2017 - January 2019
- (e) Paul Usoro & Co (Junior Associate 3) - January 2016 – June 2017
- (f) Paul Usoro & Co (Junior Associate 1) - January 2014 – December 2015
- (g) Rickey Tarfa (SAN) & Co., (Pupil Counsel) (NYSC) - February 2013 - October, 2013.

Few of my Articles and Writeups

- **The Need for Effective Mechanism for Resolution of Capital Market Disputes in Nigeria** published in Issue No. 6 2021 of the Capital Market Solicitors Association of Nigeria (CMSA)'s Newsletter.
- Co-authored the **Exclusive Nigeria Chapter to the Global Legal Insights, (Litigation & Dispute Resolution, 2019, 8th Edition)** published in 2019 by Global Legal Group Ltd, London.
- Was featured as **Thisday Newspaper Legal Personality of the Week for the week of 27 May 2019** – published on 28 May 2019 where he discussed the broad issues affecting legal practice such as disruption by Artificial Intelligence and Technology and the need for value-added legal services in the 21st Century Legal Market.
- **Arrest of Ship in Nigeria: Different Perspectives and the Scope of Maritime Claim** (published in UNILAG Law Review, Vol. 4 No. 1, (2020)

- **Arrest of Vessel and In Rem Action in Nigeria: Contemporary Issues** (published in Lawyard Quarterly Journal, Vol. 2 Issue 1, (2020)
- **Understanding the New Par Value Rules of the Nigerian Stock Exchange** – published in UNILAG Law Review, Print Edition – Volume 2 Edition 2.
- **How Companies Can Benefit from the Introduction of Exchange Traded Derivatives to the Nigerian Capital Market.** (one of the top ten essays selected across Nigeria. With this essay, I won a Scholarship to attend the Nigerian Stock Exchange’s Training on “Legal and Risk Aspects of Derivatives and Central Counterparty and Clearing Transactions held in November 2017 in Lagos).

Professional Membership/Certifications

- ❖ Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom
- ❖ Associate, Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, Nigeria
- ❖ Member, Capital Market Solicitors Association
- ❖ Member, Nigerian Maritime Law Association
- ❖ Member, Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law
- ❖ Member, Nigerian Bar Association
- ❖ Member (Expert Category), Stakeholders in Blockchain Association of Nigeria
- ❖ Founder, AFCFTA Legal Network

Hobbies: Swimming, watching football, and mentoring young lawyers.

Professional Membership/Certification:

- (i) Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK)
- (ii) Associate, Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators
- (iii) Capital Market Solicitors Association
- (iv) Nigerian Maritime Law Association

Reference: To be provided upon request.