

ACTIVITIES/UPCOMING EVENTS

The journey of the Institute since its over 30 years of existence has largely been one of dreams come true and hopes realised as it has, in fulfilment of its mandate, significantly impacted the legal profession and the nation at large through its research activities, publications, consultancy services, continuing legal education programmes, post graduate studies, among others.

Continuing Legal Education

The Institute attaches great importance to its role as a centre of advanced studies in the field of law. Consequently, it has, since inception, through its Continuing Legal Education programme, initiated series of courses aimed at reducing the problem of inadequate on-the-job training facilities in the country. All the courses are quite rich both in content and faculty and are periodically revised to, at every point in time, meet the needs of participants in an increasingly challenging and dynamic world. Some of the courses include –

(a). **Advanced Course in Practice and Procedure**

This is the oldest course in the series. It was first mounted in 1981 and would be running for the 30th time this year, 2010. It is designed to afford participants the opportunity to sharpen their skills in the Practice and Procedure of the Courts. Over the years, the turn out of participants at the Course has remained impressive and participants have adjudged it one of the most refreshing law programmes outside the university and Law School.

(b). **Course in Drafting Commercial Agreements and Banking Documentation**

This Course, which is also one of the Institute's oldest and regular courses, was originally conducted as part of the wide Legal Drafting Course for eight years before being carved out to run on its own as a result of popular demand. Its essence is to meet the needs of the private sector of the economy, state owned enterprises and the commercial law section of government departments. Thus, it exposes participants to key issues in commercial law, drafting and negotiation as well as prepares lawyers for the critical role of advisers to major players in the economy.

(c). **Course in Technical Services in Law Libraries**

This course was first mounted in 1986. It is run biennially and has gained steady popularity. It is designed to give law librarians and participants from other specialised libraries a sound training in modern techniques of law librarianship to enhance their proficiency and performance. Some practicing lawyers have also taken advantage of the course.

(d). **Government Legal Advisers/Law Officers Course**

This Course was introduced in 1997 in response to the need for continuing legal education of Law Officers in government employ whose knowledge of the law

appeared to be confined to the basic rudiments of practice. It is designed to properly equip lawyers involved in the business of governance and public service to creditably discharge their functions in line with the expanding role of government brought about by the challenges of development and globalisation.

(e). **Training Course for Public Prosecutors**

The task of public prosecution is an essential duty to the State and the society at large. It is a responsibility that requires outstanding and incisive skills, which comes with adequate and constant training in view of the fact that as the law of crime is evolving locally and internationally, criminals are also evolving new methods of criminality. The training Course for Public Prosecutors, which was first mounted in 2002, is designed to acquaint prosecutors in all areas of criminal prosecution with the latest development in the administration of criminal justice, generally, and in the art and skill of prosecution, in particular. It endeavours to refresh the prosecutor's knowledge of both substantive and prosecutorial laws.

(f). **Legal Writing Skills for Legal Practitioners and Law Academics**

The Legal Writing Skills Course was introduced in 2005 in an attempt to arrest the fast deteriorating writing skills of members of the legal profession. It thus, exposes participants to key legal issues in legal writing and also serves as an avenue for the retraining of members of the profession. It is divided into two modules – Module I for Legal Practitioners and Module II for Law Academics.

(g). **Certificate Course in International Criminal Justice and its Administration**

This Course was introduced in 2006 in response to the challenges of the evolving trends in international criminal justice and its administration, especially with the inauguration of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a permanent global agency for enthrone accountability and criminal responsibility. The genesis of this Course lies in the 2004 Founders' Day Lecture of the Institute delivered by Honourable Justice E. O. Ayoola, the then President of the Appeals Chamber, Special Court for Sierra Leone. The lecture titled "*the Expanding Frontiers of Justice: the Challenge of Global Justice*", drew attention to the need to sensitise the public, appropriate institutions, agencies and individuals on the mandate and workings of the ICC. In response to this challenge, the Institute mounted a successful Two-day Sensitisation Workshop on the ICC in 2005. As a follow up on the Workshop, the Certificate Course, which runs annually, has been designed to expose participants to the rudiments of international criminal law and international humanitarian law; the challenges of prosecuting international crimes as well as the practice and procedure of the international criminal tribunals. It is, in a nutshell, generally designed to provide quality preparatory training in international criminal justice and its administration

(h). **Intensive Course in Legislative Drafting**

The Intensive Course in Legislative Drafting is one of the newest courses of the Institute introduced in 2006. It was carved out of the Institute's Post-graduate

Diploma and Master's Degree programmes in Legislative Drafting introduced to meet the needs of drafters and legal practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Intensive Course is designed to expose participants, who are unable to attend the longer Post-graduate Diploma and Master's degree programmes, to key legal issues in drafting, amendments, repeals and reforms of legislative instruments. Additionally, it serves as an avenue for retraining members of the legal profession and preparing them for their critical roles as drafters and advisers on legal and administrative issues in governance and the economy.

(i). **Certificate Course in Comparative Company Law**

In 2006, the Institute introduced this specialised Comparative Company Law Course in response to major developments in the Nigerian economy and the globalisation of company operations. The course seeks to redress the shortage of skilled company law practitioners and comparative company law experts as well as address the needs of the increasing number of lawyers who advise corporate clients doing business in Nigeria and around the globe. It is therefore, designed to provide participants with extensive exposure to the principles and practice of company law, including recent developments, in Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Canada, the European Union and the ECOWAS States.

(j). **Specialised Ad Hoc Courses**

Apart from the aforementioned courses, which are run on an annual or biennial basis, the Institute also runs specialised courses on an *ad hoc* basis. Some of those organised in the past include: The training course in Administration of Corporate Laws and Management; the Course in Computer Application and Appreciation for Lawyers; Course on Labour Relations and the Law; Course in Special Library Services; and Capacity Building Course for Honourable Members of the Houses of Representatives.

Conferences, Seminars, Symposia, Colloquia etc

In furtherance of its mandate to disseminate research findings on contemporary legal problems and issues, the Institute organises conferences, workshops, seminars, symposia or colloquia, etc. on carefully selected topics on particularly vital legal, economic, financial and political issues confronting Nigeria and Africa in general. Such activities have become a regular feature of the Institute. Some of the past ones, among others, include –

1. National Conference on the Family Law of Succession held in 1979;
2. National Workshop on Marriage Laws of Nigeria and Workshop on New Perspectives and Conceptions in International Law held in 1980;
3. National Workshop on the Land Use Act (in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos) – 1983;

4. National Seminar on the Revitalisation of the Economy and Economic Development; National Seminar on Tax Law; and Tax Administration and National Seminar on Law and Population – 1984;
5. National Seminar on Law Libraries – 1985;
6. Colloquium on the Future Political Arrangement for Nigeria – 1987;
7. National Conference on the Draft Constitution; One-Day Roundtable on Toxic Waste and the Law and Seminar on Medical Practice; and the Law (in collaboration with the Lagos State Branch of the Nigerian Medical Association) – 1988;
8. National Conference on the Commercialisation of Public Enterprises: the Leasing and Management Contracts as Options; National Seminar on the New Constitution and Transition to Civil Rule; and International Conference on the Regulation of Trade and Investment in an Era of S. A. P. – 1989
9. Seminar on the Negotiating of International Contracts; Seminar on International Arbitration; and National Seminar on Equipment Leasing – 1990.
10. Workshop on Debt and Financial Management – 1995, 1996 and 1997.
11. Conference on Free Movement in ECOWAS Countries – 1996.
12. Roundtable on Consumer Protection Laws in Nigeria – 1996.
13. National Workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Workshop on Negotiating International Contracts and International Arbitration; and Workshop on Issues in Foreign Investment Practice – 1997.
14. Workshop on New Trends in the Nigerian Capital Market – 1998.
15. National Workshop on Consumer Protection (in collaboration with the Consumer Protection Council) – 2000.
16. National Workshop on Information Strategies for Legislative Libraries in Nigeria – 2001.
17. National Workshop on Effective Eradication of Financial Crimes in Nigeria; Workshop on Information Technology and Administration of Justice in Nigeria; and Workshop on Reproductive and Maternal Health Rights – 2003.
18. Roundtable on Mergers, Takeovers and Acquisitions – 2004;
19. Roundtable on Current Themes in the 1999 Constitution – 2006.
20. Two-Day Roundtable on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) – 2007.

21. Judges Roundtable on Electoral Reform – 2008.
22. Roundtable on Terrorism in the Aviation Industry: Imperatives for Best Practices in Nigeria, hosted by the Bayo Ojo Centre for Aviation and Transportation Law of the Institute – 2010