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“Copyright, Trade Mark, Industrial Designs and Patent Registrations; Prospects for Lawyers in Nigeria.”

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PROFILE OF ONYEKACHI UMAH

- Onyekachi Umah is a husband and private legal practitioner with amazing experience in intellectual property, transaction and regulation advisory, corporate, commercial and investment law and energy law as well as litigation and arbitration arising from them.
- He is a certified arbitrator both in Nigeria and the United Kingdom.
- Among other, he has a certificate in Law of Contract from a program of Harvard University, a certificate in International Environmental Negotiation from United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva and recently, a certificate in Conflict Management from United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C.
- He also holds a master of laws degree from University of Jos.
- He is the managing partner of a leading law firm; Bezaleel Chambers International.
- He is the founder and President of a free law awareness platform known as LearnNigerianLaws.com that delivers lectures, essays and free daily law tips across Nigeria.
- He is the convener of the Sabi Law Lecture Series, travelling around Nigeria delivering free law awareness lectures.
- He has written over fifty articles on law with a desire to enlighten the public. He is the Assistant Secretary of Nigerian Bar Association, Capital Bar, Abuja.

1. How “Property-enough” is Intellectual Property?

- I. Intellectual Property refers to any creation of a human mind, including; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images.
- II. Intellectual Property (IP)= Copyrights, Trade Marks, Industrial Designs, Patent and Geographical Indications
- III. Property= Legal, Tangible/Intangible, Own-able, Transferable, Sellable, Exclusivity and Profit yielding
- IV. IP is everything a bankable property like shares, lands, commodities and forex.

2. IT Market Stakeholders

- I. Market of creations and inventions,
- II. Creators and inventors,
- III. Owners and Licensees,
- IV. Trespassers
- V. Agents and Practitioners
- VI. Market Regulators

3. Opportunities for Lawyers in IT Market

- I. Rights Registration & Renewal Agent
- II. Regulations Advisory
- III. Renewal Prompter
- IV. Safekeeping Agent
- V. Transaction Advisory
- VI. Litigation Consultancy
- VII. ADR Consultancy

Opportunities for Lawyers in IT Market, CONT'D.

- VIII. Deal Maker/Negotiator
- IX. Researcher, Writer and Trainer
- X. Legal Aid/Attache/Adviser
- XI. Employment with Regulators
- XII. Owner/Licensee Finder
- XIII. New Law/Regulation Ringer
- XIV. Use & Awareness Promoter

4. SabiLaw Master's Interlude

- No Business for Zero-internet Lawyers
- Tomorrow lawyers will have no office addresses rather web addresses
- NBA politicians should learn from Rotary International
- Upcoming Events;
 1. “Understanding of Law; A Vital Tool For Effective Leadership in Africa”, by 2pm on 3rd August 2018 at Signatures, Wuse 2, Abuja.
 2. Onyekachi Umah's 2-day Enugu Tour on Law Awareness on 11 & 12 August, 2018.
 3. Onyekachi Umah's 3-day UK Tour on Law Awareness on 25 to 27 September, 2018.

5. Ways to Strategically Position Yourself in IT Market.

- I. Get interested
- II. Focus and specialise
- III. Seek continued legal education
- IV. Enrol on online education platforms
- V. Attend IT biased workshops and training
- VI. Pursue post graduate degrees in relevant course.

Ways to Strategically Position Yourself in IT Market, CONT'D.

- VII. Seek further internship in law firms practising IP law
- VIII. Seek internship in IP regulators, owners and stakeholders
- IX. Subscribe to free and paid IP magazines, newsletters, journals and updates.
- X. Form and join forums for IP biased lawyers and professionals.
- XI. Choose a mentor in IP practice and get close.
- XII. Let other lawyers and clients know your passion, training and experiences in IP

6. How To Get IP Briefs

- I. List your prospective clients. (owners and non-owners of IP)
- II. Stop introducing yourself as just a lawyer/legal practitioner
- III. Be specific in your answers to the questions; “What do you do? Or what area of law ...”
- IV. Clean your social media accounts to reflect who you are and clients you want
- V. Go to where your clients and prospective clients go.
- VI. Read and study you prospective clients, their industry challenges and proffer solutions
- VII. Attend industry seminars, expos and conferences

How To Get IT Briefs, CONT'D.

- VIII. Always be ready and faithful
- IX. Do not reject little beginnings
- X. Be consistent
- XI. Register yourself/firm in any genuine database of IT agents/experts
- XII. Check and do what others in foreign jurisdictions are doing.
- XIII. Obey Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyer

7. Challenges in IT Market and their Solutions.

1. Old Laws

- New IT laws to reflect the changes in society

2. Ineffective Regulators

- Increase Funding and get more smart brains

3. Lack of Accreditation for Lawyers:

- Lawyers should be accredited not just law firms. Law Firms shouldn't even be accredited.

- Engage better information technology consultants

4. Existence of parallel registration systems.

- Engage better information technology consultant

Challenges in IT Market and their Solutions, CONT'D. 1

5. Uncertainty of Procedure, Timelines and Records

-Reform procedures and adopt international best practices

6. Irregular Publication of Journals

-Reform procedures and adopt international best practices

7. Presence of many fake agents and procedures

-Reform procedures, re-orient regulators' staff and increase their welfare

-Adopt international best practices

Challenges in IT Market and their Solutions, CONT'D. 2

8. Low IT Market

- Regulators and practitioners should increase awareness
- Demystify the systems and make it attractive

9. Inability to Register Non-trademarks like non-invisible signs(sound, smell and taste)

- Do law reform and sensitize Nigerians

10. Inability to Register Geographical Indications as an IT property.

- Do law reform and sensitize Nigerians

7. Conclusion:


I look forward to a Nigerian where people rush to easily register their creations and inventions and more lawyers smile at their bankers.


Sunday 29th July, 2018.

Abuja.

Thank you!

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