

## Press Release

### THE LAGOS COURT OF ARBITRATION (LCA) ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LCA ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

**Lagos, Nigeria, 6 January 2021.**

The Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA) announces the establishment of the LCA Arbitration Committee, an initiative intended to promote its ongoing development into a world-class international arbitral institution.

The LCA Arbitration Committee is composed of twenty-six highly experienced and reputable professionals active in the field of international arbitration, representing eighteen different nationalities, of which twelve African nationalities. The members have been appointed for a four-year term, although half of the positions will be renewed after two years, so as to ensure the stable operations of the Committee. Mr. Charles Nairac, a Mauritian / French / British national, based in Paris, was invited to preside the Committee, and we are grateful to him for accepting the position. We are also grateful to Ms. Samaa Haridi (Egyptian / United States national, based in New York) and Mr. Babatunde Ogunseitan (Nigerian national, based in London) for accepting to serve as Vice-Presidents of the Committee, and to Ms. Oluwatosin Lewis (Nigeria), Executive Secretary of the LCA, who serves as Secretary to the LCA Arbitration Committee.

The LCA has tasked the Committee with reviewing and, as necessary, proposing any updates to the LCA Rules (2018) so as to ensure that they embody best international practice and pioneer best African practice. Once that task is completed, the Committee shall be the final authority for the proper application of the LCA Rules and, in particular, shall be the body performing all tasks relating to the appointment of arbitrators, the challenges to arbitrators, scrutiny of award and controlling costs.

For that purpose, the Committee has been subdivided into three Subcommittees:

**Subcommittee A** is in charge of defining the internal rules governing the appointment of and challenges to arbitrators, and will be responsible for implementing those functions once the relevant rules are in place. Subcommittee A is led by Chair Mr. Charles Nairac and Secretary Mr. Thierry Ngoga (Rwanda), and comprises as core members Mr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf (Egypt), Ms. Sarah Grimmer (New Zealand national, based in Hong-Kong), Ms. Njeri Kariuki (Kenya) and Ms. Jacqueline Lule (Ugandan / British national, based in Uganda).

**Subcommittee B** is in charge of defining the internal rules governing the scrutiny of arbitral awards and control of costs, and will be responsible for implementing those functions once the relevant rules are in place. Subcommittee B is led by Chair Ms. Samaa Haridi and Secretary Ms. Emilia Onyema (Nigerian national, based in London), and comprises as core members Mr. Jackwell Ferris (South Africa), Mr. Mouhamed Kebe (Senegal), Ms. Cheng-Yee Khong (Malaysian national, based in Hong-Kong) and Ms. Angeline Welsh (United Kingdom).

Last but certainly not least, **Subcommittee C** is charged with scrutinizing the LCA's current Arbitration Rules (2018) and making recommendations to the Committee and, ultimately, the LCA

Board of Directors, regarding any amendments. Subcommittee C is led by Chair Mr. Babatunde Ogunseitan and Secretary Ms. Elizabeth Oger-Gross (United States / French national, based in Paris), and comprises as core members Ms. Marietta Appiah-Opong (Ghana), Professor. Stavros Brekoulakis (Greek national, based in the United Kingdom) and Mr. Thomas Snider (United State national, based in Dubai).

A full list of members of the LCA Arbitration Committee is shown at the end of this statement.

**Dr. Adewale Olawoyin**, President of the LCA Board of Directors, has commented that

*“The constitution of the LCA Arbitration Committee is a major step we are taking in order to comfort the LCA’s position as one of the continent’s leading arbitral institutions, and to promote the LCA’s rise to become a global international arbitration institution. I want to thank all of the Committee members for accepting to serve, and for all the hard work they are already putting into this initiative.”*

**Mr. Charles Nairac**, LCA Committee President, stated,

*“It is a great honour to have been asked to serve as the first President of the LCA Arbitration Committee. The energy displayed by the LCA leadership and entire team seems to be boundless and I can testify to the fact that it is contagious – I greatly look forward to working with the wonderfully diverse committee to help the LCA achieve its ambitions”.*

The LCA will regularly communicate on the progress of the work of the LCA Arbitration Committee. The initial tasks of the Committee are expected to be completed by June 2021.

### **About the LCA**

The Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA) is an independent, private-sector driven, international centre for the resolution of commercial disputes via arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Ideally located within the International Centre for Arbitration and ADR (ICAA) in Lagos, Nigeria, the LCA’s use of internationally recognized neutrals, modern facilities and the adoption of innovative technology, make it an efficient and best-in-class arbitration institution.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.lca.org.ng/about/>.

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Full list of Members of LCA Arbitration Committee (*in alphabetical order*)

1. **Mr. Joachim Bile-Aka** (Partner, Bile-Aka Brizoua-Bi & Associés, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire)
2. **Professor. Stavros Brekoulakis** (, Professor of International Arbitration Law, Queen Mary University of London, Arbitrator at 3 Verulam Buildings, London, United Kingdom)
3. **Ms. Marietta Brew Appiah-Opong** (Partner, Lithur Brew, Accra, Ghana; former Attorney-General of Ghana)
4. **Mr. Adeyemi Candide-Johnson SAN** (Partner, Strachan Partners, Lagos, Nigeria; Member of the Board of the LCA, Immediate Past President of the Board of the LCA)
5. **Mr. Jackwell Feris** (Partner, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Johannesburg, South Africa)
6. **Ms. Sarah Grimmer** (Secretary General, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Hong-Kong, People’s Republic of China)
7. **Ms. Samaa Haridi** (Partner, HoganLovells, New York, USA)
8. **Mr. Tayeb Hassabo** (Partner, Aztan Law Firm, Khartoum, Sudan)

9. **Ms. Ndanga Kamau** (Founder, Ndanga Kamau Law, The Hague, Netherlands)
10. **Ms. Njeri Kariuki** (Partner, Njeri Kariuki Advocate, Nairobi, Kenya)
11. **Mr. Mouhamed Kebe** (Partner, Geni & Kebe, Dakar, Senegal)
12. **Ms. Cheng-Yee Khong** (Associate Investment Manager, OmniBridgeway, Hong-Kong, People's Republic of China)
13. **Mr. Tsegaye Laurendeau** (Counsel, Shearman & Sterling LLP, London, United Kingdom)
14. **Ms. Oluwatosin Lewis** (Lagos, Nigeria; LCA Executive Secretary)
15. **Ms. Jacqueline Lule** (Independent Arbitrator, Kampala, Uganda)
16. **Mr. Charles Nairac** (Partner, White & Case LLP, Paris, France)
17. **Mr. Gakuba Thierry Ngoga** (Partner, Legal Line Partners, Kigali, Rwanda)
18. **Ms. Marie-Andrée Ngwe** (Cabinet Me Marie-Andrée Ngwe, Douala, Cameroon)
19. **Ms. Elizabeth Oger-Gross** (Partner, White & Case LLP, Paris, France)
20. **Mr. Tunde Ogunseitan** (Independent practitioner, Adjunct Lecturer at SOAS, University of London, London, United Kingdom)
21. **Dr. Adewale Olawoyin SAN FCIArb** (Managing Partner, Olawoyin & Olawoyin, Lagos, Nigeria; President of the LCA Board of Directors)
22. **Dr. Emilia Onyema** (Professor of International Commercial Law, SOAS University of London)
23. **Mr. Babajide Ogundipe FCIArb** (Partner, Sofunde, Osakwe, Ogundipe & Belgore, Lagos, Nigeria; Pioneer President of the LCA Board of Directors)
24. **Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf** (Partner, Abdel Raouf Law Firm, Cairo, Egypt)
25. **Mr. Thomas Snider** (Partner, Al-Tamimi & Co, Dubai, United Arab Emirates)
26. **Ms. Angeline Welsh** (Barrister, Essex Court Chambers, London, United Kingdom)

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