



Juliet Ibekaku-Nwagwu

**Special Assistant to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari on
Justice Sector Reform/International Relations in the Office of the
Attorney**

**Special Assistant to His Excellency, President Muhammadu
Buhari on Justice Sector Reform/International Relation/Asset
Recovery in the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice (2016 to Date)**

- **Pioneer National Coordinator, Open Government Partnership
Support Unit, Nigeria (2016-2019)**
- **Immediate Past Director, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit
(NFIU, 2012-2013), EFCC**
- **Legal Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat, Senagal (Advising the
ECOWAS Regional Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-
Financing of Terrorism Group – GIABA, 2007-2010)**



Commonwealth
Law Conference 2021

- **Assistant Director, International Cooperation, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (2004-2013)**
- ***National Program Coordinator, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2002-2004)***
- ***Program Manager, United States Agency for International Development (USAID, 2000=2002)***

Mrs Ibekaku-Nwagwu is a Special Assistant to the President on Justice Sector Reform, International Relation from 2016 to Date with a focus on international asset recovery and management as well as the use of recovered assets for sustainable development.

She has (27) twenty-seven years postgraduate call experience and has worked extensively in the anti-corruption sector in Nigeria and internationally. She is also an international criminal law attorney and development expert. She was called to the Nigerian Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor in 1993. She has a Masters degree in International Human Rights, Humanitarian and Criminal Law and a postgraduate certificate in anti-corruption studies, investigation and prosecution of financial and economic crimes.

Ms. Ibekaku-Nwagwu has investigated several corruption cases and won an Egmont FIU Award for the Best Case while serving as Director of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit of EFCC from 2012-2013. She was also instrumental in the removal of Nigeria from the FATF Non-Cooperating Countries or “Grey List” in 2013. She was victimized for her work for resisting the manipulation of intelligence and investigation reports by the previous administration of EFCC. She consulted for the Department for Security Services in the setting up of its Financial Crimes Investigation Unit.

She is a recognized international expert on open government, anti-money laundering, financial crime and anti-corruption. She has done extensive work in the development of legislation on fraud, financial crime and terrorist funds.

Barrister Ibekaku-Nwagwu is an alumnus of University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Lagos, Nigerian Law School, Hague Academy of International Law, Netherlands, University of Hong Kong Program on Anti-corruption, University of Salzburg, Austria’s program on international human rights and humanitarian law as well as the United States International Florida Bankers’

Association. Most recently, she participated in a certificate course on Applying Behavioural Insights to the Design of Public Policy for Senior Executives, at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Through her work on governance, she has made significant contributions to the review of laws, regulations and procedures to strengthen anti-corruption institutional and legal measures in Nigeria and internationally.

She has investigated several corruption cases and won the second place in the International Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Award for the Best Case while serving as an acting Director of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit of EFCC from 2012-2013. She was instrumental in the process and negotiation that led to the removal of Nigeria from FATF's non-cooperating country or "grey list" in 2013. Her innovative work in ensuring that a credible Financial Intelligence Unit that will strengthen anti-corruption in Nigeria through "AN EFFECTIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK" has gained her much accolade in Nigeria and internationally.

Growing up, Barrister Ibekaku-Nwagwu's dream was to be a lawyer – not just an ordinary lawyer but also a lawyer whose role would intersect the critical crossroad of "justice and development". Determined to achieve this goal, Barrister Ibekaku on graduation from law school, worked closely with women's rights organizations to achieve her dream. Her work with "BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights and Shelter Rights Initiative" gave her the opportunity not only to bring justice closer to the ordinary Nigerians, it also gave her the opportunity to speak out for women and children's rights. She also provided pro-bono legal services to victims of rape and domestic violence. From 1999 to 2002, she participated actively as a member of the Nigerian civil society delegation in the negotiation of the provisions of "**Gender-based violence**" in the Rome Statute during the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

She is an advocate for the strengthening of women's rights, human rights, and governance institutions in Nigeria. She is the founder of J.C. IBEKAKU Hope Project and IBEKAKU Multi-purpose cooperative where she supports leadership and entrepreneurial development for women and youths.

International Development Work:

Mrs Ibekaku-Nwagwu has served in the following places as an international development expert: the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - 2000 to 2002; National Project Coordinator for United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - 2002 to 2004; the Legal Advisor for the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in West Africa (GIABA), Senegal and the Commonwealth

Secretariat –Governance and Institutional Development Division (GIDD),
London, UK- 2007-2010; the British Department for International
Development’s (DFID) Justice for All Program (J4A) in Nigeria -2011 -2012;
Acting Director of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, EFCC – July 2012 -
November, 2013.

She has been involved in various British-DFID programmes in Africa and until recently was an advisor on the development of an anti-corruption program for DFID Nigeria and Ghana. She is also consulting for various law-enforcement agencies in Nigeria on issues ranging from anti-bribery, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, and financial of terrorism measures as well as on financial intelligence. She also provides training on financial crime.

Since 2016, Mrs. Ibekaku-Nwagwu has led the implementation of various justice sector policy reform initiatives under the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice. These reform initiatives have led to the development of a strategic plan for the reform of the justice sector that cuts across prosecution, law review and drafting of new policies and legislation, human rights, asset recovery, and anti-corruption.

Following her nomination as the National Coordinator for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2016, Mrs. Ibekaku-Nwagwu led a multi-stakeholder group made of government, civil society organizations and private sector entities to develop and co-create the first Nigeria’s National Action Plan on Open Government. She not only set up the Secretariat for the Open Government in Nigeria but also laid the foundation for civil society participation as equal partners in the governance of Nigeria.

This initiative underpins President Muhammadu Buhari’s vision for an open government and corrupt free society. The Open Government initiative has strengthened Nigeria’s anti-corruption efforts, particularly around fiscal transparency, access to information and citizens’ engagement and empowerment through the use of technology and innovation. More details can be obtained from the website of the Federal Ministry of Justice – www.justice.gov.ng or from OGP social media platforms listed below. In 2018, Mrs. Ibekaku-Nwagwu’s effort led to the election of Nigeria into the Global Open Government Steering Committee for three years starting. In this role, Nigeria will lead African countries in the implementation of OGP principles across the continent.

Mrs Ibekaku-Nwagwu’s innovative contributions to asset recovery can also be found on www.justice.gov.ng

She has facilitated and spoken at several national and international conferences including the EU Anti-money Laundering Conference on Financial Crime, UK, the Cambridge Symposium on Economic Crimes, UK, the Florida International Bankers Association Conference, Miami USA, Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), the Bank of America Annual Seminar on Financial Crimes in Charlotte, North Carolina, International Business Machines (IBM) Financial Fraud Summit, North Carolina USA, School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), London, UK, the International Anti-Corruption Conference of the Transparency International, the Commonwealth Secretariat program for law enforcement officers, the Nigerian Police Seminar on Fraud Prevention, the Zero Coalition Against Corruption, Corruption Conference on Whistle-blowing Measures in Nigeria and the Conference on Global Terrorism among others.

She represented the Federal Ministry of Justice on the Board of the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law, Malta, Europe and co-chaired the Board as Nigerian representative from November, 2018.

Current Leadership Positions:

- Chairperson, Law and Development Project, Federal Ministry of Justice
- Chairperson, Project Management Team, Tripartite Asset Agreement for the Repatriation of \$308million USD to Nigeria (Signed among Nigeria, USA, and Island of jersey)
- Member, Executive and Legislative Joint Committee on Harmonization of Legislative Policies and Bills in Nigeria

AWARDS RECEIVED:

She has won several awards at the local, national and international level such as:

- Anti-Corruption Research Award, 2018
- Justice For All Program of the British Department of International Development, UK, 2014 Award for “Outstanding Achievement and Contribution to the Promotion of Justice and Equality for All Women.
- Macarthur Foundation Fund for Leadership Development, 2003.

- Nominated by Center for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University, UK and Open Society for Justice Initiative to participate in the Media Advocacy Training Program, July 2004
- Received the United States Agency for International Development Superior Unit Citation:

“In recognition of the Mission’s Outstanding work in the last year, in a country which both the Clinton and Bush Administrations have cited as one of the highest priority countries for USAID assistance, and in a very difficult working environment – October 23, 2001”.