

## Curriculum Vitae

### Personal details

Title: Professor (Dr)  
Family Name: ONYEMA  
Given Names: NNEKA EMILIA  
Emails: [eo3@soas.ac.uk](mailto:eo3@soas.ac.uk); [emilia@onyema-arbitration.co.uk](mailto:emilia@onyema-arbitration.co.uk)

### Academic Qualifications

PhD in International Commercial Arbitration: Queen Mary University of London: 2002-2007  
LLM (Commercial and Corporate Law): King's College London, 2000-2001  
LLB (Hons): University of Jos, Nigeria: 1984-1988  
Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: October 2008  
Barrister & Solicitor, Supreme Court of Nigeria: August 1989  
Solicitor, England & Wales: 2002

### Current Professional Affiliations

1. Director, Onyema Arbitration Services Ltd (UK) since 2021.
2. Member, BVI IAC Arbitration Committee from 2022.
3. Member Mauritius IAC Arbitration Committee from 2022.
4. Member, Drafting Committee, Arbitration Foundation of South Africa International Arbitration Rules.
5. President, Council of Advisers, Libyan Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, 2018-2021.
6. Member, Advisory Committee, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) from 2017-2020.
7. Arbitration Court Member, Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre, since 2015; Tashkent IAC since 2022; Casablanca CIMAC since 2023; Dubai IAC since 2023.
8. On the following Arbitrator Panels: CIETAC (2022); Energy Disputes Arbitration centre, Istanbul (2022); Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration (2019); Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation Arbitration Centre (2017); Kigali International Arbitration Centre (2016); Asia International Arbitration Centre (2015); Dubai IAC Panel (2015).
9. Member, Equal Representation in Arbitration Steering Committee, since 2019.

### Professional Memberships

1. Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, August 1989
2. Member, International Bar Association since 1996
3. Chartered Institute of Arbitrators London since 1999 (as a Fellow since 2008)
4. Law Society, England & Wales since 2002 (as non-practising solicitor)
5. Society of Legal Scholars since October 2006
6. Member, Arbitral Women, since 2018
7. Member, London Court of International Arbitration 2008-2021.
8. Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, since 2018.
9. Academic member, International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) from 2015.
10. Pan African Lawyers Union (Life member)

### **Current Arbitral Appointments**

1. PCA appointed arbitrator for the Respondent in a construction dispute (ongoing).
2. Co-arbitrator in an Iranian Chamber commodities dispute (appointed by the Institution for the Respondent).
3. Sole Arbitrator in an ICC construction (delay) dispute (draft final award sent to the ICC for scrutiny).
4. Presiding arbitrator over ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL rules on share options purchase (ongoing).

### **Concluded Appointments/cases:**

5. Presiding arbitrator (nominated by the co-arbitrators) in PCA seated ad hoc arbitration on construction dispute (concluded via settlement).
6. Sole arbitrator in CIArb Business Arbitration Service Case on debt recovery (concluded).
7. Sole Arbitrator in a commodities sales contract (administered by the Iranian IAC, concluded)
8. Co-arbitrator nominated by the Respondent in a KIAC arbitration on service contract for works and decorations (concluded).
9. Sole Arbitrator in ICC arbitration on distributorship contract (concluded).
10. Sole Arbitrator in CIArb Business Arbitration Service Case on debt recovery (concluded).
11. Sole arbitrator under Swiss Rules on breach of contract (administered by KIAC, concluded).
12. Sole Arbitrator in CIArb Business Arbitration Service Case on debt recovery (concluded).
13. Sole Arbitrator in CIArb Business Arbitration Service Case on debt recovery (concluded).
14. Sole Arbitrator under Abu Dhabi CCAC Rules in a sub-contract construction dispute (concluded).
15. Sole Arbitrator in an ICC arbitration over real estate Fund investment (concluded).
16. Presiding arbitrator over a shareholder's contract dispute under KIAC Rules (concluded).
17. Co-arbitrator under a real estate purchase contract dispute under ADCCAC Rules (concluded).

### **Experience as Expert Witness**

1. Acted as expert witness in ICC case on Nigerian law on set off.
2. Acted as expert witness in ICC case on Nigerian Export Processing Zone law.

### **Employment**

1. Pro-Director Learning and Teaching at SOAS (Interim): since Jan 2023
2. Professor of International Commercial Law, School of Law, SOAS: since Sept 2020
3. Visiting Professor, University of Juba, from 2022.
4. Visiting Professor at Stellenbosch University, since 2020
5. Reader in International Commercial Law, School of Law, SOAS: 2007-2020
6. Visiting Professor, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: 2010-present
7. Alternate Tribunal Secretary, Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal: 2007-2019.
8. Visiting Lecturer, King's College London: 2010-2014
9. Research fellow and Tutor, Queen Mary University of London: 2002-2006
10. Partner, law firm of Emilia Onyema & Co, Lagos: 1992-2000.
11. Associate, Yemi Candide-Johnson & Co, law firm, Lagos: 1992
12. Associate, Fred Omenye & Co, law firm, Lagos: 1990-1992

### **Public Output from Research Activity**

#### **Book:**

1. Emilia Onyema (ed) Rethinking the Role of African National Courts in Arbitration, Kluwer Law International, 2018, 417 pages.
2. - (ed), The Transformation of Arbitration in Africa: The Role of Arbitral Institutions, Kluwer Law International, 2016, 209 pages.

3. -, *International Commercial Arbitration and the Arbitrator's Contract*, Routledge Cavendish, 2010, 257 pages.

#### **Articles in Refereed Journals:**

4. - "Commercial Disputes under the AfCFTA: the case for regional African arbitral centres", IBA Arbitration Committee Newsletter special issue on Arbitration in Africa (2021).
5. -, "African Participation in the ICSID System: Appointment and Disqualification of Arbitrators", ICSID Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal (2020).
6. -, "Reimagining the Framework for resolving Intra-African Commercial Disputes in the Context of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement", World Trade Review (2019), pp 1-25.
7. -, "Supportive attitude of English courts towards international commercial arbitration" (2019) Journal of Arab Arbitration, Vols 31 & 32, pp 5-11
8. -, "Regional Arbitration Institution for ECOWAS: Lessons from OHADA Common Court of Justice and Arbitration" (2014) Int'l ALR Issue 5, pp 99-111.
9. -, "The Multi-door Court House (MDC) Scheme in Nigeria: a case study of the Lagos MDC", (2013) vol 7 No 2 Apogee Journal of Business, Property & Constitutional Law, pp 96-129.
10. -, "The New Ghana ADR Act 2010: A Critical Overview", (2012) vol 28 no 1, Arbitration International, pp 101-124.
11. -, "A critique of the New 2009 Arbitration Law of Lagos State", (2010) vol 2 no 5, Apogee Journal of Business, Property & Constitutional Law, pp 1-24.
12. -, 'Enforcement of Arbitral Awards in Sub-Sahara Africa', (2010) vol 26 no 1, *Arbitration International*, pp 115-138 – translated into Chinese for a Chinese Journal in 2010.
13. -, 'The doctrine of Separability under Nigerian Law', (2009) vol 1 no 1, *Apogee Journal of Business, Property & Constitutional Law*, pp 65-79.
14. -, 'Arbitration under the Ohada Regime', (2008), vol 11 no 6, *International Arbitration Law Review*, pp 205-218.
15. -, 'Empirically Determined Factors in Appointing Arbitrators in International Commercial Arbitration', (2007) vol 73 no.2, *Arbitration* 199 – 207.
16. -, 'The Role of the International Arbitral tribunal Secretary', *Vindobona Journal*, (2005) vol 9 no 1, pp 99-110.
17. -, 'Selection of Arbitrators in International Commercial Arbitration', (2005) vol 8 no 2, *International Arbitration Law Review*, pp 45-54.
18. -, 'Power Shift in International Commercial Arbitration Proceedings', (2004) vol 14 nos1&2, *Caribbean Law Review*, pp 62-77.
19. -, 'Drafting an Effective Arbitration Agreement in International Commercial Contracts', (2003) vol 7 no 2, *Vindobona Journal*, pp 277- 286.
20. -, 'The Use of Med-Arb in International Commercial Dispute Resolution', (2001) vol 12 no 3-4, *American Review of International Arbitration*, pp 411- 423.

#### **Chapter in Books/collections:**

21. Emilia Onyema & Isaiah Bozimo, "Nigeria", in Lise Boseman (ed.,) *Arbitration in Africa: a Practitioner's Guide*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Kluwer, 2021.
22. Emilia Onyema & Isaiah Bozimo, "International Arbitration in West African States", in Lise Boseman (ed.,) *Arbitration in Africa: a Practitioner's Guide*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Kluwer, 2021.
23. Emilia Onyema, "OHADA Arbitration and Common Law African Countries", in A. Ngwanza (ed), *Vingt ans d'arbitrage OHADA: bilan et perspectives*, LexisNexis, 2019, pages 427-441.
24. -, "Shifts in Dispute Resolution Processes of West African States" in Moscati A, Roberts M, & Palmer M (eds) *Comparative Dispute Resolution Research Handbook* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020).
25. -, "The Role of African Courts and Judges in Arbitration" in Onyema E (ed) *Rethinking the Role of African National Courts in Arbitration*, Kluwer Law International (Wolters Kluwer, 2018)

26. -, "The Jurisdictional Tensions Between Domestic Courts and Arbitral Tribunals" in Menaker, Andrea (ed) *International Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Contribution and Conformity*, ICCA Congress Series No 19, Kluwer (2017) pp 481-500
27. -, "Arbitration Institutions in Africa" in Emilia Onyema (ed), *The Transformation of Arbitration in Africa: The Role of Arbitral Institutions*, Kluwer Law International (2016), pp 15-43.
28. -, "Introduction" in Emilia Onyema (ed), *The Transformation of Arbitration in Africa: The Role of Arbitral Institutions*, Kluwer Law International (2016), pp 1-11.
29. -, "Commentary on the Arbitration Rules of the Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration", in Mistelis L. & Shore L. (eds), 3rd edition, *World Arbitration Reporter*, (2015) Juris Publishers, USA (2015).
30. -, "International Arbitration in the West African States", a chapter in Lise Bosman (ed) *Practitioners' Guide to Arbitration in Africa*, Kluwer, 2013.
31. Emilia Onyema & Oluwaseye O Ayinla, "Online Negotiation and Mediation" in E Azinge & C Ani (eds) *Principles of Negotiation and Mediation*, NIALS Publ, 2012, pp 96-140.
32. Emilia Onyema, 'Commentary on the arbitration rules of the Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration', in L. Mistelis & L. Shore (eds), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, *World Arbitration Reporter*, Juris Publishers, USA, 2010.
33. -, 'Formalities of the Enforcement Procedure' in Emmanuel Gaillard & Domenico Di Pietro (eds) *Recognition and Enforcement of Arbitration Agreements and International Arbitral Awards – the New York Convention in Practice*, (2008) Cameron May, pp 595 – 610.

#### **Online publication:**

34. Emilia Onyema, "Online Commentary on Articles 45 and 46 of the Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods, 1980" (CISG) available on <http://www.ccisg.org/>
35. -, 'The Role of the International Arbitral tribunal Secretary', (2005) vol 2 Issue 3 *Transnational Dispute Management*, available at <http://www.transnational-dispute-management.com/samples/toc.asp?key=8>

#### **Other publications and Reports:**

36. Emilia Onyema, (2020) *Arbitration in Africa Survey Report* titled, *Top African Arbitral Centres and Seats*, published online.
37. -, (2018) *SOAS Arbitration in Africa Survey Report* titled, *Domestic and International Arbitration: Perspectives from African Arbitration Practitioners*, published online
38. - (2008), *Introduction to International Commercial Arbitration*, a workbook for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, pp 1-77.

#### **Forthcoming:**

1. Chapter on "Overview of Arbitration in Africa" in Gordon Blanke & Karim A. Youssef and Gordon Blanke (eds) *International Commercial and Investment Treaty Arbitration in the Middle East and Africa: Topical Themes and Key Issues*, Kluwer (submitted).
2. Chapter on "Costs in International Arbitration: Synergy between civil and common law principles" in *The Synergy and Divergence between Common law and Civil law in International Arbitration*, edited by Nayla Comair Obeid and Stavros Brekoulakis, Kluwer (submitted).

#### **External Examinerships as external examiner on LLM programs at:**

1. University of Cape Town, since 2021
2. University of Aberdeen since 2020
3. London School of Economics and Political Science, since 2020
4. Queen Mary University of London, 2015-2019; 2022-

## **Research Projects**

1. Lead investigator for African states on the Compliance Politics and International Investment Disputes (COPIID) research project of Pluricourts of the University of Oslo funded by the Norwegian Research Council.
2. Lead Investigator: SOAS Arbitration in Africa research project which is one of the Impact Case Studies for SOAS Law School in the 2021 REF.
3. Lead Investigator: SOAS Arbitration in Africa biennial survey
4. Convenor, SOAS Arbitration in Africa conference series: since 2015.

## **Teach and supervise dissertations in the following courses:**

- International Trade Law (full unit, not currently running)
- International Commercial Arbitration (full unit)
- International Investment Law (half unit).
- I contribute to the following course on the LLM: Law and Development in Africa.
- Law of Commercial Arbitration (UG, half unit).
- Commercial Law in a Global Context (UG, full unit)
- I contribute to the University of Fribourg, Masters of Laws in Cross Cultural Business Practice in the section "Doing Business in Africa" since 2010.
- International Commercial Arbitration at The University of Stellenbosch since 2020.

## **PhD Research Supervision:**

- As first supervisor to three current PhD students.
- As first supervisor to two completed PhD students.
- As second supervisor to one completed PhD student and two current PhD students.
- Examined seven PhD thesis as external examiner in other universities.

## **Academic Administration:**

- Pro-Director Learning & Teaching (equivalent of Pro-Vice Chancellor role), SOAS 2020-2021: led the delivery of SOAS strategy on L&T and our external relations with our regulator, Office for Students.
- Associate Director (Student Welfare) SOAS: led the delivery of student experience vision at SOAS
- LLM Convenor, from 2017-2018, SoL, SOAS.
- Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, SOAS, August 2013 to July 2016: led the delivery of learning and teaching matters at the Faculty.
- Formerly, chair of departmental learning and teaching committee for the Law Department, SOAS.
- Personal advisor to both LLB, LLM & MA students.

## **Public Speaking Engagements**

List available on demand.

I also participate in continuous professional development training programs.

Professor (Dr) Emilia Onyema, PhD, *FCIArb*  
January 2023