

A PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP OF NIGERIA (CLASFON) | VOL. 1 ISSUE 5 JULY 2025



in CLASFON's National

Mission

Continent

Alliances in Ilorin

ABOUT ® CLASFON

The Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON) is a vibrant fellowship of Christian lawyers and law students in Nigeria. Our mission is to uphold and project the image of Christ through the practice of law. We believe in the power of faith to transform the legal profession and society at large.

Since our inception, CLASFON has been at the forefront of advocating for justice, promoting Christian values in the legal profession, and serving society through various legal initiatives. We aim to foster an environment where faith and law are not mutually exclusive, but where they intersect to bring about positive change in the legal system and beyond. Our members are dedicated to promoting justice, upholding the rule of law, and serving the society. especially those who are marginalized and underserved.

OUR VISION AND MISSION



Vision.

To project the image of Christ through the practice of law, ensuring that justice, integrity, and righteousness are embodied in every legal matter we engage in.

Mission:

Our mission is to serve both God and society through the legal profession by engaging in mission activities such as:

- Providing pro bono legal services to the indigent.
- Distributing relief materials to marginalized communities.
- Offering Bible devotionals to prisoners.
- Advocating for the protection of religious freedom and good governance.

By serving in these ways, we aim to contribute to a more just, peaceful, and righteous society, reflecting Christ's love and grace in all our actions.

CLASFON ANTHEM



" KEEP YE JUDGMENT AND DO JUSTICE GOD'S SALVATION NOW HAS COME PEOPLE FALL PREY TO INJUSTICE RISE TO GIVE THEM ALL SUCCOUR

OUR REVEALING IS AWAITED A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE TO MAKE HERE WE ARE LORD. TO ADVOCATE MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE THROUGH US "

CLASFON DIRECTORATES





At CLASFON, we operate through nine key directorates, each focused on a specific area of our mission. These directorates are vital in helping us to fulfill our vision and provide structure to our work.

- 1. Church Collaboration and Counseling: Partnering with churches and providing legal counseling.
- 2. Religious Freedom: Advocating for the protection of religious liberties.
- 3. Legal Aid and Humanitarian Service: Offering pro bono legal defense and humanitarian aid to those in need.
- 4. Legislative Monitoring: Monitoring laws and policies to ensure they align with Christian values
- 5. Advancement of Legal Education and Research: Promoting ethical legal education and encouraging research.
- 6. Judicial Administration: Engaging with the judicial system to promote fair practices.
- 7. Trial Law and Advocacy: Supporting litigation efforts based on Christian principles.
- 8. Alternative Dispute Resolution and Reconciliation: Promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts and disputes.
- 9. Rule of Law, Anti-Corruption, and Good Governance: Advocating for justice and good governance.

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PHOTO ALBUM

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From The OUR VOICE, PROCLAIMING OUR VISION.

PRESERVING

Dear Esteemed Readers.

It is with utmost humility and professional iov that we present this edition of the CLAS-FON Monthly Newsletter, As the Editorial Crew, our mandate is not only to inform but to inspire -a commitment to excellence that reflects the spiritual and intellectual caliber of our great Fellowship.

Each page of this publication has been praverfully and thoughtfully curated to document our journey, project our values, and echo the heartbeat of the Christian Law Student and Legal Practitioner anchored on Christ.

We remain committed to ensuring that CLASFON's voice continues to be heard clearly and courageously across campuses. courtrooms, and communities.

We invite feedback, contributions, and collaboration from all CLASFONites. Together. let us preserve our testimony and proclaim our vision.

In Service and for His Glory.



MKPACHI-OKO XAVIED CHINAFCHEREM [MR JEGA] Chairman, CLASFON Newsletter Editorial Crew

CLASFON Leadership Strengthens Strategic Alliances in Ilorin

REPORTED BY NWEZI JENNIFER KOSISOCHUKWU

In a significant demonstration of its commitment to collaboration and institutional synergy, the leadership of the Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON), led by its President, paid high-profile courtesy visits to key stakeholders in Kwara State during the recent Presidents-in-Council (PIC) Meeting held in llorin.

The delegation, which comprised of the President of CLASFON and Members of the Presidents-in-Council, visited His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Kayode Alabi; the Honourable Justice A. A. Adebara Chief Justice of the Kwara State Judiciary; and the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kwara State Chapter.

These strategic visits were not merely ceremonial. They underscored CLASFON's vision to deepen relationships with the government, the judiciary, and the Church in every region it engages. The interactions aimed to foster mutual respect, encourage inter-institutional cooperation, and reinforce the relevance of Christian legal professionals in advancing justice, righteousness, and godly counsel within the fabric of Nigerian society.

During the visit to Government House, the Deputy Governor warmly received the CLAS-FON delegation, applauding the Fellowship's longstanding contributions to national development and legal integrity. Dr. Alabi emphasized the need for continued collaboration between faith-based professional groups and governmental institutions, noting that "Christian lawyers have a unique role to play in promoting justice with compassion and godliness."

In a similar tone, the engagement with Hon. Justice A. A. Adebara was marked by reflections on the ethical obligations of legal practitioners and the vital role of the judiciary in nation-building. Justice Adebara, known for his moral rectitude and passion for justice, welcomed the visit as timely and reaffirmed the Bench's appreciation of CLASFON's commitment to upholding justice through a Christ-centered perspective.

The meeting with the Chairman of CAN in Kwara State further solidified CLASFON's enduring relationship with the Church. Discussions centered around unity in the Body of Christ, promoting righteousness in national institutions, and the need for continued collaboration in advocacy for Christian values in public life and the institution of a National Christian Mediation Center.

These visits reflected the theme of CLASFON's ongoing national engagements — building "A New Legal Profession Anchored on Christ." The leadership's actions in Ilorin stand as a testament to the Fellowship's holistic approach to legal ministry, which transcends the courtroom and extends into governance, the pulpit, and community development. Photographs from the courtesy visits, capturing the moments of prayer, discussions, and

Photographs from the courtesy visits, capturing the moments of prayer, discussions, and mutual exchanges of goodwill, will be featured in the July edition of our monthly Newsletter.

CLASFON remains committed to strengthening ties across all sectors as it continues to shine the light of Christ in the legal profession.

CLASFON Leadership Strengthens Strategic Alliances in Ilorin

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PHOTO EXCERPTS



Cross Section of the PIC members and the Honourable Justice A. A. Adebara (C.J of Kwara State Judiciary)



Cross Section of the PIC members and the Chairman of CAN Kwara State



Cross Section of the PIC members and the Deputy governor of Kwara State



CLASFON President, Pst. Femi David Ikotun addressing the Deputy Governor of Kwara State

CLASFON REGIONAL Thine CONFERENCE 2025 Kingdom

A Divine Appointment You Can't Afford to Miss!

Why You Shouldn't Miss the CLASFON Regional Conference

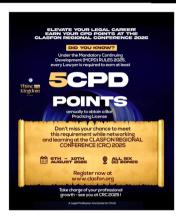
As the legal landscape continues to evolve, the wise lawyer knows that relevance is a function of connection, capacity, and calling. The upcoming CLASFON Regional Conference offers all three—and more.

This is more than a gathering; it is a divine convergence of legal minds, where Judges, Lawyers, and Law Students gather not only to sharpen their professional edge but to reaffirm their identity as Christian legal professionals on a mission.

Are you looking to renew your Annual Practicing License for the next legal year? Then this is your golden opportunity to secure 2 mandatory CPD points in one spiritually refreshing and intellectually robust setting.

But beyond the points, something deeper awaits:





- · Meaningful mentorship from seasoned Christian jurists,
- Rich conversations on law, justice, and faith.
- New networks of eternal relevance, and
- Powerful worship and fellowship that recharge your inner man.

Do not wait until the 11th hour! Registration closes on the **31st of July**, and you'll want your name on the roll.

Let this Conference be part of your story—a turning point, a refueling stop, a reawakening

CLASFON is calling. Will you answer?



CLASFON REGIONAL Thi CONFERENCE 2025 Kir

LEGAL PROFESSIONALS:



RATES:

- N13,000

- N10.000

- N15,000

12:36 4

- FREE

A Divine Appointment You Can't Afford to Miss!

STARTS: 1ST MAY - FNDS: 31ST JULY

POST CALL 1-7 YEARS - N35.000 POST CALL 8 - 15 YEARS - N40.000 POST CALL 16 - 24 YEARS - N45.000 POST CALL 25 YEARS & ABOVE - N65.000 SOLICITORS GENERAL - N75.000 JUDGES, SANS, ATTORNEY-GENERALS - N120,000 ONSITE REGISTRATION N200.000 OTHERS: RATES: NON-LAWYER SPOUSE - N25,000 YOUNG ADULTS 18+/LAW STUDENTS - N15.000

NOTE: Magistrates, Professors (Excluding Professors who are SANs) and other judicial officers to pay according to their year of call.

For further information, contact

South-East - +2348063287290 North Central - +2348065327615

CHILDREN 13 - 17 YEARS

CHILDREN 4 - 12 YEARS

DRIVERS & ORDERLIES

CHILDREN 3YEARS BELOW

South South - +2348038280228 North East - +2348038359305

South West - +2348034709191 North West - +2348035613639





 As a former President in CLASFON who rose from the branch leadership through to the office of President, please share with us what drives your passion for CLASFON?

Ans: My participation in CLASFON has evolved over a period of about 40 years. It began when I was an undergraduate of the University of Ibadan. First, we had the Faculty of Law Christian Fellowship and it later transformed to CLASFON. As a Christian law student, I found the membership of the Fellowship imperative. I have always perceived work life (including life as a student) as a significant aspect of one's totality and I have always realised the necessity of approaching it in the context of spirituality to derive tremendous benefits. The legal profession which places emphasis on justice cannot be divorced from God, the Author of Justice Himself.

I have seen CLASFON as a platform to serve God and humanity through the Justice Sector. I have been captivated by the unique opportunities that the CLASFON platform offers at a corporate level in the quest for genuine justice in the society.

The motto of CLASFON which is "A New Legal Profession anchored on Christ" underscores the centrality of faith to the realisation of the desire to see the kingdom of the Lord Jesus expand in the legal profession and by implication our country, Nigeria. Lawyers, especially Christian lawyers, are placed at a vantage position to contribute to raising the standard of righteousness in Nigeria by paying attention to the weightier matters of the law.

The individual righteousness of individual citizens determines the aggregate national righteousness. Justice will surely translate to better life for all Nigerians. The legal profession needs to profession needs to be released

from the shackles of the prince of this world and liberated to play its rightful role of protecting human dignity. CLASFON possesses the mandate to enforce and enthrone God's counsel.

2. There are many Christian Law teachers in Nigeria, few of whom are committed to CLASFON, what will be your advice to them?

Ans: Our foundation or background plays a crucial role in our perception of the role of CLASFON in higher institutions, First, let me appreciate law teachers who have surrendered themselves for service as Staff Advisers to our Student Ministry, the Christian Law Students Fellowship of Nigeria in the universities and at the campuses of the Nigerian Law School. It is remarkable to note some of our leaders especially Past Presidents Prof Bankole Sodipo SAN, Dr Chukwuma Chinwo and Dr Arome Moses Okwori are law teachers and are providing leadership in our engagements with students. I encourage my colleagues to be steadfast. Our young people need mentors to guide them and serve as good role models to them. Let me also use this opportunity to invite other Christian law teachers to come on board in the formation of Christian law students in acknowledgment of the fact that as teachers they can do a lot to nurture the coming generation in love to toe the path of integrity, diligence and discipline.



Interview Session with



3. Prof. can you share with us how your journey in CLASFON started?

Ans: I said it earlier that my CLASFON journey began when I was an undergraduate in UL. The Faculty of Law Christian Fellowship began partly as a response to the challenge of accreditation that our Faculty faced. At a Faculty programme, our Dean, Prof Folarin Shyllon, painted a vivid picture about the precarious state of our Faculty and the imminence of closure if nothing was done. Some brethren believed we could support the Faculty through our prayers for divine favour. There was also a felt desire to come together as Christian law students since there was in existence CLASFON at the then University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University).

When we resolved to give a structure to our meeting, Mr Chibuzor Ifenkwe, a staff in the Faculty, was appointed Coordinator and I became his Deputy as a student. Before our graduation, we put in place a proper Executive Committee run by only students as we had transformed to CLASFON. At the Nigerian Law School, Lagos in the 1988/89 session, I was a

PROF. JOHN O.A AKINTAYO

member of CLASFON with Pastor Chris Wogu and Prof Nsongura Udombana as President and General Secretary respectively. Some Fellowship members included Ps Sunny Akanni and Prof Andrew Chukwuemerie SAN. At this time, Dr Wole Olufon was the President of CLASFON.

I undertook national service in the Federal Capital Territory from 1989 to 1990 and there was no CLASFON Branch in Abuja at that time. I joined CLASFON Ibadan Branch when I returned to Ibadan after service year through my senior colleague, Prof Yemi Akinseye-George, who was then a lecturer at the Faculty of Law, UI and Staff Adviser to the Student Chapter in UI. CLASFON Ibadan was led by Pastor Tunde Gade when I joined. Hon Justice Lanre Akeredolu was a leading figure in the Fellowship before she relocated to Lagos. She was eventually preferred as a Judge of the Ondo State Judiciary and she retired as Chief Judge.

I served as Prayer Secretary in the Executive Committee of CLASFON Ibadan led by Hon. Olusola Ephraim- Oluwanuga who handed over to Ayo Alao Esq., my predecessor as Chairman, CLASFON Ibadan Branch. Later, I had the privilege to serve as Regional Coordinator, South West (first under Dr Chinwo and later under Mr Alozie Echeonwu as Presidents) before I became Vice President to Dr Arome Okwori and then President.

It has been a most exciting experience all these years.

When I became a member of CLASFON I knew it would be a lifelong commitment and God has helped my resolve.

4. What has been the impact of your faithful service and commitment to CLASFON on your family life?

Ans: I give glory to God who has counted us faithful and strengthened our commitment to this ministry. He alone supplies the grace and

Interview Seylon with

strength.

I acknowledge the profound impacts of CLAS-FON on every aspect of my life. CLAS-FON is a Bible-based organisation that places emphasis on living by the precepts of the Word of God, that is righteous living. The focus is to raise legal professionals who will be the ambassadors of Christ in their careers in different branches of the legal profession. These professionals must be worthy and faithful husbands and wives, if married. At the heart of the family is marriage and I have found the triangle as a most apt description of the marriage relationship. The nearer you and your spouse draw to God, the closer you are drawn to each other.

CLASFON is a family-centered organisation and this is reflected in the programme contents of our conferences. Most of the trips we have undertaken as a family are for CLASFON Conferences. Through service in CLASFON our family life is strengthened. One cannot but also mention the huge network of other brethren and families we have been blessed with all over Nigeria through CLASFON. So in a word CLASFON's impact on my family has been phenomenal. I have gained hundreds of family members in CLASFON also.

5. The CLASFON Regional Conference 2025 is just around the corner, why do you think every lawyer should endeavour to be a part of this transformative conference?

Ans: CLASFON Conference can aptly be described as a time of refreshing. We all need to be refreshed. The conference comes up during the vacation season of courts. Practicing lawyers can attend to enjoy some rest after the busy schedule of the legal year. Every lawyer needs rest and CLASFON conference offers this It is a time of retreat and revival and rejuvenation when spiritual nourishment is available to participants. The conference is an opportunity for reunion with friends and bre-

PROF. JOHN O.A AKINTAYO

thren, old school colleagues and others. CLAS-FON Conference presents participants with robust lectures, seminars and other academic presentations tailored to enhance the professional development and competence of participants. I must not fail to add that the conference is a time of family recreation. It is extremely rare to find a meeting that will address all these important needs of a lawyer at the same time.

I implore all Christian lawyers to endeavour to attend CLASFON Regional Conference in their location of choice among the six for a transformative experience.



6. It's well known that you are a prolific song writer and you love to play musical instruments in worship to God... Kindly share with us how you developed this passion?

Ans: I have been a choirboy since my days in the Primary School. At a particular time when I was attending a school located in the same premises with my family church at CAC Eleta, Ibadan, I was in the church premises seven

Interview Segion with

days a week for Church services, schooling and choir rehearsals.

The Choir offered me opportunity to study Rudiments of Music and to develop musical talents. I acknowledge the tremendous roles of my music teachers: Pastor Joseph Olusegun Olaleye and Elder Olusola Adepoju, the Choirmaster and Organist respectively There is the gifting aspect. Then, the place of anointing and commissioning in the music ministry. I must say I have had the benefit of all these strands of grace. Brethren of the Nigeria Christian Corpers Fellowship, Abuja remember me more as a Choir leader.

I really marvel at how this grace comes. The Bible is also a Song book to me. I find it easier to memorise a passage by singing a song based on it. Musical training has made it easier to document songs in musical notations. With smart phones things have become much easier. Some songs capture my experiences at some point in life. God has ministered to me, warned me, instructed me and strengthened me through them.

7. The CLASFON Nehemiah (land & building) Project has been ongoing, what is your charge to CLASFONites and CLASFON branches on the success of that project?

Ans: In the time of Nehemiah, the people of Israel arose to build the wall of Jerusalem because they had the mind to work. CLASFON is a body of Christian legal professionals whose trustees are incorporated under the relevant part of the Companies and Allied Matters Act. It will be recalled that under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Act which was repealed by the Companies and Allied Matters Act (promulgated as Decree) in 1990, acquisition of landed property was a major issue for a body serving analogous purposes. CLASFON is a legal entity recognised by law. To promote its efficiency and to strengthen its capacity it is imperative to have facilities that it can have

PROF. JOHN O.A AKINTAYO

unhindered access to. CLASFON's Secretariat operates from a rented apartment and the space it occupies is grossly inadequate. If the Fellowship is to hire the kind of facility that would serve its purpose including its Directorates and other organs in Abuja, it will pay heavily. Right now, the Fellowship commits huge resources to holding its statutory meetings including National Executive Committee (NEC) Retreats, President-in-Council meetings and NEC meetings. The availability of a purpose-built facility we can call our own can go a long way to ameliorate our accommodation challenges. We have a sister organisation that has done well in this regard.

I am happy the present National Executive Committee under the leadership of our President, Pastor Femi David Ikotun, is making efforts to make this project a reality.

I believe we are united on this project we will evolve means of getting our members committed.

We must arise and build.



COMMUNIQUÉ FROM PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE

The Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON), at the conclusion of its President-in-Council (PIC) meeting held from 12th to 14th June 2025 in llorin, Kwara State, has released a detailed communiqué touching on several matters of grave national concern. The communiqué addresses disaster response, justice administration, educational policy, and national security, and sets forth CLASFON's positions on each issue.

1.0 CONDOLENCE ON THE FLOOD DISASTER IN MOKWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE

- 1.1 CLASFON mourns the tragic loss of over 200 lives and the displacement of more than 3,000 persons due to the devastating flood that struck Mokwa Local Government Area, Niger State, on 29th May 2025. Over 100 persons remain unaccounted for, and infrastructure damage is estimated in the billions of naira.
- 1.2 The Fellowship expresses deep sympathy for victims, their families, affected communities, and the government and people of Niger State and Nigeria at large.
- 1.3 Appreciation is extended to the Niger State Government, Federal Government, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors for their prompt intervention and support.
- 1.4 CLASFON urges proactive disaster preparedness through the formulation of preventive policies by relevant Federal and State agencies.
- 1.5 The Fellowship prays against future re-occurrence and invokes God's peace, security, and divine protection over Nigeria.

2.0 ON THE STATE PARDON GRANTED TO 11 MURDER CONVICTS IN NIGER STATE

- 2.1 CLASFON expresses grave concern over the decision by the Executive Governor of Niger State to grant an unconditional pardon to 11 murder convicts involved in communal clashes between Gaba and Amfani communities.
- 2.2 Although the pardon was announced on 3rd June 2025 as a peace gesture, CLASFON considers the action ill-advised and lacking transparency.
- 2.3 While recognizing the Governor's constitutional authority under Section 212 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Fellowship asserts the decision undermines justice, victims' rights, and public safety.
- 2.4 CLASFON highlights specific concerns:(i) Victims' families, prosecutors, and witnesses were not consulted
- (ii) All beneficiaries are reportedly Muslims, while most victims were Christians—raising religious tension.
- religious tension.

 (iii) The decision is premature, coming only three years after the death sentences.
- (iv) The pardon threatens community peace and security of judicial officers.
- (v) Judicial morale may be weakened.
- (vi) Releasing convicts without clear evidence of reformation may endanger the community. 2.5 CLASFON urges the Governor to reconsider and withdraw the pardon and calls for broader stakeholder engagement in such sensitive decisions.

3.0 ON THE DECLARATION OF TWO-WEEK HOLIDAY FOR SCHOOLS IN KANO STATE

3.1 CLASFON condemns the Kano State Government's declaration of a two-week compulsory holiday for all schools during the 2025 Sallah celebration, citing adverse effects on both Muslim and non-Muslim students.

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE

3.2 The Fellowship believes this breaches Section 10 of the 1999 Constitution by infringing on the rights of non-Muslim citizens in a secular state.

3.3 It decries the action as counterproductive to educational development, especially in the northern region, already plagued by insecurity and poor educational indices.

3.4 CLASFON urges the Kano State Government and similar states to review such policies to reflect inclusiveness, fairness, and religious tolerance.

4.0 ON THE RESURGENCE OF BOKO HARAM, ETHNIC KILLINGS, AND GENERAL INSECURITY

4.1 The Fellowship expresses deep alarm over the resurgence of Boko Haram in the North East, and rising ethnic killings in Plateau and Benue States

4.2 Equally disturbing are recent military airstrikes that mistakenly killed civilians, with at least three such cases reported in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Rivers States between December 2024 and June 2025.

4.3 CLASFON underscores the sanctity of Nigerian lives and the urgent need for effective security measures to counter terrorism, kidnapping, and displacement. 4.4 It calls on the President and Commander-in-Chief to restructure Nigeria's security architecture, and renew commitment to national security in the North East, North Central, and North West.

CONCLUSION

- $\ensuremath{\,\boxtimes\,}$ CLASFON reaffirms its unwavering commitment to:
- Rule of law,
- Constitutionalism,
- Human dignity,
- $\ oxdot$ Peace and justice across Nigeria.

The Fellowship calls on all tiers of government, civil society, and citizens to join in making Nigeria a secure, just, and inclusive nation.

Issued this 14th day of June 2025, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Signed:

Femi David Ikotun, Esq.

President

Enobong Akpan, Esq.

National Secretary

BOOK REVIEW CHAPTER 5

"CLASFON, I CAME, I SERVED AND I AM BLESSED" DR. CHUKWUMAA J. CHINWO

Chapter 5 of CLASFON: I Came, I Served, and I Am Blessed, titled "Called to Be a Christian Lawyer", is a deeply personal and spiritually instructive narrative by Dr. Chukwuma A. J. Chinwo, the 7th President of CLASFON. In this chapter, he takes the reader behind the curtain of his professional journey and into the heart of his divine calling—not just as a lawyer, but as a Christian lawyer with a ministry rooted in the legal profession.

Dr. Chinwo opens with a striking revelation: he was never advised, persuaded, or mentored to study law. Rather, he attributes his choice of career to divine orchestration. In the early 1980s, shortly after finishing secondary school, he found himself drawn into the study of law—not by logic or influence, but by God's unseen hand guiding him toward his destiny.

His journey as a Christian lawyer began as a law student at the Rivers State University. Although raised in a Christian home, he confesses that he had not known the joy of being born again until his university years. It was there that he encountered Christ personally and experienced genuine transformation. From that point forward, and through his time at the Nigerian Law School in Lagos, he maintained a disciplined and intimate relationship with God—a commitment that continues to shape his personal and professional life.

One of the most compelling insights in this chapter is Dr. Chinwo's strong conviction that the Church is the only institution that recalls its soldiers from the war front. He stresses that believers are not in Church merely to receive blessings or belong to a community—they are there to be trained as soldiers, strategically de-

ployed to the spiritual battlefields in society. Not everyone is called to the pulpit, he argues, but many are called to preach Christ through their professions.

Dr. Chinwo affirms that he was called to be a lawyer, and that his law office is his mission field. Through legal practice, he reaches those who need to be reached—not from behind a church podium, but across legal briefs, boardrooms, and courtrooms. He presents the legal profession as both a career and a calling, a platform to demonstrate Christ's justice, mercy, and truth.

He extends this truth to all fields of endeavor. Doctors, engineers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, fashion entrepreneurs—all have a divine calling. The sacred/secular divide does not exist in God's economy. Every legitimate profession is a pulpit, and every believer is a minister of the Gospel in that space.

"Called to Be a Christian Lawyer" is not merely a reflection—it is a spiritual charge to the Christian professional. It calls for a radical rethinking of purpose and identity. It affirms that true ministry is not confined to a church building but is embedded in the work we do daily when it is surrendered to God.

This chapter is both a testimony and a trumpet call—to live for God, lead for Christ, and labour with eternal purpose in every sphere of influence

REVIEWED BY: CLASFON NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Empowering Christian Legal Minds

The Strategic Role of the Continuing Legal Education Institute (CLEI) in CLASFON's National Mission

In an age defined by rapid transformation in legal systems, ethical paradigms, and technological advancement, continuing legal education has never been more crucial. The Continuing Legal Education Institute (CLEI) of the Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON) stands as a beacon of intellectual, professional, and spiritual advancement, playing a central role in the Fellowship's vision of "A New Legal Profession Anchored on Christ." Through dynamic, nation-wide programming and strategic curricular innovation, CLEI serves as a cornerstone of CLASFON's holistic capacity-building framework.

MANDATE AND MISSION

CLEI was established with a singular but multifaceted vision: to ensure that Christian lawyers are not only abreast of legal developments but are also equipped to interpret and influence the law through a biblical lens. The Directorate operates on the firm belief that Christian legal professionals must be thoroughly furnished—academically, ethically, and spiritually—for the complex demands of contemporary law practice.

CLEI is charged with organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, and focused legal training across Nigeria. More importantly, it collaborates with the national leadership of CLASFON to inject its distinctive educational values into the curriculum of CLASFON's National Conferences—ensuring that every national gathering serves as a platform for rigorous academic discourse, professional enrichment, and spiritual rejuvenation.

NATIONAL IMPACT THROUGH CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

CLEI's influence is most visible during CLAS-

FON's annual National Conferences, where it makes strategic contributions to the design and development of the academic and professional tracks of the conference curriculum. The Institute meticulously curates seminar topics and recommends speakers who exemplify both professional excellence and deep Christian conviction. These contributions help align the conference content with emerging legal trends, doctrinal challenges, and the Fellowship's thematic focus.

For example, at recent National Conferences held in Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Abuja, CLEI coordinated sessions on:

The Christian Lawyer in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Judicial Automation

Law Practice, Social Justice and the Gospel Imperative Ethics and Integrity in the 21st Century Nigerian Bar

Each seminar attracted a wide cross-section of lawyers—from students and junior counsel to judges and senior advocates—creating intergenerational dialogue that is rare in legal educational spaces.

In addition to the national stage, CLEI runs a decentralized programming model. It supports CLASFON branches and zones to host Continuing Legal Education Seminars that address region-specific legal issues, such as customary law reform in the East, Sharia law interface in the North, and property and land tenure systems in the West. These regional seminars have strengthened local advocacy efforts and empowered members to engage more deeply with their communities.

SCHOLARLY COLLABORATIONS AND RE-SOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Empowering Christian Legal Minds

The Strategic Role of the Continuing Legal Education Institute (CLEI) in CLASFON's National Mission

Beyond conferences and seminars, CLEI is evolving into a think-tank for Christian legal thought in Nigeria. It collaborates with legal scholars, theological institutions, and international partners to develop training modules, monographs, and handbooks that blend legal scholarship with biblical principles.

In 2024, the Institute initiated the CLASFON Legal Resource Series, beginning with a widely praised publication on "Christian Ethics in Legal Advocacy." Upcoming projects include a series on Faith, Law and Nation-Building and an online CLEI Knowledge Hub to facilitate e-learning.

TRAINING THE FUTURE: LAW STUDENTS AND YOUNG LAWYERS

CLEI recognizes that the future of the legal profession—and the Fellowship—rests with the next generation. To this end, it provides targeted mentorship and training programs for law students and young wigs. Through strategic partnerships with the CLASFON Students Directorate and Young Lawyers Forum, CLEI offers structured trainings in legal writing, mooting, legal tech, and Christian apologetics in law.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many attendees testify to how CLEI's mentorship transformed their perception of the legal profession—from a mere career pursuit to a divine calling.

LOOKING FORWARD

Under the leadership of Prof. Bukola Akinola (a distinguished scholar and mentor to generations of lawyers) and Friday Okpanachi Ekpa (a seasoned practitioner with a heart for service), the CLEI Directorate is entering a new phase of innovation and international outreach. Plans are underway to host regional West African CLE summits and to build an international network of Christian legal educators.

In the words of Prof. Akinola:

"We are not merely teaching law; we are discipling lawyers. We are not merely holding seminars; we are cultivating reformers."

As the legal profession navigates ethical dilemmas, digital transitions, and socio-political unrest, CLEI remains committed to producing a generation of Christian legal professionals who are informed, influential, and immovable in Christ.

For further inquiries or collaboration, contact:

Prof. Bukola Akinola 08033920863

Friday Okpanachi Ekpa 08073987557

CLASFON STUDENTS REGIONAL PRAYERS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ACROSS THE NATION

The Christian Law Students' Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON Students) — the vibrant Students' Arm of CLASFON and the pride of its Lawyers' Arm — recently held her highly anticipated Regional Prayer and Leadership Conferences across the five geographical regions of the Students' Body.

These regions include:

- i South Fast
- ii. South South
- iii. North Central/North West
- iv. South West
- v. North East

Themed "Thine is the Kingdom" (Matthew 6:13), this year's conferences were powerful moments of spiritual refreshing, capacity building, leadership training, kingdom networking, and revival fire among law students across the nation.

Each region recorded an impressive turnout of participants, with students from numerous universities and campuses gathering in unity under the banner of Christ. Through impactfu teaching sessions, fervent prayers, prophetic declarations, and strategic leadership discussions, these conferences have rekindled passion for godly leadership, ethical legal practice, and national transformation.

The atmosphere was charged with the presence of God as student leaders were mentored, empowered, and spiritually equipped to represent Christ in their campuses and future careers. True to the theme, students were reminded of their divine mandate to advance the Kingdom of God in the legal profession and the nation at large.

Indeed, the CLASFON Students Regional Conferences have once again affirmed the vision of building "A New Legal Profession Anchored on Christ"

Pictorial Highlights from the CLASFON Students Regional Prayer and Leadership Conferences





CLASFON STUDENTS REGIONAL PRAYERS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ACROSS THE NATION

Pictorial Highlights from the CLASFON Students Regional Prayer and Leadership Conferences











Advocates Africa:

ADVANCING JUSTICE WITH COMPASSION ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Introduction

Advocates Africa is a continental movement of Christian legal professionals—lawyers, judges, magistrates, and law students—united by a shared vision to "Do Justice with Compassion." Established in 1998, Advocates Africa now spans 43 African countries, including Nigeria, where its national chapter, CLASFON (Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria), plays a pivotal role.

This article explores the full breadth of Advocates Africa—its history, mission, structure, and influence, while spotlighting CLASFON as a proud and active member of this contipent-wide movement

M History and Origins

Advocates Africa was birthed in Hekpoort, South Africa in 1998 at a summit of African delegates during a global convocation of Advocates International, a global fellowship of Christian legal professionals. The African delegates, inspired by a shared vision of transforming Africa through the Cospel and the legal profession, resolved to form a continental expersion of their commitment to justice and faith.

Since then, Advocates Africa has grown into a pan-African movement, boasting Christian legal fellowships and country networks in 43 nations, including Uganda (UCLF), Kenya (KCLF), Rwanda (Lawyers of Hope), and Nigeria (CLASFON)

Vision and Mandate

Vision: To see a continent governed by hope, justice, peace, and the rule of law, where religious liberty and human dignity flourish under godly leadership.

Mission: To inspire and mobilize advocates across Africa to do justice with compassion, through servant leadership and biblical principles.

Core Mandates Include:

- Building and strengthening national Christian lawyer fellowships;
- Providing free legal aid to the vulnerable, poor, and persecuted;
- Promoting servant leadership, integrity, and professional excellence;
- Advocating for religious freedom, human rights, good governance, and social justice:
- Conducting biblical reconciliation, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution:
- Organizing conferences, training sessions, and capacity-building programs for lawyers and students.

Organizational Structure

Advocates Africa operates through a decentralized network model with national fellowships forming the foundation. These fellowships are coordinated by regional and continental leaders who organize joint activities and strategy implementation.

National Chapters: Each country has an independent but affiliated Christian lawyers fellowship. For instance:

- CLASFON (Nigeria) Founded in 1981, one of the most active and established fellowships in Africa.
- UCLF (Uganda) With over 500 members, known for its pro bono legal aid and reconciliation work
- Lawyers of Hope (Rwanda) Renowned for community legal awareness and grassroots access to justice.
- Continental Secretariat: Oversees the general operations, organizes the biennial continental convocation, and liaises with Advocates International.

Advocates Africa:

ADVANCING JUSTICE WITH COMPASSION ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Principles and Values

- Advocates Africa stands on foundational values that define both its legal and spiritual mission:
- Biblical Justice: Upholding the Bible's call to defend the poor, oppressed, and marginalized (Isaiah 1:17).
- Servant Leadership: Lawyers are not to be combatants but peacemakers, seeking justice in humility
- Integrity and Professionalism: Members are expected to be ethical and competent, reflecting the aroma of Christ in all they do (2 Cor. 2:15).
- Free Legal Support: Advocates Africa members provide pro bono services in areas like civil rights, prison outreach, family law, and more—offered without cost and sustained by donations, mostly within Africa

Signature Events and Convocations

Every two years, Advocates Africa hosts a continental convocation, drawing hundreds of Christian legal professionals from across the continent.

2023 (15th Convocation, Entebbe, Uganda): Theme – "Positioning the Christian Lawyer in a Volatile World."

2025 (16th Convocation, Kigali, Rwanda): Scheduled for August 12–17, 2025, with the theme: "We are the pleasing aroma of Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14–17). Topics will cover religious freedom, justice for refugees, digital legal ethics, ADR, and faith in public service.

These gatherings are not just conferences—they are powerful spiritual revivals, legal think-tanks, and networking platforms for advancing kingdom-based legal reform in Africa.

As one of the oldest and most structured national fellowships in the Advocates Africa network, CLASFON (Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria) continues to play a leading role in shaping the movement's theology, practi-

ce, and continental cohesion.

Founded in 1979, CLASFON has over four decades of impact—raising Christian lawyers, mentoring law students, conducting legal missions, influencing national policy, and hosting national conferences with thousands in attendance. CLASFON also actively contributes to the continental agenda of Advocates Africa and has hosted or co-hosted several regional meetings and legal outreaches.

Through its robust national structure, spiritual depth, and academic/legal influence, CLAS-FON exemplifies the Advocates Africa vision in Nigeria—offering justice with compassion while pointing the nation to Christ.

Legal Aid Clinics

- Law and Scripture Teaching
- Youth Mentorship & Christian Legal Educa-
- tion
 Constitutional Advocacy & Public Interest
- Litigation

 ADR and Mediation
- · Women and Child Rights Protection
- Faith and Technology in Legal Ethics

I Conclusion

Advocates Africa is a shining beacon of hope—uniting Christian lawyers across the continent to stand for justice, serve with humility, and witness through law. In an age where injustice often seems to prevail, this pan-African fellowship reminds us that law, when rooted in Christ, becomes a tool for healing, liberty, and transformation.

As CLASFON continues to lead in Nigeria and collaborate within this broader continental family, the vision of a just and godly Africa remains within reach—one lawyer, one client, one nation at a time.

For more on Advocates Africa or the upcoming Kigali 2025 Convocation, visit: www.advocatesafrica.org



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WORDS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- 1. CLASFON
- 2. ADVOCACY
- 3. PROFESSION
- 4. LEGAL
- 5. ANCHORED
- 6. CHRISTIAN

- 7. LAWYERS
- 8. LOVE
- 9. CONFERENCE
- 10. DIRECTORATE
- 11. FELLOWSHIP
- 12. NIGERIA

Send a Picture of the Discovered Words to 09025384075 for very juicy and interesting rewards.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Beloved CLASFONites,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with deep gratitude that I write to appreciate every one of you who, in one way or another, continues to stand with this vision—

A New Legal Profession Anchored on Christ. CLASFON is not just a fellowship; it is a divine movement, a spiritual legacy and a ministerial assignment that has impacted generations and is still transforming lives across campuses, courtrooms, and countries.

As we press forward in our mandate under the year's theme "Thine is the Kingdom", I urge all CLASFON members to intentionally support the Fellowship. Kingdom work requires Kingdom partnership. There is a lot to be do—and your help is invaluable. Here are practical ways you can support CLASFON today:

1. Pay Your Annual Dues

Faithful remittance of annual dues is a basic and essential way of sustaining the work of the Fellowship. If you have not paid your dues for this year, kindly do so.

2. Register and Participate in the Upcoming CLASFON Regional Conferences

Our Regional Conferences offer rich moments of revival, connection, and capacity-building. Your attendance strengthens our collective witness and your registration helps in logistical planning.

3. Tithe to God through CLASFON

As God blesses you, consider honoring Him with a portion of your tithes directed to CLAS-FON. The Fellowship is good ground, and every seed will yield eternal returns

4. Support the Nehemiah Project

This is our dedicated infrastructure and project development arm. We urge you to give sacrificially into the Nehemiah Project Account as we rebuild, expand, and equip the places and platforms through which God is glorified.

5. Contribute the N5,000 Commitment for the Student National Conference Support

At the last Annual General Meeting, it was resolved that each CLASFONite should commit N5,000 to support our student brethren in hosting their National Conference. Let us not forget our roots and our responsibility to raise the next generation.

6. Sow Seeds for the Growth of CLASFON

Beyond dues and levies, consider sowing into CLASFON as the Spirit leads you—whether in cash, kind, services, or strategic partnerships. Every seed sown is a divine investment.

7. Explore Other Avenues of Support

Do you have skills, influence, platforms, or other resources that can benefit the Fellowship? Please reach out. No offering is too small, and no contribution goes unnoticed before God.

Dear friends, CLASFON thrives because people like you continually say "Yes" to God. As you give, may the Lord of the Harvest reward you beyond measure. "He is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love..." (Heb. 6:10). Let us rise together to build CLASFON into all that God has envisioned.

In Kingdom Service, Victor O. Chapi Esq National Executive Director, CLASFON

From the Desk of the National Publicity Secretary

A CALL TO PARTNER WITH THE CLASFON EDITORIAL TEAM



Beloved Brethren in Christ,

The CLASFON Editorial team works tirelessly to ensure that the good works of CLASFON is consistently showcased. Our monthly National Newsletter serves as a unifying thread connecting CLASFON branches nationwide. However, we can only feature your branch activities if you share them with us!

I earnestly appeal to all Branch Publicity Secretaries and Executive Committees to send reports of significant branch events, testimonies, and achievements to this whatsapp number 08034768365. These could include:

- Community outreach initiatives
- · Court visitations and prison ministry
- Mentorship programs
- Members' professional milestones
 Striking Testimonies
- Striking restimonies
- Directorates Activities

Your stories inspire others and strengthen our collective witness. Please include high-resolution photographs where available and ensure submissions reach us on or the 20th of each month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

In this digital age, our online presence is vital for effective ministry and communication. CLASFON maintains active presence across major social media platforms, and I encourage all members to follow, engage, and share our content:

- Facebook: Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria @clasfonnat
- Twitter/X: @CLASFON
- Instagram: @clasfon
- LinkedIn: Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria
- Youtube: Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria

Furthermore, our website www.clasfon.org is regularly updated with valuable resources including:

- Legal journals with Christian perspectives
- Bible study materials tailored for legal professionals
- Court judgments affecting Christian interests
- Position papers on contemporary legal-ethical issues

Devotionals for legal practitioners

May I also use this avenue to inform that we now have a CLASFON TV, which airs periodically on our official youtube page. The aim is to ensure that our unique story is not just told in print, but also in video recorded version which will last for ages. We draw our strength from Habakuk 2:14

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14)

Therefore, we urge brethren to support this work as it requires a lot of funding to stay afloat. Our prayer remains that as you give, the good measure you shall receive in return shall be pressed down, shaken together, running over and placed in your lap, (Luke 638). Amen Finally, as the time for us to gather once again as Kingdom ambassadors across Nigeira's geopolitical zones draws close, I am delighted to announce that count down for our 2025 Regional Conference scheduled for August 6-10, 2025 has officially began. This pivotal event will be held simultaneously across the Six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria, uniting us in purpose even as we gather in different locations.

Under the divinely inspired theme "Thine is the Kingdom" (Matthew 6:13), we will explore our mandate as Christian legal practitioners in establishing God's sovereignty in our profession and nation. The conference promises to be a transformative experience featuring: Spirit-filled worship sessions

- Insightful plenary discussions
- Specialized workshops relevant to Christian legal practice
 - Strategic networking opportunities
- Prayer and intercession for the legal profession and our nation

I therefore urge every member to register promptly via our official website: www.clasfon.org. Remember, our gathering is not merely a conference but a strategic assembly of God's legal army. Your participation is crucial!

Advancing His Kingdom, LIVINUS NWADINIGWE National Publicity Secretary, CLASFON

SUPPORT CLASFON

As we continue to expand our mission and vision, we ask for your support. Whether through prayer, financial donations, or volunteer efforts, every contribution helps to further our impact on society. To donate or learn more about how you can support CLASFON, please contact us at:

Email: info@clasfon.org

Website: www.clasfon.org

Your partnership is invaluable as we strive to be faithful witnesses of Christ in the legal profession.

PRAYER POINTS

Please join us in praying for the following:

- National and Regional Conferences: That these events will be fruitful and inspire members to deeper commitment in the legal profession.
- For Faithful Witnesses: That all members will be steadfast in their faith and serve as true ambassadors of Christ in their legal practices.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we move forward into 2025, let us keep our eyes on the Kingdom of God and our hearts set on reflecting His love, justice, and righteousness in all we do. Together, we can make a significant difference in the legal profession and in society. Stay blessed, stay inspired, and continue to be a faithful witness in the legal community.

For sponsorship and Advert details, call or contact: The CLASFON Media and Publicity Team at: 08034768365.

With warm regards.

The CLASFON Media and Publicity Team.