



BEVERLEY A. AGBAKOBA-ONYEJIANYA

MCArb, LLB, LLM

Attorney at Law, Mediator, Arbitrator,
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PROFILE SUMMARY

Accomplished Lexology listed Partner with expertise in Sports law, Sports Governance, Regulatory and Compliance. Well-respected and competent senior legal practitioner with over 7 years of experience in dispute resolution, international arbitration and sports law. Global elite thought leader in sports and gaming recognised by Lexology. Proven track record of acting as counsel and arbitrator, and investigator in international and domestic arbitration proceedings. Called to the Bar in England and Wales (Gray's Inn) and also in Nigeria.

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Sports Law (Employment Disputes, Contracts, Disciplinary Matters)

International Arbitration (Institutional and Ad Hoc)

Intellectual Property

Commercial Contracts in Sports

Ethics and Governance in Sport

Sports Governance

Regulatory and Compliance

Corporate and Commercial

Labour Law and Employment

Regulatory Compliance - FIFA, NFF, CAC

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

<i>LLM Commercial Law,</i>	2002
University of Wales, Cardiff.	
<i>LLB Law with European Law,</i>	2003
University of Nottingham, UK.	

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Bar Vocational Course (UK) – Inns of Court School of Law	2003
Investment Compliance Diploma: Compliance –	
<i>The Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments (CISI) - London</i>	2007
Legal Practising Certificate: Law - Nigerian Law School - Nigeria	2017
The Business of Football – OPEN UNIVERSITY UK - Online Course	2020
<i>(Professional development completed in the business of football)</i>	

SPORTS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Beverley has extensive experience in a diverse range of commercial transactions and also dispute resolution in sports. She regularly appears before the Domestic Player Status Committee Chamber in Nigeria. She is considered a leading sports lawyer in Nigeria, and her influence also extends to other parts of Africa. Some of her experiences include:

- Drafting contracts for players, agents, clubs and other stakeholders of the sports ecosystem
- Advising on compliance with RSTP FIFA rules, sports governance, and ethics
- Engaged to design a regulatory compliance programme for CAF in 2021

- Engaged as Technical Advisory Partner (TAP) of Sport Nigeria for the formation and maintenance of a Special Sports Economic Zone in Abia State - 2024
- Engaged as counsel to provide legal advisory for the creation of a new grassroots football league in Nigeria - 2024

SPORTS ARBITRAL EXPERIENCE

- Counsel for the claimant - involving a young professional basketball player and unfair termination from the national team and discrimination administered under FIBA and CAS - **2025 (international)**
- Counsel for the claimant - involving a professional female footballer and a club - unfair dismissal - **2024 (domestic)**
- Counsel for claimant - involving a professional football club and a professional league - invalid and contested demotion from a Nigerian professional league - **2023 (domestic)**
- Counsel for claimant - involving a football club and player - **2021 (domestic)**
- Member, World Athletics Safeguarding Case Management Group (ongoing) - **2024**
- Member, International Panel, Sports Resolutions UK (ongoing) - **2023**
- Member, Commonwealth Games Federation Court, Birmingham Games **2022 (fixed period)**.

SPORTS MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

- FIFA mediation panel member **2022**
- Various appointments - *All on employment matters referred from the FIFA Football Tribunal*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (HKRAC) - Panel of mediators	2025
Africa Women in Sports Law Initiative (AWISI) - Member, Policy and Legal Committee	2025
Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators NICARB – Panel of Arbitrators	2024
International Sports Law Association (ISLA) – Africa Regional Committee Member -	2023
Women in Sports Law (WISLAW) - Member	2021
NBA SBL Sports Entertainment and Media Committee - Chairperson (current)	
Lagos Court of Arbitration - Panel of Arbitrators	2018
Lagos Multidoor Court (LMDC) - Panel of Mediators	2018
Licensed to practice law in Nigeria - Nigerian Bar Association	2017
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Ciarb Uk -	
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Ciarb Nigeria-	
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Ciarb Kenya -	
Attorney Mediators Association of Nigeria - ATMA	

PUBLICATIONS

A To Z of Sports Law Book - <https://oal.law/publication category/premium/>
<https://oal.law/sports-should-go-beyond-games-be-expansive-others beverley-onyejianya/>
<https://oal.law/oals-beverley-agbakoba-onyejianya-recognized-as-global and-recommended-leader-in-sports-by-whos-who-legal-wwl-2021/>
<https://oal.law/addressing-the-concept-of-neutrality-in-sports/> <https://oal.law/third-party-ownership-in-football-explained/>
<https://oal.law/rights-of-minors-in-football-in-nigeria/>
 Australian Sports Law Bulletin (ASLB) - 2024 - Vol 3 No 2 - Safeguarding the games — ensuring safety and security during mega sporting events - B.A Agbakoba-Onyejianya

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH - Fluent (*Professional Working Proficiency*)
FRENCH - Intermediate *speaker and writer*.
MANDARIN - Basic.

REFERENCES

Available and attached.