

## ABOUT A&E LAW PARTNERSHIP

A & E Law Partnership (formerly known as Ahaneku Ekwewuo & Partners) is the product of the merger of two law firms of **Mahmud & Ahaneku** and **C.C. Ekwewuo & Co.** After the merger, A & E Law Partnership was registered at the Corporate Affairs Commission on September 16, 2003.

We operate a multidisciplinary practice ( CORPORATE LAW , LITIGATION, SUPPORTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, LEGAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, PUBLIC PROCUREMENT, ENERGY, PROPERTY LAW, PRIVATIZATION/PPP, DEVELOPMENT SECTOR/ANTI-CORRUPTION & PUBLIC SECTOR-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE), which involves the provision of legal advisory and institution building services to public and private institutions at national and state levels in Nigeria, targeted at resolving critical legal, governance and development challenges. We have worked on projects funded by international organizations such as the World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on several projects supporting deregulations, and institutional reforms in Nigeria. In some instances we have worked for these organizations directly on similar projects.

Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, A & E Law Partnership has been a key player in democratic consolidation, legal and economic reforms for the socio-economic development of Nigeria. We have been engaged in projects and partnerships targeted at supporting economic reforms of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

We were members of the **Legal Advisory Partnership (LAP)** which was a consortium of six Nigerian law firms and one English firm engaged by the **Bureau for Public Enterprises (under a UK DFID support)**, to provide senior legal support to the Director General in management of the Nigerian Privatization process for at least four plus years. As LAP team members we participated in the revision of the entire Nigerian privatization process and development of process guidelines and manuals to support the Nigerian privatization process. LAP's work included a full in-depth diagnosis of Nigeria's Privatization process and the development and design of improved processes and process tools for privatization including standard procedures, checklists and relevant standard documentation for the management of privatization transactions based on a new approval point system, intended to ensure process integrity and that all issues are resolved prior to launch of privatization or core investor procurement. This process is being deployed in privatization of power companies currently.

We were also LAP team members of the **CPCS TRANSCOM/UNION CAPITAL MARKETS CONSORTIUM** of advisers that prepared the PHCN successor companies for privatization.

We have recorded pioneering achievements in the field of development of legal and institutional frameworks to support public governance and public finance reforms at federal and state levels in Nigeria.

Our services in support of legal reforms and establishment of institutional frameworks for deregulation and reforms includes advising committees of the National Assembly regarding several laws including the Pension Reform law 2004, Public Procurement Act 2007, Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, Investment and Securities Act, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Act 2006 etc and also drafting other bills including a bill for establishment of a regulatory framework for Warehouse Receipt Financing in Nigeria etc. At the sub-national government level, we have supported development and revision of several public finance management legislations for several states, the scope of our work has included Fiscal Responsibility, Public Procurement and Debt Management Laws and some of the states we have worked for have included; Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Bauchi, Kaduna, Delta, Rivers, Delta States etc.

Our work for these and other states has included supporting capacity assessment processes, developing regulations, standard documents and supporting capacity and institution building, and system improvements to ensure full compliance with the new laws.

We have also provided advisory support services on public procurement reforms in many states in Nigeria including the named states.

We continue to provide advisory services to the regulator of public procurement practice at the Federal Level in Nigeria, the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), services ranging from capacity building on public finance laws and practice, to audit of procurement process of public institutions and engagements with sector stakeholders on issues relating to public finance management and practice along with and on behalf of public sector and sometimes citizen sector clients.

Our personnel have experience advising and implementing transactions for clients in the securities market, and in developing and implementing corporate governance investment and regulatory compliance regimes for corporates and for specific investment projects and initiatives. We are Capital Market Solicitors and our personnel have experience continuously providing extensive company secretarial services to corporate clients. We have recently established a new division of our firm headed by a partner to focus on providing company secretarial, capital market and regulatory compliance services to clients.

Our firm has a working relationship with several local firms, foreign firms and international consultants in the US and Europe and associate with them in areas where their technical experience is needed for specific tasks and on a case-by-case basis.

We have experience strengthening integrity systems and supporting regulatory and anti-corruption institution building efforts at state and national levels , and have advised many important agencies in this respect including; The Bureau of Public Procurement, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-corruption Reforms (TUGAR), the Independent and Corrupt Practices Related Commission (ICPC), Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Debt Management Office, and Bureau for Public Service Reforms(BPSR) etc, to deliver on their respective mandates.

We have experience working in multi-disciplinary teams and we continue to support our private sector clients in different roles. Our commercial practice experience includes secure credit advisory and documentation, debt recoveries, including having in-house counsel act as receiver /liquidator, for major banks like GT Bank, Diamond Bank, Fidelity Bank, transaction structuring including PPPs, oil & gas advisory, extensive due diligence checks and evaluation of local partners for foreign investors, as well as sector analysis and advisory for foreign businesses seeking to establish in Nigeria etc. Also we support foreign companies seeking business opportunities in Nigeria, and our services in this regard ranges from sector analysis, due diligence and negotiations with local partners and support services for establishment of local offices.

We have a litigation practice section providing court room advocacy services to clients in regular courts and in such special courts as the Investment tribunal, and before administrative and or regulatory panels and special committees.