

Editorial

Editorial Note _____	I
About NILA _____	II
Call for Papers _____	IV

Articles

Nigerian Immigration Act 2015: An Examination with the 1999 Constitution and International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law - Chukwuka Onyeaku, Ph.D. _____	01
Freedom of Establishment under the ECOWAS Treaty: Right of a Community Citizen to Practice his Office as Notary Public in Nigeria - Chike B. Okosa, Ph.D. _____	15
Assessing the Human Rights Component of Economic Migration: The 'Japa' Syndrome in Nigeria - Uwakwe, Roland Chukwudi, LLB, BL _____	25
Legal Overview of the Causes and Effects of Internal Displacement in Nigeria - Eric Chigozie Ibe, LLM & Eyyazo Daniel Moses _____	37
Appraisal of Nigeria's Legal Framework on Immigration Laws: Reforms in Visa Regulations, Deportation Procedures, and Refugee Rights - Jared Theophilus, Ph.D. _____	50
Law Clinics as Tools to Tackle the Phenomenon of Human Trafficking: The Baze University Migration and Trafficked Persons Law Clinic Abuja, Nigeria - Maryam Idris Abdulkadir, LLM _____	56
Corporate Immigration in Nigeria: An Analysis of the Regulatory Framework - Prince Ebere Nwokoro _____	63
Case Review: - Re-examining Citizenship: A Critical Analysis of Folakemi Adeosun Vs. Attorney General of the Federation - Prince Ebere Nwokoro _____	76

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EDITORIAL NOTE

As we present the inaugural edition of the NILA Immigration Law Journal, we proudly honour HRM Obi (Prof) Epiphany Azinge SAN, the visionary founding President of the Nigerian Immigration Lawyers Association (“NILA”) whose pioneering work has inspired a new generation of immigration law practitioners. Our esteemed dedicatee’s seminal and magisterial work “AZINGE’ IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY IN NIGERIA” published in 1998 was the first and remains the only authoritative and comprehensive treatise on Immigration Law and Practice in Nigeria.

This milestone marks the beginning of a dynamic conversation that will shape the future of Nigerian immigration law. Our mission is to provide a platform for scholars, practitioners, and experts to share cutting-edge research, analysis, and insights on current issues and trends in immigration law. We strive to foster informed discourse, promote intellectual curiosity, and uphold the highest standards of academic excellence and professional integrity.

In this maiden edition, we present a curated selection of articles tackling pressing issues in Nigerian immigration law. Our authors offer innovative solutions, rigorous analysis, and fresh perspectives on complex challenges facing our nation. It is hoped that the top-notch articles in this Journal will provide mental stimulation to all lawyers, policy makers and Judges that will result in informed and inclusive immigration policies and outcomes.

We invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit articles, case notes, and book reviews for our upcoming editions. Please explore our website (www.nila.ng) for submission guidelines and deadlines.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

Prof. Larry Chukwu & Prince Ebere Nwokoro
Editors

ABOUT NILA

The Nigerian Immigration Lawyers Association (NILA)TM is a registered mark of Immigration Law Practitioners Association of Nigeria (Reg. No. 168102). We are a national association of immigration lawyers established by leading immigration lawyers and policy advocates in Nigeria under the superintendency of Prof. Epiphany Azinge (SAN) to promote justice, advocate for efficient immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration law and practice in Nigeria and enhance the professional development of our members.

OBJECTIVES OF NILA

The objectives for which the Association was established include, inter alia:

1. To promote the development of Immigration Law and Policy in Nigeria.
2. To promote the welfare of Immigration lawyers in Nigeria.
3. To increase member participation in advocacy before the National Assembly, the Judiciary, the Federal Agencies and the Media, for immigration related interests of clients and society.
4. To educate the public about the ways in which Nigeria immigration law and policy serves the national interest through the publication of journals and hosting of seminars, conferences and roundtables.
5. To enhance respect for immigration law and professional recognition of immigration lawyers by government, the bar and society.
6. To create a forum for interaction among various categories of stakeholders in global mobility and migration management.
7. To increase the level of knowledge and professionalism and foster the professional responsibility of our members.
8. To enhance the litigation capabilities of the membership as an important option to ensure the just administration of immigration law in Nigeria.
9. To assist members in effectively and competently pursuing their law practice and enhancing their professional satisfaction.
10. To promote and support delivery of competent, ethical and lawful immigration services by lawyers.
11. To encourage and facilitate member participation in, and support for pro-bono services and programs.
12. To promote and encourage collaboration and alliances between public and private individuals and organizations (both nationally and internationally) with identical aims with the ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all legal practitioners, law teachers and policy advocates who practice, teach or research in the field of immigration law and other person(s) who have or share the vision of the Association.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

There are four types of membership:

i. Fellowship

Applicants for this category of membership must be seasoned legal practitioners or professionals in recognized allied sectors who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields and who are interested in the practice of Immigration Law and Policy as Fellows of the Association; must show evidence of over 20 years experience in the relevant fields, be referenced by at least 2 persons and adjudged as fit and proper by the BOT. Fellows are qualified to use the acronym “FNILA” after their names.

ii. Membership

Applicants for this category of membership must be legal practitioners or professionals in recognized allied sectors who are interested in the practice of Immigration Law and Policy as Members of the Association; must show evidence of between 10 to 20 years cognate experience in the relevant fields, be referenced by at least 2 persons and adjudged as fit and proper by the BOT. Members are qualified to use the acronym “MNILA” after their names.

iii. Associate Membership

Applicants for this category of membership must be legal practitioners or other professionals in recognized allied sectors who are interested in the practice of Immigration Law and Policy as Associate Members of the Association; with cognate experience of less than 10 years in the relevant field, be referenced by at least 2 persons and adjudged as fit and proper by the BOT. Associate members are qualified to use the acronym “ANILA” after their names.

iv. Student Membership

Applicants for this category of membership must be law students or students in recognized allied disciplines with demonstrated interest in acquiring knowledge of Immigration Law and Policy; must be referenced by at least 2 persons and adjudged as fit and proper by the BOT.

Note: All prospective members are required to participate in the Membership Training Programmes of the Association before induction into the relevant membership cadre.

Law Journal

A Publication of the Nigerian Immigration Lawyers Association

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Editorial Board of the NILA Law Journal (a publication of the Nigerian Immigration Lawyers Association) invites submissions for publication in the volume 2 No. 1 2025 edition of its journal. The NILA Law Journal is a peer-reviewed journal on a broad range of current and pragmatic topics related to the rapidly changing immigration law landscape, in support of NILA's mission to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy in Nigeria, and enhance the professional development of its members.

The journal will consider articles on subjects relating (but not limited) to Nigeria or comparative immigration law and policy in general, business immigration, forced migration, refugee law, internal displacement and nationality law. As the journal is dedicated to publishing works falling under a broad conception of immigration law, articles might also touch upon related legal fields such as administrative law, constitutional law, criminal law, human rights and labour law. Articles must be original and must not have been submitted for consideration and publication elsewhere.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

1. Manuscripts must be in British English Language, Microsoft word format, 12pt font size (10pt for footnotes), and 1.5 line spaced.
2. References should comply with the NALT uniform Citation Guide-Style of Referencing, which is available on www.naltng.org.
3. Submission must include an abstract which should not exceed 250 words which should consist of an introduction, research method(s), findings, recommendation and conclusion.
4. Articles should not exceed 7500 words including footnotes, while commentaries and reviews should not exceed 4000 words including footnotes.
5. Author(s) details such as names, telephone number, email address, academic qualifications, and institutional affiliations should be indicated in the footnote of the first page of the paper.
6. All submissions will undergo double blind peer review and plagiarism check.
7. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that the material submitted does not infringe copyright.
8. All submissions should be sent to editor.nil.association@gmail.com not later than 31st May, 2025.
9. All correspondence concerning articles and other submissions should be addressed to:

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