

CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA JUDICIAL SYSTEM: CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES

Emike Selina Agbontean

Department of Sociology,
University of Benin

Email: selina.igbafe@uniben.edu

&

Prof. Au N. Nnonnyelu

Department of Sociology

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Email: aunnonnyelu@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

Corruption is a virus that has plagued the smooth running of institutions in Nigeria. The access to Justice and the right to fair hearing are the basics for the success of democracy in any nation, and the judiciary is the body charged with that responsibility. If the judiciary is hampered by corruption, it will definitely affect their mode of operation in delivering justice and fair hearing to the people. This study therefore looks at the challenges of corruption in the judicial system and the consequences. Literatures relevant to the study were reviewed as a secondary tool for gathering data. The strain theory was adopted to explain the involvement of the judiciary in corruption. The findings from the literature revealed that corruption is a major challenge in the judicial system as it leads to the people in doubt of the efficiency of the system. Therefore, there is the need to curb corruption in the judiciary. Based on the outcome, the study recommends that judicial workers found wanting in corruptible practices be made to face disciplinary action for their misdeeds and lack of ethics.

Keywords: Challenges, Corruption, Consequences, Judicial system, Justice

Introduction

Corruption is rampant and widespread and it cuts across all spheres of life. It has eaten deep into the various institutions in the society (Mironga, 2022). The judicial arm of government is the body given the responsibility to interpret the law and deliver justice to the citizenry, without fear or hindrance, commission or omission. However, this can be hampered by corruption in the system. According to Pepys, (2003) systemic corruption within the justice system is commonly defined as the use of public authority for personal gain that results in an improper delivery of judicial services and legal protection for citizens. Banjoko (2015) noted that, Judicial Corruption in Nigeria includes corrupt acts by Judges, Prosecutors, Court Officers and other Law Enforcement Agents, who are intimately involved in the operation of the Justice System. Bribery, misappropriation of public resources, favoritism of friends and family, political meddling, criminal extortion, and pressure from the judiciary's hierarchies are only a few examples.

For every act taken, there is a consequence, and therefore outcomes exist for judicial corruption. The judiciary's function as a defender of citizens' rights, may be compromised by judges' bias and the public's perception of it. It gives common people no protection when the state files charges, and no effective means of pursuing justice exists when the state is the offender. The political bias is not necessarily consistent across all types of cases (Gloppen & Kasimbazi, 2008). When the stakes are high, such as when the executive or other powerful people believe their position is under threat, it tends to be higher. It is thus particularly damaging for the courts' integrity, and their ability to impartially enforce the rules of the

political system, for example in relation to election fraud (Gloppen, 2010; Gloppen et al., 2004). This can be linked to Transparency International (2007) Survey Report which states that judges and court personnel around the world continue to come under pressure to make decisions that favour strong political or commercial interests rather than those required by the law. Political forces now have more sway over the judiciary. But when justice is not achieved by the law but by how much money one has to buy justice, the citizens (mostly the poor) will lose faith and confidence in the judicial system and seek other means of attaining justice. It is therefore crucial to investigate the drivers and enablers of judicial corruption in Benin City, Edo State, as perceived by the public.

Widespread bribery in the judiciary also erodes trust in the courts and distorts their ability to perform their functions as impartial arbiters of disputes, guarantors of contracts and enforcers of the law (Transparency International, 2007). According to Oko (2009) the temple of justice which was once ruled by honesty and fairness has been disassembled and replaced by corruption and favouritism. Therefore, corruption can affect the fairness and honesty in the judicial system. This is likely to affect the performance of judicial officers, and this requires investigation. Gong (2004) studied corruption in contemporary China, considering the questions, “how could corruption become so rampant in the judiciary? An institution that is supposed to be strictly law-abiding, morally upright, and politically impartial, to any special interest. How can judges, who are expected to exert strength of character and who, as legal experts and fully aware of the consequences of judicial misconduct, engage in corruption on a massive scale?” Similar questions are also being asked in Nigeria. It is paradoxical that the Judiciary that should be the banner of uprightness and integrity, is now being suspected, or perceived as malevolent, and indulging in activities that can be seen as malfeasance. The way the Judiciary is perceived by the public in Edo State, is largely the focus of the current study. The judiciary is a public institution invested with the powers to serve as an essential check on other public institutions. Therefore, to ensure an efficient and fair judiciary, corruption should be eradicated from the system.

The probable outcomes of corruption are that it destroys the judiciary, and leads to erosion of confidence in the judiciary. In other words, judicial corruption can bring the delivery of justice as well as development to a standstill if not put in check (Opare, 2016). A situation where the Chief Justice of the federation faced charges of gross misconduct, official corruption, goes to show the depth of the scourge of corruption in the judiciary (Ghanity & Hastiadi, 2017). Therefore, to ensure an efficient and fair judiciary, corruption should be eradicated from the system, or at least, significantly reduced. It is against this background that this study sets out to examine the challenges and outcomes of corruption in the Judicial System in Nigeria. and make recommendations that will possibly rid the Judiciary of corruption and maintain an efficient and professional judicial system that is able to sustain public confidence.

Factors influencing judicial corruption in Nigeria

The fundamental job of a judge is to preserve a citizen's rights and civil freedoms and to provide a fair trial by a competent and unbiased court (Cambridge University Press, 2007). When a judicial system is corrupt, these duties are distorted. It makes it possible for public officials and special interest organizations involved in corruption to behave with confidence that, in the event that their illegal behavior is discovered, they would not face repercussions. Corruption, broadly speaking, is the abuse of authority for personal benefit (Cambridge University Press, 2007). According to Ayodeji and Odukoya (2014), judicial corruption refers to actions or inactions that include the use of public power for the personal gain of court employees. This leads to the incorrect and unjust application of the law. Bribery, extortion, intimidation,

influence-peddling, and the misuse of legal processes for private benefit are examples of such actions and omissions. Citizens are denied their democratic right to equal access to the courts in corrupt judiciaries, and the courts do not treat them fairly. A citizen's economic level, political status and social background play a decisive role in the judicial decision-making process. Rich and powerful citizens outperform common people in corrupt judiciaries, and governmental organizations and commercial businesses outweigh citizens. While it would be foolish to claim that all legal systems are free from corruption, it is true that in certain nation's corruption is rare, intermittent, and the product of one person's unethical behavior. In these nations, the structure in place promotes the judiciary's professionalism and safeguards the judge from improper influence. (Ugochukwu, 2011).

Judiciary corruption is a widespread issue in many other nations, and addressing ethics alone is insufficient to solve the issue. The way the legal system is set up can encourage corruption. The chances of getting detected and penalized are smaller, and there are more external pressures on judges to act unethically (Musdapher, 2011). Governmental choices could be more influenced by personal relationships than by merit. In certain nations, the power of interpersonal ties is so extensive that every judicial judgment is thought to be the result of influence. In certain nations, offering a bribe is seen as both a necessary condition for receiving judicial services and, in some cases, the only way to get anything done (Cambridge University Press, 2007). Why hire a lawyer when you can purchase a judge is a widespread adage in Kenya. Judicial users choose to pay bribes as a less expensive way to get speedier service in nations with lengthy judicial procedures. For services to which individuals are legally entitled, court employees also seek money. Fear of punishment Fear of retaliation from political leaders, appellate judges, influential people, the public, and the media is one reason that might cause judges to base their rulings on things other than the facts and the relevant law (Tampubolon, Situmeang, & Saragih, 2023). Rather than risk disciplinary action, demotion or transfer, judges will apply a politically acceptable decision.

Low judicial and court staff salaries might be one of the influencing factors. Judicial salaries that are too low to attract qualified legal personnel or retain them, and that do not enable judges and court staff to support their families in a secure environment, prompt judges and court staff to supplement their incomes with bribes. The salary differential between different branches of government can be galling in some countries. Although countries such as Nigeria, Ecuador, Georgia, and Peru have significantly raised judicial salaries in recent years in a bid to reduce the incentives for corruption, it is difficult to prove that an increase in salary is a causal factor in reducing corruption (Cambridge University Press, 2007). Even where incidents of illicit payments to judges have clearly been reduced, the public continues to believe that corruption persists at the same level. In Georgia, judges' salaries have increased by as much as 400 per cent in the past two years, but perceptions of judicial corruption remain high and the prevailing view is that the nature of corruption has simply changed.

Nigeria's corruption is deeply ingrained and has resisted all efforts to eradicate it. The amount of crime that is being committed in the nation as a result of corruption is rising geometrically. The case of Senator Ekweremadu who was convicted for organ trafficking in United Kingdom by the Westminster Magistrate Court, is an instance of judicial system that works in the UK. If the case was tried in Nigeria, will he have been convicted or even tried in the first place? (Nathaniel, 2023). One of the reasons why judges take decisions based on factors other than the facts and applicable law is fear of retribution by political leaders, appellate judges, powerful individuals, the public and media. Perhaps, low salaries for judicial workers are a contributing factor to their collection of bribe and their involvement in corrupt practices (Pepys, 2007).

Corruption in the judiciary compromises the rule of law (Enofe, Ezeani, & Eichie, 2015). This is because, the court has a role to play in protecting the rights of its citizens by applying the law without respect for persons (Elijah, 2011). The Judiciary provides the platform for the settlement of disputes. Their duty is to interpret the law and apply it to the facts of each case. The judiciary at the state level presently is obviously frustrating democratic process by prolonging court cases through endless adjournments and raw injunctions (Osuji, 2012; Enofe et al, 2015).

Challenges of judicial corruption in Nigeria

Corruption in the judiciary is a big challenge because it will affect the smooth operation of the system. That is why a former Chief Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Justice Mahmud Mohammed said corruption has serious implications for both the rule of law and access to justice, and must be fought both institutionally and individually (Ugwuanyi, 2016). The Chief Justice also stress that the slow pace of judicial process has created long line of cases not treated leading to large number of awaiting trial persons in prisons across the nation and we all know that justice delayed is justice denied (Ugwuanyi, 2016). Also President Muhammadu Buhari has revealed that his administration suffers set back on its anti-corruption campaign, due to the degree of judicial impunity that encourages the subversion of justice that is inimical to progress (Adetayo, 2016). He continued by expressing his concern that the judiciary has yet to live up to the public's expectations about the elimination of delays and the tolerance of lawyers' delay tactics. When cases are not concluded the negative impression is given that crime pays (Transparency International, 2007).

So far, the corruption cases filed by government are not progressing as speedily as they should, in spite of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 essentially because the courts allow some lawyers to frustrate the reforms introduced by law (Adetayo, 2016). According to Okakwu (2016), a chief judge of Enugu State was sacked by the Nigeria Judicial Council in September 30th 2016 because he failed to deliver Judgement in Suit in which final addresses were adopted on 23rd October, 2014, until the 9th day of March, 2015; about 126 days after addresses were adopted. The statute violates constitutional requirements that judgment be rendered 90 days after addresses have been adopted. The council also said the same Judge abused his privileges when he ordered the petitioner, Mr. Eze, to be arrested by police officers and brought to court, after an agreement had been reached on a matter before him and judgement entered on terms of settlement (Okakwu, 2016).

The failure of the Nigerian judiciary to convict those who have committed crime against the state had made the public lose hope in the judicial system as such they choose to take laws into their hand which is called jungle justice or self-help. Judge Ayo Salami, a former president of the Court of Appeal, claimed that the issue with the Nigerian judicial system is that certain dishonest individuals who weren't meant to be judges entered the system and later rose to the top of their judicial careers. These set of individual are bound to exhibit characteristics contrary to that of the judiciary because of their dishonourable tendencies. In Justice Salami opinion, the fact that many Nigerians oppose telling the truth is another significant issue. Everyone who dares to tell the truth will face persecution. Many illegal activities take place within the judicial system where some members of the Bar alleged that some high-ranking judicial officers act as couriers of bribe. While some legal practitioners, in addition to their legitimate fees, demand fees from their clients purportedly to influence the judge or judges handling the case (Adetayo, 2016).

Recently in Nigeria there were media reports of high-profile corruption scandals and allegations of some judges. According to Ebhomele (2016) in his report on how three Nigeria judges were arrested for alleged corruption which was linked to a bribe, one of the judges who were in charge of the Tribunal case in Rivers state, alleged to have collected from the Governor of that state to deliver judgement in his favour. Furthermore, the second judge was arrested for collecting \$2million from some factional members of the biggest political party in Nigeria to give a judgement against the other factional group in the party (Ebhomele, 2016). Ebhomele further stated that, the third judge who was also arrested built seven houses simultaneously in Abuja and Calabar with the help of a former Governor and the current governor in Akwa Ibom state Nigeria. Moreover, when the Department of State Security (DSS) also invaded the home of the three (3) Justices, different amounts in foreign currencies were recovered from the raid (Ebhomele, 2016). Moreover, Ebhomele also stressed that there were other various foreign currencies apart from the declared amount that the DSS also recovered including, bank accounts and real estate documents. As has been stated by President Buhari, corruption hinders progress, and it definitely affects the progress of the judicial system in Nigeria. It is expected that the judicial arm should be insulated from the vices of official corruption, given its central role in the dispensation of justice. Any judicial ruling that is tainted with corruption is a negation of justice.

Possible Consequences of Corruption in Nigerian Judiciary

A possible outcome of corruption in the judiciary is that the citizens lose trust in the judicial system. And this may lead to the second outcome which is that individuals, groups and institutions may result to taking the law into their own hands. Rather than reporting offenses to the authority, they may actions themselves. This is because, a corrupt prone society breeds corrupt individuals (Enofe, Ezeani & Eichie, 2015). Banjoke (2015) stated that a corrupt judicial system does not only violate the basic rights of a citizen to equality before the law, it also denies procedural rights guaranteed by the Nigerian constitution. He further stated that combating corruption in the judiciary is of utmost importance because; the system is designed to ensure the supremacy of the law. The role of the judiciary is to prosecute and bring to justice all offenders of the law, which includes corrupt offences. Judging by Banjoko's assertion, all offences should be treated with equal attention and adjudication. Every case should be addressed based on the constitutional act and must be applicable to every individual, no matter the status or station in life. This will boost the integrity of the judiciary because according to him, public confidence in the judiciary is the key to a transparent judicial process. Therefore, in order for the judiciary to flourish, they must operate on what Banjoko (2015) terms the three 'I's which are; Impartiality, Independence and Integrity.

Another possible outcome of judicial corruption is that it leads to unlawful verdict and sentencing, and also to delayed cases. Judicial corruption affects unfair access to and the results of court rulings. The rule of law will not triumph because the decisions will continue to be unfair and unpredictable. There will be a violation of the rule of law and the right to a fair trial if one of the parties has bought off the judge or another court official, got access to papers that the other side does not have, or made documents vanish. A judge cannot be unbiased or fair if they have accepted bribes. When a party to legal proceedings offers a judge or other officials a bribe and the bribe is accepted, that party immediately gains privileges over other parties who have not offered, or are not in a position to give, a bribe or incentive. The preferential treatment secured and the resulting discrimination, then, obliterates objectivity and neutrality from the judicial process (Egbewole & Imam, 2015).

There have been some judicial sentencings that do not relate with the gravity of the offence committed. And when compared with some others closely related to the nature of the crime with the verdict given, it shows an outright injustice. For instance, how do you explain a situation where a person who stole ₦14, 570 (fourteen thousand, five hundred and seventy naira) is sentenced to death by a judge in Ekiti state, and politicians who steal millions of naira are asked to pay a token fine (Ikeji, 2015). Again, in Makurdi, two brothers were sentenced to death by hanging for robbery of valuables worth ₦39, 040. Ikeji stated that the reasons given for the conviction of these cases were that they robbed their victims at gun point. There is also the case of Kelvin Ighodalo who was sentenced to 45years in prison for stealing a governor's phone worth fifty thousand naira (₦50, 000) (Ikeji, 2015). The accused did not commit robbery but stealing which in the penal code section 390(9) is an offence punishable by seven years imprisonment (LawGlobal 2022), so why was the gravity of the offence so severe? It seem therefore, the symbol of justice depicted by the blinded lady is not correct, as justice in clear eyes considers the status, background, connection of the parties, a case of selective justice. This is judicial corruption, and the outcome is injustice to those concerned

Similarly, Maxymilliano (2013) posits that this can be compared to a case where a former director of the Police Pension Board, John Yakubu Yusuf, was sentenced to two (2) years imprisonment for stealing about two billion naira. He was given an option of ₦250, 000 (two hundred and fifty thousand naira) fine for a crime of ₦2billion, while another person was sentenced to three (3) years jail term for stealing a telephone hand set worth ₦17, 000 (seventeen thousand naira) without the option of a fine. One can term this to be unfair and a total injustice to humanity. Also, according to Maxymilliano, if the ratio of years of sentence was relative to the amount stolen and the same law was used to try both men, should Mr. Jamiu be jailed 3 years, Mr. Yusuf would have been sentenced to at least 110,000 years in jail. The Nigerian justice system have often been criticized for its inability to secure convictions, particularly for offences perpetrated by high profile individuals, rather it is the lower class citizens that suffer the burns (Princewill, 2015).

It's interesting to note that the main violators are those who are charged with guarding the weak against abuse. Courts, Law Enforcement Officers particularly the police, and the executive are the major transgressors (Odeku & Animashaun, 2012). According to Princewill (2015) "Nobody is ever guilty of corruption in Nigeria but the poor; they are always guilty, sometimes of such paltry offences as stealing bread or pepper after which, if they are not lynched by a mob or beaten by the police; they languish in jail, for much longer than the legally allotted time, where they are raped and beaten again, contracting diseases, lucky to escape with their lives". These boil down to corruption in the judicial system being put in place and most of the time, it's the masses that bear the brunt. The Economic Commission for Africa (2009) sums it up when it stated that a corrupt judiciary deprives citizens of justice.

Theoretical Framework

The Fraud Triangle theory developed by Cressey in 1953 was adopted to explain this paper. According to the fraud triangle theory, there are three reasons why people commit acts of corruption: pressure, opportunity, and rationalization. (Homer, 2019; Cressey, 1953; Waluyo, 2020). The mutual effects of these three elements are equal (Schuchter and Levi, 2016). Criminologists and standard-setters who assert that a judicial worker would measure the pressure (low salary, delay in salary payment, and an extremely extreme living situation or the quantity of bills or debts), resulting in fraud, provide support for the fraud triangle theory (Lokanan, 2015). According to Enofe et al. (2015), inadequate legal systems are a major contributor to corruption because of the subpar working conditions of the judiciary. The

primary motivator for fraud, including corruption, is pressure (Waluyo, 2020). Financial pressure and non-financial pressure are two different types of pressure. According to Abdullahi and Mansor (2015), people are more likely to face financial strain than non-financial pressure. White-collar crime typically requires more than just financial motivation to occur (Schuchter and Levi, 2016). The fraud triangle theory asserted that pressures can be separated into two categories: non-financial pressures that affect the judicial process include executive pressure, political forces, favoritism of friends and family, political meddling, and pressure from the judiciary's hierarchies (Zimbelman, Albrecht, Albrecht, and Albrecht, 2014). Financial pressures include greediness, poor salaries, extreme living conditions, etc. All of these things are harmful to the court's integrity.

The second component of the fraud triangle theory is opportunities, in other words, some judicial staff members continue to engage in corrupt practices despite knowing the repercussions of doing so because an opportunity to do so presented itself to them. This failure of internal control mechanisms stems from weak supervisory management, insufficient procedures, and missed opportunities to exert control (Waluyo, 2020). Opportunity is the most system-related of the three factors in the Fraud Triangle hypothesis and offers the most practicable means of preventing corruption. The common activities that should be set up to stop the possibility of committing infractions involve enhancing internal surveillance and building solutions that utilize technology (Adejumobi, 2019). And the ability of people to conduct fraud or other crimes without feeling bad is related to reasoning. Because they do not regard themselves as criminals, judicial employees who extort clients defend their actions before they even happen. For instance, because other people do it, it is accepted as the norm (bribery is perceived as a rule because if you don't supply bribes as an incentive, the judicial clerical staff, court secretaries will not hasten our documentation of your court case or, on occasion, they may abandon your application). According to Anders (2020), rationalization is the creation of a moral justification for the fraud. Justification for morally repugnant and reasonable wrongdoing is known as rationalization. Examples of rationalization include the following: (1) The system of internal control is fragile; (2) I need to improve my standard of living; (3) I imitated my boss or colleague; (4) It is a normal thing to do; (5) We only take a little from people; and (6) It's not me; it's the boss, who told us to collect some incentive for office maintenance (Dellaportas, 2013). According to Banjoko (2015), political interference, pressure from the judicial hierarchy, pressure from friends and family, pressure to collect bribes, and other factors can all contribute to corruption in the judiciary. All of these give the possibility for judicial corruption, which can sometimes compromise the process's outcome and harm the integrity of our courts. As a result, the public will lose faith in the judicial system and turn to find other means of obtaining justice, as is the case in Nigeria right now.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The judiciary as a public institution is meant to act as a crucial check on other public institutions. While judicial officials are expected to carry out their duties impartially, free from affection or malice, in practice this is hardly the case. Corruption in the judiciary leads to loss of public trust and confidence in the judicial system which is not healthy for any growing democracy for a country like Nigeria. The judiciary plays a crucial part in defending citizens from the wrongdoing of others, defending the weak against the strong and the powerless against the powerful, as well as defending people from the unjustified or illegal use of state power. Yet, the public now questions the role of the court because of the high amount of corruption within it. In line with this, the following recommendations were made:

1. Judicial officers that are caught engaging in corrupt practices should be made to face administrative disciplinary action as well as criminal prosecution for their actions, misdeeds, and lack of ethics.
2. To prevent executive involvement, all judicial units must have their own money, physical facilities, and motor vehicles, which are independent of the district treasuries.
3. To combat the amount of judicial corruption, the nations should concentrate on their economies' development and degree of democracy. This will go a long way in curbing corruption in the system.
4. The judiciary should provide a better mechanism for hiring, deploying, and enforcing discipline in the system.
5. The fight against corruption needs to start with each individual and the family, which will eventually result in people with excellent morals and a solid family foundation holding positions of power and making wise judgments for the community.

References

- Abdullahi R. and Mansor, N (2015). "Concomitant Debacle of Fraud Incidences in the Nigeria Public Sector: Understanding the power of Fraud Triangle Theory," *Int. J. Acad. Res. Bus. Soc. Sci.*, vol. 5, pp. 241–255.
- Adejumobi, A. (2019). *Examining Corruption Through Fraud Triangle Lens: Effect and Practical Solutions*.
- Adetayo, O. (2016). *Anti-Corruption War: Judiciary, my main Headache, says Buhari*. Retrieved from www.punchng.com
- Ayodeji G.I & Odukoya S.I, (2014). Perception Of Judicial Corruption: Assessing Its Implications for Democratic Consolidation and Sustainable Development In Nigeria. *Journal Of Sustainable Development In Africa* .Volume 16, No.2.Issn: 1520-5509
- Banjoko, A.A.I. (2015). *Corruption in the Judicial Process: Myth or Reality*. A Paper Presented at the National Workshop for Judicial Officers on Judicial Ethics, Anti-Corruption and Performance Evaluation. Retrieved from www.nji.gov.ng
- Cambridge University Press (2007). *Introducing the problem: Global Corruption Report* Transparency International. <https://assets.cambridge.org/97805217/00702/excerpt/9780521700702.excerpt.pdf>
- Cressey, D. R. (1953). *Other people's money; a study of the social psychology of embezzlement*. New York, NY, US: Free Press, 1953.
- Dellaportas, S. (2013). "Conversations with inmate accountants: Motivation, opportunity and the fraud triangle," *Account. Forum*, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 29–39.
- Ebhomele, E. (2016). *How Nigeria Judges Were Arrested for Alleged Corruption*. *NAIJ.com*. Retrieved from www.naij.com
- Economic Commission for Africa, (2009). *Deepening the Judiciary Effectiveness in Combating Corruption*. <http://www.uneca.org>
- Egbewole, W. and Imam, I. (2015). Nigerian Judiciary and the Challenge of Corruption: Islamic Options as Panacea. *Journal of Islam in Nigeria*, Vol. 1 No 1, June 2015.
- Elijah, O. J. (2011). The Rule of Law in Nigeria: Myth or Reality? Department of Philosophy, University of Uyo. *Journal of Politics and Law*, Vol.4, No. 1, www.citeerx.ist.psu.edu
- Enofe, A. O., Ezeani, B. O., and Eichie, O. M. (2015). Perceptions of Corruption in the Nigerian Judiciary. *Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research* ISSN 2504-883X Vol. 1 No.8 2015 www.iiardpub.org
- Ghanity, N. and Hastiadi, F.F. (2017). Political, Social and Economic Determinants of Corruption. *International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues*. Pp. 144-149, ISSN: 2146-4138. www.econjournals.com

- Gloppen, S., Gargarella, R., and Skaar, E. (2004). *Democratization and the Judiciary: The Accountability Function of Courts in New Democracies*. London: Frank Cass.
- Gloppen, S. and E. Kasimbazi, (2008). Elections in Court: The Judiciary and Uganda's 2006 Election Process. In J. Kiiza, S. Mahara and L. Rakner (eds), *Electoral Democracy in Uganda*. Kampala, (Fountain Publishers, 2008), pp. 53–89
- Gloppen, S. (2010). *Courts and Power in Latin America and Africa*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan. Retrieved from www.amazon.com
- Gong, T. (2004). Dependent Judiciary and Unaccountable Judges: Judicial Corruption in Contemporary China. *China Review*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Published by: Chinese University Press Stable URL: Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org>
- Homer, J. E. M. (2019). "Testing the fraud triangle: a systematic review," *J. Financ. Crime*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 172–187,
- Igbinovia, P.E., Okonofua, B.A., Omoyibo, K.U., and Osunde, O.O., (2003). *Deviance: Nature, Theories, Typologies and Trends*. Published by Kryme Monitor Books, Ekenwan Road, Benin City.
- Ikeji, L. (2015). Court sentences man to death by hanging for robbing 3 people of N14,570 Retrieved from www.remikuti.com
- Kagaba, C. (2016). *Combating Real and Perceived Corruption in the Uganda Judiciary*. Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda.
- LawGlobal Hub (2022). Section 370-390 of the Nigeria Criminal Code Act. www.lawglobalhub.com
- Lokanan, M. E. (2015). "Challenges to the fraud triangle: Questions on its usefulness," *Account. Forum*, vol. 39, no. 3, pp. 201–224.
- Maxymilliano, (2013). Man Sentenced to 3years in Jail for Stealing BlackBerry. *Nairaland Forum*. Retrieved from www.nairaland.com
- Mironga, A. (2022). Corruption and its Negative Governance Output in Africa: An Analysis of the drivers of Corruption. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (IOSR-JHSS)* Volume 27, Issue 5, 12-21. www.researchgate.net
- Mohammed, U. (2013). Corruption in Nigeria: A Challenge to Sustainable Development in the Fourth Republic. *European Scientific Journal* Vol. 9, No. 4 ISSN: 1857-7881. Retrieved from www.eujournal.org
- Musdapher, (2011). The Nigerian judiciary: Towards Reform of the Bastion of Constitutional Democracy. A Keynote Address at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) Conference.
- Nathaniel, S. (2023). Organ Trafficking: A Timeline of the Ekweremadu's case in UK. Channels Incorporated Limited. www.channelstv.com
- Obaro, O.A. (2008). *An Introduction to Criminology*. Published by Perfect Touch Prints 60, 1st East Circular Road, Benin City, Nigeria
- Odeku, K. and Animashaun, S. (2012). Poverty, human rights and access to justice: Reflections from Nigeria. School of Law, Faculty of Management and Law, University of Limpopo, South Africa. *African. Journal of Business Management* Vol. 6(23), pp. 6754-6764, 13 June, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals.org>
- Okakwu, E. (2016). Nigeria sacks three top judges for fraud, misconduct. *Premium Times* September 30, 2016, Retrieved from www.premiumtimesng.com
- Oko, O. (2009). The Lawyer's Role in a Contemporary Democracy, Promoting the Rule of Law, Lawyers in Fragile Democracies and the Challenges of Democratic Consolidation: The Nigerian Experience, 77 *Fordham L. Rev.* 1295. Retrieved from <http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol77/iss4/6>

- Opare, A. (2016). Effects of Corruption in the Judiciary on a Nation. Retrieved from www.modernghana.com
- Otaru, R. (2010). Access to Justice and Right to fair hearing, a Lecture delivered at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on 2nd December, 2010.
- Pepys, M. N. (2003). Corruption and the Justice Sector, Management Systems International 600 Water Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024 USA
- Princewill, T. (2015). *Do Only the Poor go to Jail in Nigeria?* Vanguard online News, <https://vanguardngr.com>
- Research Clue (2020). Impacts of Corruption in the Judicial System in Nigeria (A Case Study of Judicial Workers in Akwa Ibom State.) <https://nairaproject.com>
- Schuchter, A. and Levi, M (2016). "The Fraud Triangle Revisited," Secur. J., vol. 29, pp. 107–121, Apr. 2016.
- Tampubolon, M., Situmeang, T., & Saragih, P. (2023). Judicial breakfast as an external factor in judicial decision making in courts. *F1000Research*, 12, 9. <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.126482.1>
- Transparency International, (2007). *Global Corruption Report 2007*. Corruption in the Judicial System. New York: Cambridge University Press. . Retrieved from <http://www.transparency.org>
- Ugwuanyi, S. (2016). Nigeria's Chief Justice, Mahmud, decries effect of corruption on judiciary. (2016, October 25), *Daily Post Nigeria*. Retrieved from www.dailypost.ng
- Ugochukwu, B. (2011). The Pathology of Judicialization: Politics, Corruption and the Courts in Nigeria. *The Law and Development Review*. 4(3), 59-87.
- USAID, (2009). Reducing Corruption in the Judiciary. Program Brief. Office of Democracy and Governance USAID, Washington, DC.
- Waluyo, I. (2020). The regional health insurance coverage incentive: a shift from opportunity to rationalization. 2020.
- Zimbelman, M. F., Albrecht, C.C., Albrecht, W. S., and C. O. Albrecht, C. O. (2014). *Akuntansi Forensik (Forensic Accounting)*. 2014.