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Practice overview

Abimbola is a dual qualified solicitor and barrister in the UK and Nigeria, and a family law specialist acting in cases relating to children (both public and private law) and financial disputes. He also acts in contentious probate cases, particularly family provision cases under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975.

Abimbola also has a thriving international practice. He was admitted as a Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 2014, and is frequently instructed to provide advice and assistance on aspects of Nigerian law which impact on UK based litigation. He provides expert advice both written and oral in proceedings in the County Courts and High Court in all types of proceedings including personal injury, tax and all family proceedings. Many cases in which he has been instructed as an expert are reported, with comments from judges such as "*Mr Badejo's written evidence, which I accept, comprehensively sets out the relevant requirements...*" (Mrs Justice Theis DBE in DE and JE v TE and TT [2025] EWHC 687 (Fam)).

In addition to his expert work, he acts in cross-border family cases where children are moving between the UK and Nigeria.

Abimbola is very good at working as part of a co-ordinated team to get the best result for his clients. Comments from solicitors include *"Thank you very much Bim for the impeccable*

assistance and advocacy that you provided on this matter to enable this case to conclude in a manner that ensures the children remain safeguarded and protected throughout their minority", "Bim was great - he was fab with the client, and she was somewhat tricky!" and *"Thank you Bim for your exceptional work on this. It is much appreciated."*

Children law (public)

Abimbola accepts instructions in public law children proceedings on behalf of local authorities, parents and children. He is very experienced at acting in care cases, particularly where there are international elements, such as guardians based in Nigeria, or Nigerian adoption orders which need to be regularised. He is able to act at short notice, and is very good at mastering the facts of a case quickly, recently dealing with an urgent application and subsequent appeal within 72 hours of instruction.

Abimbola also advises local authorities in England that are contemplating placing children in Nigeria on aspects of Nigerian Child Rights Law and represented the interests of an authority in proceedings issued in Nigeria to regularise the placement of a child in Nigeria.

Abimbola has experience of acting for local authorities in Deprivation of Liberty applications before High Court judges and has been instructed by different authorities in this important area of law. He has also acted in cases where there are complex questions of whether medical treatment should be compelled. Abimbola is keen to increase his practice in this area.

Nigerian Law (expert evidence)

Abimbola's Nigerian Law practice includes advice and assistance on aspects of Nigerian Law that impact on litigation in the United Kingdom. He provides expert advice to courts and individuals on Nigerian Succession Law, Nigerian Property Law, Nigerian Family Law and Nigerian Child Rights Law. He has provided written and oral expert evidence in County Court and High Court Proceedings in England. Abimbola gave expert evidence in the reported cases of AAA v RRR [2025]; Manchester CC v AO and others [2025] EWFC 212; Lambo v Lambo [2025] EWHC 2007 (Ch); DE and JE v TE and TT [2025] EWHC 687 (Fam); Re C (A Child) (Recognition of Nigerian Adoption) [2025] EWHC 204 (Fam); In Re A (A child) (Recognition of Nigerian Adoption: common law test) [2024] EWHC 2888 (Fam); KA & Anor v B [2024] EWHC 2855 (Fam); Re G (Recognition of a Nigerian Adoption) [2024] EWHC 2769 (Fam); KN and another v RN and others [2023] EWHC 712 (Fam); W v The Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWHC 1733 (Fam); and ELO v CLO (recognition of a Nigerian Adoption Order)[2017] EWHC 3574 (Fam).

Abimbola also advises local authorities in England that are contemplating placing children in Nigeria on aspects of Nigerian child rights law and represented the interests of one authority

in proceedings issued in Nigeria to regularise the placement of a child in Nigeria. He obtained a Guardianship Order in Nigeria in respect of a child placed with Special Guardians in Nigeria by the Central Family Court in England.

Other aspects of Nigerian Law in respect of which Abimbola has provided expert evidence in court proceedings and to local authorities include:

- Advice on the impact of Nigerian Tax Law on personal injury damages awarded in the UK
- Advice on the applicable law to prevent FGM in Nigeria
- Advice on the validity of divorce proceedings commenced in Nigeria
- Advice on the validity of marriages contracted in Nigeria
- Advice on the validity of a customary divorce in Nigeria
- Advice on the validity of Nigerian orders in International Child Abduction proceedings commenced in England
- Advice on the placement options in Nigeria in respect of care proceedings commenced in England
- Advice on the enforcement of UK court orders in Nigeria (in particular, child arrangement orders, care orders and orders made in child abduction proceedings)
- Advice on the validity of adoption orders granted in various states of Nigeria including Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Edo, Imo, Abia and Anambra State

Children law (private)

Abimbola represents parents in private family proceedings who are involved in applications relating to children. He is a sensible and sympathetic advocate, and will advise parents carefully on the potential outcomes.

He has experience of private children proceedings in Nigeria, and will also advise on the enforcement of UK court orders in Nigeria (in particular, child arrangement orders, care orders and orders made in child abduction proceedings) and advise on the validity of adoption orders granted in various states of Nigeria including Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Edo, Imo, Abia and Anambra State.

Family finances

Abimbola acts for clients dealing with the financial disputes arising out of relationship breakdown. He has experience at dealing with all stages of the process, from the First

Appointment to the FDR to the Final Hearing. His experience means that he is able to advise clients realistically on the likely outcome of litigation, and to work with them to decide on a strategy for each case.

Abimbola is also experienced at dealing with the property aspects of financial disputes, particularly claims under TOLATA and is familiar with the process for pursuing these under the CPR rather than the family rules. He is a good choice for any claim who has both civil and family claims to pursue.

Inheritance Act claims

Abimbola has acted in cases where there is a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 which is an area of law that neatly dovetails with his family practice. He is good at dealing with cases where there are disputes within the family and at working with clients who are experiencing significant emotional stress.

Abimbola has recently acted in a case where the Claimant claimed to be the widow of the deceased but where he was able to prove that the marriage was bigamous. As a result, she was unable to claim the higher level of maintenance under the Act.

Property

Abimbola has a keen interest in property and landlord and tenant law. He acts in landlord and tenants cases such as lease renewals, forfeiture claims and claims for possession on various grounds. He also acts in mortgage possession claims.

Abimbola also has experience in claims involving trusts of land, and applications under TOLATA. He is particularly requested where property disputes arise from relationship breakdown and where there are also family proceedings because of his expertise in both jurisdictions

Regulatory

Abimbola has considerable experience of professional regulation work and has seen the work from the perspective of the regulator and the professional. From 2003 - 2012 Abimbola was a member of the Disciplinary and Regulatory Committees of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He was appointed Deputy Chairman in 2007 and served in that capacity until December 2012. Abimbola regularly represents Accountants and other professionals facing regulatory or disciplinary proceeding before their professional bodies.

Education

- Admitted as a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, 2014

Memberships

- Nigerian Bar Association
- British Nigerian Law Forum

Languages

- Yoruba

Notable Cases

Notts County Council v FIA v M v S [2026] EWHC 2865 (Fam) Expert evidence relied upon in an application by local authority for Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage Protection Orders in relation to two young women from Nigerian family.

Re X (A Child) (Recognition of Nigerian Adoption) [2026] EWHC 638 (Fam): Expert evidence in an application seeking recognition of an adoption order granted in Nigeria. His evidence was accepted by the court.

AAA v RRR [2025]: Expert opinion on a declaration of marital status which involved the recognition of purported customary marriages in Ghana and Nigeria and the protection of inheritance rights of a minor child. Abimbola provided the expert opinion in respect of Nigerian law and customs.

Manchester CC v AO and others [2025] EWFC 212: Expert opinion on Nigerian law in respect of whether a valid adoption had taken place. Abimbola's evidence that there was no valid adoption was accepted and the 'parents' were imprisoned.

Lambo v Lambo [2025] EWHC 2007 (Ch): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law focussing on the validity of a decree absolute in divorce proceedings in Nigeria.

DE and JE v TE and TT [2025] EWHC 687 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law.

Re C (A Child) (Recognition of Nigerian Adoption) [2025] EWHC 204 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law.

Re G (Recognition of a Nigerian Adoption) [2024] EWHC 2769 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law.

In Re A (A child) (Recognition of Nigerian Adoption: common law test) [2024] EWHC 2888 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law.

KA & Anor v B [2024] EWHC 2855 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian Law.

Yetunde Odularu v Ibukunolu Odularu and Olusegun Odularu (2024): Inheritance Act claim where the Claimant continued to assert that she was the surviving spouse of the deceased and so the question was whether she had entered into the English marriage in good faith. Abimbola, acting for the Defendants, successfully persuaded the court that she had not and her claim therefore failed.

KN and Another v RN and others [2023] EWHC 712 (Fam): Expert opinion on Nigerian law.

A local authority v M (Feb 2023): Led by Francesca Wiley KC, Abimbola represented a local authority and obtained findings against M that she had put salt in her child's feeds causing the child to be seriously unwell.

Yetunde Odularu v Ibukunolu Odularu and Olusegun Odularu (2023): Successfully argued that the Claimant's purported marriage was void pursuant to s11(b) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 due to a pre-existing marriage in Nigeria. This was a preliminary issue in advance of contentious probate/Inheritance Act proceedings. Permission to appeal was later dismissed on paper with no right to seek an oral application.

Barts Health NHS Trust and Homerton University Hospital Trust v HM and SM and LB Hackney [2022] EWHC 938 (Fam): Acted for the Local Authority in relation to forced medical treatment of a child without capacity in the face of opposition from the mother.

F and S (Special Guardianship Order with Supervision Order) [2021] EWFC B19: Acted for a mother in respect of care proceedings relating to her two children in which a Special Guardianship Order and a Supervision Order was made rather than a Care Order, opening the possibility of the mother rebuilding her relationship with the children.

E v E (Anti-suit Injunction; Children) [2021] EWHC 956 (Fam): expert opinion on Nigerian law.

X v The Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] EWHC 355 (Fam): expert opinion on Nigerian law.

LBH v B (2021): Acted for the local authority in an urgent ICO hearing, obtaining the order requested. The decision was subject to an immediate, urgent appeal which was heard within 48 hours and which was successfully resisted.

NCC v LW & Others (2020): Acted for the local authority in respect of a non-accidental injury to a baby case (shaken baby) where findings were made against one parent.

EK (A Child) [2020] EWFC 25: The first care case conducted remotely in the first week of the first Covid-19 lockdown, March 2020.

Alokozay and Alokozay FZE v Salman Alokozay and Najebullah Alokozay [2019] EWHC 1133 (Ch): dismissal of high value trust of land claim at pre-trial review stage.

W v The Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWHC 1733 (Fam): expert opinion on Nigerian law.

ELO v CLO (recognition of a Nigerian Adoption Order)[2017] EWHC 3574 (Fam): expert opinion on Nigerian law.

London Borough of Hounslow v Cumar [2012] EWCA Civ 1426: appeal relating to the meaning of CPR 19.4 in a possession claim.

London Borough of Camden v Stafford [2012] EWCA Civ 839: appeal relating to the procedure for terminating an introductory tenancy.

R (on the application of Gebremarium) v Westminster City Council[2009] EWHC 2254 (Admin)