

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE
YORUBA

EDITED BY
TOYIN FALOLA and
AKINTUNDE AKINYEMI



CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

List of Entries 13

Entries A to Z 19

List of Contributors 361

Index 365

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY

CONTRIBUTORS

Oláyíwọlá M. Abégúnrìn, Howard University

Tósìn Abíódún, Hillsboro, Oregon

Oládimèjì Abórìshádé, University of North Carolina at
Charlotte

Olúfadékémi Adágbádá, Olábísí Onàbánjọ University
(Àgọ Ìwòyè, Nigeria)

Wálé Adébánwí, University of California-Davis

Àkànmú Adébáyò, Kennesaw State University

Fémi Adédèjì, Obáfémi Awólówò University (Ilé-Ifè,
Nigeria)

Omótádé Adégbìndìn, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Àrìnpé Adéjùmò, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Julius O. Adékùnlé, Monmouth University

Abímbólá Adélakùn, University of Texas at Austin

Èbàbàshèhíndé A. Adémúlèyá, Obáfémi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria)

Adébùsúyì Isàac Adéníran, Obáfémi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria)

Harrison Adéníyì, Lagos State University (Nigeria)

Ìbígbóládé S. Adérìgbígbé, University of Georgia,
Athens

Adérónké Adéşolá Adésànyà, James Madison
University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Olútáyò C. Adéşínà, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Olúşèyè Adéşolá, Yale University

Lèrè Adéyemí, University of Ilorin (Nigeria)

Şolá Adéyemí, University of Greenwich (London)

Olátúndé Adéléyè Adéyemò, Olábísí Onàbánjọ
University (Àgọ Ìwòyè, Nigeria)

Níyì Afolábí, University of Texas at Austin

Adéşínà Afoláyan, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Fúnşọ Afoláyan, University of New Hampshire

Michael Oládèjọ Afoláyan, M&P Educational
Consulting International, Springfield

Oláyínká Àgbétúyì, Indiana University

Doyin Àgúorù, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Adérémi Suleiman Àjàlá, University of Ibadàn
(Nigeria)

Timothy T. Àjàní, Fayetteville State University

George Olúşolá Ajíbádé, Obáfémi Awólówò University
(Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria)

Adémíyì Akàngbé, University of Ibadàn (Nigeria)

Tópé Olúwabùnmi Akíndípè, Obáfémi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria)

Tósìn Akínjóbí-Babátúndé, Elizade University (Ìlárá-
Mòkín, Nigeria)

Akínbíyì Akinlabí, Rutgers University

Şolá Akinrínádé, Obáfémi Awólówò University (Ilé-Ifè,
Nigeria)

Akíntúndé Akínyemí, University of Florida,
Gainesville

Fenda A. Akíwùmí, University of South Florida

Adétáyò Àlàbí, University of Mississippi

Akin Àlàó, Obáfémi Awólówò University (Ilé-Ifè,
Nigeria)

Kúnlé Amúwò, Covenant University (Ota, Nigeria)

Ayòlá Oládùnké Àrànsí, Kwara State University
(Màlété, Nigeria)

Adémólá Àràoyè, Independent Scholar, Monrovia
(Liberia)

Nurudeen Olátóyè Arógundádé, Obáfẹmi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Ṣoládoyè S. Asà, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University (Ilé-Ifẹ,
Nigeria)

Paul Olúwolé Àsawálé, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University
(Ilé-Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Abímbólá Aṣòjò, University of Minnesota

Dàmólá Àyánṣolá, Adélékè University (Ede, Nigeria)

Gabriel Ayòṣá, University of Georgia, Athens

Tòkunbò Ayòṣá, Elizade University (Ilára-Mòkín,
Nigeria)

Wahab Adémólá Azeez, Federal College of Education
(Lagos, Nigeria)

Abídẹmí Babátúndé Babalólá, Rice University

Adémólá Babalólá, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University (Ilé-
Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Emmanuel Gbádébò Babátúndé, Lincoln University
Túndé Babáwálé, University of Lagos (Nigeria)

Fàtáì Adésínà Badru, University of Lagos (Nigeria)

Olúyẹmísí Bámbóṣé, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

John Ayòtúndé Ìṣòlá Bẹwájí, University of the West
Indies, (Kingston, Jamaica)

Abídẹmí Bólárinwá, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Níyí Coker, Jr., University of Missouri, St. Louis

Adémólá Dasyíva, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Bólá Dáúdà, Early Years' Education Foundation
(Ìbàdàn, Nigeria)

Ayò Fádáhùnsí, Olábísí Onàbánjò University (Àgò
Ìwòyè, Nigeria)

Ṭẹmítópé C. Fágúnwá, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Julius Fákínlèdè, Federal University of Technology
(Àkúrẹ, Nigeria)

Tóyìn Fálólá, University of Texas at Austin

Oláwolé Fámulẹ, University of Wisconsin-Superior

Adémólá K. Fáyẹmí, Lagos State University (Nigeria)

Stephen Fóláranmí, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University (Ilé-
Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Enoch Olújídé Gbádégesin, Obáfẹmi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Abòsẹdẹ George, Bernard College, Columbia

Stephen D. Glazier, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Matthew M. Heaton, Virginia Tech

Samson O. Ìjàṣolá, Samuel Adégbéyẹga University
(Ogwa, Nigeria)

Daniel Jean-Jacques, University of Texas at Austin
délé jégédé, Miami University, Oxford

Obáfẹmi Jégédé, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Adépéjú Johnson-Bashua, Lagos State University
(Nigeria)

Fẹmi Kólápò, University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada)

Henry B. Lovejoy, University of Texas at Austin

Moses Mabayòjé, Rutgers University

Insa Nolte, University of Birmingham

Ségun Obasá, University of Texas at Austin

Kóléadé Odùtòlá, University of Florida, Gainesville

Olúkòyà Ogen, Oṣun State University (Ìkirẹ Campus,
Nigeria)

Bíṣolún J. Ògúndayò, University of Pittsburgh

Philip Adédòtun Ògúndẹjí, University of Ìbàdàn
(Nigeria)

Akínwùmí Ògúndìran, University of North Carolina at
Charlotte

Káyòdè Omoniyi Ògúnfolábí, Obáfẹmi Awólówò
University (Ilé-Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Adísá Ògúnfolákàn, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University (Ilé-
Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Ségun Ògúngbẹmí, Adékúnlé Ajásin University
(Àkùngbá-Àkókó, Nigeria)

Abigail Odozi Ogwezzy-Ndisika, University of Lagos
(Nigeria)

Akinloyè Ojò, University of Georgia, Athens

Mutiát Títílopé Oládẹjò, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Olúwatóyìn M. Oláiyá, Èkiti State University (Adó-
Èkiti, Nigeria)

Samuel O. Olóruntóba, University of South Africa

Sunday Olóruntólá, University of Lagos (Nigeria)

Ayò Olúkòtún, Lead City University (Ìbàdàn, Nigeria)

Táíwò Olúnládé, Lagos State University (Nigeria)

Felix Ayoh'Omídire, Obáfẹmi Awólówò University (Ilé-
Ifẹ, Nigeria)

Kazeem A. Omofoyewá, University of Ìbàdàn
(Nigeria)

Bòdẹ Omojòlá, Mount Holyoke College/Five Colleges

Báyò Omojòlá, Howard University

Kólé Omótòṣò, Africa Diaspora Research Centurion
(South Africa)

Sànyà Òshá, Tshwane University of Technology
(Pretoria, South Africa)

Wálé Owóṣení, University of Ìbàdàn

Adébáyò Oyèbádé, Tennessee State University

Bùkólá Oyèníyì, Missouri State University, Springfield

Akin Oyètádé, SOAS, University of London

William Oládélé Sàngótóyè, University of Ìbàdàn
(Nigeria)

Kazeem Kèhìndé Sanuth, University of
Wisconsin-Madison

Láídé Sheba, Òbáfémi Awólówò University (Ilé-Ife,
Nigeria)

Pamela J. Olúbùnmi Smith, University of Nebraska at
Omaha

Adékémi Adégún Táíwò, Èkìtì State University (Adó-
Èkìtì, Nigeria)

Martin A. Tsang, Florida International University
Chinyere Ukpokolo, University of Ìbàdàn (Nigeria)

Aríbidésí Usman, Arizona State University, Tempe
Olúfémì Vaughan, Bowdoin College

Shehu Tìjjání Yusuf, Bayero University (Kano,
Nigeria)

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY

REFERENCES

- Ibekwe, D. O. "Conflict of Cultures and Our Customary Law." In *African Indigenous Laws*, ed. T. O. Elias, S. N. Nwabara, and C. D. Akpangbo, Proceedings of Workshop, 7-9 August 1974 by Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 283-99. Enugu (Nigeria): Government Printer, 1974.
- Nwabuéze, Remigius N. "The Dynamics and Genius of Nigeria's Indigenous Legal Order." *Indigenous Law Journal* 1 (Spring 2002): 1-16.

*

Olúyémisí Bámgbósé

Paper 3

LAW: MODERN

Modern Nigeria dates to 1914. This was when the then Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was amalgamated with the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria to form the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. As a result of Nigeria's historical link with Great Britain, English law has become a major source of Nigeria's modern law. The Common Law of England, the doctrines of equity, as well as Statutes of General Application in force in England on January 1, 1900, form an integral part of Nigerian law. In addition, certain English statutes that have been received into the laws through local legislation are important parts of Nigerian law. Other modern sources of Nigerian law include local legislation, case law, the Constitution, and laws from various courts.

Local legislation consists of enacted laws that emanate from the major legislative arm of government: either the National Assembly, comprising the Senate and House of Representatives, or a state House of Assembly serving the federal and state legislative interests, respectively. Case law has been defined by John Asien as "that body of principles and rule of law which over the years have been formulated or pronounced upon by the courts as governing specific legal situations." Thus, the principle of judicial precedent is a fundamental part of Nigeria's legal system. The modern legal system in operation in Nigeria is the adversarial system of court proceedings, which is similar to other common law countries. However, the jury system is not used in the Nigerian system of administration of justice.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which is the supreme law of the country, is binding on all authorities and persons in Nigeria. It is another source of law. The Constitution makes provisions for the establishment and constitution of courts, thus making a hierarchy of courts a fundamental part of the Nigerian legal system. The courts provided for by the constitution are the Supreme Court, the apex court in the hierarchy of courts, and the Court of Appeal, with judicial divisions that sit in various states for administrative conveniences. There are judicial divisions in some major cities in Nigeria, such as the Federal High Court and judicial divisions in different states of the federation for administrative convenience. The High Court is present in each of the thirty-six states as well as the Federal Capital Territory. The Sharia Court of Appeal has appellate and supervisory jurisdiction in civil proceedings involving questions of Islamic personal law. The Customary Court of Appeal has appellate and supervisory jurisdiction in civil proceedings involving questions of customary law. The Magistrate Courts, District Courts, Area Courts, and Customary Courts are established in various states by state laws.

See also: Law: Customary

REFERENCE

- Asein, John Ohieme. *Introduction to Nigerian Legal System*. Ibadan (Nigeria): Sam-Bookman Pub., 1998.

Olúyémisí Bámgbósé

LIBATION

Rituals of libation have gained a permanent place in the Yorùbá culture. It is a significant aspect of the traditional religion; it is customary that libations be offered to deities. Oral tradition claims that there are 401 deities in Yorùbá traditional religion, and each requires daily or weekly libations, depending on the deity. Libation is the offering of blood, water, or liquor to deities and sometimes food to ancestral spirits.

The two most common types of libations in the culture are water and liquor. The water libation usually involves complete submergence of the deity's symbols, which represent the deity, or sprinkling water on