

EDWARD CHUKWUEMEKE OKEKE

PROFILE: Legal practitioner and scholar, with expertise in international law, international development, international institutional law, corporate administration, institutional affairs, administration of justice, privileges and immunities, and over three decades of experience in three major international organizations, and a renown for efficacy and excellence.

EXPERIENCE:

Consiliarius Consulting, LLC (2025 to Present)

- Provide strategic and holistic advice to entities, such as international organizations, governments, and their partners, on international law, international agreements, international cooperation, international administrative law, international institutional law, and the legal aspects of international development.

The World Bank, Legal Vice Presidency (2005-2025)

- Led and managed a team of lawyers, paralegals and other support staff, to ensure that prompt, competent, and responsive legal advice is provided to all client groups within the World Bank.
- Advised the WBG on a broad spectrum of legal problems and issues, e.g., governance and institutional affairs; corporate and administrative matters; administration of justice and conflicts resolution; human resources management; international law; trust funds and partnerships; ethics and business conduct; corporate security, and United Nations System matters.
- Provided risk-based advice to management and staff on legal and policy issues related to privileges and immunities.
- Provided policy advice to corporate clients, assisted in resolving complex issues and problems, and provided innovative approaches to their resolution.
- Served as the Principal Legal Adviser regarding the privileges and immunities of the organizations of the World Bank Group (WBG) and their officials in their member countries.
- Coordinated with other officials of the WBG organizations to ensure a cohesive approach to privileges and immunities matters.
- Negotiated Establishment Agreements with member country governments, as well as asserted, explained, and defended the privileges and immunities in various legal proceedings.
- Engaged outside counsel when necessary to defend those privileges and immunities in national court litigations.
- Coordinated the management of litigation involving the WBG in national courts around the world, such as deciding what defenses to interpose, and in particular, assessing the role that privileges and immunities will play in each particular litigation.

- Represented the organizations in proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal.
- Served as the Global Lead on Knowledge and Research, with lead responsibility and accountability for developing, coordinating and organizing (in cooperation with internal and external partners) the regular production by the Legal Vice Presidency of high-quality intellectual work that contribute to the Bank's work and strategic agenda.
- Provided intellectual leadership and engaged with the academic community and other international organizations on global knowledge and research issues related to international law and the institutional law of international organizations.

UNESCO, Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, (2001-2005)

- Advised on international administrative law, public international law and commercial law issues relating to the Organization's activities.
- Represented the UNESCO before its Appeals Board and the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization.
- Interpreted legal instruments, such as UNESCO Constitution, General Conference Resolutions, Executive Board Decisions, Financial Regulations and Rules, Staff Regulations and Rules, and agreements.
- Negotiated, drafted and reviewed Agreements with funding sources.
- Reviewed documents for comments or clearance by the Legal Office, such as Staff Rules, Administrative Manuals and Circulars.
- Represented the Office in meetings, working groups, taskforces, as well as acted as focal point for United Nations system affairs.
- Represented the Legal Adviser in meetings of the Executive Board and the General Conference, as well as advised on Rules of Procedure during meetings of the Legal Committee of the General Conference.

United Nations, Administrative Law Unit, (1995-2001)

- Advised on international administrative law issues.
- Handled appeals and disciplinary cases, including representing the Secretary-General before the (now defunct) United Nations Joint Appeals Board and the Joint Disciplinary Committee.
- Interpreted legal instruments and provided legal advice on human resources rules, policies and practices.

United Nations, Office of the Legal Counsel, (1995)

- Worked on the establishment of the Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

United Nations, Planning and Information Unit, (1992-1994)

- Performed assigned human resources management duties in connection with planning and coordinating on the development of HR strategies.

New Nigerian Newspaper, (1984)

- Wrote weekly columns on international affairs for Nigeria's then second largest newspaper.

Kaduna State House of Assembly. (1983)

- Conducted political research and drafted speeches for the leadership of the legislature of Kaduna State in Nigeria.

EDUCATION:

- Juris Doctor (*Cum Laude*), New York Law School, New York, United States of America (1997).
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) Social Sciences, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria (1983).

SAMPLE SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS and AWARDS:

- *Evolution of the Bretton Woods Institutions: How International Organizations Remain Relevant Through the Interpretations (Rather than Amendments) of their Constituent Instruments*, Yearbook of Legal Practices and International Organizations (Brill 2026).
- LAW AND LAWYERING IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN UNITY IN DIVERSITY: PERSPECTIVES ON THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LIBER AMICORUM FOR NIELS M. BLOKKER, EDS. RIECK LAWSON AND RAMSES A. WESSEL, (BRILL Nijhoff 2025).
- *Applying the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to International Organizations: Squaring the Circle*, Georgetown Journal of International Law, 2025.
- *Assessing the Accountability Mechanism of Multilateral Development Banks Against Access to Justice: The Case of the World Bank*, King's Law Journal, 2023.
- *Human Trafficking and the "Commercial Activities" Exceptions to International Immunities*, American Society of International Law (ASIL) Insights, Volume 26, Issue 10, 2022.
- *Persona Non Grata*, Elgar Encyclopedia of Crime and Criminal Justice, 2022.
- *Jurisdictional Immunities of International Organizations in the United States in the Wake of the Supreme Court Decision in Jam v. IFC*, International Organisation In-House Journal (IOICJ), 1-7, Issue 1, May 2020.
- *Tension between the International Law Principle of Jurisdictional Immunity of International Organizations and the Human Rights Principle of Access to Court*, AIIB Yearbook of International Law (Brill Nijhoff 2020).
- *Unpacking the "Jam v. IFC" Decision*, "Diritti umani e diritto internazionale, Rivista quadrimestrale" 2/2019, pp. 297-304, doi: 10.12829/94295.
- Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service, New York Law School (2019).
- JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITIES OF STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Oxford University Press 2018).
- THE CONVENTIONS ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, A COMMENTARY, ANNEXES VI AND XIV (Oxford University Press 2016).
- *Arbitration of Federal Securities Claims*, 15 Arb. Int'l 267 (1999).
- *Judicial Review of Foreign Arbitral Awards: Bane, Boon or Boondoggle?* 10 N.Y. Int'l L. Rev. 29 (1997).

- Winner, Otto L. Walter Distinguished Writing Award, New York Law School (1997).
- Winner, Albert S. Pergam International Law Writing Competition, New York State Bar Association (1996).
- *Nigeria's Diplomatic Stunts, Nay, Stance*, New Nigerian Newspaper (March 11, 1984).

BAR ADMISSION:

- State of New York, United States of America.

ASSOCIATIONS and AFFILIATIONS:

- Member, American Society of International Law.
- Member, Editorial Board, International Organizations Law Review.

LANGUAGES:

- Fluent in English.
- Working knowledge of French.

NATIONALITIES:

- United States of America.
- Nigeria.