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NEXUS CHAMBERS
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I was called to the Bar in 1998 intending to have a largely civil practice as it paid better and would be compatible with internationality. However, criminal practice fulfilled me and soon became my principal area of practice. This was despite the warnings as to the impending crisis that I received from the outset and experienced (as we all have) – incrementally, then exponentially.

I stand for election because, despite its recent ostensible success, the CBA is at a cross-roads. The strength and depth of feeling of those who voted ‘No’ in the ballot has led to resignations and despondency that may, if unaddressed, evolve into a schism where the Criminal Bar will not have one strong and unified voice representing it.

The success that we have had, imperfect as it may be, was only gained because we were unified.

if I am elected, preserving and securing that unity will be my purpose.

I consider this the only way that the deal that we have achieved, through our collective sacrifice, will be improved in the near and long term.

To this end, if you vote for me I will:

- Promote transparency within the CBA and its negotiating positions.
- Promote representation of the junior Criminal Bar within the decision-making process.
- Improve and organise interaction between members.
- Ensure that CLAAB is effective as a pay review body in all but name until it becomes so in actuality.
- Reinforce that the aim of the CBA is to secure what we are worth, not what we think we can get.

The Criminal Bar is an outstanding institution made up of exceptional individuals from every aspect of our society that performs an invaluable service to that society.

Your vote for me will be an endorsement that that is what we wish to preserve and cause to thrive.

Jemi Akin-Olugbade
Nexus Chambers