

REUBEN CHINWEOLU OKAFOR

1601 E Florida Avenue Urbana, IL 61802

+1(217)7215057

rokafor2@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

Master's Degree:

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

LLM, Intellectual Property & Information Technology Law, Dec. 2021

GPA: Spring 2021 (3.59)

- Research Assistant to Professor Faye Jones on Privacy and Data Protection
- Successfully submitted Open Records Request to the Public Utility Commission of Texas following the February 2021 winter storm.
- Drafted a Privacy Policy
- Ranked among the top LLM students in class of 2021

Professional Degree:

Nigerian Law School

Bar Qualifying Certificate (BL. Hons), Magna Cum Laude, Nov. 2016

Bachelor's Degree:

Enugu State University (ESUT), Nigeria

Bachelor of Laws (LL. B Hons), Magna Cum Laude, Dec. 2015

- Law Students' Chambers' President
- Christian Law Students' Fellowship Prayer Director
- Christian Students' Chapel President
- Wrote a thesis on "The Executive Immunity under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended, 2010)"
- Member, Law Students' Human Rights Association
- Member, Law Students' Legal Clinic

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Law Library, Urbana-Champaign, USA

Research Assistant, February 2021 – present

- Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Jones Faye, Clinical Professor, and Director of the Albert E. Jenner Jr. Memorial Law Library, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, U.S.A.
- Current Research Project: Freedom of Information Laws and Transparency: Piercing the Veil of Private Corporations via the Freedom of Information Act

Koya & Kuti Solicitors, Lagos, Nigeria

Associate Attorney, April 2019 – December 2020

- Key member, Corporate & Commercial, Property/Probate Practice, and Company Secretarial Departments.
- Provided corporate advisory and regulatory compliance services.
- Drafted and reviewed complex transactional Agreements and was keenly involved in Commercial Litigations.
- Involved in a 2Billion Naira Real Estate Development Project by GlobalMix Capital Limited – a top-tier Real Estate Development Company in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Resolved 131 Million Naira dispute for Sonhart Investment Limited – a major producer of household materials in Nigeria.

- Negotiated and drafted 380 Million Naira Asset Acquisition deal involving Sonhart Investment Limited and A & Y Industries Limited.
- Negotiated a multi-million Naira Mergers & Acquisitions involving Polaris Bank Plc.
- Provided legal advisory to TLS Logistics – a top logistics company in Africa.
- Company Secretary to GlobalMix Capital Ltd, Alcove Global Ventures Ltd, Croix International Ltd, Mountain-Ice Travel and Tours Ltd, York City Nigeria Ltd, etc.
- Represented MediaReach Ltd in a highly contested legal dispute involving Etisalat Nigeria.
- Represented Polaris Bank Plc in a highly contested legal dispute over a 30 Million Naira Corporate Finance transaction.

Udochi Iheanacho Partnership, Lagos Nigeria

Associate Attorney, February 2018 – April 2019

- Led the Information Technology, Intellectual Property and Corporate Law Departments at the firm.
- Provided Corporate advisory, Company Incorporation, Real Estate transactions, IP rights protections, and other transactional services.
- Prepared Technology transfer and Franchise contracts involving ConSol Limited, a top-tier technology company in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Reviewed contracts on Health Management Services involving MSH International, a multinational health and risk insurance company with offices in the Europe, the Americas, China etc.
- Prepared Health Management Services contract between Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and Critical Rescue International.
- Advised on Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain Technology, Anti-Money Laundering frameworks, Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Privacy Policy and Initial Coin Offering (ICO).

Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria

Corps Attorney, January 2017 - December 2017

- Litigation officer, providing free Fundamental Rights defence for indigent Nigerians in Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria.
- Procured the release of indigent Nigerians from illegal incarceration to reunite them with their families.
- Attended Prison Visits and advocated for the release of people whose fundamental rights were violated via unlawful incarceration.
- Provided legal advice to fundamental rights abuse victims.
- Drafted Court Processes and attended Courts.

Frank Eke & Co (Barristers and Solicitors), Lagos, Nigeria

Legal Intern, May 2016 – July 2016

- Rated first in punctuality and dedication to work (97%)
- Conducted legal research on fundamental rights, landlord – tenant relationship, and Nigeria's Employment Trust Fund and the Rights thereof.
- Drafted Lease Agreements.
- Participated in drafting and filing of court processes and attended court proceedings as a Law School Intern.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Nigerian Bar Association

Member, November 2016 – Present.

International Association of Privacy Professionals

Member, June 2021 – Present.

American Bar Associate (Young Lawyers Forum)

Member, September 2021 – present.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

The State of New York University: International Cyber Conflicts, 2021 (**Certificate of Completion**).

SMB Cybersecurity Series: Getting Started – CIS Controls to SMB Governance. Thursday June 24, 2021.

TrustArc Privacy Insight Series: The intersection of Healthcare Data & Privacy: How to Navigate the New Challenges. Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

SMB Cybersecurity Series: Ransomware and NIST Compliance for SMBs. Tuesday June 15, 2021.

Rethinking Data Monetization | An Online MKAI Inclusive AI Forum. Thursday, May 27, 2021.

The School of Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the European Union Event Center – Privacy Engineering Development. May 3rd, 2021.

The School of Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the European Union Event Center – Promoting Public-Private Partnerships in the Pursuit of Cybersecurity: Are You Safe? Thursday, April 27, 2021.

The School of Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the European Union Event Center – The Myth of the Privacy Paradox. Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

R. Okafor, J. Faye. (2021). *“Freedom of Information Laws and Transparency: Piercing the Veil of Private Corporations via the Freedom of Information Act.”*

Published

On [SSRN](#)

R. Okafor, (2021). *Cybersecurity Due Diligence in Mergers and Acquisitions Transactions*, Legal Scholarship Network, [SSRN](#).

Others

R. Okafor (2015). *Executive Immunity Under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999*. (Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the requirement for an LL. B Degree, 2015), Enugu State University, Nigeria.

R. Okafor (2020). *Covid-19 and Cybersecurity – Safety Tips for Companies*, available at <https://thenigerialawyer.com/covid-19-and-cybersecurity-safety-tips-for-companies>.

R. Okafor (2019). *Cybersecurity Due Diligence in mergers and acquisitions transactions*. Available at <https://thenigerialawyer.com/cybersecurity-due-diligence-in-mergers-acquisitions-transactions>.

R. Okafor (2018). *Addressing the Jurisdictional Issues Over Cyberspace Transactions*. Available at <https://thenigerianlawyer.com/addressing-the-jurisdictional-issues-over-cyberspace-transactions>.

Unpublished

R. Okafor, U. Iheanacho (2018) “*Securitization of Intellectual Property Rights.*”