

**WANNIFESTO**

**OKEY LEO OHAGBA**  
(OKEY-IS-OK)

**FOR NBA GENERAL  
SECRETARY, 2026**  
[www.okeyisok.com](http://www.okeyisok.com)



In furtherance of the functions and duties ascribed to the office of NBA General Secretary by Section 9 (5e) (i-ix) of the Nigerian Bar Association Constitution 2015 (as amended, 2025), I shall, with the collaborative efforts of the President and other National officers, faithfully seek to achieve the following set objectives for the Nigerian Bar Association, to wit;

# THE MANIFESTO FOR INNOVATIVE SECRETARIAT

#InnovativeSecretariat  
#InnovativeBar  
#TheIBAmodel

“Let’s further the culture of service, innovation, and quiet excellence”  
- Okey Leo Ohagba

## MY VISION:

A professionalized, innovative, and IT-driven Secretariat that aligns with international best practices, providing seamless accessibility

## MY MISSION:

To advance the Bar through an innovative e-governance framework that delivers a transparent, responsive, and member-centric Secretariat.

# 1.0 INNOVATIVE E-GOVERNANCE AND IT-DRIVEN SECRETARIAT: THE IBA MODEL'

1.1 For a multi-member organization like the Nigerian Bar Association, an interactive portal that must be 'all times up' is very key to maintaining effective communication between the National Secretariat, branches, and particularly, members.

At the International Bar Association (IBA) for instance, access to the Secretariat is seamless, efficient and professionalized via the portal [www.ibanet.org](http://www.ibanet.org)

Such administrative excellence thrives on a well-structured, e-governance framework. Replicating the IBA model for the Nigerian Bar is not rocket science—it is a necessity.

This and much more we envision for the NBA Secretariat. With your support, let's innovate. While I commend the incumbent administration for its recent attention to the NBA portal, we acknowledge that much remains to be done to attain the IBA model.

We will overhaul and fine-tune the system in line with global standards to ensure members' optimum utilization, accessibility, and prompt communication.

I am confident the President will support this planned innovation. Support my vision, let's innovate!



1.2 In addition to the foregoing, we will pioneer other IT-based innovation at the secretariat, including but not limited to;

**a. A Functional, Responsive, and Member-Centric NBA Call Centre Establishment and maintenance of a state-of-the-art Call Center to streamline communication and provide members with real-time resolutions to enquiries and complaints. Support our vision, let's innovate.**

**b. Fine-tune The NBA Mobile App:** We will fine-tune the NBA Mobile App to enhance its functionality, ensuring seamless, unhindered, and first-hand access to NBA products and services—free for all lawyers. With your support, let's innovate.

**c. Establishing a Functional and Interactive Secretariat Feedback Column on the Portal:** To encourage improvements and people-oriented leadership, the NBA Secretariat will activate a feedback column (restricted to verified members) for every published report, resolution, or policy to assess member feedback and policy acceptability and future improvements.



**d. NEC Notices/Minutes:**

As NBA First Asst. Secretary, 2016 to 2018, we pioneered electronic mailing of NEC & AGM minutes and bundles prior to NEC/AGM meetings. We intend to sustain and improve on this innovative milestone.

**e. NBA Digital Stamp:**

While we commend the incumbent administration for its bold step in launching the NBA Digital Stamp, we pledge to enhance its efficiency and accessibility to lawyers. As we take steps to ensure prompt access to this innovative product via the NBA Mobile App and personalized portal dashboards, we shall also strive to fast-track manual stamp production and delivery timelines pending its eventual phase-out.



## 2.0

### **A PROFESSIONALIZED SECRETARIAT AND ENHANCED STAFF CAPACITY:**

Staff of the Secretariat are usually the first point of contact for both members and non-members of the Bar who visit the National Secretariat. It is pertinent that these staff are properly schooled and groomed to exhibit a high level of decorum, nobility, modesty, competence and professionalism at all times in the discharge of their official duties. To achieve this, we will do the following;

- 2.1 Fine-tune the administrative structure of the Secretariat in line with our proposed e-governance plan, and periodically train the staff to adapt quickly to the new administrative framework.
- 2.2 Institute a well-structured staff training policy with incentives to motivate the workforce, while ensuring that verifiable key performance indicators are in place for optimum output.
- 2.3 Ensure that job specifications and deliverables are attached to staff positions.
- 2.4 Strengthen the institutional memory of the Association through efficient record-keeping and an enhanced digital archival system. Join us, let's innovate.

### **3.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE BRANCH & MEMBERSHIP DATABASE/E-DIRECTORY:**

We will facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive database and an annual e-directory of all branches and members. This directory will undergo prompt annual updates to maintain data integrity and mitigate recurrent verification challenges during National elections.

### **4.0 PRESERVATION OF NBA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INTRODUCTION OF CUSTOMIZED MEMBERSHIP STICKERS TO COMBAT QUACKERY:**

We all acknowledge the concern regarding the proliferation of NBA membership stickers and unauthorized use of its intellectual property. Collaborating with branches and leveraging the proposed E-directory, we will facilitate the introduction of customized stickers to combat quackery and protect membership integrity.

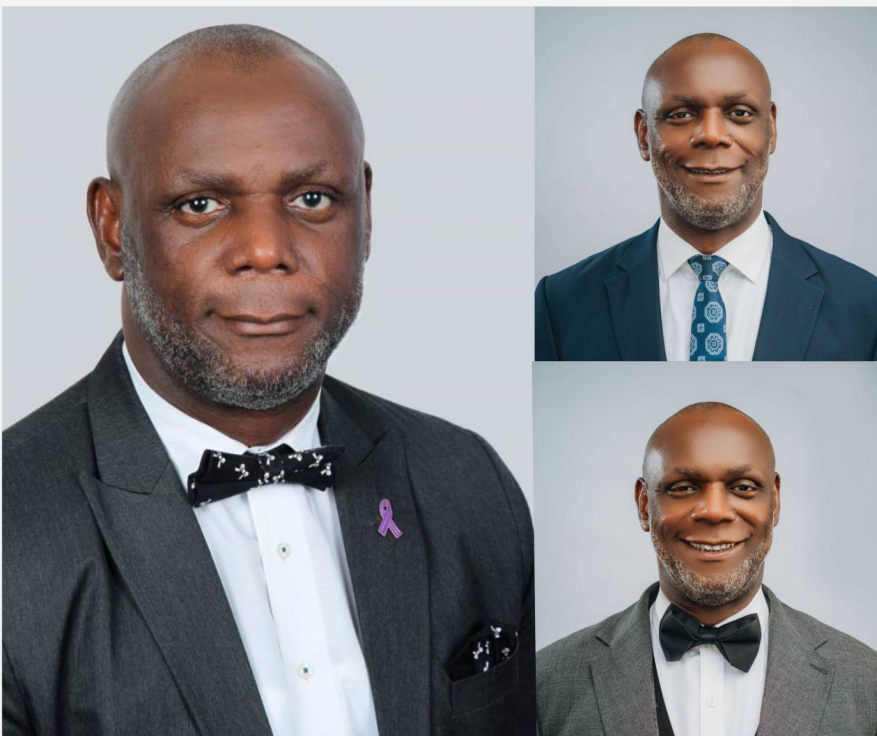
### **2.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORATE:**

The strength of the Bar is rooted in its branches and members nationwide. With the President's approval, we will establish a new Membership Directorate to directly engage with branches and members, addressing daily inquiries and overseeing development and management of the proposed membership e-directory and database.

## 6.0 SECRETARIAT-LED CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENHANCED WELFARE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS":

The welfare of our members is central to the success of this administration. Beyond traditional Secretariat duties, we will facilitate a robust support framework in the following areas of capacity building;

- I. Fine-tune a uniform implementation and enforcement strategy for the Legal Practitioners Remuneration Order 2023, enabling lawyers, particularly young lawyers, to maximize benefits from this welfarist scheme and uphold the profession's dignity.
- ii. Facilitate specialized CLE seminars and webinars for lawyers, particularly young lawyers, focusing on specialization and emerging areas of legal practice.
- iii. We will enhance the functionality of a Secretariat enabled E-Library, accessible via the app and NBA portal. This capacity building initiative is intended to come at no extra cost to all lawyers of good standing, with the approval of the President.



MEMO

**OKEY IS OK**



# IN CONCLUSION

Respected Bar leaders and colleagues, my humble aspiration to serve as the next General Secretary of our dear Association is borne out of my burning passion for service and innovation. I believe that the NBA Secretariat can be repositioned to be more responsive, friendly and innovative in meeting the needs of Nigerian lawyers who labour annually to discharge their respective obligatory duties – paying the BPF and other levies to keep the Association and our profession running.

Technological competence is no longer a luxury, but a necessary tool in delivering world-class secretariat services in a digital-first world. Its high time we stopped chasing the curve and started defining it in the face *GLOBALIZATION*.

I am prepared, well equipped with requisite experience and ready to deliver excellence.

Please join me, let's deliver an Innovative Secretariat, the IBA model.

**SUPPORT OKEY LEO OHAGBA FOR NBA GENERAL SECRETARY 2026**

THANK YOU.

**“LET'S INNOVATE”**

**OKEY LEO OHAGBA**  
31st March, 2026

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