



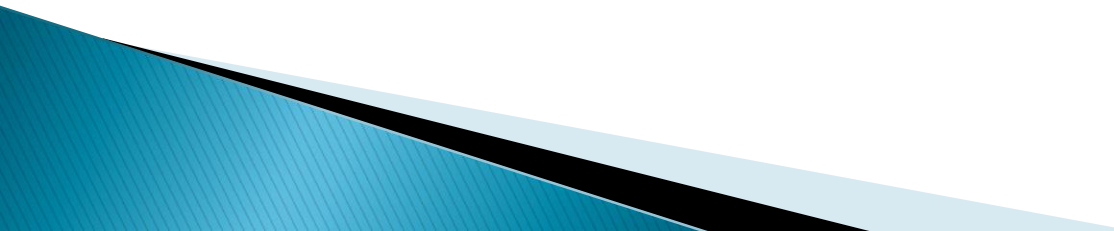
FOSTERING TEAM WORK AND ETIQUETTE AMONG FIDA MEMBERS: RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT TO THE RESCUE

BY

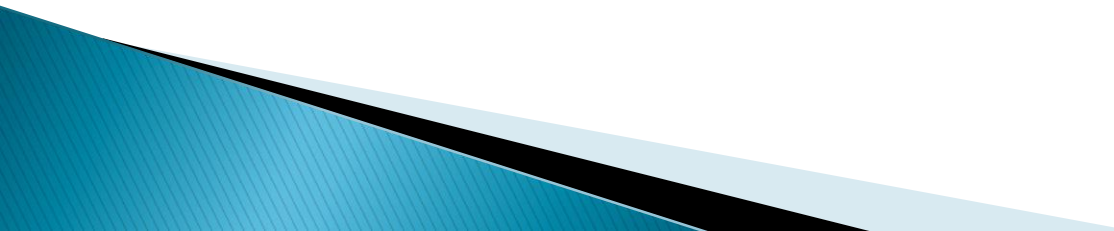
DR. NGOZI C. UZOKA

LECTURER, NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA.

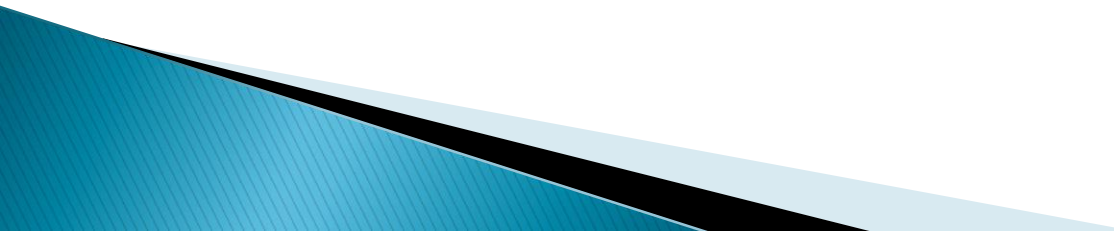
Teamwork

- ▶ Ability to work together toward a common vision.
 - ▶ Teams are incredible. No task is too great, no accomplishment too grand, no dream too far-fetched for a team.
 - ▶ We are not a team because we work together, we are a team because we respect, trust and care for each other.
 - ▶ Individual commitment to a group effort, that is what makes the team work– **Vince Lombardi**
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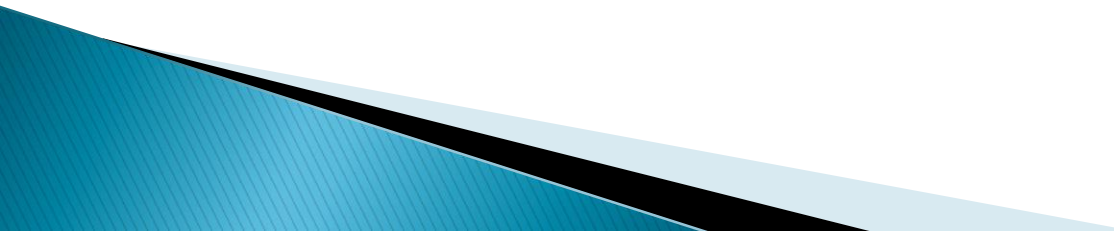
The Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners 2023

- ▶ The RPC is a summation of the laid down rules of ethics for legal practitioners in Nigeria.
 - ▶ The 2023 Rules was made on 6th June, which revoked that of 2007. The new Rules will take effect from 1st January, 2024.
 - ▶ The legal profession worldwide is governed by legal ethics that regulate their duties to court, clients, society, and colleagues.
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Objectives of RPC

- ▶ To promote and foster the cause of justice
 - ▶ To maintain a high standard of professional conduct
 - ▶ Not to engage in any conduct which is unbecoming of a legal practitioner.
 - ▶ To moderate the behaviour of legal practitioners
 - ▶ To increase unity, agreement and productivity.
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FIDA and Teamwork

- ▶ FIDA is not a one-man army.
 - ▶ Teamwork and work etiquette are sine qua non for advancement both individually & collectively.
 - ▶ The sustainability of the objectives of FIDA is hinged on working together as a group.
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Core values of FIDA

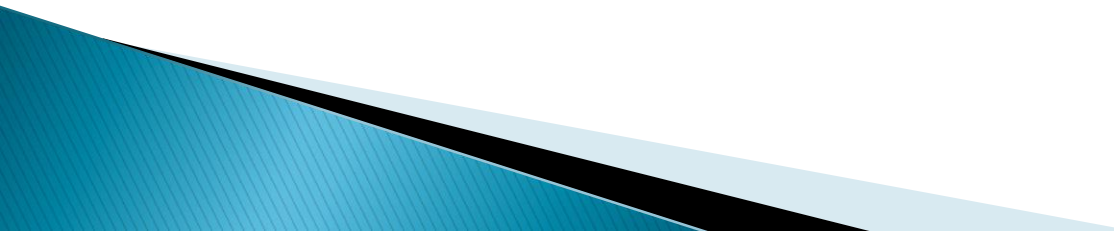
- ▶ Teamwork
 - ▶ Mutual respect
 - ▶ Integrity
 - ▶ Accountability
 - ▶ Commitment
 - ▶ Service
 - ▶ Non-partisan.
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- ▶ **Mutual Respect:** Lawyers (shall) must treat one another with respect, fairness, consideration and dignity. They shall not allow any ill-feeling between opposing clients to influence their conduct and demeanour towards another. **RPC 26(1) 2023.**
- ▶ **Non-Partisan:** All lawyers must be treated based on equality of status. **RPC 26(2) 2023.**
- ▶ **Integrity:** Good faith and fairness must be observed by lawyers in their dealings with each other. **RPC 27(1) 2023.**

- ▶ Integrity Contd: A lawyer shall not take undue advantage of the predicament or misfortune of the opposing lawyer or client. RPC 27(2)C.
- ▶ A Lawyer shall honour her undertaking where she gives a personal undertaking and does not expressly disclaim personal liability.
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- ▶ **Non-Partisan:** A lawyer shall not conduct herself in a way that may obstruct, delay or adversely affect the administration of justice. **RPC 30 2023.**
- ▶ **Respect to the Court:** A lawyer shall at all times treat the court with dignity, respect and honour. **RPC 31 2023.**
- ▶ Where a lawyer fails to comply with any undertaken given personally by her or on behalf of her client to the court, she is *prima facie* guilty of professional misconduct. **RPC 31(3) 2023.**
- ▶ A lawyer is to comply with local custom of courtesy or practice of the Bar. **RPC 32(3)d 2023**

- ▶ **Commitment:** All agreements or promises whether orally or in writing, in or out of court with the opposing lawyer must be observed strictly. **RPC 27(2)a 2023.**
- ▶ **Teamwork:** Handing over of brief is prohibited and should not be accepted except reasonable time is given to acquire adequate grasp of the matter.
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- ▶ **Change of Lawyer:** A new lawyer to a pending matter is to notify the former lawyer immediately as well as use her best endeavour to ensure that the former lawyer is paid in full her earned fees.
 - ▶ The former lawyer is required to release to the client all letters written by her to the client, letters written to the client by the lawyer, letters written by the lawyer to other persons at the other of the client.
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Other Etiquettes

- ▶ Arrive on time for meetings or inform the leader of your lateness or absence.
 - ▶ One person should speak at a time
 - ▶ Express disagreement professionally and tactfully.
 - ▶ Shun gossip, backbiting and malice.
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