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Different types of courts exists in Nigeria with their functions. These courts are stratified i.e. they exist in layers of superiority and this comes with some implication. In normal legal parlance, judges, justices, attorneys, barristers, lawyers, magistrates are some popular positions you hear in the Nigerian judicial system. You cant appeal a case dealt
with at the supreme court at the appeal court. However, it can be done the other way round. This is because the supreme court is at a high level of ranking. Nigerian courts functions as the last hope of man to seek justice and each of the eight types of courts in the country have their specific functions. The hierarchy of these courts are dully explained
in this write-up and they form the judicial arm of government. The executive and legislative arm do not interfere in the activities of the Judiciary, thats why there is a clear separation of powers as entrenched in the Nigerian constitution. Below are the 8 hierarchy of courts in Nigerian explained with their various jurisdictions and functions: Supreme
Court of NigeriaThe apex or number one court in Nigeria is the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Its jurisdiction is the highest court in the land in 1963.
According to the 1999 constitution as ammended, the supreme court of Nigeria is final and binding. This is shown in its appellate jurisdictions over both federal and highest state courts. It is currently located in Abuja and consists
of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and 21 judges at all times. Normally, its on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council (NJC) that the Justices of the Supreme court is appointed by the Senate. Every Justice of the supreme court is mandated to resign at the age of 70. Functions of Supreme Court in Nigeria Below
are the roles of Nigerias supreme court: It serves as the final court of appeal or court of last resort for all civil and criminal cases in Nigeria. Settles disputes between state versus federal government. Functions primarily as appellate court. Serves as an interpreter of the law and constitution. Advisory role to the executive. Guardian of
the constitution of the land. Court of AppealAccording to the hierarchy of courts in Nigeria, after the supreme court is the court of appeal which has the original jurisdiction to determine and hear any question as to whether any person has been validly voted into the office of the President, Vice President, Governor or Deputy Governor. Although, the
court of appeal doesnt try issues, its jurisdiction isnt limited to election matters alone. It also appeal all other courts below it and any other tribunal. It is led by the Senate. Unlike the Supreme Court, this one is located in different states of the country and they
are 72 appeal courts in Nigeria. Functions of Court of Appeal in Nigeria federal court include: Serves as the intermediate appellate courts of the Appeal in Nigerian federal judicial system. Has the power to establish whether the correct results of governorship or
presidential elections and their tenure in office. The Federal High Court is the third in rank according to the hierarchy of courts in Nigeria. Headed by the Chief Judge and contains the number of Judges allowed may be preassigned by an Act of the National Assembly. Its jurisdiction is mostly limited to civil cases such as matters
on taxation, banking, custom and excise duties, citizenship, copyright, etcHowever, it can be properly constituted if it contains at least one Judge of the Court. It has original jurisdiction in civil cases, and matters as set out under Section 251 (1) of the 1999 Constitution. It can be found in more than 15 states in the country. Function of the Federal
High Court in Nigeria Below are the role of the Federal High Court: Hears and determines mostly civil cases. State High Court in each of the states in Nigeria and the FCT. Each of these courts are headed by a chief judge. While the number of judges is determined by the
State House of Assembly and the National Assembly in the case of the High Court of the FCT. It has the largest jurisdiction over decisions of Customary Courts, Area Courts, Magistrate Courts, etc. Functions of State High Court Its has the authority to hear matters
on both criminal and civil cases in the state as entrenched under the 1999 constitution. They can also hear appeals from customary courts and magistrate courts. National Industrial Court divided into various judicial separations for administrative convenience which sits in some
states in Nigeria. The address of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, it has all the powers of the National Industrial Court is located at 11, New Bussa Close, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. Established in 1976, and Abuja. Esta
trade and labour. The NICN hears appeals from the Industrial Arbitration Panel and all other employment matters in the country between employer and employer and employer and employer. The Sharia Court of Appeal is another type of court in Nigeria that is found in the Northern region of the country. It is prevalent in states where Sharia is
practiced and these states include: Zamfara, Kano, Sokoto, Katsina, Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Kebbi, and Yobe states respectively. The sharia court of appeal appellate jurisdiction in civil cases involving issues of the Islamic personal law. It is headed by a Grand Kadi and contain a number of Kadis. One is located in Abuja and this kind of court can be
found in states that claim them. Functions of Sharia Court of AppealSharia courts reviews cases relating to Sharia and Islamic law. They are bound by the constitution to interpret the customary Court of AppealTheres a customary court in the FCT and
then in states that claim them. These types of courts are headed by the President of the Customary Court of Appeal and contain Judges. They exercise the supervisory and appellate jurisdiction in civil cases involving issues of the customary law. The Magistrate Courts and District Courts These courts are established by the law of the House of Assembly
of a State. The magistrate courts functions as a court of summary judgment as grounds are defined in this court without briefs or pleadings filed by the parties. In the Northern part of the country, they are known as Magistrate courts. Below is a diagram of the hierarchy of
courts in Nigeria The judiciary in Nigeria plays a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice is served across various legal matters. The countrys court system is structured hierarchically, with different courts having specific jurisdictions and functions. This article provides an in-depth exploration of Nigerias eight-tiered courts
hierarchy, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each level. Youve probably heard about Nigerias court system but might not know how the different courts in Nigeria can be confusing, with various courts having overlapping powers. But dont
worry; well break it down for you in this article so you can understand the basic structure. Knowing your way around the judicial system is important whether youre a law student or just a curious citizen. Well start with the courts like the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and High Courts and finish with the Sharia Court at the very bottom. A court is
where legal cases are heard, and justice is served. In Nigeria, we have a hierarchical court system, meaning lower courts are under the jurisdiction of higher courts. At the top is the Supreme Court, followed by the Court of Appeal, and then the Federal High Court. The hierarchy ensures that judgments at lower courts can be reviewed, thus upholding
the principles of fair hearing and justice for all. But with various courts, the system can seem complicated! Still, Nigerias judiciary remains an independent and civil cases. These are some main functions of the courts: Interpretation of the law.
Courts interpret laws and apply them to specific cases. They determine how laws should be understood and implemented. Dispute resolution. Courts impose appropriate punishment on those
found guilty of criminal offenses. They help maintain law and order in society. Protecting rights. Courts protect the fundamental rights and liberties of citizens. They prevent abuse of power and ensure justice prevails. Development of laws. Court decisions can influence how legislators make and amend laws. Their judgments shape the development of
laws over time. Maintaining legitimacy. The open and fair dispensation of justice by the courts provide authoritative interpretations of laws that guide future conduct and decisions. Their judgments introduce an element of predictability into the
law.Checking the exercise of power. Courts can declare laws, acts, or policies unconstitutional. They prevent other arms of government from acting beyond their powers. Nigeria has a hierarchical court structure that is organized and separated according to the type of law practiced in each court. The hierarchy starts from the Customary Courts at the
grassroots level and continues up to the Supreme Court, which is the highest court in Nigerias judiciary. It is the final court of appeal in Nigeria and has the final say on the interpretation of laws and the Constitution. It consists of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and
associate justices. The Supreme Court has both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters, it has original jurisdiction in treason, treasonable felonies, and the right of private defense. The
Court of AppealThe Court of Appeal is the second highest court in Nigerias judicial hierarchy. It has appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the High Courts and determine whether the law was correctly applied. If not, it can overturn or modify the earlier
judgment. The Court of Appeal has divisions across Nigeria. It is made up of a president and several justices; typically, three justices preside over each appeal. The courts rulings can also be appealed to the Supreme Court, the highest court in
Nigerias judiciary. In summary, the Court of Appeals key purpose is to ensure the uniform interpretation of the law. It helps safeguard citizens rights by providing an avenue to challenge potentially unjust or legally questionable rulings of lower courts. The Federal High Court is a superior court of record in Nigeria. It is a court of law and equity. It has
both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters. The Federal Government or any of its agencies. This includes
jurisdiction over admiralty, bankruptcy, and intellectual property litigation. The Federal High Court also has jurisdiction over disputes arising from individual or corporate taxation, customs, excise duties, and banking. The Federal High Court has three divisions: Abuja
 Lagos, and the judicial divisions created under the Federal High Court Act. Appeals from the Federal High Court go to the Court of Appeal. State High Court It has original jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil or criminal proceedings under any law. Cases from lower
courts like the Magistrate Courts and Customary Courts can appeal to the State High Court is made up of several judges who preside over cases within their jurisdiction. The Chief Judge heads the State High Court is made up of several judges who preside over cases within their jurisdiction. The Chief Judge heads the State High Court is made up of several judges who preside over cases within their jurisdiction.
State and Federal Government. Its rulings can set precedents that bind lower courts. Appeals from the State High Court go to the Court of Appeal. The State High Court go to the Court of Appeals from the State High Court go to the Court of Appeal. The State High Court go to the Court of Appeals from the State High Court go to the Court of Appeals from the State High Court go to the Court go to th
Nigeria. It acts as an appellate court for lower courts and also determines important cases relating to peoples rights and obligations. National Industrial Court (NIC) is a specialized court that adjudicates disputes arising from employer-employee relationships, such as wrongful termination of employment, harassment
at work, redundancy, etc. It is ranked fifth in the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NIC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the Court of Appeal from the NiC goes to the NiC g
matter related to employment, labor, or workplace. The NIC has powers to grant remedies such as reinstatement, payment of salaries/wages, and compensation for unfair termination or discrimination. Proceedings at the NIC are often less formal and technical. Litigants can represent themselves or be represented by legal practitioners. Judgments of
the NIC are binding, and failure to comply attracts sanctions. With increasing cases of workplace disputes, the NIC remains pivotal in promoting fairness, justice, and equity in labor relations. Customary Court of Appeal of A StateThe Customary Court of Appeal of A StateThe Customary Court of Appeal is the highest court in a states judicial system that has jurisdiction over customary law. It
hears appeals from customary courts and area courts within the state. These courts administer justice in accordance with the customary laws and traditions of the people. A Customary laws and traditions of the people are courts administer justice in accordance with the customary laws and traditions of the people.
Appeal is made up of a President and other judges. They are appointed by the Governor of the state, subject to confirmation by the state House of Assembly. To qualify as a judge of the Customary Court of Appeal are conducted in English.
However, the court can take into consideration relevant customary law reports and treatises and decide cases to determine customary law. Decisions of the Customary Court of Appeal plays an important role in the administration of justice in
districts.In Nigeria, magistrate courts handle minor civil disputes and criminal cases like petty theft, assault, traffic offenses, etc. District courts try more serious offenses like murder and armed robbery and handle divorce, custody, and land disputes. They also determine whether cases in magistrate courts were judged properly.If youre ever
summoned to court in Nigeria, youll likely appear before one of these. Know your rights and consider consulting a lawyer. While the lower courts set up specifically to hear and determine disputes arising from elections. In Nigeria,
Appeal on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council. The judges must not be from the state where the election took place. The Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses, order the production of documents, and examine witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals can be appealed to the Court of Appeal and ultimately to the Suprementation of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses, order the production of documents, and examine witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions of the Tribunals have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers to summon witnesses on oath. The decisions have powers have powers to summon witnesses of the decision have powers have powers have powers have powers have
Court. The Tribunals are dissolved after the election, and petitions before them have been disposed of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) is one of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. The
Tribunal has the sole responsibility of enforcing the Code of Conduct for Public Officers contained in the Court of Appeal. The objectives of the Code of Conduct Tribunal are: To establish and maintain a high standard of morality in the conduct Tribunal has the sole responsibility of enforcing the Code of Conduct for Public Officers contained in the Court of Appeal. The objectives of the Code of Conduct Tribunal are: To establish and maintain a high standard of morality in the conduct Tribunal are:
of government business and to ensure that the actions and behavior of public officers conform to the highest standards of public morality and accountability. To curb the spread of corruption among public officers by investigating their assets declarations and ensuring they adhere to the code of conduct. The Sharia Court of Appeal The Sharia Court of
Appeal is an important part of the Nigerian judiciary system. It has jurisdiction over civil proceedings involving questions of Islamic personal law regarding marriage, divorce, quardianship, inheritance, and wagf or trust properties. The court also has jurisdiction over appeals from decisions made by Upper Sharia Courts. Composed of Grand Kadis who
are learned in Islamic law and jurisprudence, the Sharia Court of Appeal handles appeals from Upper Sharia Courts in each state. Grand Kadis interprets the law based on Islamic principles. If your sharia Courts in each state. Grand Kadis interprets the law based on Islamic principles. If you and determine whether judgments were made appropriately based on Islamic principles. If you are learned in Islamic law and jurisprudence, the Sharia Courts have applied Sharia Courts in each state.
have a case involving Islamic personal law, the Sharia Court of Appeal is where you would file an appeal. Their rulings aim to provide fair judgments in accordance with Sharia law for all Nigerian Muslims seeking justice. However, their jurisdiction is limited since they can only rule on certain civil matters. More serious criminal cases are handled by
the secular courts. The Sharia Court of Appeal plays an important role in upholding Islamic law for those who follow the Muslim faith in Nigeria. Providing a means to appeal rulings made in Upper Sharia Courts helps ensure that judgments are made properly based on the teachings of the Quran. For questions of marriage, divorce, inheritance, and
more, the Sharia Court of Appeal applies Sharia principles to provide resolution. Frequently Asked Questions about how the court system works in Nigeria, you do not need a lawyer to file a case in court for most types of cases. The court
system in Nigeria allows individuals to represent themselves without an attorney, known as pro se representation. However, for complex cases, it is generally advisable to hire a lawyer to help you through the legal process. What types of cases can I file? As an individual, you can file a variety of common cases, such as breach of contract, unpaid debts,
property disputes, divorce, child custody, and small claims. For serious criminal charges or complex civil matters, it is best to hire a lawyer. Where do I file my case? The court you file in depends on factors like the type of case, the amount in dispute, and the location of the other parties. Minor cases are handled in Magistrate Courts, and more serious
cases are handled in High Courts. Appeal cases go to Appeal Courts. The Supreme Court is the highest court. You file where the defendant resides or where the disputed issue occurred. How many levels are there in the Nigerian court system? Tier 1 Court: Supreme Court of Appeal Courts of Appeal Courts. The Supreme Courts of Appeal Courts of Appeal Courts.
Courts. Election Tribunals and 2 Code of Conduct TribunalWhat types of cases are heard in each court? Magistrate Courts hear minor civil and criminal cases. High Court decisions. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal. Who is the Chief Justice of
Nigeria?The current Chief Justice of Nigeria is Olukayode Ariwoola. He was appointed on 27 June 2022 after the resignation of former Chief Justice Tanko Muhammad.Do I need a lawyer to file a case?No, you can file a case yourself. However, a lawyer can help you properly format documents, advise you on the merits of your case, and represent you
in court.Lawyers and judges play an important role in interpreting laws and ensuring fair trials. Understanding Nigerias court system helps citizens navigate the legal process. So there you have it, a breakdown of the court hierarchy in Nigeria. From small claims courts that handle minor disputes to the Supreme Court, which serves as the highest
appellate court in the land, you now understand how the system is structured. While it can seem complex at first, recognizing the jurisdiction and powers held by each level of court helps make sense of it all. With this foundation, youre better equipped to navigate any legal matters that come your way in the future. Whether its a fender bender or a
complex business lawsuit, you can enter those courtrooms knowing how the judicial system operates from bottom to top. It is evident that the Nigerian Legal system does not support a single court system. Consequently, courts in the federation are structured in a hierarchical order. The hierarchy of courts in Nigeria is very important because it
determines the kind of matters that can be brought before any court. Take for instance, matters concerning land or women inheritance right cannot be brought under the original jurisdiction of the supreme court. Take for instance, matters are under the original jurisdiction of the supreme court. Take for instance, matters are under the original jurisdiction of the supreme court.
hierarchy of courts in Nigeria. First and foremost, it is apparent that the Judicial powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts and provided for in section 6 subsection 1 and 2 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of superior records. While some are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are courts of subsection 1 and 2 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is vested in the Courts are co
can also be ranked on a vertical scale showing courts that are superior to the other in terms of decisions. The consequences is that a higher court can hear appeal from a court below it and can also override the decisions. The consequences is that a higher court can hear appeal from a court below it and can also override the decisions. The consequences is that a higher court can hear appeal from a court below it and can also override the decisions. The consequences is that a higher court can hear appeal from a court below it and can also override the decisions.
Supreme Court being the court of last resort and highest court in Nigeria.hierarchy of courts in Nigeria under subsection 5, listed the courts in Nigeria in a hierarchical order. They include: Supreme Court of NigeriaCourt of
appealNational industrial CourtFederal high Court, High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of a State; Customary Court of Appeal of a State; Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal Of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal Of the Federal Capital Territory and High Court of Appeal Of the Federal C
District Courts (Not provided for in the above section)There you have the hierarchy of courts in Nigeria. As we continue, the above listed courts will be discussing in their hierarchical order. I enjoin you to continue, the above listed courts will be discussing in their hierarchical order. I enjoin you to continue, the above listed courts will be discussing in their hierarchical order. I enjoin you to continue reading because you are not going to regret reading this information. 1.
Court which is located in Abuja, the federal capital territory. According to Section 230, subsection 2 paragraph (a) and (b) of the constitution, it is headed by a chief justice of Nigeria who is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the National judicial council subject to the approval of the senate. ((see section 231 subsection 1 of the
constitution))The total number of justices of the Supreme Court is twenty one (21) and such number of justices as prescribed by the national assembly. It must be noted that the decisions of the Supreme Court has expressly stated that
by Order 8 rule 16 and by virtue of Section 235 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Supreme Court. Therefore, attempts by Ihedioha, the former governor elect of Imo state to persuade the
 Supreme Court to review its own decisions failed on this ground. The only thing reasonable for the Supreme Court to do is to overrule itself in another case. Also read: Can the supreme court of appeal in Nigeria. The most important thing is that the
decision of the court of appeal binds a court of appeal in another state. It is headed by the president of the Nigeria on the recommendation of the Senate. ((see Generally section 237 and 238 of the Constitution))The court of appeal is
superior to the federal high Court, election tribunals, various state high courts and the national industrial court. It means that it can overrule their decisions of the Supreme Court is binding on it. The court of appeal has original jurisdiction to
hear matters of elections into the office of the president, vice president, governor, deputy governor and issues from the national industrial court of NigeriaUnder the third Alteration Act to the 1999 Constitution, the national industrial court is headed by the president of
the national industrial court is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the national judicial council subject to confirmation by the senate. It should be noted that the national industrial court has both appellate and original jurisdictions. Its original jurisdiction is in issues relating to employment, labour, trade, wages, salary, industrial
matters etc. Appeals from national industrial courts go directly to the court of appeal and the president of the court of appeal must be a legal practitioner who has been so qualified having been such for not less than ten years and cognate experience in labour, employment and industrial matters. 4. Federal high Court, various states high courts and
high Court of the federal capital territory The federal high Court, state high Court of the federal high Court of the federal high Court and the high Court of the federal hig
of the second schedule to the constitution and section 251 subsection 1 of the 1999 Constitution. The federal high Court is headed by a chief judge of the federal high Court appointed by the president on the recommendation of the NJC subject to ratification by the senate. The jurisdiction of the various state high courts are very wide and perhaps the
widest jurisdiction both in criminal and civil matters. It enjoys superiority over magistrate, customary and Area courts. It is headed by a chief judge of a state high court appointed by the Governor of a state on the recommendation of the state judicial commission subject to ratification of the state house of assembly. Also read: 21 Leading Cases in the
law of contract you must know5. Sharia Court of Appeal Sharia Court of Appeal is another important court in the hierarchy of courts in Nigeria. It is provided for in Section 275 of the same constitution made it discretionary for any state in Nigeria to establish its own
Sharia Court of Appeal. The section provides as follows: There shall be for any State that requires it a Sharia Court of Appeal for that State. (b) such member of Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal is to be headed by the Grandi Kadi,
which is to be prescribed by the House of Assembly of that state. It is pertinent to note that Sharia Court of Appeal has supervisory and appellate jurisdiction in civil cases that has to do with Islamic personal law. Only in this instance, can appeal go to this court. 6. Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Customary Court
of Appeal of a stateThere is a customary court of appeal and its major function is that concerns the ownership of land or
inheritance right of Women like the case of Mojekwu v Mojekwu v Mojekwu, the Customary courts have jurisdiction of such matters. For a better understanding of the Jurisdiction of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This section of the constitution discusses
customary courts in details. Also read: Are lawyers liars? Find out the truth here?. Magistrate Courts and District Courts are not provided for in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These courts is the last in the hierarchy of court in Nigeria and is established by the House of
Assembly of State. Most times Magistrate Courts and District Courts function as court of summary judgment. In the Southern part of Nigeria, these courts are referred to as District Courts are
Jurisdiction of the court is usually outlined in the rules of the court. Also read: Wrapping up: Above I have explicitly outlined the hierarchy of in Nigeria. Just like I noted in the beginning of this article, the courts above have original and Appellate jurisdiction to handle certain matters. Thus, a matter that is supposed to be handled by the Supreme Court
under Section 231 of the constitution of Nigeria, cannot be brought under the original jurisdiction of the court of appeal. Is a lawyer or law student in Nigeria, this is the foundation of legal practice in Nigeria. Hope this article was helpful? I believe you now understand the structure of courts
in Nigeria. Nonetheless, if there is any confusion on the hierarchy of courts above, dont hesitate to point it out by commenting on the comment box below. I will try to make you understand. Edeh Samuel Chukwuemeka, ACMC, is a lawyer and a certified mediator/conciliator in Nigeria. He is also a developer with knowledge in various programming
languages. Samuel is determined to leverage his skills in technology, SEO, and legal practice to revolutionize the legal profession worldwide by creating web and mobile applications that simplify legal research. Sam is also passionate about educating and providing valuable information to people. First things first, in Nigeria there are no juries in
Nigerian courts. Nigeria uses a bench trial system instead, and this is where one person (or in the case of an appeal court, more than one person) sits to hear a case and listens to arguments from both sides and gives a judgement based on the conclusion reached. So, lets find out about the courts we have in Nigeria: Inferior courts of record in the
Nigerian Court systemThe first set of courts are the inferior courts are the inferior courts are not inferior courts are not inferior courts that are established by laws other than the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Area and Customary CourtsThese
are the courts that are established by individual States to apply to native law and custom prevailing within their judicial districts. In the Southern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts Magistrate/District Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while in the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while the Northern part of Nigeria, they are called Area Courts are known as Customary while the Northern part of Nigeria are known as Customary while the Nigeria are known as Cust
of inferior jurisdiction because they are bound by decisions of the higher courts, but their own decisions do not bind any court, and they are not bound by their own previous decisions. In the Northern part of Nigeria, the court is known as Magistrate Court. Superior courts of record
in the Nigerian Court systemThe next set of courts are thesuperiorcourts of record, they have all been established by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. State High Courts have appellate jurisdiction over decisions of Magistrate Courts and
District Courts. The jurisdiction of the State High Court is unlimited except for matters within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court. This
includes jurisdiction over things like any legal action between one bank and another, any action by or against the Central Bank of Nigeria arising from the operation offences etc.*The High Courts are referred to as courts of co-ordinate jurisdiction and they are
not explicitly bound by previous decisions of another High Court. At best, the decision of a High Court to depart from another High Court to depart from another High Court of Appeal and Customary Court of Appeal The Sharia Court of Appea
Appeal hears appeals on matters of citizens that concern Islamic personal rights, and the Customary Court of Appeal hears appeals concerning civil proceedings that relate to customary law. The Customary and Sharia Courts of Appeal hears appeals concerning civil proceedings that relate to customary law. The Customary and Sharia Courts of Appeal hears appeals concerning civil proceedings that relate to customary law. The Customary and Sharia Courts of Appeal hears appeals concerning civil proceedings that relate to customary law.
Appeal in Nigeria, but it has a number of divisions across the country. The Court of Appeal is bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal is bound to a certain extent by that decision. However, in criminal matters, the Court of Appeal is not
bound to follow the decisions of other divisions of the Court is the highest court in Nigeria and its decisions are final and binding on all other courts throughout the country. The Supreme Court is not bound by the previous decisions of any other
court. However, it follows its own previous decisions to maintain certainty and uniformity in the administration of justice. The Supreme Court systemWe also have some specialist courts, which are courts created for specific areas, this is because the
courts require judges with special knowledge of the issues that come up with that specific court. National Industrial Court This is a court established for the trial of members of the armed forces. Coroners Court This a court
conducts an inquest into the cause of death of a person where the death is sudden or unnatural or occurs in a public place. Juvenile Courts The Juvenile Courts try young persons who are less than 18 years of age and are alleged to have committed a criminal offence. Quasi-judicial bodies Quasi-judicial refers to a proceeding conducted by an
administrative or executive official or organization that is similar to a court proceeding, these include Tribunal (CCT). is responsible for hearing
complaints of corruption by public servants for breaches of the Code of Conduct Bureau Tribunal Act (CCBTA). The CCBTA creates the offences of, and sanctions for public officers. Appeals from the CCT go to the Court of Appeal. Investment and Securities Tribunal (IST) it adjudicates the offences of, and sanctions for public officers.
on all capital market and investments civil disputes as specified under the Investments and Securities Act. Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeals from this body go to the Court of Appeal
from the LPDC go to the Supreme Court. Election Tribunals they have jurisdiction to hear and determine petitions concerning whether a person has been validly elected into certain offices. Appeals from the Election Tribunals go to the Court of Appeal. So there you have it, an explainer of the court system in Nigeria. Want to find out how to become a
Judge? Read our article here How to become a Judge in NigeriaDO YOU NEED A LAWYER? Request a Legal AssessmentDO YOU NEED FREE LEGAL SUPPORT? This is for people who are unable to afford a lawyer Get Free Legal SupportWe hope you have found this information helpful. Please note that this information is provided for general
 informational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. No lawyer-client relationship is formed nor should any such relationship be implied. Thisansweris not intended to substitute for the advice of a qualified lawyer. If you require legal advice, please consult with a qualified lawyer. Related Understanding the Hierarchy and Roles within the
Judicial System of Nigeria - - Generis Global Legal Services - Accessed on: July 23, 2025 The Nigerian judicial system plays a pivotal role in the nations governance, ensuring the application and enforcement of laws designed to maintain order and protect the rights of citizens. As one of the three branches of government, alongside the executive and
 legislative sectors, the judiciary is essential for upholding the rule of law in Nigeria. It resolves disputes, interprets laws, and provides checks and balances on the powers of other government branches. The efficacy of the judicial system is crucial in promoting justice, fairness, and equality before the law. As a heterogeneous society, Nigeria is
confronted with diverse legal challenges, including issues related to human rights, corruption, and access to justice. The judicial system serves as the backbone for addressing such matters, reflecting Nigerias commitment to democracy and good governance. The judicial system serves as the backbone for addressing such matters, reflecting Nigerias commitment to democracy and good governance. The judicial system serves as the backbone for addressing such matters, reflecting Nigerias commitment to democracy and good governance.
protection against government overreach. Moreover, the integrated structure of the judiciary, comprising various levels of courts, facilitates the effective handling of cases, ranging from minor disputes to significant constitutional issues. This introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive understanding of the hierarchy of courts within the Nigerian
judicial system, which examines the roles and responsibilities of each court level. An efficient judiciary is indispensable in maintaining civil order and fostering an environment of security and stability, ultimately contributing to the nations socio-economic development. As we delve deeper into the intricacies of the Nigerian judicial system, we shall
 explore how its various components work collaboratively to ensure justice is served, reinforcing the significance of law enforcement in the countrys governance framework. Levels of Courts in Nigeria Toes and functions within the legal framework. At
the base of this hierarchy are the Local Courts, which operate at the grassroots level. These courts handle minor civil and criminal cases, often involving customary or traditional law, and play a pivotal role in resolving disputes efficiently within local communities. Above the Local Courts are the Magistrate Courts, which have broader jurisdiction over
authority. They are responsible for hearing serious criminal cases, significant civil disputes, and appeals from lower courts. Each state in Nigeria has its own High Court, and these courts are integral in interpreting the law, ensuring justice, and safeguarding fundamental rights. The Court of Appeal is next in the hierarchy and operates as an appellate
court, focusing on reviewing decisions made by the High Courts. This court is essential for maintaining uniformity and consistency in the interpretation of laws across the country. Its judgments are significant in shaping legal precedents that guide lower courts. At the apex of the Nigerian judicial hierarchy is the Supreme Court, which serves as the
highest appellate court in the nation. The Supreme Courts primary role is to ensure that justice is upheld at the highest standards, interpreting the Constitution and adjudicating on significant legal questions. The decisions of the judicial system in Nigeria. Local Courts: The
 Foundation of the JudiciaryLocal courts in Nigeria serve as the foundational level of the judiciary, playing a pivotal role in ensuring that justice is accessible and achievable for the average citizen. These courts are structured to handle minor civil and criminal cases, operating within specific jurisdictions that are often defined by geographical
 boundaries. This allows them to cater to the unique needs of their respective communities, ensuring that legal disputes can be resolved in a timely and efficient manner. The jurisdiction of local courts encompasses a variety of cases, including matters such as small claims, family disputes, and traffic offenses. By addressing these less complex cases
local courts alleviate some of the burdens faced by higher courts, thereby contributing to a more efficient judicial system overall. It is not uncommon for local courts to also have jurisdiction over specific types of offenses that are of particular concern to their communities, allowing them to address localized issues effectively. Moreover, local courts
play a critical role in promoting access to justice. They serve as the first point of contact for many individuals seeking resolution for grievances, ensuring that justice is not a privilege reserved for the affluent. The presence of local courts enhances legal literacy among citizens, as individuals are more likely to engage with the judicial system when it is
readily accessible. Furthermore, local courts often employ informal processes that allow for mediation, which can foster communities by
providing an accessible platform for the resolution of disputes. Through their functions and authority, local courts significantly contribute to the overarching goals of justice and Higher Courts nadicial system, magistrate courts occupy a pivotal position,
functioning as an essential mediator between local courts and higher courts. Their establishment is rooted in the need to streamline legal processes, ensuring efficient administration of justice. These courts are endowed with specific jurisdictional powers, allowing them to hear various types of cases that range from minor criminal offenses to civil
disputes. They are particularly effective in managing lower-level matters, thereby alleviating the pressure on higher courts. Magistrate courts typically handle misdemeanor cases, traffic offenses, and other infractions, along with civil matters that do not involve substantial financial stakes. This focus on straightforward cases enables magistrate courts
to expedite judicial proceedings, allowing for quicker resolutions that benefit the community. Additionally, the streamlined processes at the magistrate court level facilitate reduced backlogs that often plague higher courts, which are tasked with more complex legal issues. The significance of magistrate courts is further underscored by their
accessibility. Located within local jurisdictions, these courts are more approachable for the general public, fostering a sense of community engagement in the legal process. This accessibility improves the likelihood that individuals will seek legal recourse for minor disputes, contributing to the overall health of the judicial ecosystem. Furthermore,
magistrate courts also play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that justice is not only done but perceived to be done at the grassroots level. In essence, magistrate courts serve as a critical bridge within Nigerias judicial hierarchy, balancing the need for a competent legal framework with the necessity of timely and effective dispute
resolution. By managing lower-level cases effectively, they ensure that higher courts can concentrate on more serious legal issues, ultimately enhancing the entire judicial framework, possessing significant jurisdiction and
authority. Each state in Nigeria has its own High Court, and there is a Federal High Court that handles specific federal matters. The jurisdiction of these courts encompasses a broad spectrum of civil and criminal cases, including but not limited to, contract disputes, torts, family law issues, and serious criminal offences such as murder and fraud. High
Courts thus function as vital instruments for delivering justice at both state and federal levels. In the judicial system, High Courts ensure that
justice is served by revisiting critical decisions made by magistrate courts and other courts of lower authority. Moreover, the appellate jurisdiction allows them to amend or confirm the judgments that have been imparted following trial processes. This structure establishes a layered approach to justice, contributing to the overall integrity of the legal
system in Nigeria. An essential aspect of the High Courts is their ability to interpret the law, which serves as a foundation for legal precedent in subsequent cases. Their rulings are significant as they shape legal understanding and the administration of justice across the nation. The High Courts, through their procedures and commitment to upholding
the rule of law, play a crucial role in maintaining public confidence in the judicial system. As such, the comprehensive functions they bridge the gap between trial procedures and appellate review. Court of Appeal: The Gateway to Higher Judicial ReviewThe Court of Appeal
in Nigeria serves as a crucial component of the nations judicial framework, functioning as the primary avenue for the review of decisions made by lower courts. Established under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, this court is tasked with ensuring the proper application of the law and upholding the principles of justice. One of
its prominent functions is to hear appeals from the High Court and other specialized courts, providing an essential mechanism for error correction and the safeguarding of legal rights. The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal encompasses a wide range of civil and criminal matters, allowing it to hear appeals based on both substantive and procedural
grounds. This jurisdiction is not limited to cases decided by the High Court; it also includes decisions made by tribunals and specialized courts. By examining the merits of these cases, the Court of Appeal plays a pivotal role in shaping Nigerian law, setting precedents that influence subsequent legal interpretations and the judiciary as a whole. For a
case to be considered by the Court of Appeal, it must meet specific criteria, including the necessity of appealing a final judgment delivered by a lower court. Furthermore, the appeal process is governed by established procedural rules, ensuring that parties adhere to filing deadlines and appropriate documentation. The significance of decisions made
by the Court of Appeal cannot be understated, as rulings not only resolve individual disputes but also contribute to the development and consistency of legal principles across the nation. In addition, the appellate court serves as a guardian of the rule of law, promoting fairness and diligence within the judicial process. By upholding or overturning lower
court decisions, the Court of Appeal helps ensure that justice is not only done but is seen to be done. Its function as a higher authority in judicial review underscores its essential role within the Nigerian serves as the apex of the nations judicial system,
embodying the ultimate authority in the interpretation and application of law. It is established by the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria, which outlines its critical role in ensuring justice, upholding the rule of law, and protecting the rights of individuals. As the highest court in the land, the Supreme Courts decisions are binding on all courts in the country,
contributing significantly to the development of Nigerian jurisprudence. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court extends across a myriad of cases, primarily focusing on matters of constitutional law, electoral disputes, and significant civil rights issues. The court has the prerogative to hear appeals from lower courts, including the Court of Appeal.
Additionally, it has original jurisdiction in certain cases, particularly those that pertain to the enforcement of fundamental human rights. Through its rulings, the Supreme Court plays a crucial role in shaping the legal landscape and addressing emerging societal challenges. Composition of the Supreme Court includes the Chief Justice of Nigeria and a
maximum of 21 other justices, all appointed by the President of Nigeria, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The appointment process emphasizes the need for qualified individuals with extensive legal experience, ensuring that the court is staffed with eminent jurists who can effectively adjudicate complex legal matters. This rigorous selection
process is crucial, as the justices interpretations and applications of the law not only affect individual cases but also set precedents that guide future judicial decisions. The impact of the Supreme Courts decisions transcends the legal sphere, resonating throughout Nigerian society. By addressing pressing legal issues and reinforcing citizens rights, the
court contributes to the overall stability and integrity of the nations democracy. Judicial Independence and its Importance Judicial system. This principle ensures that judges and courts operate without interference from external
pressures, including governmental influence, political considerations, or societal demands. Upholding judicial independence is vital for maintaining the integrity of the rule of law, as it fosters an environment where laws are applied impartially and fairly. This leads to a more predictable legal framework that is crucial for both individuals and
businesses seeking justice. The importance of judicial independence external pressures, it cultivates public confidence in judicial outcomes. In Nigeria, instances of political interference and corruption have historically undermined
this independence, casting doubt on the fairness of judicial processes. Ensuring that judges remain free to interpret and apply the law without fear or favor is therefore essential for achieving justice. This independence not only serves the interpret and apply the law without fear or favor is therefore essential for achieving justice. This independence not only serves the interpret and apply the law without fear or favor is therefore essential for achieving justice.
independence of the judiciary is instrumental in enhancing public trust in the justice system. When citizens believe that the courts are impartial and free from outside influences, they are more likely to respect judicial decisions and comply with legal rulings. In a country like Nigeria, where the legal system has faced challenges, reinforcing the
independence of the judiciary can significantly contribute to strengthening democratic values and social stability. Ultimately, recognizing and safeguarding judicial independence is fundamental to a thriving democracy, and it plays a pivotal role in promoting justice and equity within the Nigerian judicial framework. Challenges Facing the Nigerian
JudiciaryThe Nigerian judiciary, an essential pillar of the nations democracy, faces numerous challenges that significantly undermine its effectiveness. One of the most pressing issues is the pervasive delay in the justice system. Judicial bottlenecks, often caused by a backlog of cases, hinder timely adjudication. These delays can lead to prolonged
periods of uncertainty for parties involved in legal disputes, impacting both personal and societal justice. The consequences of such delays are far-reaching, including a declining public confidence in the legal system, which sees many turning to alternative dispute resolution methods. Another major concern is corruption within the judiciary. Reports of
bribery and other forms of unethical conduct have been prevalent. This corruption erodes the integrity of judicial decisions and fuels public distrust, as citizens may question the impartiality with which their cases are handled. It has become a substantial impediment to achieving fair and unbiased justice, and persistent efforts to combat this
corruption often meet resistance due to deep-rooted systemic challenges. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure poses another significant obstacle to the operational capacity of the Nigerian judiciary. Many courtrooms are plagued by a lack of basic facilities, which complicates the administration of justice. Insufficient funding constrains essential
resources, such as training for court personnel, and restricts technological advancements that could streamline processes and improve case management. This infrastructure deficit not only hampers efficiency but also discourages the public from engaging with the judicial system, further exacerbating the issues mentioned. In addressing these
challenges, it is crucial for stakeholders to recognize the critical role of a well-functioning judiciary. Improving the situation necessitates reforms that target these systemic issues, fostering a legal environment where justice is accessible, timely, and trustworthy. Conclusion: The Future of the Judicial System in Nigeria The Nigerian judicial system
stands at a pivotal juncture, characterized by both challenges and opportunities. As highlighted throughout this discussion, the judiciary plays a fundamental role in upholding the rule of law, delivering justice, and protecting individual rights. However, the current state of the judicial system reflects several systemic issues, including inefficiencies,
delays in case resolutions, and a perceived lack of independence. These issues have often led to public skepticism regarding the judicial process in Nigeria. To enhance the effectiveness of the judicial officials. Emphasizing
meritocracy and ensuring that judges are well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge can bolster the publics trust in the judiciary. Furthermore, adopting technology in court proceedings can streamline processes, reduce waiting times, and improve overall access to justice for citizens. Engagement with civil society is also an invaluable
component for reinforcing the judicial system. By collaborating with non-governmental organizations and community groups, the judiciary can better understand the needs and concerns of the populace, allowing for more responsive and transparent judicial practices. Additionally, public awareness campaigns can illuminate the processes within the
judiciary, fostering a more informed citizenry that can hold the system accountable. Ultimately, the future of the Nigerian judicial system hinges on bold reforms and the unwavering commitment of stakeholders to restore public confidence. It is imperative that these initiatives are implemented with urgency and diligence, paving the way for a more
effective, fair, and transparent judiciary that serves the interests of all Nigerians. Only through collective efforts can the judiciary fulfill its mandate of delivering justice and maintaining the rule of law in the face of evolving challenges. The Nigerian judicial system is divided into tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, and tier 4 courts. The different types of courts in
Nigeria have varying jurisdictions and structures. The country's constitution further classifies these bodies into federal and state courts. Like in numerous other countries, these judicial bodies exist in a hierarchical structure, with the top courts overseeing the lower ones. How is the modern-day hierarchy of courts in Nigeria? A judge's gavel. Photo:
pixabay.com, @gimonoSource: UGCTypically, the President appoints judges/justices to the federal courts while governors make the appointments to the state courts. All appointments are usually based on the recommendation of the Nigerian National Judicial Council. Here is a look at the hierarchy of courts and their jurisdiction. Tier 1 court: The
Supreme CourtA statue of lady justice. Photo: pixabay.com, @WilliamChoSource: UGCPAY ATTENTION: Follow us on Instagram - get the most important news directly in your favourite app! The Supreme Court of Nigeria is the apex judicial body of the land and is based in the capital, Abuja. It is mainly a court of appellate jurisdiction and serves as the
final appeal court in the country. It also has original jurisdiction in cases involving states and other states and the federal government. The body was established in 1963 when Nigeria became a republic. It is the only body that can hear appeals from the Nigerian Court of Appeal. It comprises the country's Chief Justice and an additional 21
justices appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Nigerian Court of Appeal is mainly a court of appellate jurisdiction. Still, it has original jurisdiction on matters pertaining to the election of presidents and vice presidents. Additionally, it is one of the judicial bodies in which the country's three legal systems (English, customary, and
Sharia) converge. The body should have at least three judges who are well-versed in Islamic personal law and three in customary law. Judgements from this tier 2 court can only be appealed to the President of the Court of Appeal
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and any number of justices not less than 49. Here are some of its other functions. It is the intermediate appellate judicial body in the country's justice system. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts and the district courts are the district courts. It has the power to determine appeals from the district courts are the district courts and the district courts are the district cou

judicial bodies sit below the tier 2 court. Judgements made here can only be appealed at the Federal Court of Appeal. Here are the various tier 3 judicial body in Nigeria. It is presided over by a Chief Judge and several judges as may be determined by the National Assembly. Federal High Courts can be found in more than 15 states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Such cases include admiralty, copyright, banking, excise duties, customs, and taxation. High Court of a constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases related to the revenue of the states in the country. This body was created under Section 249 of the constitution and has original jurisdiction over civil cases. StateThe State High Court is more like the Federal High Court but at a state level. It is provided for under Section 255 of the country's constitution. The provision allows for a State High Court is presided over by a Chief Judge and a number of judges determined by the National Assembly or State House of Assembly. The body has the widest jurisdiction of judicial bodies in Nigeria on matters of civil and criminal law. Customary Court of Appeal is presided by the president of the body, and is constituted of any number of judges as may be determined by the National Assembly. The body is provided for under Section 265 of the 1999 Constitution over civil cases pertaining to customary law. It hears and determines appeals with questions arising from subordinate customary judicial bodies' interpretation or application of customary laws. This type of court in Nigeria. It is ranked fifth in the list of courts in Nigeria. The NIC has exclusive jurisdiction over all industrial disputes listed below. Workers' Compensation LawTrade Union LawTrad Sharia Court of Appeal is among the constituent judicial body is presided over by a Grand Kadi and other Kadis. Here is a look at its primary functions. Reviewing cases relating to Sharia and Islamic personal law. It interprets Islamic customary laws. It handles Islamic litigation cases, especially those involving the poor. Appeals from tier 3 judicial bodies are handled by the respective tier 2 bodies. Tier 4 courts are mostly magistrate courts. This body is not provided for under the 1999 Constitution. It is established by the House of Assembly and functions primarily as a judicial bodies. Which is the lowest court in Nigeria? The lowest judicial body in Nigeria is called the customary court. It is the easiest form of resolving disputes, especially for the commoner. How many state law courts of Appeal do we have in Nigeria? There are 36 state high courts in the country, one in each state. How many Courts of Appeal do we have in Nigeria? There is only one Court of Appeal. However, it has 72 divisions spread across the 36 states in all six geopolitical zones. Who is the Chief Justice of Nigeria? A gavel and scales depicting justice. Photos pixabay.com, @succoSource: UGCThe Supreme Court, not exceeding twenty-one, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly. The hierarchy of courts in Nigeria is based on an elaborate structure that grants the various bodies varying jurisdictions. The hierarchy sees higher tier courts handle matters previously handled at lower tier judicial bodies. The hierarchy ends at the apex judicial body of the land, the Supreme Court. READ ALSO: Types of courts in Nigeria and their functions. The judiciary is one of the Nigerian government. It is mandated to adjudicate disputes arising between individuals, governments, and corporate entities in their inter-relationships with one another within or outside the country under the law. There are different types of judicial bodies in Nigeria, all part of the country's judiciary. The bodies exist in a hierarchical order, with those above being superior to the ones below. These bodies also have varying jurisdictions. Source: Legit.ng The hierarchical system of courts in Nigeria simply refers to the way in which Nigeria simply refers to the way in which Nigerian courts are arranged and organized at different levels, jurisdictions and regions. This also means that the decision of the lower courts can be appealed to higher courts. If the judgment of the lower court does not reflect justice in a case, the aggrieved party can appeal to the higher courts can be appealed to higher courts and justice. In other words, Nigeria s court hierarchy is an integral part of Nigeria s legal system, which provides organization and clarity for judicial work. However, the various courts established in Nigeria can only exercise their responsibility to adjudicate in accordance with the jurisdiction granted to it by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. JURISDICTION It is a well-known fact in law that jurisdiction is the ladder for establishing court authority. In short, jurisdiction can be simply defined as the courts authority to determine the case submitted in a manner prescribed by law. In the famous case of MADUKOLU V NKEDILIM (1962), 2 SCNLR 341, the locus classicus case for jurisdiction in Nigeria, the Supreme Court held as follows: Before any court of law assumes jurisdiction so as to determine or adjudicate on a cause or matter, the court must be competent. A court is competent when: a The court is properly constituted as regards member and qualifications of the bench and no members and qualifications of the bench and no members and qualifications of the bench and no members and qualifications of the case is within the courts jurisdiction and there is no feature in case which prevents the court from exercising its jurisdiction. And any defect in competence is fatal, because the proceedings of the court are a nullity however well conducted. HIERARCHY OF COURTS IN NIGERIA The following are the hierarchy of courts in Nigeria: It is provided for under Section 230 of the 1999 Constitution of the court is final and cannot be appealed. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice of Nigeria. The number of justices of the supreme court does not exceed 21, and the President appoint them on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council (NJC), subject to confirmation by the Senate. Judges of the Supreme Court must be qualified to practice in Nigeria and have at least 15 years of qualifications. The judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria must be retired at the 70 years. By the provisions of Section 233(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to hear and determines appeals from the Court of Appeal. There is only one Supreme Court in Nigeria which is located in Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). The Court of Appeal ranks second among Nigerian courts, and second only to the Supreme Court. It has the original jurisdiction to determine and hear any matter as to whether anyone has been effectively voted for the positions of President, Vice President, the Sharia Court of Appeal in a state, and the Customary Appeal court to the Court of AppealSimilarly, the Court of Appeal has the power to hear and decide appeals made by military courts and other courts in accordance with certain laws of the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council (NJC), subject to confirmation by the Senate. It is provided for under Section 249 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). It is the 3rd in rank of courts in NigeriaIt has original jurisdiction in civil matters and cases as set out under Section 251 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). It is headed by the Chief Judge and comprises any number of judges as allowed by an act of the thirty-six states in Nigeria. It is provided for under Section 255 of the 1999 Constitution at least one Judge of the court. The Federal High Court has a division in each of the thirty-six states in Nigeria. It is provided for under Section 255 of the 1999 Constitution at least one Judge of the court. The Federal High Court has a division in each of the thirty-six states in Nigeria. It is provided for under Section 255 of the 1999 Constitution at least one Judge of the court. The Federal High Court has a division in each of the National Assembly. of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). Section 255 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides for a High Court in each of the states in Nigeria and in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides for a High Court in each of the states in Nigeria and in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides for a High Court in each of the states in Nigeria and in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides for a High Court in each of the states in Nigeria and in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). jurisdiction over decisions of Customary Courts, Magistrate courts etc. Each of the State High Court is headed by a Chief JudgeIn the case of the High Court of coordinate jurisdiction with the Federal High Court and the National Industrial Court. NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT It is provided for under Section 254A of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigerian courts. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all trade disputes, labour practices, matters related to the Factory Law, Trade Disputes Law, Trade Union Law, Workers Compensation Law. The Court also accept appeals from industrial arbitration panels and all other employment so far is subject to appeals only if certain conditions are met. At present, it is possible to appeal to the Court of Appeal with permission. It is composed of the President of the National Industrial Court and is divided into multiple judicial departments for administrative convenience. It is located in some states in Nigeria THE SHARIA COURT OF APPEALIt is provided for under Section 277 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federa Republic of Nigeria (as amended). The Sharia Court of Appeal is a Court of Appeal is a Court of Appeal recognized by the Nigerian governmentThe Court reviews cases involving Sharia law, especially in the northern regions of the country. It is headed by a Grand Kadi and contains a number of Kadis THE CUSTOMARY COURT OF APPEALIt is provided for under Section 280 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). The customary appeal court has no original jurisdiction is only an appeal court than a customary court or a local court. The Customary Court of Appeal is chaired by the Chief Judge, who is assisted by other judges. It is chaired by a judge whose title is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. THE MAGISTRATE COURT & DISTRICT COURTIL is the only court and is assisted by other judges. The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. 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The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal Court and is assisted by other judges. The Magistrate is: President of the State / FCT Customary Appeal amended). The court is established by the House of Assembly. It functions as a court of summary judgement. I.e. proceedings in the court are summarily determined. In the Northern part of Nigeria, it is known as Magistrate Court. There, however, exist other courts in Nigeria which include: The election tribunal court is divided into two parts: Presidential Election Tribunal: this tribunal hears and determines petition arising from any presidential election. The Court of Appeal Justices are the only judges that can sit in this tribunal in accordance with the constitutional provisions. National Assembly Election Tribunal: This involves petitions for elections in the Senate and House of Representatives. Governor and Legislative Electoral Tribunal: This handle petitions for governor and state legislative elections. The elections tribunals are national electoral Tribunal: This handle petitions for governor and state legislative elections. The elections tribunals are national electoral Courts, which usually jointly constituted by the Judges of the superior courts of records and Court of Appeal Justices, in the case of the presidential election. It was established in accordance with Chapter C15 of the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal deal with corruption complaints made against civil public officeholders. The Code of Conduct Tribunal deal with corruption complaints made against civil public officeholders. members. The chairman and other members of the court are appointed by the president on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council. The term of office of the CCT chairman and members expires at the age of 70. The judgment of the Court of Appeal CONCLUSIONIn short, the advantages of the Nigerian court hierarchy include the doctrine of case law, which stipulates the judgment of the Higher Court is binding on the lower court. Therefore, if there is no hierarchy of courts, this cannot be achieved. Furthermore, considering the number of courts in Nigeria, it is worthy of note to state that there are competent judicial officers that are strategically positioned to handle and resolve disputes seamlessly in Nigeria. The major disadvantage of the Nigerian court system is that there are inadequate judges in resolving simple disputes through a court process by the litigants. By Omolade Animashaun, Associate at Resolution Law FirmEmail: info@resolutionlawng.com Understanding the intricacies of the legal framework, individuals and organizations can navigate the system effectively and ensure compliance with laws. The Nigerian legal system is based on a combination of common law, customary law, and Sharia law. Additionally, Nigeria operates a federal system in Nigeria is essential for various reasons. It enables individuals to protect their rights, seek redress in case of legal disputes, and ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Nigeria operates a federal system of government. The legal framework comprises three main sources of law: Statutory Law: This includes the Constitution, acts of the National Assembly, and laws enacted by state legislatures. The Constitution is the supreme law, guiding the governance structure and citizens rights. Customary Law: This includes the Constitution, acts of the National Assembly, and laws enacted by state legislatures. The Constitution is the supreme law, guiding the governance structure and citizens rights. matters like marriage, inheritance, and land tenure. It varies significantly across different regions. Religious Law: Predominantly Islamic law (Sharia) applied in the northern states. Sharia governs personal and civil matters for Muslims, including marriage, divorce, and inheritance. The Nigerian legal system features a hierarchical court structure: Supreme Court: The highest court in Nigeria, handling constitutional issues and final appeals. Court of Appeal: Hears appeals from lower courts: Deal with minor civil and criminal cases, as well as customary law issues. Understanding Nigerias legal system is crucial for several reasons: Protecting Rights:Knowledge of the legal system empowers citizens to protect their rights. It helps individuals and businesses comply with laws. This prevents legal disputes and penalties. Facilitating Justice: An informed public can better access and navigate the legal system. This ensures justice is more accessible and effective. Promoting Transparency: Understanding the legal framework promotes accountability and transparency: Understanding the legal framework promotes accountability and transparency. understanding commercial laws and regulations. This knowledge aids in making informed decisions and avoiding legal pitfalls. Constitutional Law:Outlines offenses and their punishments. Maintains public order and safety. Civil Law:Governs disputes between individuals and organizations. Covers areas such as contracts, property, and family law. Administrative Law:Regulates the activities of government agencies. Ensures public administration is conducted lawfully. International Law:Governs Nigerias interactions with other nations and international bodies Includes treaties, conventions, and agreements Nigerian is a party to. Understanding the Nigerians can better navigate their legal landscape, and informed decision-making. By familiarizing themselves with the legal framework, Nigerians can better navigate their legal landscape, contributing to a more just and equitable society. When we talk about the historical development of the legal system in Nigeria has a rich history that dates back to pre-colonial times. Origins of the legal system in Nigeria can be traced back to customary law, which was based on the customs, traditions, and practices of various ethnic groups in the region. These customary laws governed the day-to-day interactions and disputes within communities. With the arrival of colonial powers in the 19th century, the Nigerian legal system underwent significant changes. The British colonialists introduced English common law, which became the foundation of the legal framework in Nigeria. Colonialism played a significant role in shaping the legal system in Nigeria. The imposition of English common law and other legal principles by the colonial powers led to the blending of traditional customary law with Western legal concepts. During the transition to independence in 1960, Nigeria began the process of re-evaluating its legal system to reflect its newfound status as a sovereign nation. The country gradually started to assert its legal independence and sovereign to reflect its newfound status as a sovereign nation. The country gradually started to assert its legal independence and sovereign nation. The country gradually started to assert its legal independence and sovereign nation. towards a more indigenous legal system that combined elements of customary law and English common law. Over the years, Nigeria has continued to refine and adapt its legal processes, improve access to justice, and enhance the efficiency of its judicial system. Today, the Nigerian legal system is a blend of traditional customary law, English common law, Islamic law (in the northern regions), and statutory law enacted by the Nigerian government. This hybrid system is a testament to the countrys complex and dynamic legal landscape. From its origins in customary law to the influence of colonialism and eventual transition to independence, Nigeria Understanding the structure of the Nigerian legal system is essential for comprehending how laws are made, interpreted, and enforced in the country. The Nigerian legal system operates within a federal level, the National Assembly is responsible for making laws that apply to the entire country, while the State Houses of Assembly and Local Government Councils are responsible for laws within their respective jurisdictions. The Nigerian legal system follows the principle of the separation of powers, which divides authority between the federal and state governments. The Constitution specifies the powers of each level of government with the federal government having exclusive jurisdiction over certain areas such as defense, foreign affairs, and currency, while the states have authority over issues like health, education, and agriculture. The judiciary plays a crucial role in interpreting and applying the law in the Nigerian legal system. The courts have the power to interpret legislation, resolve disputes, and ensure that laws are upheld. The judiciary acts as a check on the executive and legislative branches to ensure that their actions are in accordance with the law. Furthermore, the judiciary serves as a protector of individual rights by adjudicating disputes and holding both individuals and government accountable for their actions. Generally, the Nigerian legal system is structured to ensure a balance of power between the three tiers of government and protect the rights of individuals through the judiciary. Read: Criminal Law in Nigeria, the Constitution reigns supreme, serving as the highest law of the land. Enacted in 1999, it outlines the structure of government, fundamental rights, and the judiciarys powers. Legislation originates from the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. These legislations. The Nigerian legal system operates on the doctrine of precedent. Court decisions establish legal principles. Precedents set by higher courts serve as binding authority. This ensures consistency and predictability in judicial rulings. The judiciary comprises the Supreme Court serves as the final arbiter, resolving disputes of national importance. It ensures uniformity in legal interpretation. Customary law coexists alongside statutory and common law. Particularly in matters of personal and family law. Customary courts handle disputes based on indigenous customs and traditions. Subject to statutory regulation. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms offer efficient means of resolving conflicts. These include arbitration and mediation. They promote timely resolution and reduce the burden on the formal justice system. Legal education and professional training are integral. Nigerian law schools provide comprehensive legal education. They ensure practitioners possess necessary knowledge and skills. The legal professional training are integral. encompasses barristers and solicitors. Barristers represent clients in court. Solicitors provide legal advice and draft documents. The Nigerian Bar Association regulates practitioners conduct and ethics. Ensuring adherence to professional standards. Legal reform initiatives aim to enhance access to justice. Streamline court procedures and strengthen legal institutions. Efforts to modernize and digitize court processes facilitate efficiency and transparency. Challenges persist, including delays, corruption, and inadequate access to legal reform and capacity building. Therefore, the Nigerian legal system, anchored by the Constitution, encompasses diverse laws, institutions, and practices. Legislation, judicial precedents, and customary norms collectively shape legal outcomes. Read: Understanding Nigerian Constitutional Law Lawyers play a crucial role in representing clients in the Nigerian legal system. They are responsible for advocating on behalf of their clients, whether in court or during negotiations. In order to practice law in Nigeria, individuals must meet certain requirements. These typically include obtaining a law degree from a recognized university, completing the Nigerian Law School program, and passing the Bar exam. Legal education and training are essential for aspiring lawyers in Nigeria. These programs help individuals develop the necessary skills and knowledge to practice law effectively. Additionally, ongoing training is important for lawyers to stay updated on changes in the legal system and continuously improve their abilities. In Nigeria, there are two separate court systems the civil court system and the criminal court system. The civil court system handles disputes between individuals or organizations, while the appropriate court. The process may vary depending on whether it is a civil or cases involving criminal court system deals with cases involving criminal offenses. Initiating legal action in Nigeria typically involves filing a complaint or petition with the appropriate court. criminal case. In civil cases, the plaintiff files a lawsuit against the defendant, while in criminal cases in Nigeria, defendants have certain rights that are constitutionally protected. These right to legal representation, the right to a fair trial, the right to remain silent, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. Defendants also have the right to appeal a conviction. Overall, the Nigerian legal system is designed to ensure justice and fairness for all parties involved in legal system is designed to ensure justice and fairness for all parties involved in legal system. in Nigeria. Read: Roles and Responsibilities of Nigerian Lawyers Get personalized mentorship consulting thats tailored to your unique path. Our expert advice is actionable and exclusive. Get Started Corruption within the Nigerian judiciary taints its reputation and undermines trust in justice. Bribery, extortion, and favoritism plague courtrooms, compromising fairness. Inadequate remuneration for judicial officers breeds susceptibility to corrupt practices. Low salaries create opportunities for bribery and compromise judicial integrity. Lack of accountability mechanisms are often weak or nonexistent. Iudicial appointments sometimes suffer from political interference, compromising independence. These appointments should be based on merit and integrity, not political patronage. Public confidence in the judiciary erodes when corruption allegations surface. Perceptions of bias and unfairness erode trust in the legal system. Delays in resolving legal disputes frustrate litigants and impede access to justice for many. Cases linger for years due to backlog and inefficient staffing levels strain the already overwhelmed judiciary, exacerbating delays. Judges and court personnel face overwhelming workloads, impacting the quality of justice. Lack of accountability mechanisms allows corruption to thrive within the judiciary. Transparency and oversight mechanisms are often weak or nonexistent. Civil society can compel authorities to address systemic issues. Inadequate funding and resources cripple the legal systems ability to function effectively. Courts suffer from a lack of basic infrastructure, hindering operations. Inadequate remuneration for judicial officers breeds susceptibility to corrupt practices. Low salaries create opportunities for bribery and compromise judicial integrity. Increased funding and resources are essential to alleviate the strain on the legal system. Investments in infrastructure, technology, and personnel can enhance efficiency. Collaboration between government, civil society, and international partners is vital. Reforming the Nigerian legal system requires sustained commitment and dedication. It is imperative to uphold the rule of law and protect the integrity of the judiciary. Only through concerted action can Nigeria build a fair and effective legal system. As we conclude our examination of the Nigerian legal system, it becomes evident that challenges persist. Corruption within the judiciary tarnishes its credibility, delays in dispute resolution hinder access to justice, and inadequate funding and resources hamper its effectiveness. Recapping the key points discussed, corruption undermines trust in the judiciary, eroding public confidence. Delays in resolving legal disputes exacerbate the burdens faced by litigants and impede the timely delivery of justice. Additionally, the lack of sufficient funding and resources stifles the systems capacity to function efficiently impacting its ability to serve the populace effectively. The importance of improving the Nigerian legal system cannot be overstated. A fair and just society hinges upon the integrity of its legal institutions. By addressing corruption, streamlining processes, and bolstering resources, Nigeria can ensure equitable access to justice for all its citizens. Let us unite in the pursuit of a legal framework that upholds the principles of fairness, equality, and accountability. Introduction The legal profession in Nigeria plays a crucial role in upholding justice and maintaining societal order. Lawyers Introduction The Nigerian legal system operates under a framework that combines common law, statutory law, and customary law. Introduction Nigerian Constitutional Law forms the foundation of the countrys legal system. It outlines the structure and powers The hierarchy of courts in Nigerian explains how courts are organised, arranged and structured at different levels. Its designed to ensure justice is served and allows for appeals to higher courts decision is deemed unsatisfactory. In simple terms, the court hierarchy in Nigeria refers to the ranking of courts based on their authority and jurisdiction. Higher courts have more power to decide cases, and their judgments are binding on lower courts. For instance, if a lower courts ruling doesnt seem fair, the aggreed party can appeal to a higher court for a review. This system is essential to maintain order and fairness in the legal process. Section 6 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) clearly outlines that the judicial powers of the federation shall be vested in the courts. Importantly, a court must have jurisdiction to hear a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Without proper jurisdiction, a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction simply means the authority of court must be properly constituted. The subject matter must fall within the courts authority. The case must follow due process of law and fulfil all conditions. If any of these conditions are missing, the courts in Nigeria, the judiciary is organised into two broad categories; Superior Courts of Record and Inferior Courts. Each plays a distinct role within the legal framework, operating at different levels of authority within the judicial hierarchy. Superior Courts of RecordThese courts are established under section 5 of the Constitution of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and possess extensive jurisdiction. They deal with significant matters of law, and their judgments are often binding on inferior courts. These include: Supreme Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of a State Customary Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of a State Customary Court of Appeal of a State Customary Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of a State Customary Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja Customary State, Such other courts as may be authorised by law to exercise jurisdiction on matters with respect to which a House of Assembly may make laws. a) Supreme CourtThe Supreme Court of Nigeria, established under Section 230 of the 1999 Constitution, is the highest in the land. It is the final arbiter of legal disputes and holds the ultimate authority in judicial matters. The Supreme Court is composed of the National Assembly. The Supreme Court is composed of the Ultimate authority in judicial matters. The Supreme Court is composed of the Ultimate authority in judicial matters. Court has both original and appellate jurisdiction. Supreme Court have original jurisdiction in the following instances: Federal Government vs State Government vs Sta appellate jurisdiction: It supervises decisions of the Court of Appeal and other lower courts. It reviews appeals on civil, criminal, and constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended). The Court of Appeal is a court of appellate jurisdiction with limited original jurisdiction in election petition cases. This court has exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether: Any person has been validly elected to the office of the President or Vice-President or Vi ceased or The office of President or Vice-President or Vice-President has become vacant. In its appellate jurisdiction, the court of Appeal of the FCT the Customary Court of Appeal of Federal Capital Territorythe Customary Court of Appeal of a StateA court of Appeal lies as the right to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Federal High Court.C) Federal High Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Federal High Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Federal High Court of Appeal from the StateA court o Constitution. The Federal High Court by virtue of section 251, has exclusive jurisdiction in civic causes and matters: Relating to the revenue of the Federation in which the said Government, its organs or a person suing or being sued on its behalf is a party. Connected with or pertaining to the taxation of companies and other bodies established or carrying on business in Nigeria and all other persons subject to Federation taxation. In respect of treason, treasonable felony and allied offences. Diplomatic, consular and trade representation and trade representation and trade representation of the Federation taxation. In respect of treason, treasonable felony and allied offences. Diplomatic, consular and trade representation Federal Capital Territory, Abuja The High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja was introduced under the 1989 Constitution (as amended). This court comprises: A Chief Judge. Such other number of Judges as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly. The High Court of the FCT has broad jurisdiction over both civil and criminal matters, making it a critical component of Nigerias judicial system. The court handles disputes concerning: Cases where the existence, scope, or enforcement of a legal right, power, or duty is in question. Issues involving privileges, interests, or obligations under civil law. Cases involving penalties, punishments, or liabilities for crimes committed by individuals. Matters relating to forfeiture of assets or imposition of penalties for violations of the Federation. Cases where the existence, scope, or enforcement of a legal right, power, or duty is in question. Issues involving privileges, interests, or obligations under civil law. Cases involving penalties for violations of the law, etcThis jurisdiction includes original, appellate and supervisory functions. Addendum Sharia Court of Appeal of a State established under section 275 of the constitution of Nigeria. This court has appellate jurisdiction and supervisory jurisdiction in civil proceedings involving questions of Islamic Personal law that its competent to decide. Customary Court of Appeal of a State is provided for under section 280 of the Constitution. This court exercises appellate and supervisory jurisdiction in civil proceedings involving questions of customary law. Inferior Courts These include: Magistrate courts Tribunals National Industrial Court Martial, etc. (A) Magistrate courts These include: Magistrate courts Tribunals National Industrial Court Martial, etc. (A) Magistrate courts Tribunals National Industrial Court Martial, etc. (A) Magistrate courts Tribunals National Industrial Court Martial, etc. (A) Magistrate courts Tribunals National Industrial Court Martial, etc. (A) Magistrate Court Ma courts Magistrate Courts are inferior courts, and they dont qualify for records. Each state of the Federation has its own magistrates Courts Law in the Southern States and the District Courts Law in the Northern States. Magistrates Courts, like the superior courts administer both the common law and equity and have the power to grant all legal and equitable remedies. They are enjoined to observe and enforce the observance of every native law and custom that is not repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience and not incompatible with any local statute. B) Juvenile courts Juvenile courts also known as Family Courts are special courts established for the trial and welfare of children and young persons. These courts were first established under the age of 17. Today, the courts exist in different states.C) National Industrial courtThe National Industrial Court is established under section 20 of the Trade Disputes Act for the settlement of trade disputes and To determine questions as to any collective agreement, any award made by an arbitration tribunal or by the court, and the terms of settlement of any trade dispute.D) Courts MartialThe Armed Forces Act provides for various offences, the punishment thereof and the mode of trial. One of the special courts for the trial of persons of the more serious offences in the armed forces is the court-martial. This was introduced along with military law in Nigeria. The composition, jurisdiction and powers of courts martial in the Armed Force are now provided for jointly in the Armed Force Decree. The Decree recognises two types of courts martial with different jurisdictions: The general court martial consists of president and not less than four members, a waiting member, a liaison officer and a Judge Advocate; and The special court martial consists of a general court martial extends to the trial of persons who are subject to service law under the Decree for an offence triable by a court martial or who by law of war is subject to trial by a military tribunals. Tribunals are an integral part of the entire adjudicatory system. Created by stature; they serve to complement the traditional court system by exercising judicial or quasijudicial functions. Tribunals can settle disputes between parties without them going to court. Conclusion The advantages of the Nigerian court hierarchy include the doctrine of case law, which stipulates the judgment of the Higher Court is binding on the lower court. Therefore, if there is no hierarchy of courts, this cannot be achieved. The major disadvantage of the Nigerian court system is that there are inadequate Judges in each court system, and the judges are thereby overwhelmed with a plethora of cases which causes protracted delays in resolving simple disputes through a court process by the litigants. I hope you found my article on the Hierarchy of Courts in Nigeria helpful.

Nigerian court cases. What is the judiciary in nigeria. Nigerian court. Nigeria court. How many types of court do we have in nigeria.

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