



WIPO National Intellectual Property Essay Competition Report

August, 2020

The *WIPO National Intellectual Property Essay Competition* was launched by the WIPO Nigeria Office (WNO) on April 26, 2020, as part of efforts to celebrate the World IP Day. With a key objective of promoting awareness, research and learning in the field of intellectual property, the competition was made open to all students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Students were required to submit an essay of 1500 words addressing the theme, “Making Innovation work for a Green Future in Nigeria”.

The competition garnered extensive interest, and by the final submission deadline of June 5, the WNO had received 262 entries.¹ These entries emerged from a total of 59 tertiary institutions across Nigeria and 51 distinct disciplines. They emanated from both undergraduate and graduate students studying at universities (mostly), polytechnics, colleges of education and vocational institutions, such as the Nigerian Law School.²

To assist with the planning and coordination of the competition, the WNO set up a planning committee comprised of IP practitioners and students. The members of this committee were:

- a. Ms. Tolu Olaloye, senior associate, Jackson, Etti & Edu
- b. Mr. Moses Olanrewaju, LLB student, University of Ibadan.
- c. Ms. Victoria Onyeagbako, LLM student in Intellectual Property Law, Nottingham Trent University
- d. Mr. Damola Adediji, Associate, Olaniwun Ajayi LP.

¹ The deadline for submissions was extended from May 26 to June 5 due to a clarification issued on the eligibility of students of vocational training institutions to participate in the competition. A total of 207 entries were received on the original deadline of May 26.

² The institutional affiliation of all contestants was verified by requesting the submission of their student identity cards.

Assessment of Entries

The WNO appointed a panel of 15 expert judges to assess the entries. The members of this panel of judges included academics, policy stakeholders, government officials, WIPO officials, industry practitioners, and emerging leaders in the IP field in Nigeria. The judges for the competition were:

- a. Dr. Muhammad Murtala Aminu, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS) and Secretary, Nigeria Law Reform Commission;
- b. Dr. Desmond Oriakhogba, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Benin;
- c. Prof. Ruth Okediji, Jeremiah Smith. Jr, Professor of Law, and Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School;
- d. Prof. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, Professor of Law, and Director General, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS);
- e. Ms. Stella Ezenduka, Registrar, Patents and Designs Registry;
- f. Mr. Tunde Mukaila Mustapha, Charge D’Affaires, Nigerian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- g. Engr. Dr. Umar Buba Bindir, Grand Mofti of Adamawa Emirate, and former Director General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP);
- h. Ms. Toyosi Alabi, Partner, Entertainment, Leisure and Media Practice, and Intellectual Property Practice, Olaniwun Ajayi LP;
- i. Ms. Uzoamaka Emerole, Senior Associate, Intellectual Property Law, ACAS-Law;
- j. Ms. Chinweizu Ogban, Senior Associate, Intellectual Property Law, Jackson, Etti & Edu;
- k. Prof. Bankole Sodipo, Professor of Law, and Managing Partner, GO Sodipo & Co;
- l. Ms. Altayework Tedla Desta, Head, WIPO Distance Learning Program, Geneva;
- m. Ms. Martha Chikowore, Counsellor, WIPO Academic Institutions and Executive Program, Geneva;
- n. Ms. Faith Aboyeji, Doctoral Candidate in Intellectual Property Law, RMIT, Australia; and
- o. Mr. Senator Ihenyen, Lead Partner, Infusion Lawyers.

Committee Review

An initial preliminary review of the 262 entries was carried out by the planning committee, largely focused on form, and aimed at ensuring compliance of submissions received with the stated rules of the competition. This review resulted in the disqualification of 37 entries to the competition. A total of 225 valid entries were therefore maintained for transmission to the panel of judges for assessment. The studentship of contestants was verified through their student identity cards.

At this stage, all entries were completely anonymized and assigned unique competition identification numbers by the WNO for the assessment process. These serial competition identification numbers were assigned in accordance with the submission timestamp of each entry.

Judges' Assessment

The panel of judges followed a two-step process in assessing the entries:

Step one

For the first round of assessment, each judge was assigned 15 serial anonymous entries, and tasked with the responsibility of identifying the top two entries from their group. The assessment was based on a pre-determined set of criteria, which each judge was required to use in assessing each entry. In keeping with the competition's objectives, the assessment criteria was as follows:

- Author's imagination and originality (20)
- Relevance of submitted essay to broader national, regional, and/or international developments towards a green future (20)
- Author's demonstrated understanding of the field of IP, and ability to link concepts and/or issues associated with IP, to ideas or suggestions expressed in essay (20)
- Author's grammatical accuracy, clarity of expression, flow, and thought, as well as integrity of essay's structural layout (20)
- Practicability and relevance of author's policy suggestions and/or pathways to Nigeria (20)

At the conclusion of the first review, a total of 30 finalist essays emerged comprising the top two entries from each judge. It is worth noting that even at this stage, a number of judges indicated the extreme difficulty in selecting two given the quality in a number of their entries. The WNO therefore devised an opportunity for judges to indicate exceptional entries that still fell short of being shortlisted to the finalist cohort. These authors as well as the finalists will receive official letters of acknowledgement and commendation from the WNO. The thirty finalists are indicated below:

1	Ngozi A Umeodinka	Lagos State University	500 level	Law
2	Prosper Mayor	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 level	Law
2	Ezechi Jessica	University of Lagos, Lagos	300 level	Law
1	Sina Akinmusire	Lagos State University	400 level	Law
1	Kelechi Nwodo	University of Benin	200 level	Law
2	Susan C Omeh	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 level	Law
1	Oghosa Eghe-Abe	Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti	400 level	Law
2	Oluebube Nsofor	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	400 level	Law
2	Asudemade Habeeb	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	500 level	Law
1	Wayo F Aondongu	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	300 level	Law
2	Lanre Balogun	Lagos State University, Ojo	300 level	Law
1	Blessing Nwankwo	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	300 level	Law
1	Obarombi Joshua	University of Ibadan	600 level	Medicine and Surgery
2	Eunice Ayangunna	University of Ibadan	400 level	Law
2	Rafiat Shittu	University of Lagos	500 level	Law
1	Abasiakara Edet	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 level	Law
1	Joshua Lawal	University of Ibadan	200 level	Medicine and Surgery

2	Badmus Abdurashed	University of Lagos	500 level	Law
1	Victor Fabarebo	University of Ibadan	300 level	Law
2	Chibuzor Ndubisi	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 level	Mechanical Engineering
1	Golden Eze	Abia State University	400 level	Law
2	Peter Akpejelu	Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun	500 level	Petroleum Engineering
1	Isaac Frederick	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	300 level	Medical Rehabilitation
2	Emem Inwang	University of Uyo	500 level	Mechanical Engineering
1	Adeife Omolumo	University of Lagos	500 level	Law
2	Amara Elekwa	Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti	500 level	Law
1	Ajele Oluwadamilola	Babcock University,	300 level	Law and Security Studies
2	Chantelle Chiwetalu	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 level	Law
1	Bukunmi Kolawole	University of Ibadan	500 level	Law
2	Ayomide Awoyemi	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	500 level	Law

<i>1st choice pick from first assessment</i>	<i>2nd choice pick from first assessment</i>
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Step Two

For the second assessment round, the judges were placed into five blind-groups of three judges each. Each blind group was assigned six entries from the top 30 entries. Under this second assessment phase, none of the judges (group members) was aware of the other members in their group; none of the groups was assigned an essay that any of the group members had previously assessed; and, the entries assigned to each blind group were based on an equal combination of both first and second picks from the initial review process. In other words, each group had three first choice judge picks and three second choice judge picks from the first review.

Verification of results

At the end of the second assessment process, the top pick of each group (determined based on an average of the scores assigned) made the final list of the top five entries for the essay competition. These top five entries were ranked using the average scores for a provisional list of essay competition winners. The provisional list of the top five entries as well as the accompanying five final essays were thereafter shared with all members of the panel of judges for a final review and verification of the proposed final draft list of the top five entries.

In the final meeting of the judges to review the results on July 17, 2020, a unanimous ratification of the final results was made. Given the intention by the WNO to announce 15 winners, the first and second runners up from each blind group (again, based on the average of each group) were included in the final list. It is worth reiterating that the judges concluded their assignments

including their final determinations without knowing the identities nor affiliations whatsoever of the winners.

The final winners list is below:

Susan C Omeh	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 L	Law
Chantelle Chiwetalu	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 L	Law
Olanrewaju Toheeb Balogun	Lagos State University, Ojo	300 L	Law
Rotimi F Owolabi	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	500 L	Law
Mr. Chibuzor Paul Ndubisi	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 L	Mechanical Engineering
Mr. Habeebullah Asudemade	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	500 L	Law
Ms. Blessing Anurika Nwankwo	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	300 L	Law
Ms. Rafiat Temitura Shittu	University of Lagos, Lagos	500 L	Law
Mr. Abasi-Akara Edet	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	500 L	Law
Mr. Victor Fabarebo	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	300 L	Law
Ms. Oghosa Agnes Eghe-Abe	Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti	400 L	Law
Ms. Ngozi Agatha Umeodinka	Lagos State University, Ojo	500 L	Law
Ms. Sina Victor Akinmusire	Lagos State University, Ojo	400 L	Law
Ms. Adeife Adebare Omolumo	University of Lagos, Lagos	500 L	Law
Ms. Amarachukwu Elekwa	Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti	500 L	Law

Winners Announcement

The winners were announced on July 28, 2020 by the Charge D’Affaires, Nigerian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, Mr. Tunde Mustapha at the a webinar [“Opportunities for Improved Access to Intellectual Property Education and Awareness in Nigeria’s Higher Institutions”](#). The well-attended webinar was organized by the WNO to provide an opportunity to reflect on some of the key learning objectives behind the competition, as well as engage on questions aimed at repositioning higher institutions for increased engagement with the field of intellectual property. The speakers at the webinar discussed the state of IP education in Nigeria and highlighted the importance of strengthening interdisciplinary approaches towards the teaching and engagement with IP in Nigerian institutions. Furthermore, panelists discussed the important role of industry in tailoring IP learning strategies to the prevailing societal needs, and

emphasized on the importance of student led associations, such as IP clubs, in improving the student learning and engagement experience with the field of IP. Panelists additionally discussed the importance of international institutional partnerships and collaborations towards improving IP learning opportunities for students. Finally, a spotlight was placed on some of the educational and learning opportunities for students through the WIPO Academy. The speakers at this webinar, who were also members of the panel of judges, were:

- a. Engr. (Dr.) Umar Buba Bindir, Grand Mofti Adamawa Emirate, and former Director General, NOTAP
- b. Prof. Ruth Okediji, Jeremiah Smith. Jr, Professor of Law, and Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School.
- c. Ms. Martha Chikowore, Counsellor, WIPO Academic Institutions and Executive Program
- d. Dr. Desmond Oriakhogba, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Benin
- e. Ms. Toyosi Alabi, Partner, Olaniwun Ajayi
- f. Ms. Faith Aboyeji, Doctoral Candidate in Intellectual Property, RMIT

Prizes

In line with the mandate of the WNO, the 15 winners from the competition will all benefit from competition prizes primarily focused on capacity building and professional development. Each of the 15 winners will received:

- a WIPO Certificate of Achievement signed by the WIPO Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry
- a WIPO Academy scholarship to undertake any of the WIPO Distance Learning Courses of their choosing
- an invitation to participate in an IP study tour organized by the WIPO Nigeria Office;
- an intellectual property-based internship placement with a law firm in Nigeria (for the law winners), or a Young Innovation Leadership Scholar Award (YIL) (for the non-law winner); and
- a free executive mentoring session with members of the judging panel, led by Prof. Okediji. This mentoring will also be extended to the finalists, and to exceptional participants from the competition.

The first and second runners up will additionally each receive a WIPO Academy scholarship to participate in the WIPO Summer School in South Africa, while the overall competition winner, in addition to having her essay published in the WIPO Magazine will also receive a scholarship to participate in the WIPO Academy's blended learning Advanced International Certificate Course on Intellectual Property Asset Management (AICC).

Appreciation

The WIPO Nigeria Office wishes to thank all participants for elevating the standards of the competition through their brilliant essays. The WNO also wishes to appreciate the excellent support received in the planning and execution of this competition from the members of the Planning Committee, and the members of the Panel of Judges. Particular thanks to the Office of

the Director General for WIPO Certificates provided to competition winners; to the [WIPO Academy](#) for the learning prizes offered through the distance-learning, summer school as well as blended learning scholarship opportunities for the winners; and, to the WIPO publications team for engaging the winning essay for publication in the WIPO Magazine. Special gratitude is also extended to law firms that have graciously agreed to offer intellectual property-based internship learning opportunities to the winners of the essay competition.

- [Banwo & Ighodalo](#)
- [Aluko & Oyebo](#)
- [Adepetun Caxton-Martins, Agbor & Segun \(ACAS-Law\)](#)
- [Stillwaters Law Firm](#)
- [Olajide Oyewole LLP \(A member of DLA Piper Africa\)](#)
- [The New Practice \(TNP\)](#)
- [Jackson, Etti & Edu](#)
- [O.Kayode & Co.](#)
- [G.O. Sodipo & Co.](#)
- [Infusion Lawyers](#)
- [Aelex](#)
- [G. Elias & Co.](#)
- [Olaniwun Ajayi LP](#)

Also, special thanks to the [Young Innovation Leaders Fellowship](#) for offering a Young Innovation Leadership (YIL) Scholar Award to the non-law winner.

Quotes

“The WIPO National Intellectual Property Essay Competition is an excellent offering providing students in Nigeria with a unique opportunity to also recognise the value of intellectual property in this regard and its significance to the future of our economy”.

- *Ms. Uzoamaka Emerole, Senior Associate, ACAS-Law. Member, Panel of Judges.*

“I am delighted to be part of this WIPO essay competition in Nigeria. I believe IP should be taken to the youths who are the purveyors of green innovation in Nigeria. This essay competition is one of the ways to achieve this”.

- *Mr. Tunde Mustapha, Charge D’Affaires, Nigerian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva. Member, Panel of Judges.*

“An industry is only as strong as its base. What WIPO has provided can be seen as a competition but can also be seen on a broadened horizon as a unique opportunity for young minds to engage topical issues in the IP space”.

- *Ms. Chinwe Ogban, Senior Associate, Jackson, Etti & Edu. Member, Panel of Judges.*

“The importance of the WIPO National Essay Competition cannot be overemphasized. It is an intellectual harvest which helps to harness the prowess of the participants, and enriches the current IP rights regime”.

- Prof. Bankole Sodipo, Professor of Law, and Managing Partner, G.O Sodipo & Co. Member, Panel of Judges.

“[This essay competition] is a rare opportunity for Nigerian students to strengthen their IP knowledge-base and discover the radiance in the career path offered by the global IP system”.

- Dr. Desmond Oriakhogba, Lecturer, University of Benin. Member, Panel of Judges

“This initiative will not only help boost IP awareness amongst young people but also challenge them to think deeply about today's innovations and achieving a green future while incentivizing innovation”.

- Mr. Senator Ihenyen, Lead Partner, Infusion Lawyers. Member, Panel of Judges.

“This competition will enable them look at their society and come up with meaningful traditional lifestyles to adopt for a greener future using the instrumentality of intellectual property”.

- Dr. Murtala Aminu, Lecturer, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto & Secretary Nigeria Law Reform Commission. Member, Panel of Judges.

“The subject of Intellectual Property (IP) and its protection needs to be well grounded in most, if not all, developing countries. In Nigeria, intensive efforts, especially with the support of WIPO, are being made to domesticate the subject matter and enable the national economy to amplify and solve the myriad challenges of unemployment, poverty, wealth creation/distribution and socio-economic development. These efforts through this essay competition, along with many support packages of WIPO, are commendable and should be sustained in Nigeria”.

- Engr Umar B. Bindir PhD. The Grand Mufti, Adamawa Emirate, Adamawa State, Nigeria and former Director General, NOTAP. Member, Panel of Judges.

“I am certain that this essay competition is one initiative that would encourage a deeper understanding of intellectual property amongst students and affect the next generation positively”.

- Mr. John Asein, Director-General, Nigeria Copyright Commission.