

# **Nigerian Bar Association – Section on Public Interest and Development Law (NBA-SPIDEL)**



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

### **NBA-SPIDEL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEES, TASK TEAMS, AND SPECIAL MECHANISMS**

#### **1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The Regional Representatives, Committees, Task Teams, and Special Mechanisms of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA-SPIDEL) shall serve as institutional structures for the effective implementation of SPIDEL's mandate.

All Committees, Task Teams, and Representatives shall work under the supervision of the SPIDEL Leadership and report periodically through designated channels. Reports of the activities of the committees will be presented to the SPIDEL Executive Committee.

## **PART I**

### **NBA-SPIDEL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

- A. NORTH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
- B. WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
- C. EASTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

### **Terms of Reference**

The Regional Representatives shall:

1. Serve as the official liaison between NBA-SPIDEL National Leadership and branches within their respective regions.
2. Coordinate SPIDEL activities, programmes, campaigns, and initiatives within the region.
3. Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of SPIDEL structures at branch level.
4. Mobilize participation in SPIDEL programmes, conferences, trainings, litigation initiatives, and advocacy campaigns.
5. Monitor and report public interest and development law issues arising within the region.
6. Coordinate regional stakeholder engagement with civil society organizations, government agencies, development partners, and professional bodies.
7. Submit quarterly reports on regional activities and developments.
8. Recommend emerging public interest matters for intervention by SPIDEL Committees.
9. Assist in membership growth and engagement across the region.
10. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the SPIDEL Chair or / and the SPIDEL Executive Committee.

## **PART II**

### **STATUTORY COMMITTEES**

#### **2. PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION COMMITTEE**

##### **Mandate**

To initiate, coordinate, monitor, and prosecute strategic public interest litigation on matters affecting constitutionalism, human rights, access to justice, rule of law, accountability, environmental justice, governance, and development.

##### **Terms of Reference**

The Committee shall:

1. Identify and evaluate potential public interest litigation matters.
2. Develop and implement SPIDEL's strategic litigation agenda.
3. Recommend suitable cases for intervention, amicus participation, or direct representation.
4. Coordinate legal teams handling approved matters.
5. Maintain a database of ongoing and concluded public interest litigation.
6. Collaborate with relevant institutions and partners on strategic litigation.
7. Produce periodic litigation status reports.
8. Recommend policy and law reform measures arising from litigation outcomes.
9. Undertake any other litigation-related assignments approved by SPIDEL leadership.

#### Task Teams/Sub-Committees

##### (a) Case Management Task Team

- Maintain case registers and litigation databases.
- Track court processes and compliance requirements.
- Monitor timelines and case progression.

##### (b) Drafting and Research Task Team

- Conduct legal research.
- Prepare originating processes, briefs, legal opinions, and policy papers.
- Support litigation teams with technical legal resources.

(c) Case-Specific Litigation Teams

- Handle designated cases approved by SPIDEL.
- Develop litigation strategies.
- Report progress to Committee leadership.

### **3. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Mandate**

To advance public interest and development initiatives, monitor governance systems, and promote sustainable development policies and interventions.

#### **Terms of Reference**

The Committee shall:

1. Promote development-oriented legal interventions.
2. Monitor implementation of development-related policies and laws.
3. Engage stakeholders on governance and development challenges.
4. Produce reports and recommendations on development issues.
5. Coordinate thematic task teams.
6. Develop strategic partnerships with development actors.
7. Support policy advocacy and reform initiatives on key development related issues.
8. Prepare annual development impact reports.

#### **Task Teams**

(i) SDG Compliance and Monitoring Task Team

- Monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Produce periodic compliance assessments.
- Recommend legal and policy interventions.

(ii) Integrity in Government and Professions Task Team

- Promote ethical governance and professional accountability.
- Review integrity systems and compliance mechanisms.
- Advocate transparency and anti-corruption measures.

(iii) Electoral Reform and Election Dispute Resolution Task Team

- Review electoral laws and processes.
- Monitor election dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Recommend reforms to strengthen electoral justice.

(iv) Regional, State and Local Government Task Team

- Monitor governance practices at sub-national levels.
- Promote accountability and citizen participation.
- Recommend legal reforms affecting local governance.

(v) Environment and Climate Change Task Team

- Monitor environmental governance and compliance.
- Promote climate justice and sustainability.
- Advocate environmental law reforms.

## **PART III**

### **NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEES AND MECHANISMS**

#### **4. NATIONAL LEGAL AID STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING COMMITTEE**

##### **Mandate**

To monitor implementation of national legal aid policies and strategies including the National Legal Aid Strategies.

##### **Terms of Reference**

1. Assess implementation of legal aid programmes nationwide.

2. Monitor access to justice indicators.
3. Engage relevant institutions and stakeholders.
4. Identify implementation gaps and challenges.
5. Produce monitoring and evaluation reports.
6. Recommend policy improvements.

## **5. SPIDEL DETENTION MONITORING COMMITTEE**

### **Mandate**

To advance the monitoring of detention facilities and promote compliance with constitutional and human rights standards.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Conduct detention monitoring visits and promote mechanisms for advancing independent overights of detention centres nationwide including supporting existing oversight mechanisms (including mechanisms with preventive mandate and those with investigative mandate).
2. Monitor compliance with legal safeguards.
3. Identify cases of unlawful detention and other violations.
4. Facilitate legal interventions and advocacy where necessary.
5. Engage correctional and law enforcement agencies.
6. Produce detention monitoring reports and recommendations.

## **6. PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT LAW MEDIA NETWORK (NBA-SPIDEL MEDIA NETWORK)**

### **Mandate**

To enhance public awareness, media engagement, visibility of SPIDEL activities, and increase in the frequency and media reportage on public interests and related issues.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Coordinate media engagement and publicity.
2. Promote SPIDEL programmes and interventions.
3. Develop public education campaigns.
4. Support strategic communications and advocacy.
5. Maintain relationships with media organizations.
6. Produce media facts sheets, and other content and public information materials to promote public interest and development law and related issues.
7. Coordinate the NBA - SPIDEL Media Exhibitions and Media Awards.

## **7. PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT LAW RESEARCH AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Mandate**

To undertake research and develop evidence-based policy recommendations.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Conduct legal and policy research.
2. Produce position papers and policy briefs.
3. Support SPIDEL advocacy initiatives with research.
4. Monitor emerging legal and development trends.
5. Develop reform proposals and recommendations.
6. Collaborate with academic and research institutions.

## **8. CAPACITY BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND MENTORING COMMITTEE**

## **Mandate**

To strengthen professional development, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and institutional learning within SPIDEL.

## **Terms of Reference**

1. Design and implement capacity-building programmes.
2. Develop knowledge management systems.
3. Coordinate mentorship initiatives.
4. Facilitate continuing legal education activities for SPIDEL members
5. Promote scholarship, innovation, and professional excellence.
6. Support publication and dissemination of SPIDEL resources.

## **Task Teams**

### **(i) NBA-SPIDEL Journal Task Team**

- Coordinate publication of the SPIDEL Journal.
- Manage editorial processes and peer review.
- Solicit and evaluate submissions.

### **(ii) NBA-SPIDEL Essays, Poetry and Spoken Word Annual Competition Assessment & Compilation Task Team/Panel**

- Review /Update the competition guidelines.
- Assess submissions.
- Compile and publish winning entries.

### **(iii) SPIDEL Training and Capacity Building Task Team**

- Design virtual and physical training programmes and workshops. Some of these to be undertaken in collaboration with respective SPIDEL committees.

- Coordinate resource persons and facilitators.
- Evaluate programme impact.

**(iv) NBA-SPIDEL Law Students and Young Lawyers Mentorship Task Team**

- Design and implement outreach programmes for law students including those in the law schools to sensitize them on public interest and development law, and promote interest in the subject matter.
- Develop mentorship frameworks and encourage effective mentoring support for students and young lawyers on public interest and development law.
- Monitor mentorship outcomes.

**9. PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT LAW LEGISLATIVE REFORMS / LEGISLATIVE LIASON COMMITTEE (SPIDEL LEGISLATIVE REFORMS COMMITTEE)**

**Mandate**

To promote legislative reforms that advance public interest and development law objectives.

**Terms of Reference**

1. Review existing legislation and identify reform needs co-opting subject experts.
2. Draft legislative proposals and amendment bills co-opting subject experts.
3. Engage the National Assembly, State Houses of Assembly, and relevant legislative institutions.
4. Track legislative developments affecting SPIDEL mandates.
5. Coordinate legislative advocacy initiatives.
6. Prepare memoranda for public hearings and stakeholder consultations in coordination with other SPIDEL committee(s) relevant to the subject of focus to the public hearing and the leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA).

7. Serve as SPIDEL's liaison with legislative bodies.
8. Produce periodic legislative reform reports and proposals for submission to the leadership of SPIDEL and NBA (National) for necessary actions.

## **REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. All Committees, Task Teams, and Regional Representatives shall submit quarterly reports to the NBA - SPIDEL Executive Committee.
2. Annual work plans shall be developed and approved each service year. For the new committees, the work plans shall be developed and submitted after their inauguration.
3. Committees may co-opt subject-matter experts with the approval of the NBA-SPIDEL Chair.
4. Committees shall hold meetings as necessary for the discharge of their responsibilities.
5. The Committee leadership shall provide periodic performance updates.
6. The Committee shall in consultation with the leadership of SPIDEL source funding and other support for the implementation of the Committee's activities.
7. The SPIDEL Chair and/or the SPIDEL Executive Committee may issue supplementary guidelines as may be necessary for effective implementation of these Terms of Reference.



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