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## **NIALS COLLABORATES WITH NJI TO HOLD WORKSHOP FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS ON THE IMPLEMENTAION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (ACJA) 2015**

NIALS | May 23 - 24, 2018

One of the grant activities of NIALS includes the institutionalization of training for judicial officers on the ACJA 2015. Towards this end NIALS in partnership with the National Judicial Institute (NJI) developed a Workshop Manual for judicial officers workshops the first of which took place between May 23 and 24 2018 at the premises of the NJI. The Opening Ceremony of the workshop was presided over by the Chief Justice of Nigeria Hon Mr. Justice Walter Onnoghen FNIALS GCON. Other dignitaries in attendance includes, the Administrator of the NJI, Hon Justice R. Bozimo, the Chief Judge of the FCT, Hon Mr. Justice Ishaq Bello, the Director Africa Office of the MacArthur Foundation, Dr Kole Shettima and Hon Justice Tsoho of the federal High Court. During the two day workshop Judges of the Federal Capital Territory and the Federal High Court received on practical aspects of implementing the ACJA with the aim of advancing accountability and anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria.

The Administrator of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice R.I. Bozimo in her welcome address noted the ACJA which was signed into law in 2015 had launched a significant number of innovations in the evolution of criminal procedure law in the country and based on this premise, she assured the NJI's devotion to the realization of its statutory mandate and uniformity in all states in the Federation.

Highlighting the purpose and objective of the ACJA, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Walter Samuel Onnoghen GCON in his keynote address, acknowledged the paradigm shift from the punitive approach of the criminal justice system of the country to one of restoration thereby putting at the forefront, human dignity and the needs of the society. Noting that there were a number of challenges with regards to the application, implementation, compliance and

funding of the ACJA, he commended the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) and the National Judicial Institute (NJI) for recognizing the need for a workshop such as this to improve and raise the standards of the judiciary and the administration of justice in Nigeria.



At the workshop, a comprehensive training manual developed by NIALS was launched covering all relevant areas of the ACJA which served as a guideline for facilitating the two day series with Five (5) sessions comprised of two paper discussions in each session.

The first session, **“OVERVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 2015”** includes presentation of Two (2) papers titled *“Understanding The ACJA, 2015”* and *“How The ACJA 2015 Impacts Corruption Proceedings”* by Prof. Adedeji Adekunle, SAN and Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye , Executive Secretary, Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption(PACAC) respectively.

The second session was themed **“CASE MANAGEMENT AND DISCLOSURE PROTOCOLS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 2015”** with Mr Rotimi Jacobs, SAN addressing and identifying the concept of *“Case Management In Anti-Corruption Cases Under The Administration Of Criminal Justice Act, 2015”*, followed by Prof. Yemi Akinseye George, SAN paper presentation on *“Disclosure Protocols, Limits And The Interest Of The Defence Under The ACJA, 2015 And Practices Directions”* where he identified limits for the prosecution where the need to protect a witness necessitates the non-disclosure of certain details such as the names and addresses of the witness.

The second day covered three more sessions titled **“DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR DAY-TO-DAY TRIAL AND INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS UNDER THE ACJA, 2015”** in which ACJA provisions as to the day-to-day trials and interlocutory applications issues were addressed by Dr Akeem Bello and Mr. J.B Daudu, SAN(who was represented by Mr. Demwigwe, SAN); the **“EFFECTIVE PLEA BARGAIN AND CORPORATE CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN NIGERIA** with an analysis and overview presentation by Mr Austin Emumejakpor and Mr Chino Obiagwu, National Coordinator, Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) with the final and fifth session **“WITNESS PROTECTION/SENTENCING AND CONSEQUENTIAL ORDERS UNDER THE ACJA, 2015**, which was chaired by Hon. Justice Amina Augie.

The interactive periods at the end of each session gave room for questions and observations from participants and facilitators of the workshop which birthed several recommendations as to the best course of action towards the effective and efficient implementation of the ACJA in the country.