

# **COMPANY LAW AND PRACTICE CURRICULUM AND TEACHING METHODOLOGY AT THE NIGERIAN LAW SCHOOL**

*BY:*  
*TAHIR MAMMAN*

## **1. BACKGROUND:**

**Company Law and Practice (CL&P)** is one of the six (6) vocational courses taught under the Bar Part 2 programme prescribed by the Council of Legal Education which every aspirant to the Nigerian Bar must take and pass before admission to the Nigerian Bar.

## **2. SCOPE:**

Broadly, the course syllabus is made up of the following topics:

- a. Introduction, Preliminary matters on Formation of Companies;
  - b. Alien Participation; Reliefs;
  - c. Effect of Registration;
  - d. Promoters; Company Contracts; Pre-incorporation contracts;
  - e. Conversion and re-registration of Companies;
  - f. Other alterations of memorandum and Article of association;
  - g. Preliminary matters before commencement of Business
  - h. Directors
  - i. Secretary
  - j. Protection of minorities;
  - k. Company Membership and Meetings
- 
1. Company securities; Unit Trusts; Public Issue of shares
- m. Financial statements; Audit & Annual Returns
  - n. Arrangement; Reconstruction; Mergers and Take-Over
  - o. Winding Up and Company Proceedings
  - p. Partnership Agreements & Registration of Business Names
  - q. Incorporated Trustees
  - r. Agency Agreements

## **3. COURSE MATERIALS:**

The course is taught at the Nigerian Law School with the aid of the following materials:

- 1 e-Course handbook (Since January 2006) -Supplied by the School to the students at the beginning of the session.
- 2 Relevant Statute books e.g. Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), Investment and Securities Act (ISA) etc.
- 3 Any of the recommended textbooks.

## **4. TEACHING METHODOLOGY:**

This will be summarized under two broad headings as follows:

- a. **Pre-January 2006:** The 'lecture mode' was adopted by Lecturers in teaching the course. This method involved lecturers teaching the students and dictating notes on topics taught.
- b. **January 2006 till date:** The interactive teaching method was introduced in line with the School's new policy. Teaching aids like e-Course handbook; Multi-media projector for PowerPoint Lecture presentation; eTeaching through e-mail and internet interaction between lecturers and students were adopted to facilitate effective interactive lecture delivery.

c. **Small group Tutorials:** Students are usually distributed into six (6) functional small groups to afford them opportunity for closer interaction with their lecturers. It also allows simulation of live cases through creation of scenario by lecturers for the operation of modified legal clinics.

d. **Special Lectures:** Selected experts are invited each academic session to deliver special lecture on topical issues relating to the course. An example of this is what has now become the annual lecture delivered by the Director -General, Corporate Affairs Commission on eRegistration of Companies in Nigeria.

e. **Excursion to Selected Corporate Registries:** Although the constrain of time has prevented this in recent years, Students were in the past, taken on excursion to selected corporate registries, such as the CAC, to have first hand experience on how they function. This is in addition to the exposure of the students to corporate legal practice through Chambers and Law Office Attachment programmes.