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**REPORT ON SIWES PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN BY OBASA
KEHINDE AT THE UPPER AREA COURT 1, ILORIN, KWARA
STATE.**

FROM THE 22ND OF JULY TO THE 27TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
MY ACTIVITIES IN COURT	3
ABOUT THE INSTITUTION	3
COURT OFFICIALS or WORKERS	3
TERMS IN COURT	4
CASES IN COURT	11
1. CIVIL CASE:	11
CRIMINAL CASE	13
OTHER TERMS IN COURT.	13
CHALLENGES	14
ACHIEVEMENT	14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to Intern at Upper Area Court 1, Ilorin, Kwara State. This experience has significantly enhanced understanding to court proceedings and honed my skills in legal research. I appreciate the guidance and support from the judges and entire court staff.

INTRODUCTION

My Internship was amazing chance to see the law in action. This report explains what I did, what I saw and what I learned. I will share my experience of what I learned and how it helped me.

I started and submit my SIWES letter on 22/07/2024. I arrived to the court at 8:00am I went to meet one the workers there that I want to apply for SIWES in Upper Area Court 1, Ilorin. Judiciary Court, Ilorin. The worker took me to Judge Abdullahi Kayode. He signed my letter and he asks me about my school, my level, my department, and also explaining all what I will be doing in court. The registrar has allocated a table and a chair for me to use during my internship. The registrar also gave me some tools I will be using in court, they are: red and blue pen, tipes, carbon paper, staple pin, stapler, stamp and pad, tag, new files, etc. She shown me civil course book, criminal course book, Islamic course book, bank course book, civil summon, criminal summon, arrest warrant, remand warrant, hearing notice, some stamps and what they are used for: Judges stamp, Registrar stamp, Original copy stamp, For service stamp, Endorsement and Returns stamps, Fill in the gap stamp.

MY ACTIVITIES IN COURT

1. Observing court proceeding
2. Helping the registrar, judge, lawyers and other court staff.
3. Filing new cases.
4. I also assist by calling cases during sittings, i.e. working as a Clerk.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

The name of the Institution is Upper Area Court 1, Judiciary Court. Located at Ahmedu Bello Way, Along Lajorin Road. Ilorin, Kwara State. There are 2 (TWO) panel. The first panel is Judge A.S Adeniyi Sunday and Judge Yunus Kayode Abdullah. The second panel is Judge Abdullameed and Judge Ejiko. The name of the second panel is UPPER AREA COURT 3, PAKE. The presiding Judge for the Court is Judge A.S Adeniyi Sunday. There is Two Registrar Mrs. Abiodun and Mrs. Mahmud for each panel. There are four (4) Clerks, One (2) Bailiff. The Court participate in case like divorce, tenancy cases, (first information report) cases from police stations, land matters or land dispute, property sharing, civil and direct complaints (criminal matters), bank orders. Court Sitting starts 10:00 am.

COURT OFFICIALS

1. JUDGE: Presides over trials, makes decisions, and ensures fairness.
2. SHERIFF: Enforces court orders, serves warrants, and maintains security.
3. BAILIFF: Maintains order in court, handles evidence, and escorts defendants.
4. CLERK OF COURT: Manages court records, files, and schedules.
5. PROSECUTOR: Represents the state or government in criminal cases.
6. PROBATION OFFICER: Supervises defendants on probation.
7. PAROLE OFFICER: Supervises released prisoners
8. REGISTRAR:

TERMS IN COURT

1. JUDGE

During my internship, I observed the vital role of judge in the administrative of justice. A judge primary responsibility is to interpret the law and ensure a fair trial. Presiding over court hearing and trials, Ensuring due process and fairness, Making ruling on evidence and objectives.

2. PLAINTIFF

The plaintiff is the individual or organization that initiated a lawsuit by filling a complaint or claim against the defendant, Initiates legal action, Bear the burden of proof. During my internship, I observed plaintiffs presenting their cases, seeking compensation for damages or harm. I noted the importance of plaintiff providing clear evidence and testimony to support their claims.

3. DEFENDANT

The defendant is the individual or organization accused of wrongdoing or harm, and is required to defend themselves against the plaintiff's claims. Has the right to counsel and May plead guilty, not guilty, or no contest.

During my internship at Court I observed defendants responding to allegations, presenting their side of the story, and defending their actions. I noted the importance of defendants' rights being protected throughout the proceedings.

4. TRIAL:

The main court proceeding to decide a case where evidence is presented to a judge or jury to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant.

TYPES OF TRIALS:

1. Criminal Trial: Defendant accused of a crime.
2. Civil Trial: Dispute between individuals or organizations.

During my internship, I observed several trials, noting the meticulous presentation of evidence and the crucial role of witnesses in determining the outcome.

5. EVIDENCE:

Evidence is information presented in court to support or disprove a fact or claim.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE:

1. Physical Evidence: Tangible objects (e.g., documents, photographs, DNA samples).
Physical Evidence can also be called Exhibit.
2. Testimonial Evidence: Witness statements (e.g., eyewitness accounts, expert testimony)
3. Documentary Evidence: Written records (e.g., contracts, medical records)
4. Digital Evidence: Electronic data (e.g., emails, social media posts)

During my internship, I observed the presentation of various types of evidence, including physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence. I noted the importance of evidence being relevant, authentic, and credible.

6. VERDICT:

A verdict is the decision made by a judge at the end of a trial, determining the outcome of the case due to Evidence presented, Testimony of witnesses, Arguments from prosecution and defence, Applicable laws and regulations

TYPES OF VERDICTS:

1. Guilty: Defendant found responsible for the crime.
2. Not Guilty: Defendant found not responsible for the crime.
3. Acquittal: Defendant found not guilty due to insufficient evidence.

During my internship, I observed the delivery of verdicts in various cases. I noted the gravity of the decision making process and the impact on individuals.

7. SUMMONS

A legal document issued by the court, requiring an individual to appear before a judge or the court.

TYPES OF SUMMON

1. Criminal Summon: Requires appearances for criminal charges
2. Civil Summon: Requires appearances for civil disputes
3. Administrative Summons: Requires appearances for administrative hearing.

HOW TO WRITE A SUMMON

- Name of the Court e.g. Upper Area Court 1, Ilorin.
- Case Number
- Plaintiff and Defendant name and address
- Charges or Claim
- Court date and time.

8. SENTENCE

This is the Punishments to someone who has been convicted of a crime. The sentence should reflect the seriousness of the crime and be proportionate to the harm done to the victim. During my internship I witness some sentence in court; Imprisonment, Fines, Community Service, Compensatory (monetary), Restraining Order etc. I learn the importance of Punishments for those that break the law.

1. Hold criminal accountable for their crime
2. It provides justice
3. Reduce Crime Rate.
4. Safeguard of Public Safety
5. Remove dangerous individual from the society.

9. APPEAL

An appeal is a request to a higher court to review and reconsider a decision made by a lower court. The goal is to overturn or modify the original ruling due to errors in law, procedure, or fact-finding.

GROUND FOR APPEAL:

1. Errors in law or procedure
2. Insufficient evidence
3. Bias or impartiality
4. Incorrect application of law
5. New evidence discovered

10. BAIL

Bail is a monetary guarantee that allows a defendant to be released from custody pending trial, ensuring they will return to court.

TYPES OF BAIL:

1. Cash Bail: Paying the full amount.
2. Bail Bond: Purchasing a bond from a bail bondsman (typically 10% of bail).
3. Property Bond: Using property as collateral.
4. Recognizance: Release without payment.

11. WARRANT

A warrant is a legal document issued by a judge or magistrate authorizing law enforcement to:

1. Arrest a person (arrest warrant)
2. Search a location (search warrant)
3. Seize evidence (seizure warrant)
4. Remand Offenders (Remand Warrant)
2. Release Warrant

IMPORTANT OF WARRANT

1. protects individual rights (4th Amendment)
2. Ensures due process
3. Prevents arbitrary arrests and searches
4. Provides clear authority for law enforcement
5. Helps maintain public safety

12. PLEA

A plea is the defendant formal response to criminal charges, typically made in court.

TYPES OF PLEA

1. Guilty plea: Admit to committing the crime
2. Not Guilty Plea: Denies committing the crime
3. No Contest Plea: Do not admit to crime but accepts punishment

During my internship, I witness a guilty plea. The defendant admits to the crime committed then the judge show mercy and reduced the defendant charges.

13. HEARING

Is a court session to discuss or decide a case. A hearing is a legal proceeding where evidence is presented, witness testifies, and arguments are made to a judge or other decision-maker.

HEARING PROCESS:

1. Scheduling: Setting date and time.
2. Appearance: Parties, witnesses, and attorneys attend.
3. Testimony: Witnesses provide sworn statements.
4. Evidence Presentation: Documents, videos, and physical evidence.
5. Arguments: Attorneys present oral or written arguments.
6. Ruling: Judge makes a decision or issues an order.

IMPORTANCE OF HEARINGS:

1. Ensures fairness and due process.
2. Gathers information for informed decisions.
3. Provides opportunity for argument and evidence presentation.
4. Helps resolve disputes and issues.

14. AFFIDAVIT

An affidavit is a sworn written statement made under oath, confirming the truth of certain facts or events.

PURPOSE OF AN AFFIDAVIT

1. Provide evidence or testimony
2. Establish facts or credibility
3. Support legal argument or applications
4. Verify identity or residency

15. OATH

A sworn promise to tell the truth.

TYPES

1. Oral oath (spoken)
2. Written oath (affidavit)

REASON

1. Ensure truthful testimony
2. Maintain integrity of the legal process
3. Hold witness accountable

16. EXAMINATION

Examination in court refers to the process of questioning witnesses or parties involved in a legal case to gather evidence, clarify facts or challenge testimony.

TYPES OF EXAMINATION

1. Direct Examination: The initial questioning of a witness by the party who called the
2. Cross- Examination: Questioning of a witness by the opposing party to challenge or discredit their testimony

3. Redirect Examination: Follow-up questioning by the original party after cross examination.
4. Re-cross Examination: Additional questioning by the original party after cross-examination
5. Re-cross Examination:
6. Rebuttal Examination: Evidence presented to contradict or disprove opposing party evidence.

17. DEFAULT JUDGEMENT

This is court judgement when a party fails to respond or appear. Example, Defendant fails to respond to summon or plaintiff fails to appear for trial.

18. CONTEMPT

An act or omission that disrespects or disobeys a court authority.

TYPES

1. Civil Contempt: Failure to comply with court orders or judgement
2. Criminal Contempt: Disruptive or disrespectful behaviour in court.

EXAMPLES

- Refusing to pay court ordered child support or custody
- Disobeying a court order to stay away from a protected person
- Disrupting court proceedings

CONSEQUENCES

1. Fines
2. Imprisonment,
3. Community service etc.

CASES IN COURT

1. CIVIL CASE:

It is a legal dispute between individual, organization, or government entities, seeking resolution or compensation for harm, injury, or damage.

TYPES OF CIVIL CASES

1. POSSESSION: This is when an individual take control over somebody else property claiming to be yours. Example: Mr. x [plaintiff] vs Mr. y [defendant]. Mr. x file a report against Mr. y for taking possession of his land. The new case will be recorded inside civil course book and also given case or suit number e.g. UAC1/CVF/100/2024. A civil summon will be written and sign by the judge then the bailiff will serve it to summon the defendant to court on the given date. The bailiff will bring back the endorsement copy as prove of service.

2. TENANCY: This s a relationship between a tenant [renter] and landlord and landlord [property owner] where tenant occupies and uses the property to some specific period without paying the rent. Example: Between Mr. x [plaintiff] vs Mr. y [defendant] file a report against Mr. y for overdue rent. The defendant will be serve quit notice, summon to court.

3. DIVORCE: This is a legal dissolution of marriage between an individual due to some reason. E.g. lack of love and care, domestic violence, no interest. If the man wants to divorce his wife is divorce but is if the woman wants to divorce his husband is divorce, custody, and maintainace. There two type of divorce: a. Islamic divorce and b. Christian divorce.

Islamic Divorce

The case is recorded in an Islamic civil course book. Suit number (UAC1/CVFM/100/2024). They can only be divorce through sharia law. After the divorce the wife stay in the husband house for 3 month. If there is no any settlement between the two they can go their separate ways and anyone of them can come for divorce certificate with some charges {monetary}. The husband will have an agreement on custody and maintenance of children while the wife takes care of the children.

Christian Divorce

The case is recorded inside a civil course book unlike Islamic course book. Suit number (UAC1/CVF/100/2024). The property of the husband will be share to wife as compensation and the children custody and maintenance will be taken care by the husband. The children will be with the wife.

4. **BANK ORDER**: This is when an individual mistakenly transfer money into another person's account. Example; if Mr y come to complain about mistakenly transfer the sum of 500,000 into somebody else account. An order will be serve to bank if the money is still intact in the account, the bank will receive an order for reverser of the money but if the money is not there the court will give bank order to put lean on the account till the money become complete. If the bank does not take any of this bank order, they court will serve a criminal and arrest warrant to the branch manager of the bank. How to file a bank order; the case will be recorded in a bank course book. Suit number: UAC1/CVF/100/2024. Civil summon will be written to serve the bank.

CRIMINAL CASE

A Criminal case is a legal proceeding where an individual, the state or federal government accused an individual or organization of committing a crime. Example, Murder, theft, traffic offence. Criminal sentences can lead to imprisonment, community service or fines etc. There are two types of criminal cases in court. They are:

1. Direct Complaint
2. First Information report from the police [FR].

DIRECT COMPLAINT

This is a written statement made by a victim or complaint directly to the court, by the police. This is typically done when police refuse to register an FIR or the victim feels the police may not investigate partially. How to file a direct complaint.

New Case: Direct complaint of criminal breach of trust and cheating against Mr x. The new file will be recorded inside the criminal log book and suit number will be given {UAC1/CRF/100/2024}. Criminal Summon and arrest warrant will the given to the police in court will be written to summon the and arrest the defendant to court.

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT FROM THE POLICE [FR]

Is a document prepared by the police when they receive information about a cognizable offense (serious offence). The police will bring the defendant to the court with the prosecutor for pre-trial before hearing the case on the given date.

NB- Summon is not written for [Fr] because the case is coming to the court directly and both complainant and defendant are present.

OTHER TERMS IN COURT.

- Flat: Judge whose left already
- Court Listing: All the case list doing for the day
- The Bench: This is where the judge sits during sittings.
- The first row is call the bar where is meant for the lawyers in court to sit during court sections.
- The right side of the judge is for the plaintiff
- The left side of the judge is for the defendant
- The first case call in court is the senior lawyers cases to the junior lawyers
- Witness stand: where witnesses stand
- Clerk desk: Where the court clerks stay and manage record and also maintain order in court.
- Civil, Criminal and Muslim matter: CVF (Civil Form), CRF (Criminal Form) and CVMF (Civil Muslim Form)
- Suit number: UAC1/ CVF, CRF or CVMF/ 1102/ 2024.
- For Service & Endorsement and return: This copy is use to serve or summon an individual or organization to court while the other serve as proof of service.
- Judicial seal: for authentication of a court document
- Hearing notice: This notice is use as a warning for an individual to come to court on the next adjournment date
- Quit notice: issued by landlord for a tenant to pack out
- At 9:00 the judges bang the door 3 times to signal his appearance before entry the court room
- In civil case it is called plaintiff while in a criminal case it is called complainants.

CHALLENGES

1. Managing multiple task because there was not enough staff
2. Managing stress and high pressure
3. Confidentiality and data protection issues
4. Building relationship with colleagues and mentor
5. Balancing personal life and professional life and also maintaining physical and mental well-being

ACHIEVEMENT

1. Analysed cases and developing a comprehensive understanding of legal concept and how it applied to real-world scenarios.
2. I understand the concept of hardworking, integrity and
3. Am able to manage the stress, multi-tasking and high-pressure situation
4. Observing trial/hearings, gaining insight into the court room
5. Effective communication with the registrar, judge, and so many
6. Time management and organization.

CONCLUSION

I thank God for the privilege to make me finish my Internship with peace. My thanks to the registrars and the other court staff for taking care of me every day in the institution throughout the time spent there.