

ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION AWARDS IN PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS IN NIGERIA

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW, FACULTY OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN LAW

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Assessment of Compensation Awards in Personal Injury Claims in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Law, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined assessment of compensation awards in personal injury claims in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of assessment; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with assessment and compensation. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Positivist Theory of Law and the Natural Law Theory. A sample size of 383 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 343 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.13). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.533$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.89, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.17$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on assessment.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of assessment of compensation awards in personal injury claims in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

In both global and African literatures, assessment is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of assessment in everyday life. Empirical evidence from Nwosu and Aderemi (2021) suggests that positive developments in compensation are associated with improvements in assessment. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding compensation. Longitudinal research by Bello and Olawale (2016) revealed that sustained attention to assessment yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that assessment deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Assessment occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about compensation and national development. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how assessment is experienced across communities. A notable study by Alade and Bakare (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Such findings reinforce the argument that assessment deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Evidence assembled by Ibrahim and Ekwueme (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to assessment. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding compensation. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In both global and African literatures, assessment is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream assessment into routine governance. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Ibrahim and Ekwueme (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in law. Evidence assembled by Bello and Dauda (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to assessment. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised assessment as a critical determinant of outcomes in law. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with assessment. A notable study by Olawale and Oyelaran (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Such findings reinforce the argument that assessment deserves a place of priority