Chapter 6 Part VI

Brief Biographies of the Judges Who Ruled on the Cases

Compiled by Philip Ostien

Safiyatu Hussaini’s case

Muhammadu Bello Sanyinnawal. No information available.

The judges of the Upper Sharia Court Gwadabawa:

Hon. Alhaji Muhammad Bello Silame, Grand Kadi. Born in Silame town in the year 1937. After early Qur’anic education, continued his Arabic and Islamic studies at Silame nizamiiyya. From there he was employed by the then Native Authority to serve as a primary school teacher. Spent the years 1957-1960 studying at the Kadi School, Sokoto. Subsequently became a mifti (scribe) in the Native Courts system, and then an Area Court Judge in his own right in 1974. After his appointment as an Area Court Judge he attended the Basic and Advanced judicial courses at the Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (three months and one month, respectively). Was promoted to Upper Area Court Judge in 1984; to Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal in 1992; and to Acting Grand Kadi 2000. He has subsequently retired.

Hon. Alhaji Bello Muhammad Rabah, Kadi. He was born in Sokoto in the year 1950. After early Qur’anic education, continued his studies at nizamiiyya Islamic school, obtaining his Higher Islamic Studies certificate to prepare him for Kadi School, Sokoto, where he obtained his certificate in Basic Judicial Studies. He was employed by the Judicial Service Commission Sokoto State to as an Area Court Judge in 1968 and gradually rose to the post of Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal in 1996.

Hon. Alhaji Abdulkadir Saidu Tambuwal, Kadi. Born in Tambuwal. Holds a Diploma in Sharia and Civil Law from ABU Zaria. Was employed by the Judicial Service Commission of Sokoto State, to serve as an Area Court Judge, on 1st July 1981. Rose through the ranks, being appointed a Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal on 12th December 1998. On 6th August 2004 he was appointed the Honourable Grand Kadi, which position he still holds.


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Source: Malam Idris Adamu, Acting Chief Registrar, Sharia Court of Appeal, Sokoto. In the case of Alhaji Silame the material received from the Ag. Chief Registrar has been supplemented with information from an interview with Alhaji Silame conducted by the compiler on 24th February, 2003 in Sokoto. There are some conflicts in the information received from the two sources; in such cases the interview material has been used.

Nizamiiyya: school of higher Arabic and Islamic studies, attended by students beginning in late adolescence and ranging upward in age without limit. Subjects of study include Arabic, adab al-Arabiyya (Arabic literature), mantiq (logic), ma’lumat (geography), the Qur’an and Hadith, tanzil (theology), fiqh, etc. Various certificates may be obtained, including the Higher Islamic Studies Certificate (HIS).
nizammiyya Islamic school he proceeded to what is now Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, where he obtained his B.A. in Arabic. He was employed as an Area Court Judge by the Sokoto State Judicial Service Commission in 1976. In 1998 he was appointed a Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal, a position he still holds. It was Alh. Usman who read the leading judgment in Safiyatu Hussaint’s case.

Amina Lawal’s case

The judge of the Sharia Court Bakori:113

Alhaji Nasuru Lawal Bello Dayi. The officer was born in 1957 at Dayi, in what is now Malumfashi Local Government Area, Katsina State. He obtained Diploma in Law in 1984 from Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic. He joined the Judiciary as an Assistant Registrar on G.L. 06 with effect from 16th April, 1988. His cadre was changed from Registrar on G.L. 07 to Area Court Judge II on G.L. 07 with effect from 1st August, 1990. He was promoted to Area Court Judge I on G.L. 08 with effect from 1st January, 1991. His salary was reviewed from G.L. 08 to G.L. 09 with effect from 1st January, 1992 as Higher Area Court Judge in accordance with Federal Civil Service Commission’s circular No. B. 63279/S.43/349. He was promoted to Senior Area Court Judge on G.L. 10 with effect from 1st January, 1994, Principal Area Court Judge I on G.L. 12 with effect from 1st January, 1997, Principal Area Court Judge I on G.L. 13 with effect from 1st January, 2000.114 He was appointed as an Upper Shari’a Court Judge II on G.L. 14 with effect from 5th August, 2004. He is presently an Upper Shari’a Court Judge II at Kankara Upper Shari’a Court.

The judge of the Upper Sharia Court Funtua:115

Alhaji Aliyu Abdullahi. The officer was born in 1944 at Katsina in what is now Katsina Local Government Area, Katsina State. Obtained Diploma in Shari’a and Civil Law in 1977 from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He joined the Judiciary as an Assistant Registrar on G.L. 06 with effect from 8th July, 1977. His cadre was changed from Assistant Registrar on G.L. 06 to Area Court Judge I on G.L. 07 with effect from 1st July, 1981. He was promoted to Higher Area Court Judge on G.L. 08 with effect from 1st April, 1985, Senior Area Court Judge on G.L. 09 with effect from 1st October, 1987, Principal Area Court Judge II on G.L. 10 with effect from 1st August, 1989. His salary was reviewed from G.L. 10 to G.L. 12 with effect from 1st January, 1992 in accordance with Federal Civil Service Commission’s circular No. B 63279/S. 43/349 of 20th July, 1990. He was promoted to Principal Area Court Judge I on G.L. 13 with effect from 1st January, 1993, Upper Shari’a Court Judge II on G.L. 14 with effect from 1st January, 1996, Upper Shari’a Court Judge I on G.L. 15 with effect from 1st January, 2000. The officer retired from the services of Katsina State Judiciary as Upper Shari’a Court Judge I at Funtua with effect from 6th May, 2005.

113 Source: Justice S.A. Mahuta, Chief Judge, High Court of Katsina State.
114 Alhaji Dayi appears to have been on this same level, although now a Principal Sharia Court Judge, when he tried Amina Lawal’s case.
115 Source: Justice S.A. Mahuta, Chief Judge, High Court of Katsina State.
BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF THE JUDGES

The judges of the Katsina State Sharia Court of Appeal:116


Hon. Shehu Mu’azu Dan-Musa, Kadi. Born 1953 in Dan-Musa. Attended primary school in Dan-Musa and Safana 1960-66. Then attended the Arabic Teachers College,

116 Sources: CVs provided by the Sharia Court of Appeal, Katsina.

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