Lesson 3 — The Nigerian Legal System: Its Courts and Sources

Nigeria's courts form one pyramid: magistrates' and customary and Sharia courts at the base, carrying most citizens' justice; the High Courts with general jurisdiction; specialised courts in their fields; the Court of Appeal; and the Supreme Court at the apex, whose word settles the law.

The sources of Nigerian law are the constitution, legislation, case law, customary law, and Islamic law in its personal-law sphere — a plural system inside one constitutional frame. Each question belongs to its proper law, and the courts police the boundaries.

Practise: draw the pyramid from memory, name one court at each level, and say what work it does. The map, carried whole, is the subject.

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