

GENDER NEUTRAL LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Legislative drafting has over the years emerged from being regarded simply as an aspect of Legal Drafting and Conveyancy to being recognised as a discipline of law with its own distinct rules and principles. With the growth of legislative drafting there has been a move away from the traditional style of drafting to the plain language style of drafting. One of the principles of legislative drafting that has emerged in the plain language movement is that of gender-neutral drafting which advocates the use of gender neutral terms in drafting. This paper examines the nature of legislative drafting, the various styles of Legislative drafting, the concept of gender neutral drafting and the various approaches that may be adopted to achieve gender neutrality in drafting legislation. It further examines some laws in Nigeria with a view towards determining how legislative drafters in Nigeria have responded to the principle of gender neutral drafting. The study reveals that there are limits and shortcomings to the application of this principle. Nonetheless, gender neutrality in legislative drafting is the internationally accepted style of drafting and should be adopted in line with international best practices.

KEYWORDS: Legislative Drafting has over the Years Emerged