

**PERSONAL LAW IN CRISIS: OLOWU V OLOWU
REVISITED-A NEW TREND OR ALTERNATIVE
APPROACH?**

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ABSTRACT

*In Nigeria, the issue of personal law, in particular, the personal law of natives has always been thought to be fixed and settled in favour of the law of one's ancestor. The test of appropriateness was to get the individual closely connected to a country, culture or ethnic group. For instance the laws of marriage and family are intimately connected with the culture and the moral and religious standard of the community. However, even in this personal area of the law, the test of appropriateness has in recent times been turned on its head. Starting with the unsuccessful attempt by the court in *Yinusa v. Adesubokan*, the Nigerian Supreme Court in *Olowu v. Olowu* formulated the way- of- life test. Apparently this test and change must have been influenced by the realities of today's world, especially in the case of marriage which as all other institutions are also affected by economic and social circumstances. Is this a new trend or an alternative approach? Or is it instead a one off thing? It is our argument that this represents an important contribution by the Supreme Court to the *Corpus Juris Nigeriana*.*

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