A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF MILESTONE IN THE NIGERIAN EVIDENCE ACT 2011

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ABSTRACT

The importance of evidence in court trials in both civil and criminal cases is vital in the administration of justice in the courts. Evidence regulates the admissibility of what is offered as proof into the record of a legal proceeding. The goal of this paper is to evaluate the significance and viability of the Nigeria Evidence Act 2011, which by its provision repeals the hitherto applicable Evidence Act of 1945. The findings of this paper are that the Evidence Act 1945 lacked salient provisions on some subject matters and that some of its provisions were out of tune with modern trends in other jurisdictions. There is also the finding that the new Evidence Act 2011 has addressed some of the perceived lapses in the repealed Evidence Act. The conclusion drawn in this paper is that the repeal of the former Evidence Act is worthwhile and the enactment of the new Evidence Act a milestone.

Keywords: Evidence, Repeal, Statutes, Milestone and Defendant.