

Editorial

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am pleased to present issue 4.1 of the *African Journal of Legal Studies (AJLS)* under a new and exciting partnership with Martinus Nijhoff, the renowned Dutch publisher.

On the occasion of our first print edition, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all the authors who have submitted manuscripts to *AJLS* for publication consideration. This special issue on international criminal law aims to contribute to, and to further stimulate, the growing debate on the place and nature of international criminal accountability for all those bearing the greatest responsibility for the top perpetrators of international crimes in Africa's numerous contemporary conflicts. While unable to accept every submission, the three peer-reviewed articles selected for this first print issue of the journal confirm the original thinking and high quality we are confident will continue to be this journal's hallmark.

Consistent with our new partnership, the journal is pleased to announce that we will publish three issues. We also inaugurate a new look both in our electronic and print formats. Electronically, arrangements are now in place for all the journal's back issues as well as our new content to be available on our new website at brill.nl/ajls. We hope that the many databases associated with Martinus Nijhoff will give our published contents and authors truly global circulation in this age of Internet, Facebook and Twitter.

Regarding the print version which we are excited to have for the first time, we have chosen a design that reflects the types of colours traditionally associated with the continent of Africa. We hope that you will like our new look.

While a subscription fee is now required to access the new content of *AJLS* online and in print, because the journal aims for widespread circulation within African academic institutions and universities that usually suffer from a dearth of resources for periodical subscriptions, we are pleased to announce that up to 50 free electronic subscriptions of the journal will be made available for Africa-based institutions. We will allocate the electronic passwords enabling access to the journal's content on a fair basis for each of the East, West, North and Southern Africa sub-regions respectively. The primary criterion for gratis access will be based on financial need. Anyone interested in securing free institutional access should contact the Editor-in-Chief for further details.

A couple of additional points are worth highlighting as we take further steps to improve the quality and good reputation of our peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary

journal. Firstly, manuscript submissions will soon be handled through a dedicated online submission system. The move to such a system, which enables author submissions to be received and to be processed efficiently by the editors and reviewers, is consistent with the general trend in journal publishing. We are pleased with this development as it will enable us to give authors more timely notice of our decisions on their refereed manuscripts. Please monitor our website for updates on this matter.

Secondly, and related to this, *AJLS* is currently seeking Africanist social scientists from a variety of disciplines, ranging from anthropology to economics, to law, political science and sociology, as we work to expand our advisory board as well as our online database of experts available to peer-review manuscripts. The role of experts and reviewers, though often unheralded, is crucial to the work of journals like ours which follow a double-blind manuscript review process. This helps us to maintain a high scholarly standard. While not remunerated, we encourage you to contact us if you have recognized expertise on Africa and might be interested in serving on our advisory board. We are particularly keen to have a diversity of gender, subject matter, as well as strong representation from the various sub-regions of the continent in Africa and the diaspora.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all members of our editorial and advisory boards who, over the past seven years, have generously given their time to review papers, often on short notice and all without any formal recognition or remuneration.

Last but not least, I thank our various colleagues at Martinus Nijhoff, especially Lindy Melman and Brenda Kaldenbach, both of whom have proven to be patient and supportive as we together work hard to ensure a smooth transition. I appreciate this already great relationship with our new publishers, and look forward to an even brighter future for the journal.

As always, should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ajls.editor@gmail.com.

Charles C. Jalloh

Founding Editor-in-Chief
African Journal of Legal Studies