



African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 26, September 2025

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 6 October 2025) please email g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk. Similarly, if you have suggestions of people who we should contact about joining the network or would like to unsubscribe from the newsletter please email g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk.

Job opportunity

The Department of Politics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, is conducting an open-rank search for a **teaching professor in the Legal Studies Program**. The specialization is open. Applications are due **14 November**. For more details see here:

<https://recruit.ucsc.edu/JPF01985>

Conference on “the role of a judiciary in a democracy” at the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) in Lusaka, Zambia, 21-22 October 2025

The AJRN, SAIPAR, and University of Zambia are holding a two-day conference at SAIPAR to coincide with the launch of an edited book celebrating 50 years of the Zambian Supreme Court. For good or ill, the Supreme Court has significantly shaped the country’s life by determining high-profile cases across various branches and disciplines of the law. The call for papers has now closed, but any queries about the conference should be directed to Dr Pamela Towela Sambo, University of Zambia (pamela.sambo@unza.zm), Dr O’Brien Kaaba, University of Zambia (Obrien.kaaba@unza.zm), Mr Chanda J. Chungu, University of Zambia (xhanda.chungu@unza.zm), and Dr Marja Hinfelaar, SAIPAR (marja.hinfelaar@saipar.org).

Future AJRN event on alternative justice systems (AJS)

The AJRN is currently in the process of planning a meeting in Nairobi in October 2025 on alternative justice systems. If you have a particular interest in AJS and/or you teach AJS and would be interested in potentially attending, then please get in touch with Gabrielle Lynch (g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk).



Transformative Equality Jurisprudence in Africa Conference, Nairobi, 30-31 March 2026

Call for Papers

The University of Nairobi Faculty of Law, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the South African Research Chair in Equality, Law and Social Justice, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, and the African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) are organising a two-day conference on transformative equality jurisprudence in Africa to be held at the University of Nairobi on 30 and 31 March 2026.

This conference is motivated by the fact that – despite the work of regional bodies such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the recognition of equality rights in national constitutions and legislation, and the work of many judges, legislators, civil society organisations, and academics – equality rights across the African continent remain underdeveloped in both national and regional jurisprudence. Understanding the potential for transformative equality jurisprudence on the continent as well as the tensions that undermine it and the pathways to its resolution in international, regional, and domestic law are pressing issues for African judiciaries.

This two-day conference aims to increase discussion pertaining to, and to help strengthen the application of, equality and non-discrimination standards and jurisprudence in Africa. The first day (30 March) will be an in-person only event and will discuss the potential for and challenges facing transformative equality jurisprudence from the perspective of African judges. The second day (31 March) will provide space for the presentation and discussion of research papers on related topics and will be both in-person and online. If you would like to present your research on the second day, please send a **paper title and 300-word abstract** to Cathi Albertyn (cathi.albertyn@wits.ac.za), Gabrielle Lynch (g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk), and Lawrence Mute (lmute@uonbi.ac.ke) by Friday 31 October 2025.

Papers are welcome on any aspect of equality jurisprudence including:

- The content and role of international and regional law standards and guidance in domestic adjudication;
- How international and regional jurisprudence can and should be developed to ensure better equality protection;
- The state of comparative jurisprudence in Africa;
- The challenges faced by judges in adjudicating equality and non-discrimination cases;
- The challenges to achieving substantive equality in African judicial and quasi-judicial fora including: establishing institutional and societal discrimination; working with intersectional discrimination; the use of expert evidence in equality cases; the implementation of positive measures to combat discrimination; and the difficulties of ensuring protection for persistently excluded groups, such as women, persons with disabilities, and sexual minorities.

Successful participants will be advised by 15 November 2025 and should submit written papers in advance of the conference, by 16 March 2026. Publication opportunities in a special edition of the *East Africa Law Journal* will also be explored at the conference.

Public Law Conference, Cape Town, July 2026



Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy

Cape Town, 1–4 July 2026

Call for Papers

The 2026 Public Law Conference will be held at the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town on the theme 'Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy'.

As with previous conferences in the Public Law series, the chosen theme aims to set meaningful parameters while facilitating a variety of responses from public lawyers across a range of legal systems in the common-law world. While the theme is especially apposite to the 30th anniversary of South Africa's democratic Constitution of 1996, it also speaks to challenges confronting constitutional democracy in other common-law jurisdictions and indeed globally.

Prospective speakers are invited to engage with the theme from a range of disciplinary perspectives and using doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, comparative or other suitable approaches. Papers might address specific topics relating to the following (non-exhaustive) list of subthemes:

- The future of constitutional democracy and the rule of law / the separation of powers.
- The legislature, electoral systems, democratic participation and the future of constitutional democracy.
- Executive power (hard or soft), accountability and the future of constitutional democracy.
- Judicial independence, the judicial role and the future of constitutional democracy.
- Administrative justice and the future of constitutional democracy.
- Populism, nationalism, fundamentalism and the future of constitutional democracy.
- Private disruption of public power in a constitutional democracy.
- Identifying and upholding the unwritten norms, values and cultures that sustain constitutional democracy.
- The role of integrity institutions and other public-law bodies, including the public service, in supporting constitutional democracy.
- Public law as a bulwark against the erosion of individual, indigenous or community rights, including socio-economic rights.
- Constitutional democracy for future generations: environmental law, climate change, climate litigation.
- The intersection of international law and public law.
- Technology and the risks and benefits to constitutional democracy.
- Restricting protest, speech or dissent and the impact on democratic participation.
- The expansion of punitive state power and the erosion of constitutional democracy: surveillance, incarceration and militarised policing.

- The ways in which race, class and spatial inequality shape public law, including the experience of the criminal justice system.

Submission of Abstracts

Prospective speakers are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 500 words addressing any aspect of the conference theme. Abstracts must be submitted via the Oxford Abstracts electronic system, which will open on **Monday 1 September 2025** and close on **Friday 14 November 2025**. You will be informed by **Monday 12 January 2026** whether your abstract has been accepted for presentation. Please submit your abstracts by following the Oxford Abstracts link [here](#).

Abstracts are invited from those at any career stage. Papers will be accepted on the basis of merit and fit with the conference theme. Those who have their abstracts accepted will be required to submit a full written paper by **Friday 15 May 2026** for distribution in advance to conference delegates. Please note that speakers will have to meet their own expenses and pay the conference fee in the ordinary way.

Limited funding will be available to subsidise intending speakers resident in Africa who face financial challenges in attending the conference. Speakers in this category may apply for assistance on acceptance of their abstract. Regrettably, such funding cannot be assured.

In common with previous conferences, it is intended that an edited collection will be published by Hart Publishing, the conference sponsor, of a small selection of papers given at the 2026 conference.

Doctoral Students

Like previous conferences, the 2026 conference will include dedicated panels for doctoral students. A reduced fee or, it is hoped, a fee waiver will apply to doctoral students whose papers are accepted.

Richard Hart Prize

The Richard Hart Prize for the best paper by an early-career scholar will be awarded at the 2026 conference. Those who are eligible and wish to be considered for the prize should indicate this by ticking the relevant box in the electronic application system. The eligibility criteria are as follows: *Anyone who (a) is studying for, but who has not yet been awarded, a doctoral degree in Law; or (b) was awarded a doctoral degree in Law on or after 1 July 2023; or (c) was appointed to their first full-time academic position on or after 1 July 2023. No person who has held a full-time academic position for more than three years as of 1 July 2026 shall be eligible for the prize. The conference convenors' decisions as to eligibility shall be final.*

Please note that the prize will be awarded on the basis of the full written papers submitted in advance of the conference.

For queries about the conference, please email the organisers at publiclawconference2026@gmail.com.

Publications by AJRN members

L. Enonchong, 'Constitutional Identity, Bijuralism and the Establishment of the Common Law Division in the Supreme Court of Cameroon' (2025) 57(1) *Journal of Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis* 26-50. DOI-10.1080/27706869.2025.2465134 (25 pages).

Proving Corruption and Defending the Corrupt

Constitutional and Evidential Challenges in Africa

John Hatchard, University of Buckingham
UK, UN International Anti-Corruption
Academy, Austria, University of Detroit-
Mercy and Arizona State University, USA and
Commonwealth Legal Education Association

'Corruption undermines democratic institutions, retards economic development, and discourages foreign investments. An essential element in the efforts to eradicate it is the development of a legal and judicial framework at the international and domestic level within which to fight the scourge of corruption. The book discusses a range of approaches to the fight against corruption. It is comprehensive, insightful, and is a significant contribution to the search for effective approaches to the fight against corruption.'

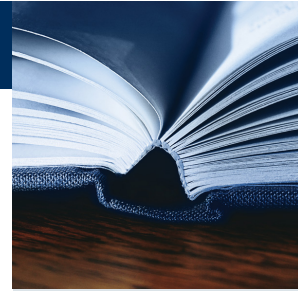
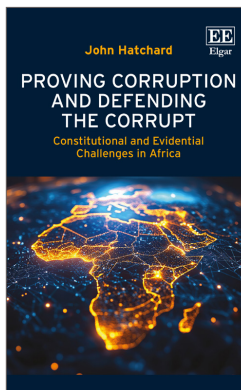
– Muna Ndulo, Cornell University, USA

This insightful book explores the question of why there are so few successful corruption-related prosecutions in Anglophone African countries and considers how this situation can be addressed. John Hatchard analyses the unique challenges faced by anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors in effectively implementing the requirements of the criminalisation pillar contained in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Hatchard discusses the tension between proving corruption – that is, providing for effective investigations and evidence gathering, and utilising this to facilitate prosecutions – versus defending the corrupt – protecting the constitutional rights of those facing prosecution and challenging the admissibility of key prosecution evidence. He advocates for the adoption of the 'Golden Triangle' and a fairness approach. This requires balancing a triangulation of interests: protecting the constitutional rights of the accused, considering the interests of victims of corruption and maintaining the public interest in combating corruption effectively. Through analysis of anti-corruption legislation and judicial pronouncements, Hatchard demonstrates how to make the fairness approach effective with a view to strengthening the criminalisation pillar.

This unique and influential book is of worldwide interest for students and academics studying law, politics and business. Its practical insights will also greatly benefit anti-corruption agencies, legal practitioners, policymakers, law reformers, civil society organisations and the corporate sector.

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Opportunities to write on African judiciaries

The **Commonwealth Judicial Journal** is always looking for articles on issues of interest to judicial officers across the Commonwealth. Articles should normally range from 2,000 to 3,500 words in length. Any references and/or citations should be integrated in the main body of the manuscript, as footnotes/endnotes will normally be removed. Hyperlinks should not be embedded in manuscripts submitted for publication. Papers should be submitted to info@cmja.org. All manuscripts received are evaluated by the Editor in consultation with the editorial board.

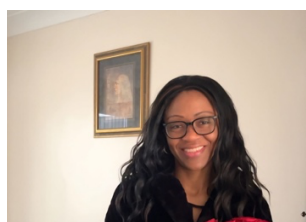
AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](http://democracyinafrica.org) to launch a series of opinion pieces on African judiciaries and democracy. For details on how to write an article for **Democracy in Africa** go to <http://democracyinafrica.org/join-the-new-african-judiciaries-research-network-ajrn-today/>.

The AJRN has also been in touch with **The Conversation Africa** and **The Elephant** and is happy to report that:

The Conversation Africa welcomes articles on African judiciaries that are based on research. These can be republished anywhere in the world under a Creative Commons licence, giving your work a wider reach and introducing it to new audiences. You can pitch your idea for an article [here](#). You can subscribe to the Conversation Africa newsletter [here](#).

The Elephant welcomes articles of 1,500-3,500 words on African judiciaries. The Elephant is a popular online Kenyan news platform which seeks well researched, honest critiques, critical essays and sharp-eyed perspectives on a broad range of topics addressed from a Pan African lens. For details on how to submit a pitch and write for *The Elephant* see <https://www.theelephant.info/write-for-us/>.

AJRN member profile of the month



[Dr Laura-Stella Enonchong](#) is a Reader in Law in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She is co-director of Doctoral Studies in the College of Law and member of the Coordinating Committee for the [Africa, Law and Development Research Cluster](#) at SOAS. Laura teaches across a range of modules, including, Public Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Legal Systems of Asia and Africa and Human Rights.

Laura's research interests are in comparative constitutional studies and human rights with a particular focus on Africa. She has published widely in those areas. In 2022, Laura was appointed Distinguished Research Fellow in the Constitutional Studies Programme at the University of Texas at Austin, in recognition of the 'strength of the excellence, impact, and innovation' of her research contributions to constitutional studies. She has a [growing body of scholarship](#) on the judiciary in Cameroon. Her most recent outputs on the judiciary include a study of [bijuralism and constitutional identity](#) in Cameroon, which argues inter alia, for the

reinforcement of Cameroon's Supreme Court as a site for the expression of Cameroon's bijural constitutional identity, and a co-authored article on the agency of courts in conflict transformation with a focus on the [Anglophone conflict in Cameroon](#). In a forthcoming chapter in the edited book on [Constitutionalism in Africa and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities](#), Laura has explored the role of path dependency and the politics of judicial governance by the Higher Judicial Council in Cameroon (HJC), implicating the HJC in the lack of judicial independence in Cameroon. Her previous scholarship on the judiciary has centred on structural aspects of the judiciary and the normative foundations of judicial independence in Cameroon.

Laura is a General Editor of the renowned [Journal of African Law](#) and editor of the blog of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers ([ANCL](#)). She is Secretary General of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL) and member of the Council of the International Association of Public Law ([ICON-S](#)).

AJRN webpage

The AJRN has a webpage (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/ajrn>) where you can find past newsletters as well as information on events, opinion pieces, and members. **If you want to be included in the list of network members on the website and future newsletters, then please send a photograph and a bio in the standard format (see list of network members below)** with details of positions and institutional/organisational affiliation, up to 5 keywords on relevant research interests, and contact email/social media handle to g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk.

If you have already sent a bio for the newsletter, then please do send a photo for inclusion on the webpage.

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