



African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 21, April 2025

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 5 May 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.

Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association Conference, September 2025

The Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association is organising its next Triennial Conference on the Theme: "Innovations in Judicial Practice: Embracing Change for A Better Future". The conference will be held in Banjul, the Gambia from 21-26 September 2025. Information on registration is now available on the CMJA's conference website: www.cmja.biz.

The International Association for Court Administration (IACA) Conference, November 2025

The IACA will host its 2025 International Conference in Dubai, on 16-19 November. IACA seeks proposals for sessions that align with the overarching conference theme of "Global Perspectives on Court Administration: Exploring Models, Maximizing Efficiency, and Embracing Technology" and which will provide attendees with informative, engaging, and interactive educational content, and practical takeaways that will benefit court professionals. Sessions supporting the conference theme will focus on the following areas:

1. The impact of artificial intelligence on the administration of justice
2. Education and career development of judges and court staff
3. Optimization of the reform implementation process (both in the judicial system and in the public prosecution service)
4. Optimization of court administration, efficiency, and access to justice
5. Researching different court models (including administrative courts and tribunals).
6. People Centered Justice

To be considered, applicants need to submit a form by **24 April 2025**. For further details see . <https://www.iaca.ws/call-for-presentations>.

Women in African Judiciaries Workshop, Johannesburg, 17-18 March 2025

Last month the AJRN, International Commission of Jurists and the Wits School of Law held a two-day conference at the University of Witwatersrand on women in African judiciaries.

<https://www.icj.org/south-africa-icj-and-partners-meet-to-celebrate-and-advance-the-role-of-women-in-african-judiciaries>.

Thanks to all who made the event such a success and to ICJ, the Wits Law School, and the University of Warwick for supporting the event.



Organisers and some of the women judges at Wits

Law in Development workshop, Nairobi, 1-2 April 2025

The month started with a two-day workshop on law in development at the British Institute in Eastern Africa in Nairobi to celebrate Warwick @ 60. The event was co-organised by the AJRN, the BIEA, and Warwick Law School. Thank you to everyone who made the event such a success and to the BIEA and Warwick @ 60 for their support.



Day 1: One of three panels on law in development



Day 1: Roundtable with Prof. Abdul Paliwala (University of Warwick), Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote (University of Nairobi), Dr Agnes Meroka-Mutua (University of Nairobi), Hon. Justice Prof. Joel Ngugi (Court of Appeal, Kenya), and Dr Jeremy Okonjo (University of Warwick) facilitated by Prof. Ambreena Manji (Cardiff University).



Day 2: Writing workshop with scholars from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and the UK.

Recent publications by network members

Kuwali, Dan (2025) *Jus ad Pacem: Ending the Beginning of War in Africa*. *US-China Law Review* 22 (1): 1-22

Ndlebe, Z. and M. Benjamin (17 February 2025) Judicial tribunals show an urgent need for dealing with sexual harassment. *Judges Matter*.

<https://www.judgesmatter.co.za/opinions/judicial-tribunals-sexual-harassment/>

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](#) 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



A football fan, **Justice Alfred Mavedzenge** is a critical thinker, [scholar](#) and lawyer with expertise in comparative constitutional and international human rights law. He has extensively published scholarship that engages with various themes of comparative constitutional and international human rights law, including judicial independence, socio-economic rights, political liberties, electoral democracy, and how the rise of contemporary forms of authoritarianism impacts constitutional democratic principles.

Affiliated to the University of Cape Town, Justice Mavedzenge is Adjunct Senior Lecturer of Public Law and regularly teaches undergraduates, masters and co-supervises PhD law students. Through the [Canon Collins Trust](#)-where he sits in the Board of Trustees and is an alumnus-he regularly volunteers to mentor students that come from underprivileged backgrounds, as well as scholars who are in need. He regularly publishes op-eds, commenting on public affairs, from constitutional and political viewpoints. Justice Mavedzenge is a member of the [International](#)

[Society of Public Law](#), and is a co-founder and editor of the [Journal of Democracy Governance and Human Rights in Zimbabwe](#).

As a legal practitioner, Justice Mavedzenge has litigated landmark cases enforcing electoral justice, the right of persons with visual impairment to vote through secret ballot, and the independence of electoral management bodies. He provided research support during the drafting of the Constitution of Zimbabwe of 2013. Justice Mavedzenge has extensive experience of promoting democracy and human rights across the world. Previously, he worked as a Global Coordinator at the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), promoting judicial independence and the domestic implementation of international human rights standards in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia-Pacific. Currently he is the Director of Programs at the [Africa Judges and Jurists Forum](#) where his work focuses on defending judicial independence, and promoting capacity strengthening for judiciaries in Africa.

Justice Mavedzenge holds a PhD in Public Law (University of Cape Town, 2018), LLM Constitutional and Administrative law (University of Cape Town, 2014), LLB (University of South Africa, 2011) and Bachelor of Arts (Midlands State University, 2008). His X handle is @Dr_JAMavedzenge.

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 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. E.g.

Prof. Gabrielle Lynch, Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Warwick, UK; judicial behaviour, election petitions, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia; g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk; @GabrielleLynch6.

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

Network members

NB: If you want to be included in the list of network members in future newsletters and the website, please send a photo and bio in the standard format (see 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.

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