

Gambia Law Review: Call for Papers

Issue 2: Establishing democracy in West Africa: winning or losing?

Theme

The Gambia Law Review in its first issue brought as theme the perspective on a 'New Gambia'. The Gambia is the newest sub-Saharan democracy and the effects of that are seen through the inauguration of President Adama Barrow, the renewal of the country's commitment to the International Criminal Court, the country's re-joining to the Commonwealth, the legislative elections approved by international observers, and the processes undergone by the country towards establishing a truth, reconciliation and reparations commission. The numerous opportunities and challenges possessed by the 'New Gambia' and by the other West African countries therefore centre upon the creation of laws, institutions and values that are necessary to protect human rights, advance the rule of law and establish truthful democracies.

Since democracy is not only a form of government in which the participation of people is of fundamental importance, but a system where distribution of opportunities is made towards eradication of inequalities; the interests of minorities are protected by the State and discrimination is not tolerated, a successful democracy demands effort and compromise by the rulers and the ruled. Due to the establishment of a "New Gambia" and the natural and specific challenges in the development of an effective democracy in the country and in the West African countries in general, it arouses the necessity to analyse the enforcement of civil rights; the feasibility of a culture of possibility and widened economic revenue; the establishment of values of justice and human rights amongst remnants of old orders; also to bounce away the fear of injustice and impunity and to tackle issues such as rural to urban migration, irregular migration, poverty, youth unemployment, women's rights, education and health. The theme chosen for the 63rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission of Human and People's Rights "The AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption: Winning or Losing the Fight?" also brings about the discussion of politics on corruption and the important manifestation of civil rights as such as the freedom of expression.

As hosted by the Faculty of Law at the University of The Gambia, the Gambia Law Review (GLR) aims to advance recent efforts towards democratic processes and good governance in The Gambia and in West African countries through dynamic, online legal publications in aid of the Gambian and international legal community. As such, the Gambia Law Review is calling for wide-ranging, creative academic articles, student commentaries and activist contributions that cultivate and critique the concept of 'Establishing democracy in West Africa: winning or losing?' from varying domestic and international, legal, political and developmental perspectives. Ideas may be based upon, but are not limited to, the following:

- Transitional justice
- International human rights law
- The Gambian Constitution
- Migration and refugee rights
- The 'Backway'
- Poverty, unemployment and social exclusion
- Religion, culture and tribalism
- The Truth and Reconciliation Reparations Commission
- Gambia and the International Criminal Court
- Freedom of expression
- Political pressures in new governance
- Women and children's rights
- Gambia's abolition of the death penalty
- Torture and ill-treatment
- Institutional reform
- International development

Deadline

The applications process is now open.

The deadline for final submission of papers is **22nd March 2019**. From this date, the quality of entries will be screened by the team of editors and uploaded to form the first publication of GLR in April 2019.

Successful authors will be notified by email, where a short author bio will be requested for publication.

Submission

All contributions must adhere to the Format and Quality guidelines listed below, except pictures and other creative entries. Once complete, contributions should be sent to lawreview@utg.edu.gm.

Format

- Main text font can be in any reasonable font style and size.
- Footnotes and citations must be consistent with the OSCOLA system.
- Articles should be approximately 5,000 – 8,000 words, including footnotes.
- Each article must have a 300-word abstract.
- Commentaries and other contributions should be 1,500 – 3,000 words.
- Every paper must be supplemented by a full reference list.
- Spelling and grammar must be consistent with British English.

Quality

- Files must be submitted as .doc or .docx (such as from Microsoft Word or Open Office).
- PDF submissions are not accepted.
- All entries must read as formal academic papers, with a consistent writing style that is logical, precise and professional.
- All factual statements must be supported by sources or research evidence that are cited in both the text and the reference list.
- All entries must original and not previously published.