



2016 Forums & Annual Meeting

2016 ASIA-PACIFIC LAW DEANS' FORUM



HONG KONG

2016 AMERICAS LAW DEANS' FORUM PONCE, PUERTO RICO



2016 AFRICAN LAW DEANS' FORUM LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA



2016 EUROPEAN LAW DEANS' FORUM GDANSK, POLAND



Save The Dates!

- March 9th–12th, Americas Law Deans' Forum hosted by Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, Puerto Rico
- April 7th-10th, Asia-Pacific Law Deans' Forum, hosted by Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- April 28th-May 1st, European Law Deans' Forum, hosted by The University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland
- May 8th-11th, African Law Deans' Forum, hosted by University of Zambia and the Southern African Institute of Policy and Research, Livingstone, Zambia
- October 27th–30th, 2016 Annual Meeting, hosted by the University of California Hastings, San Francisco

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES





Message from the President

2015 has been a remarkable year for the International Association of Law Schools with significant milestones and achievements. The Association and its members should be extremely proud. This is the first year of leadership by a new board.

At the start of the year the Association's revised Bylaws were passed with over 95% voting in favor, the two officers were approved by over 96% and the new slate of Governors for the IALS Board passed by over 98%.

We have had four extremely successful regional meetings that laid the foundation for the formulation of the Madrid Protocol, which was formalized at the Global Forum in Madrid. Formulated in Africa, debated in the Americas, crystalized in Europe, and finalized in Asia Pacific, the Madrid Protocol on the Principles of Evaluation of Legal Education is the consensus among law school leaders as to the fundamental principles on how we should be evaluated. The Protocol coupled with the Singapore Declaration on Global Standards and Outcomes of a Legal Education serve as the foundation for further scholarship and consensus in bringing together our worldwide community of legal educators.

I would like to thank all of those who have already renewed their membership for 2016. It's a pleasure to see the loyal support that the Association receives from its valued members. If your school is not a member, we welcome you to join your colleagues in shaping a global perspective for legal education. The IALS is a non-profit, volunteer service organization. It is a learned society of over 170 law schools and departments from over 60 countries representing more than 7,000 law faculty members. A wealth of information is available on our website. [Click here](#) to access our membership application.

One of our primary missions is the improvement of law schools and conditions of legal education throughout the world. In 2016 we will be introducing more programs to support the legal education community's need to expand its global reach and understanding. We look forward to furthering our reach and scope in 2016 and invite you to attend our 2016 meetings and contribute to these goals.

Francis SL Wang
President/Chairman, IALS

A Special Thanks!

The association is very thankful for the many supporters, donors, sustaining members and hosts that have made the 2015 year a successful one! Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our generous 2015 law school hosts: The University of Namibia, Universidad Sergio Arboleda, The University of Trento, Far Eastern Federal University, IE University and their colleagues in so professionally and graciously hosting the regional deans' forums. Without their help, they would not have been possible.





Congratulations Baroness Patricia Scotland

The IALS congratulates Baroness Patricia Scotland for her appointment as Secretary General of the Commonwealth. She is the first woman to hold the post of Secretary General. Baroness Scotland was the keynote speaker at the 2014 IALS African Regional Law Deans' Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The IALS wishes her well in the new position.

IALS Judicial Council – NEW!



I am delighted to accept the chairmanship of the Judicial Council of the International Association of Law Schools. As an appellate judge in the American federal judicial system, I have always felt the importance of legal education and have been pleased to be an adjunct law professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, where I live. Top quality legal education is vital for the success of any national judiciary. It not only forms the basis for top quality judges but is crucial in the training of advocates on both sides of each case which is presented to us. I also believe in a closer relationship between the legal academy and the judiciary. I commend President Wang and the International Association of Law Schools for their wisdom in helping to initiate an effective "gown and gown" dialogue between judges and academics throughout the global legal structure.

Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain
United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit

Interested in Hosting?

Regional Law Deans' Forum, Annual Meeting or Global Law Deans' Forum 2017 & 2018

We are currently looking for members to host the 2017 and 2018 IALS Annual Meeting and Regional Law Deans' Forums. If you have interest, time and resources in hosting a Meeting or Forum please [complete this short questionnaire](#). After completion we will send a detailed IALS – Hosting Management Guide, which includes further details regarding hosting an annual meeting.



Visiting Professors Program

The International Association of Law Schools is now accepting expressions of interest from its members to be a host school for a faculty member from another member school. The visiting faculty member will teach, pursue a collaborative research project with your faculty, participate in workshops and conferences, and present a paper on the visitor's scholarship. As a host, your school is to provide or assist the IALS Visiting Professor with comfortable and suitable housing, access to library and research facilities, an office, and, where appropriate a meal plan. Please contact us for a comprehensive description of the host school's responsibilities.

If you are interested in becoming an IALS Visiting Professors' host institution, please complete this [expression of interest](#). Our Visiting Professors' Committee will then provide the host institution a number of prescreened candidates from which the host school can select the most appropriate one for its needs. We hope you can join us in facilitating the exchange of legal scholars among our community of the world's law schools.



Dues & Membership



We now have over 170 members! Thank you for all your support and we look forward to working with your schools. Invoices for the January-December 2016 year will be sent via email in late December 2015.

Please note the Association has a new financial institution. New banking details will be noted on the invoices.



Student Corner



Rule of Law, Conflict and Legal Education: The transformational power of quality legal education in Africa

Abstract

The authors of this paper are two law students from strikingly diverse backgrounds, whose stories converge in law school. This paper will analyze the transformative role of quality legal education in the creation of common standards in society, vis-à-vis the rule of law and conflict by looking at the comparative experience of these two authors. It will examine the relevance of legal education to the African society, particularly the transformational role of “quality legal education” as an equalizing factor in the lives of young professional law graduates. Further, it will scrutinize the transformative power that “quality” has in the training of the modern lawyer, and propose quantifiable ways of measuring this “quality education” appropriately.

Introduction

This paper begins with recounts of two stories that interweave, on backgrounds far distinct but proximate enough, to advocate for standards in legal studies in Africa: it brings forwards the perspectives through which legal education should be seen in Africa, particularly in East Africa. We must look at law schools as producers, the society as the consumers, the student as the raw material and the lawyer as the final product offered. (Ibid) The varying quality of student training should be brought about by the diversity of external demands. (The Quality of Legal Education in Russia: Stereotypes and Real Problems The Global Network for Public Interest Law January 2014)

This paper presents the Africa society as the consumer with the unique characteristic of requiring urgent and severe social reconstruction, as it is generally conflict prone. (Institute for Security Study, a think tank based in Nairobi, classified 26 out of the 55 states in Africa as fragile see Jakkie Cilliers and Timothy D Sisk, Assessing State Long-Term State Fragility in Africa: Prospects for 26, More fragile, Countries, ISS Monograph Number 188 [2013] Institute of Security Studies, p.41) There is urgent need for lawyers who have; a deep rooted appreciation for the dignity of the person; understanding and appreciation for various cultural and religious substructures that often create a de facto pluralist legal system; to be, and perhaps with great emphasis, peace brokers and engineers of sustainable unified societies.

This is in addition to the essential but generally applicable criteria of, inter alia, employability, advocacy skills, professionalism, legal ethics and research capabilities.

Apparently, the recounts reveal, the raw material is not standard. The goal is however the same. Nonetheless, a quality legal education can be equalizing factor in producing lawyers who can effectively serve the needs of the society. Thus it proposes targeting value outcomes, such as human dignity and cultural contextualization to enhance the appreciation of the rule of law in societies that are prone to do otherwise and ultimately ensure sustainable peace. The scope can be said to be beyond employability.

Authors:

Eva Wangui Kimani

Aged 24, a fourth year student of Law at the University of Nairobi. Her particular interests are in public international law, human rights and constitutional law. She currently also works at Strathmore Law School, Nairobi Kenya as a student assistant. She is an avid mooter and participated in the African Human Rights Moot court Competition and the Jessup Moot Court Competition.



Tetteng Thaloka Gaduel

Aged 25, he is a third year law student at Strathmore University. He is also a research assistant at Rift Valley Institute. He is interested in Public Law and Governance, Economics, Philosophy, History and Logic. He participated in South Sudan Customary Authority Research Project by the Rift Valley Institute in 2015.

