

Foreword

*At his best, man is the noblest of all animals;
separated from law and justice he is the worst.*

— Aristotle (Politics, 1253a 31-36)

Excellence in legal education is hinged upon appropriate infrastructural systems that support innovative learning, critical thinking and groundbreaking research, always within the context of a tireless search for truth and the pursuit of justice.

Africa's greatest challenge is profoundly and acutely entangled with the constant affront and disrespect for the rule of law and its sacred guardian, the Judiciary. Impunity and the lack of judicial independence have embedded into modern society a disrespectful disdain for the rule of law and the Constitution. Africa is crying out for modern lawyers who are ready to be excellent professionals of proven integrity and honesty; men and women of character, of virtue, who will not be ready *to sell their birthrights for a plate of lentils*. The 21st century modern African lawyer is called to be an agent of change, a transformative and virtuous leader, a man or woman of integrity, honesty and humility.

Strathmore Law Journal (SLJ) was conceptualized against this backdrop. Through this vibrant and intellectually engaging scholarly forum, we hope to encourage not only the actual ground-breaking research in African Law but also its dissemination. Towards these ends, we have strategically positioned the SLJ to enable it to identify cutting-edge ideas born within the continent, test them through high temperature crucibles, and sieve the gold within them, before their presentation to the reader. SLJ has been able to tap into an amazingly resourceful pool of the continent's best researchers thanks to Strathmore Law School's heightened networking, academic linkages and liaisons. In 2014, for instance, Strathmore Law School (SLS) hosted the African Deans of Law Forum. This forum brought together some of the greatest African legal minds and tested their ideas against leading scholars from the best law schools in the world.

The most outstanding outcome from seminars, roundtables, colloquia, research projects, and their crucible that is the *Annual Strathmore Law Conference*, was subjected to tough scrutiny by the SLJ's editorial board and its peer review process.

Finally, to ensure that our research findings have a wider reach, we have fashioned the SLJ as an open source publication, which is why we feel vindicated in saying that the SLJ is a voice of its kind in the African wilderness.

The SLJ is not the only periodical published by our law press. In emulation of their teachers and mentors, Strathmore Law School's students have been challenged to establish their own forum, *The Strathmore Law Review* (SLR). Again, the student-edited publication further supports our mission by encouraging research and innovation among the learning community not only at SLS, but also at each and every Law School, in Africa and elsewhere.

As we continue winding our path on the road to justice and the rule of law, we remember the wise advice of Martin Luther King Jr, a great human being, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

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