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The Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy is a SCOPUS-indexed interdisciplinary journal published by the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria. It is published in January, June and October by the Afe Babalola University Press, Nigeria.

The Journal promotes the dissemination of research results and scholarly papers by teaching and research scholars in Africa and across the world in broad areas of sustainable development law and policy. The thematic focus of the journal spans across broad areas of sustainable development law and policy ranging from the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. As such papers that explore broad themes of sustainable development such environment, natural resources, green economy, international trade, banking, taxation, public policy, public private partnerships, alternative dispute resolution, human rights, peace, and conflict studies are normally given top consideration.

The Editorial Board of the Journal comprises international development scholars and experts from Italy, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Nigeria, Canada and the United States that provide leadership and lend their expertise to promote and enhance the scholarly relevance of the journal internationally.

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The Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy (JSDLP)*, Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti welcomes the submission of unsolicited manuscripts. We welcome submissions that focus on any aspect of sustainable development law and policy ranging from the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Consequently, papers that explore broad themes of sustainable development such as agriculture, banking, e-commerce, environment, natural resources, public private partnerships, alternative dispute resolutions, human rights, peace, and conflict studies would be most welcome. We also welcome book reviews, case comments and public lectures.

Selected articles would be published in hard copy and prominently displayed on the institutional website as a resource for scholars and practitioners worldwide.

Papers must be based on original research, conform to the usual standard of academic publishing, be fully referenced, and presented in the standard format employed by the series. Papers will be evaluated based on their contemporary relevance, contribution to their selected fields of research, structure and analytical vigor. Please refer to the submission guide below.

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- 3) Details of the author should be supplied as the first footnote, attached by an asterisk to the author's name.

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 - quotations have been checked for accuracy; and
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Spring Edition: Only articles submitted on or before 12 noon on **31st March** will be considered for publication in the spring edition.

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9) Contributions are submitted to at least two referees and the identities of the contributors and referees are kept confidential.

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Professor Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN¹ and Dr. Eghosa O. Ekhatior²

The Legal Education Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, in partnership with the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy, is pleased to present the Volume 18 Issue 1 of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy. This a Special Issue on - *Legal Education for Sustainable Development: Perspectives from the Global South*. The aim of this Special Issue is to examine and unpack innovative approaches for modernising legal education to accelerate sustainable development, in response to contemporary opportunities and challenges. We received a plethora of submissions from scholars from different parts of the Global South. The Editorial Committee and Board acknowledge the reviewers for their constructive reviews on papers submitted for this issue. After a thorough peer-review process, 17 articles (including 1 book review and a public lecture) were accepted for publication.

The articles focus on a plethora of themes relating to legal education and sustainability in the Global South. The first article by Showkat Ahmad Wani and Ms Renuka examines the intertwinement of legal education, democratic government, active social responsibility, and

¹ **Prof. Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN, FCIArb** is the Chairman of the Legal Education Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA-LEC). He is an international lawyer, professor, and policy adviser specialising in business and human rights, energy, natural resources, and environmental law. He serves as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) at Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, where he is also the Director of the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (OGEES Institute). He also holds the UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. A Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Professor Olawuyi is the Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and serves on several committees and boards including the African Development Bank, International Law Association, International Bar Association and the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities (ASSELLMU). His award-winning book *Environmental Law in Arab States* earned recognition from the American Society of International Law (ASIL) in 2023. Professor Olawuyi holds a doctorate (DPhil) in energy and environmental law from the University of Oxford; a Master of Laws (LLM) from Harvard University; and another LLM from the University of Calgary. He has been admitted as Barrister and Solicitor in Alberta, Canada; Ontario, Canada; and Nigeria. Further information about his profile and publications can be found at: www.damilolaolawuyi.com ; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0700-981X>

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social inclusion in India and Nigeria. The second article by Dejo Olowu discusses the evolving role of African universities within contemporary development discourse, drawing on emerging literature that highlights the expanding functions of higher education institutions in knowledge economies, innovation systems, and evidence-informed policymaking. The third contribution is by Osatohanmwen Osamudiamen Eruaga, Onyinyechi Lilian Uche, Sandra Belema Ekine. The authors analyse how Nigeria can operationalise sustainable funding for its legal education. This submission also considers funding models applicable in South Africa and Kenya, drawing possible lessons that align with the SDGs.

The fourth paper is by Uche Nnawulezi, Jacques Kabano, Safiyyah Ummu Mohammed, Mugisha Jean Vianney and Septhian Eka Adiyatma. The authors examine the transformative role of legal education in fostering civic development, national integration, and sustainable development pathways in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Indonesia. The next submission in this issue is by Zainab Mojisola Oniyide and Sodiq Sunkanmi Mustapha. The authors adopt an Islamico-legal approach, interrogating whether AI entities can be granted legal personality (*dhimma*) and capacity (*ahliyyah*) under Islamic Law, and the extent of their liability.

The sixth submission is by Itunu Kolade-Faseyi, Cynthia Chukwufumnanya Izu and Fikayo Leke. The authors adopt empirical research methodology combined with a comparative analytical style and case study analysis in examining the intersection between legal education and academic integrity in Nigeria. The seventh contribution is by Pretty Tega Edema. The author examines the potential of digital transformation and emerging technologies in transforming legal education in Nigeria. The eighth submission is by Empire Hechime Nyekwere, Bamidele Olasehinde Adebayo, Caroline Abimbola Fabode-Balogun, Dorcas Adesola Thanni, Oluwatobiloba Ifedolapo Ajayi and Faith Amarachi Okpara. The authors examine the role of Nigerian Universities Faculties of Law (NUFL) and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in mitigating climate change through legal education. The ninth paper is by Taofeeq N. Alatise. The author examines the prospects of an integrated approach to climate change legal education in Nigeria. The tenth submission by Godfree Matthew and he proposes the reliance on more progressive approaches to the teaching of international law in Nigerian Universities. The eleventh contribution is by Callistus Nnaemeka Iyidobi, Chukwunweike A. Ogbuabor, Chisom Chinyelugo Iyidobi and Emeka Nathaniel Okolie. The authors examine the critical relationship between legal education and restorative justice in fostering sustainable peace and security in Nigeria. This is followed by the twelfth article by Taiye Joshua Omidoyin which evaluates how legal educators can maximize the potential contributions of artificial intelligence and other digital tools in the training of future lawyers. The challenges associated with AI in clinical education contexts are explored, while the article offers pathways through which the curriculum of law clinics could be amended to accommodate AI learning and usage. The thirteenth article is by Matthew Izuchukwu Anushiem, Odinaka Emmanuel Okeke, Uchenna Maryjane Anushiem, Ifeoma Priscillia Nwakoby. This article situates legal education as a strategic tool for fostering active citizenship and bridging Nigeria's deep socio-political divides. The fourteenth article by Fasanmi, Folabi Valentine discusses the issue of financing legal education, a critical challenge facing many Nigerian universities. The article unpacks the role of innovative sustainability

financing tools, including green bonds and public private partnership models in financing legal education, as well as in mainstreaming environmental and sustainability legal education in higher education curricula. The fifteenth article by Taiye Joshua Omidoyin, Michael Kehinde Osadare, and Emmanuel Utebor offers an in-depth evaluation of the potential benefits, challenges and prospects of the mandatory continuing professional development programme under the Nigerian Bar Association's Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Rules. It provides recommendations on how to ensure the coherent, inclusive and effective implementation of the Rules.

The sixteenth contribution in this issue is book review by Godwin Iyanuoluwa Daramola, who undertakes a review of *What is Legal Education for? Reassessing the Purposes of Early Twenty-First Century Learning and Law Schools* edited by Rachel Dunn, Paul Maharg, and Victoria Roper. The final contribution is a public lecture by Aare Afe Babalola OFR, CON, SAN, LLD, titled 'Decay in the Legal Education Sector: The Way Forward'.

This is a collection of critical academic materials providing fresh perspectives on legal education sustainability in several countries in the Global South. We sincerely thank the leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association, our Editorial Board, Editorial Committee and the President and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti – Aare Afe Babalola SAN, OFR, LLD – for their pivotal support to the success of this Special Issue, and we wish all our readers a rewarding study and application of the articles presented in the Issue.

Yours truly,

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