

Editorial

We are pleased to announce the second issue of 2025 of the International Journal of Law in a Changing World – IJLCW. As editors, we are proud to observe the journal’s growing reputation worldwide, reflected in the rising number of submissions and citations. The journal currently holds a Google H-Index of 7 and is cited by leading publications in law and related fields. To celebrate its fourth year of publication, we present a diverse issue, both geographically and across a variety of topics.

This issue brings together a rich diversity of authors and perspectives from Poland, Egypt, Spain, Vietnam, Indonesia, and South Africa, reflecting the journal’s commitment to a global and multidisciplinary dialogue on law. The topics span human rights, environmental protection, international trade, administrative law, legal theory, smart contracts, village-level governance, and professional ethics, demonstrating the breadth and depth of contemporary legal debates.

From Poland, Magdalena Łagiewska analyses dispute settlement mechanisms in China’s Free Trade Zones, showing how these zones serve as laboratories for legal innovation despite the absence of a unified national framework for resolving Sino-foreign disputes.

Then, Mohammed Ibrahim Abdel Nabi and Yassin Abdalla Abdelkarim (Egypt) offer a doctrinal exploration of smart contracts under Egyptian civil law, clarifying their structure and operation while establishing a jurisprudential foundation to reconcile technological innovation with traditional contract theory. In the field of international economic law, Martín Jesús Urrea Salazar (Spain) evaluates the role of the WTO in a fragmented global trade landscape, arguing for a multidisciplinary understanding of how public and private international law interact to provide legal certainty for commercial actors.

Governance and administrative accountability are the focus of Vu Minh Chau (Vietnam), whose article links weaknesses in delegated legislation and oversight mechanisms to broader phenomena of crony capitalism and rising social inequality. Complementing this institutional analysis, Mario M. Masela and Tomy Michael (Indonesia) address the legal status of village regulations, identifying a troubling gap in Indonesia’s judicial review system that leaves these local norms without a competent forum to test their legality, undermining constitutional guarantees of legal certainty.

Paul S. Masumbe, Bulelani Thukuse, and Usenathi Phindelo (South Africa) investigate misappropriation of client compensation funds in litigation involving the Road Accident Fund. Their study reveals systemic failures in regulatory enforcement and professional ethics, offering concrete recommendations to restore accountability and protect vulnerable claimants.

Together, these contributions showcase the journal’s international reach and its dedication to encouraging informed, critical engagement with legal issues impacting societies worldwide. The journal continues to grow in importance, earning new scholar metrics and indexations. We sincerely thank all the readers, authors, and reviewers for their valuable support!

Editors-in-Chief

Elizaveta Gromova and Daniel Brantes Ferreira