

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the African Student Law Journal (ASLJ), a platform created to amplify the voices of emerging legal scholars and foster a culture of intellectual inquiry. The ASLJ was launched in November 2023 and proudly publishes its first issue in September 2025. It was established to enhance the visibility of undergraduate and master's students by providing a space where their ideas can take shape and be heard.

From the outset, our vision has been clear. We sought to create a developmental space where students could engage with the law critically and creatively, and where every contribution would be valued for the voice it brings to the ongoing conversation. We did not want a journal that catered only to those who already write with polish and confidence. Instead, we aimed to build a platform where every student, regardless of experience, could explore ideas, test arguments, and contribute to the conversations shaping African legal scholarship.

Each paper undergoes a peer review process designed not to gatekeep but to guide, ensuring that students receive constructive feedback while maintaining high standards of scholarship. In keeping with our commitment to accessibility, all contributions are available on open access.

The work published here represents more than academic exercises. These pieces reflect the lived realities of students and their communities. They interrogate the law not only as text but as a social force that shapes, constrains and sometimes uplifts lives. In doing so, they remind us that legal scholarship, even in its earliest stages, carries the potential to inspire change in lecture halls, in practice and in policy.

We are particularly proud to welcome submissions from undergraduate students, many of whom may be publishing for the first time. Their work, alongside that of master's students, reflects the diversity and richness of emerging legal thought on our continent. These voices are not just the future of legal scholarship. They are already reshaping how we think about law, justice and society today.

To the authors who have entrusted us with their ideas, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your courage and intellectual curiosity make this journal possible. To our reviewers, mentors and editors, thank you for dedicating your time and expertise to support the growth of these scholars and to uphold the integrity of our work.

The ASLJ is not just a collection of articles. It is a collaborative effort, a catalyst for dialogue and a medium through which the seeds of change can be sown. It aims to be unapologetically inclusive, embracing student scholarship from across the continent and building a dialogue that transcends institutional and geographic boundaries.

To our readers, we invite you to engage actively with the content presented here. Dissect the arguments, challenge the assumptions, and let the ideas within these pages inspire your own intellectual pursuits. The future of this journal, and of the conversations it fosters, will be written by

the students who dare to contribute and by the communities of scholars and practitioners willing to listen.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us, and for sharing in the vision of a journal where student voices are celebrated and amplified.

Warm regards,

Dr Carmel Jacobs
Editor-in-Chief