

Editorial Note

The *Journal of Afghan Legal Studies (JALS)* is the first peer-reviewed, trilingual scientific law journal in Afghanistan. It provides a unique intellectual venue for national and international scholars and researchers in the field of Afghan law. The purpose of the JALS is to spread the findings of high-quality research concerning important legal and juridical issues of concern to the country and matters of topical interest in Afghanistan's on-going efforts to strengthen the rule of law. The JALS also provides reviews and expositions of new challenges emerging from the implementation of the existing laws in the country. Most of the contributions are written by Afghan researchers in Dari, Pashto or English. In addition, a number of international scholars have written articles in English or Farsi.

Pashto is much of a newcomer as an academic language and although JALS contributions in Pashto have been somewhat limited in number compared to those in Dari and English, effort is being made to widen the Pashto coverage so as to respond to the needs of Pashto students, scholars and practitioners. The editors will pursue their efforts to contact capable researchers in Afghanistan and abroad to write articles in Pashto, and we are optimistic to having more in the next volumes of the JALS.

Most of the articles in this volume were presented at one of the Afghan Legal Studies Conferences, which we organize in Kabul on an annual basis, and after careful review by two members of the Editorial Committee of the JALS, selected papers have been included in this volume.

This journal was initiated in 1395/2016 by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Founding CEO of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS)

in Malaysia, the German scholar Dr. Tilmann J. Röder, and Assistant Professor Lutforahman Saeed of the Shariah Faculty of Kabul University. Afghanistan is still grappling with endemic violence and security issues that are sapping the country's vitality in so many ways. Academic publications require focus, capacity building and resources, which are limited under these circumstances. It is due to the valuable efforts of many supporters that the JALS has become the only law journal in Afghanistan that is registered with the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) organization in Paris. The first volume of the JALS was distributed to national and international libraries last year and was warmly welcomed and appreciated by numerous law scholars and researchers. We take this opportunity to thank all of them, and also those who dedicate their valuable time and effort to write scientific contributions for this journal. We are appreciative of the constructive efforts of all who work for the restoration of peace to Afghanistan and a better future for this country.

We were exceedingly encouraged by the positive responses to our invitation of a number of eminent national and international academic figures and public personalities to become members of the Academic Advisory Board of the JALS. Their names and organizational affiliations are mentioned on the first pages of this issue. The Editorial Committee takes this opportunity to record their appreciation for them all. It is hoped that the esteemed members of the Academic Advisory Board will avail us of their valuable advice and also to introduce and promote the JALS in their respective countries and organizations in the future.

The Editorial Team is composed of postdoc scholars and PhD students who are introduced to the art of journal editing by the Editorial Committee. They carefully reviewed all the contributions in their respective areas of expertise, and shared with us their valuable views.

We also acknowledge the hard work of our Editorial Assistants, Mr. Ahmad Shah Ahmadyar and Ms. Aisha Mahmood, who were actively involved in all stages of preparing this volume, and to Ms. Amana Hosseini and Ms. Fatima, for their very good translation of the abstracts of the papers. It is important to us to mention that all persons involved, without any exception, are doing this work as volunteers and without payment.

With a view to improve the production process and the visibility of the JALS in Afghanistan. Dr. Tilmann J. Röder and Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali decided to appoint Ass. Prof. Lutforahman Saeed as the Chief Editor of the JALS.

He has taken control since then and much of the editorial tasks of the present issue were carried under his supervision.

Last but not least we acknowledge with profound appreciation the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany for generously providing financial support to conduct the Afghan Legal Studies Conferences that in many ways facilitated the publication of this journal. We are actively looking for donors who will help us to continue our Afghan Legal Studies Project, which we intend to continue for many years to come.

The Editors

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Dr. Tilmann J. Röder

and Chief Editor, Ass. Prof. Lutforahman Saeed