

Editorial Note

We are pleased to present Volume 3 of the *Journal of Afghan Legal Studies (JALS)*, a collection of scholarly contributions that shed light on significant issues in Afghan law and legal development. This volume is largely based on research presented at the fourth *Afghan Legal Studies Conferences (ALSC)*, which took place in Kabul in 2017. The ALSC serves as a crucial platform for academic exchange, enabling scholars from Afghanistan and beyond to present and discuss their latest research findings. The conference series aims to strengthen scholarly collaboration among Afghan law professors, Ph.D. students, and independent researchers while fostering connections with the international legal community. Through these efforts, we hope to contribute to the advancement of legal research in Afghanistan.

The conference featured six thematic panels covering public law, private law, criminal law, public international law, interdisciplinary and Islamic studies, and the rule of law. Papers were presented in Dari, Pashto, and English, reflecting the linguistic and intellectual diversity of Afghanistan's legal scholarship. The ALSC is a key component of the Afghan Legal Studies Project, initiated in 2015 by Professor Dr. Hashim Kamali and Dr. Tilmann Röder. Another cornerstone of this project is the Hamida Barmaki Ph.D. Scholarship Program, which supports fourteen Afghan legal scholars in their doctoral research. Many of these Ph.D. candidates played a central role in the conference and also contributed significantly to this volume, particularly as part of the editorial team assisting with technical editing. The editors extend their sincere gratitude to them, as well as to Mr. Ahmad Shah Ahmadyar and Ms. A. Mahmood, for their invaluable contributions to the production of this volume.

This issue of JALS highlights several important themes in Afghan law, presenting original research and critical analyses. It includes critical examinations of why efforts to promote the rule of law, implement the constitution, and build a modern justice system in Afghanistan keep failing. Other articles discuss the role of civil society and transitional justice.

We hope that this volume will contribute to the ongoing discourse on Afghan legal development and serve as a valuable resource for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike. As editors, we are grateful to all contributors for their dedication and scholarly excellence, and we look forward to continued engagement with the vibrant Afghan legal research community.

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