



Call for chapters for edited book

Deadline for submissions: 15 December 2019
Title: Emerging Electoral Jurisprudence in Africa
Contact Email: okumu-masiga@africajurists.org
Martin Masiga
Secretary General

The Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) would like to invite all interested judicial officers, legal practitioners, academics, civil society organizations, independent Commissions and any other interested party to submit a chapter proposal of 1,000 to 2,000 words before 15 December, 2019. The proposal should include:

- Title and thematic area under which the submission is made;
- An abstract or summary of the chapter, and
- Objectives or purpose for which the chapter is proposed.

AJJF is developing a guidebook on the trajectory of electoral jurisprudence in Africa. The book will be a collection of articles looking at the past, the present and offering prognosis for the future on topics and themes specified below. This will be produced to document existing knowledge and best practices while critiquing areas of controversy, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence, and exposing challenges and opportunities. The emphasis on topics and themes rather than specific country case studies will help focus on the development of distinct 'African jurisprudence'. Elements of that jurisprudence have been hailed as offering hope for electoral justice in the region while others have been criticized for stifling the development of African democracy and the enjoyment of human rights. A number of countries such as Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia have consistently adjudicated electoral disputes from local to national levels and could offer some discernible patterns of contemporary regional jurisprudence on electoral matters, which will find their place in the publication.

Target Audience

The publication is expected to be a reference book for judges determining election cases, lawyers litigating such cases and academics studying, analyzing and commenting on election jurisprudence as well as civil society activists working on electoral justice issues.

Recommended Topics



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Structure and outline of

Electoral Jurisprudence Guide

1. International and Regional African standards, principles and norms on Elections (and the right to participate)

Papers in this section may include but are not limited to discussions on the following issues:

- Notable references or application of international/regional standards in national jurisprudence. Giving particular emphasis to cases where the court has specifically referenced and upheld a provision from a international or regional convention relevant to electoral rights;
- Freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and attendant legislative provisions and their use and application during electoral periods;
- Comparative reviews or assessments of domestic jurisprudence against international/regional standards and norms, and
- Any other noteworthy applications of international/regional standards and norms in domestic courts.

2. Pre-Electoral Period: Election Environment

Papers in this section may include but are not limited to discussion on the following issues:

- Equal access to resources and national media outlets by all candidates in national elections particularly presidential and parliamentary elections. The role, if any, courts have played in addressing these discrepancies;
- The role of the courts in addressing issues of violence during elections;
- The role of administrative structures, such as district administrators/councils, governors, chiefs and other local leaders in rural areas during election period;
- Cases and decisions on Election management bodies, and
- Cases consider jurisprudence around voter registration, primary elections/candidate nomination, and cases dealing with independent candidates.

3. During Elections: Casting, counting and observation missions

Papers in this section may include but are not limited to discussions on the following issues:

- issues of access to polling stations, ballot box, posters and campaigns;
- role, assess and protection of regional and international observers missions, and
- review of cases that have focused on voter identification, election operations, results transmission and tabulation.

4. Post- Elections Period

Papers in this section may include but are not limited to discussions on the following issues:



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- Access to the courts by candidates and victims: locus standi, legal aid for victims;
- Procedural issues, burden and standard of proof;
- Substantiality, proportionality and other such principles;
- Election petitions and emerging jurisprudence, and
- Remedies available to petitioners.

5. Enforcement of Electoral Decisions

Papers in this section may include but are not limited to discussions on the following issues:

- State responses to electoral decisions and the impact of electoral jurisprudence on electoral institutions, policy and legal frameworks.

Authors will be notified by 2 January 2020, about the status of their proposals and sent chapter guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by 28 February, 2020, and all interested authors must consult the style guidelines at https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/Legacy/sitefiles/file/47/16216/2011styleguidelines_2.pdf prior to submission. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for proposals submitted to this book publication.

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