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Editor's Note

It is my pleasure to introduce this inaugural issue of the bi-annual *NIALS Journal on Criminal Law and Justice (NJCLJ)* published by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal

Studies. The *NJCLJ* is the first Nigerian periodical dedicated to academic discourse in the fields of criminal law and criminal justice in Nigeria and some may ask, “Do we need a specialised journal dedicated to these fields?” I dare say, the answer to that question must be in the positive. Without doubt, the *NJCLJ* is coming at an appropriate time, with the spate of developments in the fields arising from ground-breaking legislative reforms and judicial decisions within Nigeria and globally.

The Journal is an interdisciplinary journal designed to respond to intersecting fields and welcomes submissions from researchers and scholars from all disciplines. The fields of criminal law and criminal justice not only intersect in the thoughts and practice around them; they are interdependent in their development and of sufficient public significance to warrant exclusive devotion of a specialized journal. While scholarship around criminal justice has been more welcoming of multi-disciplinary approaches, explicable by the fact of the diversity of criminal justice practitioners, the historical approach has been to treat Criminal Law as a discourse area that is the exclusive remit of legal researchers, scholars and practitioners. The result has been the dichotomization of outlets for scholarship in both fields, limiting the opportunity for many practitioners to benefit from scholarship across the fields. This dichotomization is stultifying of the growth of knowledge and the development of practice, which is unacceptable given contemporary needs. The birth of the *NJCLJ* aims at contributing to efforts to address this challenge.

The objective of the Journal is to contribute to the development of discourse and practice in the intersecting fields through the provision of an outlet for current and relevant research findings and emergent critical thoughts. In furtherance of this, a diverse range of papers have been gathered in this first issue. An equally diverse range of papers

is being gathered for the second issue, and a Special Edition focused on the new Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011 is soon to be published.

The *NJCLJ* accepts articles, notes, reviews and abstracts in English. All submitted materials are under the copyright of the Journal and author. Such materials may be quoted with appropriate reference added, but may not be republished without the consent of the Journal. Libraries as well as private persons are free, however, to copy the contents of the Journal for research purposes.

Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN
December, 2011

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