

In this issue:

- Highlights from SIEL 2018 Global Conference, Washington D. C., 12-14 July 2018 - [p. 1.](#)
- New AfiELN Executive Committee constituted - [p. 1-2.](#)
- Welcome message from AfiELN President - [p. 2-3.](#)
- 4th AfiELN Biennial Conference - Call for papers - [p. 3.](#)
- Recent/Upcoming events and publications [p. 3 - 4.](#)

SIEL 2018 Global Conference, Washington D. C., 12-14 July 2018



The Society of International Economic Law's Biennial Conference themed: "International Economic Law in Unsettling Times" was hosted by the American University Washington College of Law from the 12th to the 14th of July 2018. Over 100 speakers from academia, international organisations, industry and legal practice presented on diverse areas of international economic law to over 300 participants in attendance. Invited speakers included Christine Lagarde, H el ene Ruiz-Fabri, Joel Trachtman, Teresa Cheng, Rufus Yerxa, Jonathan Fried, Herminio Blanco Mendoza, Jennifer Hillman, Ricardo Ramirez-Hernandez and Giorgio Sacerdoti. More pictures videos available [here](#).



Dr. Amaka Vanni, a member of the AfiELN, was awarded the prestigious SIEL/HART Prize 2018 for her doctoral dissertation completed at the University of Warwick titled '*Narratives and Counter-Narratives in Pharmaceutical Patent Law Making: Experiences from 3 Developing Countries*'. The winning thesis will be published within the Hart series "Studies in International Trade and Investment Law."

Hearty congratulations to Dr Amaka!

Newsletter editor:
Ohio Omiunu

New AfiELN Executive constituted in Washington D. C.

Members of the AfiELN met on day one of the SIEL Global conference in

Should you wish to include an item in the next AfIELN newsletter, please contact us:

AfIelN.siel@gmail.com

Follows on twitter:



@af_ieln

About the AfIELN:

The AfIELN is a regional network under the auspices of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). AfIELN is an organization aimed at academics, industry practitioners, policy experts and officials with interest in the field of International Economic Law (IEL) in Africa

Washington D.C. At the meeting, a new executive committee was constituted for the network. Olabisi Akinkugbe is the new president. Other members of the executive committee are: Luwam Dirar – Vice President, Ohio Omiunu-Secretary, Nwamaka Okany – Treasurer and Sara Ghebremusse – Co-Treasurer.



Dr. Olabisi Akinkugbe
President



Dr. Luwam Dirar
Vice-President



Dr. Ohio Omiunu
Secretary



Ms. Nwamaka Okany
Treasurer



Prof. Sara Ghebremusse
Co-Treasurer

Welcome from AfIELN President

Dear AfIELN Members,

It is my joy to share some thoughts with you on this inaugural issue of our AfIELN Newsletter.

First, I would like to thank the founders, past executive members, and volunteers who have all worked hard to grow our Network. The platform that the Network provides as the regional umbrella of the Society of International Economic Law is unique, and our biennial conferences have offered a perfect moment for us all to interact and think about Africa and International Economic Law broadly.

Since its inception, the AfIELN has successfully hosted well-attended conferences (in South Africa and Nigeria). The Network has also published special journal issues and edited book volumes from its past conferences while also putting several scholars with overlapping interests in touch for collaborative projects.

Second, while there have been useful and critical interventions by scholars in the field about on-going challenges in the multilateral trading system and the World Trade Organization, in particular, African States have continued to deepen the frameworks for reinvigorated trade relations among themselves on the one hand and the global trading system on the other side. At the continental and regional levels, in addition to on-going negotiations for a Continental International Investment Law regime, most recently, State Parties have concluded the negotiation of the African Continental Free Area Agreement and the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement respectively. While the path ahead concerning the implementation of these agreements vis-a-vis existing regional economic communities in ways that ensure effective and efficient re-distribution of economic resources, fair trade in the regions, and among others will need to be forged, the significance of the conclusion of the agreements cannot be overemphasized. We all (i.e., scholars, policy experts, and government advisors)

have a critical role to play in the process.

With the preceding in mind, to continue building on the past efforts in facilitating and stimulating intellectually rigorous conversations regarding Africa's participation in international economic law, next year, from July 18-20, we will host the Fourth Biennial conference at the Strathmore University School of Law in Nairobi, Kenya. Our Call for Paper is now available on the SIEL website and our social media handles. We look forward to you joining us next year in Kenya.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary Dr. Ohio Omiunu for putting together this inaugural Newsletter. I also appreciate all the other executive committee members, the conference organizing committee and other volunteers for their hard work in the past few months since the constitution of the new team. I look forward to counting on you all in the months ahead.

Sincerely,
Olabisi D. Akinkugbe
President, AfIELN.

4th AfIELN Biennial Conference 2019- Call for papers

The 4th AfIELN biennial conference call for papers is now out. The theme of the conference is *Africa's Participation in International Economic Law in the 21st Century*. The conference is scheduled to taking place at **Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya from 18 to 20 July 2019**. The conference aims to bring together scholars and scholarship that highlights original and innovative thinking in IEL as it pertains to the continent. The conference organising committee welcomes abstracts which challenges, engages and addresses recent efforts to change Africa's marginality in global economic governance. Please circulate widely within your networks, and we look forward to receiving abstracts from you. The full call is available [here](#)

Upcoming and recent events/publications

New Arbitration Focus for Africa - African Arbitration Association

On 29 June 2018, the African Arbitration Association was launched. The new initiative among other objectives, aims to promote the use of Arbitration in Africa. More details available [here](#)

Strathmore University FDI mootng team to represent Africa in global mootng competition

Team Skotnikoz from Strathmore Law School Nairobi, Kenya are the 2018 Regional Foreign Direct Investment moot court competition winners'. The victorious team will represent Africa at the Global rounds to be held in Stockholm from 8 – 11 November 2018. More details available [here](#)

Law Firm launches comprehensive guide on Nigerian laws for foreign investors

In late 2017, SPA Ajibade & Co, a law firm based in Lagos Nigeria published a significant work on current legal trends in Nigerian law. The publication entitled: *A Review of Contemporary Legal Trends in Nigerian Law* covers topics of interest to foreign investors already doing business or seeking to do business in Nigeria. The relevant details can be found [here](#)

SIEL Newsletter out

The fall issue of the Society of International Economic Law Newsletter is now out. The newsletter contains important details about the recently elected Executive Council, highlights from the Biennial Conference and important updates relevant to members of the SIEL network. A link to the newsletter is available [here](#)