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ACLARS 2016

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR CONFERENCE ON

**RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND HERITAGE:
LEGAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

The organizing committee of the African Consortium of Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS) is pleased to announce the fourth conference on Law and Religion in Africa which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, hosted by the University of Addis Ababa and held at the African Union from Sunday, May 22, 2016 to Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

We hereby invite all scholars interested in the study of Law and Religion in Africa to save this date and submit proposals of no more than 250 words by **1 February 2016**. These should be submitted electronically to diane@aloc.co.za. The medium of presentation is English or French.

The conference will focus on the topic of religious pluralism in Africa, particularly in relation to contemporary questions of heritage and social development. "Heritage" is to be understood broadly as including religious, cultural, legal, and historical traditions, and the way these shape religious identities and societies in Africa today. The topic includes the challenges for organizations like UNESCO and ICOMOS to promote and protect heritage in diverse African contexts. The scope is broadened to include intangible as well as tangible heritage, and broader issues of religion and state, particularly in areas where multiple heritages and identities exist peacefully or come into conflict.

Possible sub-themes

- State responses to religious pluralism and pluralization in Africa
- Definition, creation, conservation, management, mobilization, and commodification of religious and spiritual heritage in the African context
- Cooperation or tensions between international organizations, African states, and local communities over religious and spiritual heritage
- Potential of national heritage policy and legislation to affirm or destabilize religion-state or interreligious relations, and religious pluralism in African states
- Political, economic, and/or legal factors in religious and spiritual heritage formation and management in specific African case studies
- Legal frameworks for renegotiating and memorializing the past and recognition of Africa's indigenous peoples
- Challenges to the influence of Western colonial policies, legal systems, classifications, and terminology on African heritage management
- Role of African traditional law or religion and heritage in social development
- Economic, political, historical, and religious approaches to religious pluralism, heritage, and social development
- Tensions between individual and collective rights in Africa
- Interrelationship between custom, culture, ethnicity, and religion in Africa
- Religious freedoms, rights, and responsibilities in Africa
- Role of media/tourism/education/gender/war, conflict, and/or natural disaster in revaluing or devaluing religious traditions, customs, and heritage in Africa

Note: Paper and panel proposals may also be submitted on any aspect of law and religion in Africa.

In addition to speakers selected from responses to the Call for Papers, a number of additional speakers will be commissioned for the programme. We would like to encourage all interested scholars and participants from the three prior ACLARS conferences on **Law and Religion in Africa** (Ghana, January 2013; Stellenbosch, May 2014; Namibia, May 2015) to consider attending. Travel support may be available for those whose papers are selected. Persons with matching funds from their institutions will receive preference in being invited to the conference.

Please feel free to distribute this Call for Papers to other interested parties. More detailed information will be provided at the Association website currently located at www.aclars.org. For further inquiries, kindly contact Diane Roodt at diane@aloc.co.za.

Very Important: All visa applications for Ethiopia must be completed by 1 March 2016 as it takes about 2 months to receive a visa to Ethiopia. Please keep this in mind.

Sincerely,

Pieter Coertzen
President ACLARS
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Conference Organising Committee:

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Mark Hill, Honorary Professor, Centre for Law and Religion, Cardiff University and University of Pretoria
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