

The Arab Association of Constitutional Law

Call for Papers

International Conference on:

“The Status of Legal Education in the Arab World”

The Arab Association of Constitutional Law, in partnership with the Law and Society Research Unit of the American University in Cairo and the School of Social, political and Legal Sciences of Carthage University in Tunis, will organize an international conference on: *“The Status of Legal Education in the Arab World.”* The conference will be held in Tunisia on the 6th & 7th of June 2020. Our goal is to discuss current challenges of legal education and professional training of the legal practitioners in the Arab Region. The focus of the conference will be on both the theoretical and practical aspects of legal education, and will cover the following issues:

1- Curricula and Educational Infrastructure

This session will examine the current curricula and education infrastructure in the region, and whether they maintain international standards, if any. This includes both public and private law schools, addressing issues such as the number of teachers and experts, the availability of academic resources and the general educational environment. This session will also look at the allocated budget for the schools compared to other fields, including tuition differences between public and private law schools. Authors are encouraged to propose new curricular and educational models and should identify any practical challenges in implementation.

2- Teaching Methodology

A teaching methodology that is focused on developing the students’ critical thinking and practical skills is a pillar of modern legal education. This session will look at current teaching methodologies used at the law schools in the Arab region on a comparative basis and examine to what extent the current teaching\learning processes support critical thinking and practical

skills. Authors are encouraged to investigate how to implement new teaching methodologies in Arab law schools.

3- Evaluation Methods

Educational theories encourage teachers to improve and diversify their evaluation and assessment tools. Effective evaluation tools are designed to help teachers to identify the strengths and weakness of the students, and to decide how can they improve the student's performance. This session will examine the evaluation tools that have been used at law schools in the Arab World and examine the extent of adherence to the most developed evaluation methodologies that focuses on assessing students' critical independent thinking, whether through "practical case studies" exams, or any other tool. Authors are encouraged to provide recommendations for new tools that boost law students' engagement and interaction in the learning process.

4- Legal Training and Bar Examinations

- I. Lack of professional training opportunities for law students has a significant impact on their ability to engage in legal practice. Observers have indicated that the level of law graduates' performance is below the required level and that the new generation of lawyers lacks analytical, writing and public speaking skills. This session aims to discuss the challenges that faced law students and graduates in obtaining training's opportunities and what is the role that should be played by the law schools and law firms.
- II. In Some Arab Countries, unlike others, the bar exam is the first step for law graduates to enter legal practice. While the exam's rules and requirements vary from country to country across the region, passing the exam is an essential condition for legal practitioners whether as lawyers, Judges or Public Prosecutors. In this context, this session may focus on conducting comparative research as to the different types of bar exam in the region, if any, and compare them to bar exams outside the region.

Application instructions:

Individuals who are interested in participating in the conference must submit an abstract in accordance with the following instructions:

- (i) If you are interested in carrying out any of the above studies, please send an abstract to conferences@dustour.org , dustororg@gmail.com no later than January 15th 2020. Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words, which includes the research methodology and the main research question that will be addressed in the study. Applicants should also send their CVs, including a list of publications, if any, with their abstracts.
- (ii) Abstracts may be submitted by individuals, co-authors or institutions. Membership in the Arab Association of Constitutional Law is not a requirement.

- (iii) Abstracts and papers are strongly encouraged to adopt a comparative approach. Abstracts and papers that focus on individual countries will still be considered.
- (iv) Individuals from outside the Arab region who wish to submit an abstract that focuses on developments that are taking place outside the Arab region are encouraged to do so, while ensuring that all discussions are aimed towards furthering and enriching the discussion in the Arab region on the topics set out above.
- (v) Abstracts may be submitted in Arabic or English.
- (vi) Accepted abstracts' authors will be notified, by January 31st, to submit the draft of their full paper no later than March 31st, 2020. The paper's length shall be between 4000 and 6000 words.
- (vii) Accepted paper's authors will be invited to the conference, on June 6th and 7th 2020, to present their findings.
- (viii) The authors who will be selected to carry out the above studies will be required to prepare oral presentations summarizing their findings at the conference. The Arab Association of Constitutional Law will cover the accommodation and flight costs for those invited to the conference.
- (ix) Upon concluding the conference, the authors will be requested to deliver the final version of their papers by July 15th, 2020 based on the feedback they will receive during the conference.