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About the Federal Law Journal (FLJ)

FLJ is published by the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), Islamabad, the principal training institute in Pakistan for judges, magistrates, legal officers, and court personnel. The Academy was founded through a Government of Pakistan Resolution in September 1988. Initially operating from a rented premises, it relocated in 1994 to its purpose-built campus in Sector H-8/4, Islamabad. It now functions under the Federal Judicial Academy Act, 1997, which mandates, among other responsibilities, the publication of academic journals, research studies, and institutional reports.

The Academy's affairs, including the oversight of FLJ, are managed by its Board of Governors, presently chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurazeb, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, serves as an Adviser to the Board. The Director General, as the academic and administrative head of the Academy, also holds the position of Chief Editor of the journal.

Scope of the Journal

The Federal Law Journal seeks to deepen understanding of legal systems, institutional challenges, and reformative practices by encouraging scholarly contributions that are practical, solution-driven, and forward-looking. The journal is particularly receptive to interdisciplinary submissions that intersect with domains such as information technology, artificial intelligence, economics, political science, criminology, international law, forensic science, environmental law, and climate policy.

FLJ welcomes the following categories of submissions:

- Research Articles, Papers, and Scholarly Essays
- Case Notes, Legal Commentaries, and Legislative Reviews
- Book Reviews and Papers on Legal and Institutional Reform

Aims and Objectives

FLJ is committed to fostering both theoretical inquiry and empirical analysis. It offers an inclusive platform for judges, academics, legal professionals, court officials, and students from around the world to publish and engage with impactful legal research. The journal aspires to:

- Promote rigorous and original research across a wide spectrum of legal disciplines, with a particular focus on the justice delivery system
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences among legal scholars, practitioners, and judicial officers
- Identify systemic deficiencies within the legal framework and propose evidence-based reforms
- Encourage a culture of inquiry, reflection, and scholarship within judicial institutions and the broader legal community

Who Can Contribute?

The *Federal Law Journal* invites contributions from:

- Judges of the Superior Courts and District Judiciary
- Faculty members of Judicial Academies and court staff
- Legal academics, practitioners, and scholars from disciplines related to the administration of justice
- Law students and legal researchers

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Editorial Foreword

The Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) is pleased to present Federal Law Journal (FLJ), Volume 4, Issue 2 (December 2025), with promising mission to promote scholarly work based on extensive legal research. This issue reaffirms our commitment to engaging readers with contemporary legal developments, doctrinal inquiry, and the challenges confronting legal systems.

The peer-reviewed section opens with research on emerging field of AI and its impacts on legal system. It examines the adequacy of traditional doctrines of *actus reus* and *mens rea* and attribution of criminal liability for autonomous decision-making systems. A significant contribution is added through jurisprudential analysis of the Indus Waters Treaty, examining evolving interpretative approaches in international dispute resolution and their implications for treaty interpretation. Children are the foundation of a society and child protection is a continuous challenge. Stolen Childhoods: “A study of systemic enforcement failure across child protection regimes” critically examines Pakistan’s child protection framework, highlighting institutional gaps between legislative objectives and effective enforcement.

The Draft Arbitration Bill, 2024, analyses its departure from the Arbitration Act, 1940 and its alignment with contemporary international arbitration standards, focusing on party autonomy, procedural efficiency, and judicial intervention. The role of constitutional courts in advancing environmental justice in Pakistan is meticulously evaluated in Environmental Justice and Superior Courts of Pakistan.

The non-peer-reviewed section discusses a recent judgement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on the custody of a minor child, explaining child-centric approach, related constitutional principles and relevant international legal norms.

The Editorial Board extends its sincere appreciation to the contributing authors, reviewers, and editorial team for their invaluable efforts and steadfast support in upholding the Journal’s academic integrity.

Hayat Ali Shah
Chief Editor

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