

## Foreword

This volume of the African Law Study Library presents the results of the “Second conference on current challenges for an independent and effective judiciary in West Africa” which took place in Accra, Ghana in February 2018 and was organized by the Rule of Law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The “Leaders for Justice Workshop” gathered highly qualified and experienced lawyers from different West African neighbouring countries.

The concept of the regional conference was based on previous regional conferences assembling post graduated lawyers. The 5<sup>th</sup> regional conference took place in Senegal, Dakar and discussed civil, criminal, commercial and arbitral matters, e.g. the appointment of judges, enforcement of international and national arbitration awards and challenges in commercial proceedings. The results are published in volume 3/2017 KAS African Law Study Library (<https://www.nomos-elibrary.de/10.5771/2363-6262-2017-3/kas-african-law-study-library-volume-4-2017-issue-3>).

The “Second conference on current challenges for an independent and effective judiciary in West Africa” aimed to create a network of judges, lawyers and prosecutors from Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast to facilitate a regional exchange and transfer of knowledge and experiences.

Transparency and independency are both elementary criteria to guarantee the Rule of Law. A functioning judicial system requires independent judges, clearly defined, transparent and effective judicial proceedings and qualified legal court staff.

The presented lectures focused on the remuneration system of civil judges, the working conditions and legal training of the civil court staff, obstacles in criminal investigation proceedings due to ethnic and social background of the suspect and the role of the public and the media during judicial proceedings.

Each participant was free in choosing and proposing aspects focused on his specific national judicial systems, which he or she found important to discuss. The following discussions contributed to a comparative approach and realized the conference’s aim. This volume presents the lectures in written form either as articles or as reports.

Opinions expressed in the articles and published in this volume are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent our opinion or those of Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

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