Editorial

Special Edition on Embracing Corporate Governance, Ethics, FinTech and AI to Combat Financial Crime and Promote Reputable Financial Institutions, Organisations, and Financial Markets

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The 4th Annual International Corporate and Financial Markets Law Conference (CFML) was held in a hybrid format (combining physical attendance and virtual participation) from 6–8 November 2024 at the Department of Law, University of Botswana. This conference provides a platform for students, legal practitioners, regulatory authorities, emerging researchers, established researchers, policymakers, and other relevant persons to examine and discuss topical issues of corporate and financial markets law and related fields.

The CFML conference was held under the theme: *Embracing Corporate Governance, Ethics, FinTech, and AI to Combat Financial Crime and Promote Reputable Financial Institutions, Organisations, and Financial Markets.*[1] The conference focused, inter alia, on the effects of unethical conduct, poor corporate governance measures, and financial crime; and on the credibility and viability of economies, financial institutions, financial markets, companies, and other juristic persons in practice.[2] This follows the fact that corporate scandals and financial crimes have adversely affected most global economies because companies and financial

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[1] Alexandre, C. & Eisenhart, L.C. 'Mobile money as an engine of financial inclusion and lynchpin of financial integrity' (2013) *Washington Journal of Law, Technology and Arts* 288–289; Chitimira, H. & Ncube, M. 'Legislative and other selected challenges affecting financial inclusion for the poor and low income earners in South Africa' (2020) 64 *Journal of African Law* 337–338; Ngwenya, B., Pelser, T. & Chivaura, T. 'Perceptions of post-multicurrency regime financial inclusion confidence challenges in Zimbabwe' (2018) *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences* 1–15; Chitimira, H. & Torerai, E. 'The nexus between mobile money regulation, innovative technology and the promotion of financial inclusion in Zimbabwe' (2021) *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal* 1–4.

[2] Lumsden 'The future is mobile: Financial inclusion and technological innovation in the emerging world' (2018) *Stanford Journal of Law, Business & Finance* 7–8; Kantor Immerman Legal Practitioners 'Corporate Rescue – A Consideration for Companies Affected by COVID-19?' (15 March 2021) available at http://www.kantorimmerman.co.zw/corporate-rescue-a-consideration-for-companies-affected-by-covid-19/ [Accessed 2 July 2023]; Ngwenya, Pelser & Chivaura op cit note 1 at 1–15; Chitimira & Torerai op cit note 1 at 4; Chitimira & Ncube op cit note 1 at 338.

institutions are struggling to adhere to good corporate governance practices. There is also a struggle to promote financial education, financial inclusion, market integrity and to embark on corporate social responsibility, while maintaining viable liquidity levels and remaining profitable.[3]

We received several papers from academics from across Africa, Europe, and Australia to participate at the CFML. These papers underwent a rigorous, double-anonymised peer-review process to assess their academic merit. Thereafter, the papers that were positively reviewed were accepted for publication in this special edition.

Lastly, I wish to thank Prof Ada Ordor and Dr Victor Amadi (editor-in-chief and managing editor, respectively, of the *Journal of Comparative Law in Africa*) for their professionalism and consistent editorial support, which contributed to the publication of this special edition.

[3] Alexander, K. 'Financial inclusion and banking regulation: The role of proportionality' (2021) *Law and Contemporary Problems* 142–143; Buheji, M., da Costa Cunha, K., Beka, G., Mavric, B., do Carmo de Souza, Y.L., Souza da Costa Silva, S., Hanafi, M. & Yein, T.C. 'The extent of Covid-19 pandemic socio-economic impact on global poverty: A global integrative multidisciplinary review' (2020) *American Journal of Economics* 216; Chitimira, H. & Hamadziripi, F. 'An overview analysis of shareholder activism in Zimbabwe' (2022) *Perspectives of Law and Public Administration* 176–187; Chitimira, H. & Hamadziripi, F. 'An analysis of the legal implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area's rules of origin on economic integration and constitutionalism in Africa' (2022) 11 *Perspectives of Law and Public Administration* 363–370; Isayeva, P.G. & Velieva, M.S. 'Consequences and prospects of using innovative technologies in banks' in *International Scientific Conference* (28–30 April 2013 Austria, Salzburg) 147–150; Chitimira, H., Hamadziripi, F. & Mopipi, K.N. 'Reconceptualising the focus of corporate social responsibility initiatives to address the digital divide in South Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic' (2022) *Perspectives of Law and Public Administration* 294–303; Chitimira, H. & Sethunyane, T. 'A legal analysis of the regulation and use of technology to promotoe corporate social responsibility of mining companies in Swartruggens Community' (2021) *Perspectives of Law and Public Administration* 42–55; Munzhedzi, P.H. 'Analysing the application of governance principles in the management of Covid-19 in South Africa: Lessons for the future' (2021) *Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review* 1; Chitimira, H. & Animashaun, O. 'Combatting legal uncertainty in the Nigerian tax avoidance laws' (2021) *Acta Universitatis Danubius Juridica* 36–44; Hamadziripi, F. & Chitimira, H. 'The socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 national lockdown on South Africa and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic' (2021) *Acta Universitatis Danubius Juridica* 24–42.