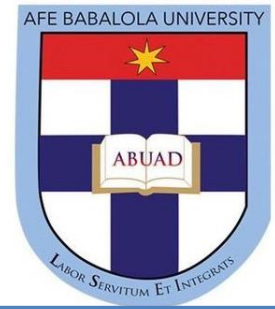




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BOOK REVIEW

Contemporary Issues in Nigerian Law: Essays in Honour of Professor Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde, FCAI, FCARB (Lawlexis International, Lagos, 2023).

Reviewed By

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**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NIGERIAN LAW: ESSAYS IN
HONOUR OF PROFESSOR ELISABETA SMARANDA
OLARINDE, FCAI, FCARb**

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Abraham Adeniran***** and Adetola Adesina*****

It is indeed an honour for us to review this book titled CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NIGERIAN LAW: ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR ELISABETA SMARANDA OLARINDE, FCAI, FCARb; a book written in celebration of a legal amazon and astute university Administrator, Professor Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde.

Prof. E. S. Olarinde has lived a life of excellence and impact with her over 40 years' experience at the Nigerian Bar, 40 years of it as a law teacher, a mother and seasoned university Administrator. She has served humanity and given her best to the society and she is still actively doing so in her various roles including that of being the Vice chancellor of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Nigeria, a foremost university ranked by Times Higher Education Impact Rankings Number 1 University in Nigeria for three consecutive years (2022, 2023 & 2024).

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This book, another testament of her influence and impacts on her family and former students (both in Nigeria and abroad), who have gone ahead to make giant strides in the society in various capacities (as judges, Senior Advocates of Nigeria, academics, legal practitioners among others) have come together to write this book in her honour in celebration of her 40 years at the Bar. This act is commendable and deserves a good pat on their backs. Indeed, Prof Olarinde deserves to be given her flowers and accolades, all of which are well deserved now.

This book gives a deep insight into the life of this amazon, Prof E. Smaranda Olarinde and also serves as a guide on contemporary legal issues in areas such as electronic commerce, electronic evidence, data protection, gender justice, alternative dispute resolution, health law, judicial independence, energy law among others. Every of the 154 pages of the 13 chaptered book is laden with knowledge, values and wisdom that can be gleaned not only by lawyers, scholars, students, judges, administrators, educationists, policy and law makers but by all and sundry as the life of Prof Olarinde exudes timeless lessons for all

The uniqueness of this book is evident in Chapter One which is an 'INSIDER REFLECTIONS ON PROFESSOR ELISABETA SMARANDA OLARINDE'S CAREER DISTINCTIONS'. The chapter written by her children and their spouses gives a biographical perspective of who Prof. Olarinde is, and in particular, her dexterity in combining and excelling in her various roles as a Lawyer, Academic/Researcher, Mother and university Administrator in the past four decades. Surely, the chapter elucidates on various values and practices that have set Prof. Olarinde apart and helped her excel in all her roles distinctively. Qualities such as resilience, empathy, hardwork, integrity, open-mindedness and liberality contribute immensely to her success. Her life, as shared, shows that both work and family lives need not be conflicting; but one can complement the other. Her excellence clearly comes from her dedication and perfection at all she does. Her ability to meet the needs of her family including children and grandchildren shows her inner strength. The chapter also elucidates on her understanding, attentiveness and nurturing to the needs and potentials of each of her children. Her dedication to mentorship and transformational leadership shows in her impact on people including the sacrifices she made for the vulnerable especially women and children. Prof. Olarinde is a foremost Law clinician who has helped to set up Law Clinics both at the University of Ibadan, and ABUAD, and ensured that her students are

involved in the projects. Her passion for teaching has been shown through her impact on various generations of lawyers in these past 4 decades.

Chapter Two which focuses on “Electronic Commerce and Data Privacy Challenges in Nigeria”, essentially captures how ICT has transformed the world, bringing to birth e-commerce, where goods are sold and bought via the internet. The authors made it clear that e-commerce is currently booming, and a very large market in Nigeria. As noted by the authors “the market size of e-commerce in Nigeria is estimated at USD 8.53 billion in 2024 and expected to reach USD 14.92 billion by 2029, within this forecast period (2024-2029)”. The authors also delved into the entangled nexus between e-commerce and protection of data privacy in Nigeria. As both customers and sellers or service providers disclose and use data, including their personal data, while transacting on the internet, data privacy challenges arise. The challenge of loan sharks sending unsolicited messages to third parties or maligning borrowers to everyone on the contact list of the borrower is an example of abuse of customer’s data and infringement of the rights of data subjects or customers in e-commerce transactions pointed out by the authors. The chapter finally explored these challenges faced by businesses and consumers and, recommended the imperative need for robust solutions to ensure a secure and thriving digital economy.

Chapter Three, “Electronic Commerce and the Threat of Data Theft: Legal and Regulatory perspective in Nigeria”, took the discussion of data protection in e-commerce further, by examining the legal and regulatory perspectives on the threat of data theft in e-commerce in Nigeria. The author did not fail to provide readers with different forms of data theft such as hacking, phishing, malware and insider threats, all of which have lead to serious financial loss, reputational damage, identity theft, legal liabilities, among others. In analysing data theft within the Nigeria’s landscape, case studies of data theft were also presented. The author analysed the legal framework for combating data theft including the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation Act, ratified by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in 2023 (Data Protection Act of 2023) and the Cybercrimes Act 2015. The author also recognised Nigeria’s proactive involvement in international collaboration as stipulated in the Budapest Convention.

Chapter 4 titled “Electronic Evidence and Legality of Online Hearings” introspected on the legal and technological advancements in the use and acceptance of electronic evidence and online hearings in the judicial system in Nigeria. It analysed the intersection of electronic evidence and the legality of

online hearings, with emphasis on how technological advancements have reshaped the way evidence is presented and evaluated in the virtual courtroom. Adopting doctrinal analysis, the author made it clear that virtual proceedings has existed in Nigeria's judicial system but the primary drivers of its utilisation was the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The author elucidated elaborately on the provisions of the Evidence Act which allows the admission of electronic evidence during online hearings. It also discussed how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain technology can increase the efficiency, accuracy, and analysis of digital information with respect to electronic evidence. The author also identified both the benefits and challenges of online hearings. Benefits include accessibility and convenience, and cost saving, etc. and challenges of remote court hearings include technical challenges, impact the traditional methods of cross-examination and confrontation, among others. Despite the challenges, the author came to the conclusion that remote court proceedings have come to stay in Nigeria and is increasingly being embraced across the country.

In Chapter 5, there was a gradual shift from the legal discourse on ICT challenges including e-commerce, data protection and online hearings to a discourse on how law and policy can enhance healthcare resilience in Nigeria and other countries of the world. The Chapter titled, "Enhancing Healthcare Resilience and Effective Responses to Pandemics in Nigeria", was informed by the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic to the health sector in Nigeria. The author gave a brief historical background to some of the pandemics that have ravaged the world, and the legal approach to resolving the challenges. The author also made it clear that the right to health is a human and constitutional right, protected by not only by national legal frameworks but international conventions. These include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that guarantees right to health or healthcare services, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981, which its Article 16(1) provides that every person is entitled to the best attainable state of physical and mental health. The author also stated clearly what is meant by health resilience, that is, preparedness of a system for unexpected shock, impact or occurrence, and the necessity of a resilient healthcare system in Nigeria. As the author noted, "Nigeria is currently underserved with inadequate health centres, professionals, and equipment." Hence, the author advocated for compliance with global best practices in this regard, and some of the strategies that can be employed include stronger health institutions, improved primary health care and early warning systems, motivated and expanded health workforce,

community engagement, adequate equity and investments in health care, respect for patient rights, among others.

Chapter 6 titled, “The Search for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment in Nigeria” explored the imperatives of gender justice and women empowerment in Nigeria. Gender justice, as clarified in the Chapter, aims for a society where all genders can thrive, participate fully, and enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and freedoms. Gender justice, according to the author of the Chapter goes beyond the struggles to achieve gender equality to encompass addressing the root causes of inequalities across diverse spheres, including the family, community, market, and state. Gender justice, as stated would, “demand that institutions, from policymakers to administrators and justice systems, take responsibility for dismantling the discrimination, biases and stereotypes that foster women's exclusion and impoverishment. Women empowerment, on the other hand, would involve women's increased participation in decision-making, better social status, increased political participation, and enhanced self-esteem. The author showed evidence of how socio-cultural and religious dynamics in Nigeria have historically shaped gender roles, norms, and disparities, which have in turn influenced the social, political, and economic status of women. The author also recognised the key legal frameworks that promote gender justice in Nigeria, starting with the foundational document, which is the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended, commonly referred to as the “grundnorm”. Section 42 of the Nigerian Constitution prohibits discrimination based on several grounds, including sex. However, while efforts have been made in promotion of gender justice and women empowerment campaign in Nigeria, the author noted that challenges still persist. Thus, the need for continuous efforts that would include among others, embracing affirmative action can pave the way for significant strides in advancing gender justice and women empowerment within Nigeria, confronting and navigating the intricate web of religious and cultural sentiments, among others.

Chapter 7 appraised alternative dispute resolution and the court system in Nigeria. It explained that while litigation has been the method of resolving disputes, current economic, political and social changes have resulted in a considerable rise in the number of cases in our courts, making the process of litigation more and more time consuming, expensive, technical and unduly cumbersome. Thus, the authors pointed out the imperative of an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) approach to resolving disputes. As the authors noted “not many are aware of the benefits of settling disputes using alternative disputes resolution methods”, hence the need to bring the ADR

approaches such as such as negotiation, conciliation, mediation, arbitration, mini-trial and Med-arb to limelight.

Chapter 8 examined “the role of alternative dispute resolution mechanism in addressing family disputes in Nigeria.” The Chapter started with a background on how family disputes are resolved in traditional African societies via mediation and customary arbitration. However, the advent of English legal system created a new system where the dual system of customary law and English law governs family relationships. It went ahead to explain the nature of family disputes that usually arise for determination in the legal system, and also gave explanation of what family disputes/conflict entails, which is basically refers to active opposition between family members. Because of the nature of family relationships, it can take a wide variety of forms, including verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological. The author evaluated the suitability or otherwise of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to family disputes; reviewed the existing legal framework for resolution of family disputes in the extant administration of justice; identified the challenges if any in the current ADR practice and procedure in resolving family disputes and recommended on best approaches to overcome them, in order to contribute to a more stable family life in Nigeria. The author also explained why ADR (negotiation through lawyers, mediation, collaboration or conciliation, arbitration etc.) is the preferred or best suited for family dispute resolution. Some of the reasons given are ADR flexible party driven solutions; its cost effectiveness; time saving, confidentiality, preservation of relationship, among others. The use of ADR in family law disputes (as well as other types of disputes) is well recognised in law, and has been called “collaborative law.” The author also presented several legal frameworks in Nigeria that can be referenced in the resolution of family disputes. These are the Arbitration and Mediation Act 2023, the Child Rights Act 2003, the Matrimonial Causes Act (MCA), 1970, the High Court Civil Procedure Rules, etc. However, ADR are not not challenges that often arises from inadequate laws and regulations; inadequate number of skilled ADR Professionals, lack of specialised ADR family law Practitioners; unavailable procedure for reconciliation under the MCA, etc. To make ADR more effective, the author made key recommendations such as include increased awareness about ADR programs and amendment of the MCA to better accommodate the application of ADR to family disputes.

Chapter 9 titled, “Infrastructure Financing and Sustainable Development in Nigeria” is apposite for addressing the challenge of deficit in public infrastructure in Nigeria. The author emphasised that adequate public

infrastructure is essential for economic growth and development of a society. To close the gap, Nigeria must align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have a more coordinated approach to the development and implementation of infrastructural development plans in the country. Factors identified as essential to improve infrastructure financing include commercial and equitable judicial process, clear and adequate legal and regulatory framework, political and macroeconomic stability, among others.

Chapter 10, which examined “The Elusive Search for Judicial Independence in Nigeria: Consequence for the Nigerian Economy”, makes it clear that for Nigeria to have a thriving and robust economy, the pursuit of an independent, autonomous and impartial judiciary is pivotal. Judicial independence as defined:

Refers to the non-interference of the Executive, Legislature, or other private entities in judicial affairs. In other words, Judges and other judicial officers should not be subjected to inappropriate influence from the other branches of government or private interests.

It is the capacity of a judge to render a decision free from coercion or incentive. Essentially, the author advocated that judges and other judicial officers should not be subjected to inappropriate influence from the other branches of government or private interests. This is not limited to decision making by judges alone, but extends to their appointment, removal, remuneration and general financing of the judiciary. The author concludes that judicial independence is essential. Moreover, the Judiciary as an arm of government is not only important in maintaining rule of law but its autonomy would create the avenue for greater economic development.

Chapter 11 takes the discussion on the independence of the judiciary further by examining “The Interpretative and Transitional Role of the Independent Judiciary in an Investment-Driven Economy.” It expatiated on how judicial independence facilitates economic growth in ways such as enforcing contracts and protecting property rights. The authors enlightened the readers on the immense contribution and quintessential roles of the judiciary towards the socio-economic development of the society. As pointed out, “economic growth in a nation often starts without a robust court system”, revealing the relationship between economic growth and an effective independent judiciary. To drive a nation's economic development requires investment, either foreign direct investment or domestic investment, which can only

occur if the investors are confident of the nation's judicial system for protection in times of disputes. However, the authors noted that there are impediments to judicial contributions to economic development such as executive lawlessness and lengthy and expensive legal proceedings which often frustrate the litigants. To solve these challenges, the authors recommend a study of Singapore's kind of judicial reorganization, curtailing the involvement of the executive in the appointment and removal of judges, financial autonomy, increase in the number of judges and an overhaul of the compensatory packages of judges.

At this point, it is pertinent to skip Chapter 12 and 'leapfrog' to Chapter 13. This is because the reviewers deemed it necessary to conclude this book review with Chapter 12, which contained the profile of the legal icon that we celebrate – Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde.

Chapter 13 titled, "The Legal and Institutional Framework for Advancing Energy Arbitration in Nigeria in an Era of Low Carbon Transition", took us back to the importance of ADR, specifically Arbitration. As the international community works towards combating climate change and achieving a low-carbon future, the basic argument of the author is centred on the role arbitration can play in low-carbon transition era. The author noted with certainty that the transition era would bring new players into the energy industry and with it, comes the likelihood of disputes. Hence, a sound regulatory framework is needed to ensure that whenever and whatever forms dispute arises, there will be established mechanisms to regulate the dispute resolution process. Among the ADR options, arbitration is put forward by the author as the preferred method for resolving energy disputes due to its neutrality, flexibility, and the possibility of enforcement of arbitral awards, and the fact that arbitral institutions can play important roles in resolving international energy disputes. The author also highlighted the need for Nigeria to develop a strong legal and institutional framework for energy arbitration that will offer investors certainty, encourage foreign direct investment and ensure that disputes arising from the low carbon transition are resolved efficiently and fairly.

Back to Chapter 12!! It is only fitting to round off the review of this book celebrating a legal icon with this chapter. Chapter 12 is titled, "PROF. ELISABETA SMARANDA OLARINDE- THE MANY SIDES OF A LEGAL ICON." This Chapter penned down by a respected and highly cerebral legal luminary, Professor Yemi Akinseye-George, SAN, provides a panoramic view of Prof. Olarinde's biography, including her academic

journey and legal career achievements, her role as a mother, lecturer, and administrator. You will agree with us that combining these three portfolios and doing so excellently is a great feat for which she deserves the accolades. We agree with the conclusion of Prof. Akinseye-George who summarised thus:

Professor (Mrs.) E. S. Olarinde stands out as an accomplished wife, excellent mother and grandmother, gifted teacher, seasoned leader, astute administrator and a unique personality with European roots and Yoruba orientation that makes her a global personality.

Indeed, Prof Olarinde has weathered various storms in life and has stood tall, growing and flourishing. She came; she saw and has conquered and keeps conquering as well as excelling till date. Prof. Olarinde demonstrates the very best of what being a scholar can be. She has been championing and exhibiting character strengths that go beyond academic boundaries.

This book is a testament to the life of a mother, mentor, teacher, leader, administrator, lawyer, orator, arbitrator and much more. We recommend the book to everyone not only for the legal knowledge therein but also for the life lessons distilled in its pages as gleaned from the life of Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde.

PROF. ELISABETA SMARANDA OLARINDE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP

1. INTRODUCTION

Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde is a prominent legal scholar in Nigeria and a human rights advocate, who specialises in Family Law, Children and Women's Rights, Medical Law and International Humanitarian Law. She has contributed significantly in the fields of legal education, women's rights, children's rights, criminal justice, and policy development as shown in her works in these areas. Prof. Olarinde devotes her career to advancing the rights of vulnerable populations, enhancing legal pedagogy, and advocating for comprehensive legal frameworks that address the complexities of contemporary legal education. Her work spans across various domains, from her groundbreaking efforts in integrating clinical legal education into Nigerian law curricula to her pivotal role in drafting laws for numerous universities. This section discusses thematically Prof. Olarinde's extensive

scholarly contributions most especially to legal jurisprudence, her profound impacts on human rights, as well as legal landscape in Nigeria and beyond. Her scholarly contributions are grouped into eight key areas covering her areas of specialisation and other academic contributions. The key areas are Family Law, Gender Matters (Women's Rights), Children's Rights, Medical Law, International Humanitarian Law, Legal Education and Pedagogy, Tort Law and Legal Practice, as well as Legal and Policy Frameworks.

1.1 Family Law

Prof. Olarinde made notable contributions in the field of family law. Prof. Olarinde's 1979 Master's dissertation "Nullity of Marriage under the Romanian Family Law" is a clear evidence of her main interest, and expertise in family law. Prof. Olarinde taught "Comparative Family Law I & II" at the University of Ibadan for over a decade. At Afe Babalola University, Prof. Olarinde has been teaching "Family Law I & II" at undergraduate level since 2011, and "Comparative Family Law I & II" at postgraduate level since 2016. She has also supervised several LL.M. Students dissertations in Comparative Family Law. Prof. Olarinde is well-grounded in the area of family law.

1.2 Gender Matters (Women's Rights)

Prof. Olarinde's has made substantial contributions in advocating Gender and Women's Rights, evident in her research and publications that interrogated the obstacles women face in Nigeria's society. Her extensive research and publications critically assessed the barriers women face in society, while advocating for meaningful reforms. In her book "Women and Menopause" (1998), co-authored with J.E. Olawoye and T. Aderibigbe, they explored the socio-legal challenges of menopause, offering insights into how legal frameworks can better support women's health and rights. Her 1991 book chapter, co-authored with J.E. Olawoye, examined the socio-cultural and legal barriers hindering women's full participation in development, emphasizing the need for economic and democratic reforms in Nigeria. Another significant contribution is her co-authored chapter on the "National Commission for Women's Decree" (1992), which discussed the legal frameworks for advancing women's rights in Nigeria.

Prof. Olarinde's journal articles further expanded the discourse on women's rights. In an article titled, "Central/Regulatory Constraints Affecting Women's Access to Credit in Nigeria" (1990), Prof. Olarinde highlighted women's financial challenges due to regulatory constraints, calling for legal reforms to empower women economically. Her 1993 article in the Nigerian

Current Law Journal addressed the legal violations against women rights, proposing remedies to protect and advance their rights. Additionally, her 1990 technical report "Law Development and Status of Women in Nigeria," commissioned by the World Bank, provided critical recommendations for improving women's legal rights and access to justice, cementing her role as a key advocate for gender equality in Nigeria. As part of her contribution to the women development, Prof. Olarinde was a researcher for International Documentation and Research Centre (IDRC) on Land Tenure and Access to Land for Women, the Joint Research initiated by the World Bank on Law, Development and the Status of Women Towards a Gender Strategy in Nigeria. Also, she was a UNICEF legal researcher for Niger State (Urban and Rural Area) and Oyo State (Urban Area) and also worked on the The Netherlands, Israel and Nigeria joint research on the Girl Child's Sexuality. Prof. Olarinde has also rendered Pro Bono legal services to members of University of Ibadan Community and to clients of the Women's Law Clinic, University of Ibadan, revealing her interests and passion in transforming the status of women in Nigeria's society.

1.3 Children's Rights

Prof. Elisabeth Smaranda Olarinde has made significant contributions not only to scholarship but to humanity in general in the area of children's rights. As far back as 1995, Prof. Olarinde had published an edited chapter on "Family and Property Rights of the Girl-Child", in the Nigeria-girl Child, UNICEF Joint Consultancy in collaboration with WORDOC, African Studies, University of Ibadan. In response to the Federal Government of Nigeria's adoption of the Child's Act in 2003, Prof. Olarinde did a comprehensive study on the rights covered by the 2003 Child Right Act, and the extent these rights were being protected. In her 2005 article, "Reflections on the Basic Rights of the Nigerian Child under the Child Rights Act, 2003" published by the University of Ibadan Journal of Private and Business Law (UIJPBL), Prof. Olarinde called for stronger legal protections for children, highlighting gaps in the current system and advocating for better enforcement of child protection laws.

In 2017, Prof. Olarinde co-authored an article with Olusegun O. titled, "Child Rights Protection in Nigeria and the United-Kingdom: Lessons for Nigeria, which was published by the African Journal of Law and Human Rights. Prof. Olarinde and Dr Idem also co-authored article, "Children Evidence under The Nigerian Law: The New Approach After Evidence Act, 2011" in the Beijing Law Review, China in 2019.

Prof. Olarinde is so much keen in ensuring that the best interests of the child are protected. As a result, she coordinated the FIDA Drafting Committee on the Child Rights Law, in Oyo State between 2004 and 2007. Prof. Olarinde was a member of the “*Think Tank*” for the Legal Protection of Children in Oyo State and the Coordinator of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Drafting Committee on the Child’s Rights Law, 1983 Oyo State. Given her interests in advancing the rights of the Child, Prof. Olarinde was sponsored by the Netherlands, Israel Research Development Programme (NIPR) to participate in the International Meeting for the Project on “Sexual Abuse of Adolescent Girls in Urban Nigeria” held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands between 15 and 23 March, 2002.

1.4 Medical Law

Since the 1990s, Prof. Olarinde has shown interest in the subject of medical law. She has presented several papers at workshops, thereby contributing to academic discourse in medical law, especially in the area of reproductive health and access to health from legal perspective. For example, at the Regional Workshop on Reproductive Health, organised by the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan between 7 and 23 August 1995, Prof. Olarinde presented a paper on “Human Reproductive Health and Selected Legal Issues in Nigeria.” Again, in 1996, Prof. Olarinde presented a paper titled, “Reproductive Health Ethics and Selected Legal Issues” at the National Workshop on Contemporary Issues and Methods of Reproductive Health Research, held at Lady Bank Anthony Hall, University of Ibadan, on 23rd July, 1996. Prof. Olarinde was also a Consultant to Social Sciences and Reproductive Health Research Network (SSRHR) Ibadan, Nigeria between 1996 and 2010.

In a 2014 article, “the “Imperatives to Access to Health Care in Nigeria, an Appraisal of the National Health Act” co-authored with Bamidele I and Ajigboye O, they interrogated the nature of Health Care access in Nigeria, paying particular attention to the National Health Act, 2014 provisions. Another significant article, “An Examination of Contemporary Issues Relating to Medical Liability” (2015), co-authored with Clement Chigbo and published in the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*, delved into the complexities of medical liability in Nigeria. They addressed the legal challenges surrounding medical accountability and propose necessary reforms to enhance the legal framework governing medical practice, highlighting the need for greater accountability in the medical profession. In a 2016 article, “*Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech AHA: The Right of Adolescents to Make Medical Decisions and the Many Shades of Grey*”, co-

authored with Ifeoluwayimika, Bamidele, both delved into the area of adolescent rights to medical decisions, bringing a much-needed analysis on the subject.

In addition, Prof. Olarinde, has also impacted knowledge to her students (undergraduate and postgraduate) via classroom teaching and supervision. For example, she taught “Law and Policy in Reproductive Health” in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan to students pursuing Master degree program in Health Science in Population and Reproductive Health. At Afe Babalola University, Prof. Olarinde has been teaching “Law and Medicine” at postgraduate level since 2016.

1.5 International Humanitarian Law

Prof. Olarinde’s contributions to scholarship cannot be complete without mentioning the great knowledge she has impacted to her students in the field of humanitarian law for several years. For a decade (2001-2011), Prof. Olarinde taught the “Role of NGOs in Humanitarian Assistance” to students pursuing professional degree program in Masters in Humanitarian and Refugee Studies at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Ibadan. She also supervised MSc. students’ dissertations in International Humanitarian Law, Refugees and Displaced Persons Studies as well as Women and Children’s Rights in War. Her impactful teachings and mentorship to her students are well-recognised among students that were privileged to have met her as exceptional teacher.

1.6 Legal Education and Pedagogy

Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde has made substantial contributions to advancing legal education in Nigeria, with a focus on practical skills, ethical practice, and innovative pedagogy. Her work has been pivotal in shaping the future of legal education, emphasizing the importance of integrating real-world applications into academic curricula. In her book "Introduction to Legal Practice and Lawyering Skills in Nigeria" (2021), co-authored with Udosen Jacob Idem, they provided a comprehensive guide on how to equip law students and young practitioners with essential skills for navigating the legal profession. The 510-page book underscores the significance of practical experience and ethical practice in legal education. Prof. Olarinde’s chapter titled, "Towards an Inclusive Pedagogy at Afe Babalola University" (2011) discussed the innovative teaching methods aimed at making legal education more accessible and relevant. Prof. Olarinde's commitment to inclusive

pedagogy highlighted her dedication to improving the quality and reach of legal education in Nigeria.

Through her journal articles, Prof. Olarinde critically examined the challenges and prospects of legal education in Nigeria. In "Legal Education in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects" (2014), co-authored with Clement C. Chigbo, both advocated for curriculum reform and innovative teaching methodologies to create a more effective and responsive legal education system. In addition, her 2012 article, "The Academic Law Teacher within and Beyond Classroom Settings," explored the broader role of law educators, emphasizing their impact on the legal profession and society. Prof. Olarinde also explored the integration of traditional and modern legal practices in her article "The Relevance of Islamic Law of Succession in the Twenty-First Century" (2016), providing insights into how these systems can coexist and complement each other in contemporary legal contexts.

Prof. Olarinde has also actively participated in conferences and workshops, contributing to the discourse on legal education. Her 2010 paper, "Developing Lawyering Skills of Law Students through the Application of Customary Law," presented at the 8th International Conference on Clinical Legal Education, advocated for the integration of customary law into legal education as a means to bridge theory and practice. Her 2011 paper, "Understanding Clinical Legal Education and the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Traditional Matrimonial Cases," further underscored the importance of equipping law students with practical skills through clinical legal education.

In the field of criminal justice and human rights, Prof. Olarinde has been a strong advocate of the reform of legal frameworks. In 2009, she received an award from the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS) for her assistance in the Justice Sector Reform and Human Rights in Nigeria Project. Her 2016 article "Implementing the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Ondo State: Focus on the Police and Prisons," co-authored with Clement Chigbo, addressed the challenges of criminal justice reform in Ondo State and proposed measures to improve the effectiveness of the justice system. Also, Prof. Olarinde's current article, "Is Corporate Manslaughter Law Necessary in Nigeria?", co-authored with Idem Udosen, has been accepted for publication in *The Beijing Law Review*.

1.7 Tort Law and Legal Practice

Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde has also made significant contributions to tort law, particularly through her exploration of contemporary legal issues and the practical aspects of lawyering. Her work in this field has provided valuable insights and resources for both students and legal practitioners.

In her book, "The Modern Law of Torts: Kaleidoscopic Perspective" (2018), co-authored with Clement C. and Ikpeze N. G., the authors offered an in-depth exploration of tort law in Nigeria. This comprehensive guide serves as an essential resource, detailing the principles and complexities of tort law, making it indispensable for those studying or practicing in this area. Her journal articles further reflect her deep engagement with tort law and its practical implications. In "Current Trends In Granting Pardon In United Kingdom, United States of America and Nigeria" (2010), published in the University of Ibadan Journal of Public and International Law, Prof. Olarinde took a comparative approach to examine how different legal systems manage the practice of granting pardons. The analysis brought critical insights into the implications of clemency on justice and legal practice across these jurisdictions.

1.8 Legal and Policy Frameworks

Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde has significantly influenced the development of legal and policy frameworks in Nigeria, particularly in sectors like agriculture, energy, and economic development. In her 2015 book chapter, "Legal and Policy Framework for Addressing the Linkages between Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health in Nigeria," Prof. Olarinde emphasized on the interconnectedness of these sectors and advocated for a holistic approach to policy development. By highlighting the synergies between agriculture, nutrition, and health, she underscores the importance of integrated policies for sustainable development.

Another contribution is her 2021 chapter, "Energy Transition and the Role of Women: Advancing Gender-Aware Transition in the Natural Gas," in The Palgrave Handbook of Natural Gas and Global Energy Transition. In that Chapter, she examined the role of women in the energy transition, particularly in the natural gas sector, and advocated for gender-aware policies that ensure women's active participation, stressing that inclusivity is vital for successful and sustainable energy initiatives.

Prof. Olarinde's journal articles also delved into policy implementation. In "The Conundrums of Illicit Crude Oil Refineries in Nigeria and its Debilitating Effects on Nigeria's Economy: A Legal Approach" (2022), co-authored with Olusola Joshua Olujobi and Tunde Ebenezer Yebisi, they addressed the legal challenges of illicit crude oil refineries and the negative impacts on Nigeria's economy, proposing legal reforms to mitigate the issues.

In another 2022 article titled, "Assessing the Adequacy of the Legal Framework in Facilitating E-Commerce in Nigeria," co-authored with Udosen Jacob, they evaluated the current e-commerce legal framework in Nigeria, identifying gaps and recommending improvements to better support the country's burgeoning digital economy.

In addition to her contributions to legal frameworks, Prof. Olarinde also demonstrated extensive expertise in consultancy, editorial leadership, and legal drafting. Her editorial roles include co-editing "Current Issues in Nigerian Legal System" and serving as Editor-in-Chief for the Afe Babalola University Law Journal. She has also led editorial efforts at significant legal conferences, such as the 48th Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) Conference.

Prof. Olarinde has also engaged in consultancy service. She provided advisory opinion to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legislative Budget and Research (LBRC) and reviewed protocols for the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training (IMRAT) at the University of Ibadan. Her legal drafting work is significant, having drafted laws for universities like Caleb University, Afe Babalola University, and Dominican University, ensuring they meet the standards of the National Universities Commission (NUC). Additionally, her commitment to social justice is evident through her pro bono legal services at the Women's Law Clinic and for the University of Ibadan community.

2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Prof. Elisabeta Smaranda Olarinde's scholarly contributions have profoundly influenced the fields of legal education, women's rights, children's right, family and medical law, criminal justice, international humanitarian law, and policy development in Nigeria. Her works, characterized by a commitment to justice and legal reform, has continued to

shape the legal landscape in Nigeria and beyond. Prof. Olarinde's legacy as a scholar is one of intellectual rigor, innovative thinking, and a deep dedication to the advancement of law and justice as well as human rights.