

AFRICAN LAW STUDIES

A New Publication of the African Law Center

Since the time of the establishment of the Center, there has been a tremendous upsurge in interest in, and contribution to, the study of African law. Law reviews are most receptive to articles dealing with all phases of the subject. The staff of the African Law Center has undertaken to supply digests of the significant articles published in the United States to African Abstracts, the well-known publication of the International African Institute which seeks to cover all areas of the social sciences and humanities in Africa. In addition, SAILER fellows and others have provided texts and casebooks in various fields of the law. A new series of law reports has appeared, and others are being revived or instituted for the first time. Digests of cases are to be found in the Journal of African Law and in a number of publications stemming from Africa. Nevertheless, there are some aspects of the study of African law which are still inadequately covered. It is to these areas of legal research that it is proposed to dedicate AFRICAN LAW STUDIES.

There are no readily available specialized annotated bibliographies. It is true the Restatement of African Law Project's exhaustive bibliography and the Association of American Law Schools Library Project's volume on African Law are scheduled to appear in the near future, but these books are not the type of works to which reference is here made. There is great need, also, for analysis of African statutory legislation of two or more countries, perhaps in tabular form, to demonstrate at a glance the points of identity and contrast in so-called 'similar' statutes. Again, one would like to have a comprehensive check list of session laws and compilations of the legislation of the African countries. A survey of the law of a given country, over a period of years, would form a welcome supplement to the volumes of the Commonwealth Series or other handbooks covering the law of one or more countries of the

continent. An attempt might be made to reproduce in the pages of the STUDIES some of the fugitive and scarce items which come to the notice of only a few students in the field. Why not a listing of serial holdings in the libraries of the United States, including legal material outside law libraries, such as CAMP (Co-operative African Microfilm Project)? And a section devoted to Notes and Queries, to afford the opportunity to the readers to exchange ideas and obtain information on particular topics. Etc., etc.

The first issue of the STUDIES contains a diversity of material that falls within the general scope which has been outlined above. Future issues, it is hoped, will provide further items of value to the researcher. For the time being, approximately three issues per year are planned. Subscribers and readers are urged to comment on the content of AFRICAN LAW STUDIES, specifically, whether the journal meets a need of the community of students and scholars in the field of African Law. Contributions along the lines which have been outlined are earnestly solicited.

A. Arthur Schiller