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Law and Business

From the Editorial Board

We are delighted to welcome our readers to the 2024 edition of the *Law & Business* yearbook. This year's publication marks yet another step in our ongoing mission to foster dialogue between academia and practice in the intertwined fields of law and business. The editorial team takes pride in presenting a collection of articles that reflect the dynamic evolution of these disciplines, addressing topics that are as diverse as they are relevant.

Unlike prior issues, this year's volume does not adhere to a predefined thematic focus. Instead, we entrusted our contributing authors with the freedom to shape the content, enabling the journal to explore a wide range of issues through their research. In doing so, this edition aims to address pressing questions and emerging trends that hold significance for both scholars and practitioners. Our guiding principle remains steadfast: to publish work that enhances the understanding of complex phenomena while bridging the gap between theoretical exploration and practical application.

The 2024 edition comprises five original articles that, despite their varied topics, share a unifying thread: a focus on addressing contemporary challenges while safeguarding values that resonate across local and global contexts. These contributions delve into areas such as ensuring technological advancement within robust legal frameworks, aligning economic and social practices with the principles of sustainable development, and integrating corporate strategies with social responsibility. Each article reflects a commitment to fostering innovation and ethical governance, providing insights that we hope will inspire further academic exploration and practical implementation.

Among the highlights of this volume is the study titled *Closing the Legal-Technical Gap in Digital Trade,* which examines the challenges posed by the rapid evolution of digital trade technologies and the slower adaptation of legal systems. The authors propose a transdisciplinary approach, bridging legal and technical domains with theories such as Dooyeweerd's aspects, Sage's systems theory, and Zwicky's morphological representation. This work underscores the importance of harmonising communication, social trust, and economic management to create a cohesive digital trade ecosystem, offering a roadmap for aligning technological innovation with legal and societal expectations.

Equally significant is the exploration of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platforms in the article *Online Dispute Resolution Platforms (ODR): A Legal and Technical Perspective.* This paper highlights the transformative potential of ODR systems in addressing e-commerce and cross-border disputes. By integrating legal frameworks, data security measures, and AI-driven solutions, the authors provide a comprehensive perspective on improving efficiency and accessibility in dispute resolution. Their recommendations for collaboration among policymakers, technologists, and legal professionals pave the way for more equitable and transparent digital mediation processes.

Another thought-provoking piece, *The Evolution and Significance of Notarial Law in Modern Legal Systems,* traces the historical development and contemporary relevance of notarial law. The article contrasts the robust functions of notaries in civil law systems with their narrower roles in common law jurisdictions. As technological advancements like electronic notarization redefine the profession, this work addresses the challenges of maintaining security and public trust while advocating for legal harmonisation to adapt to a digital world.

The integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles within corporate and labour law is the focus of the article *Approaching ESG Compliance Concept from Business Law and Labor Law Perspectives.* This timely contribution explores the impact of regulatory frameworks such as the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The authors emphasise the role of ESG compliance in promoting transparency, accountability, and sustainable development, offering insights into how businesses can align ethical practices with economic goals to support a low-carbon economy.

Finally, the article *Mediation in the Enterprise: A New Approach Needed?* underscores the growing importance of mediation as a cornerstone of conflict management within organisations. By advocating for structured internal dispute resolution systems and the integration of mediation into corporate culture, the authors highlight the benefits of fostering harmony and productivity in the workplace. This work aligns mediation practices with principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), emphasising the need for impartiality and independence in resolving disputes.

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As editors, we believe these contributions offer valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing modern legal and business environments. Collectively, they provide a rich resource for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike, fostering a dialogue that bridges the gap between theory and practice.
In closing, we would like to extend our gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and readers who make this publication possible. May the insights and analyses presented in this edition inspire innovative solutions and deepen the understanding of the complex issues at the intersection of law and business. We invite you to explore the pages of this volume with curiosity and an open mind, and we look forward to your continued engagement with *Law & Business*.
We wish you an insightful and enjoyable read.

On behalf of the Editorial Board
Rev.Professor Włodzimierz Broński
Editor-in-Chief