

COSMAS EMEZIEM,

Drinan Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Law
Boston College Law School | 885 Centre St., Newton Centre, MA
ccemeziem@gmail.com | +1(607) 262 0247

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Boston College Law School, Newton Centre, Newton, MA

Drinan Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Law 2022—Present.

Researching Sovereign Debts, Transitional Justice, and the Legal and Institutional Foundations of Global Finance

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary Interests:

Contracts, Conflict of Laws/Private International Law, Corporations and Associations, International Business Transactions, and International Law.

Additional Interests:

Comparative Law (Civil and Common Law Traditions), International Economic Law, International Investments and Arbitration, International Organizations, Transitional Justice, Human Rights, Legal Theory and History.

EDUCATION

Cornell University Law School, Ithaca, NY.

Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) Cornell, December 2018.

Dissertation: *Legal Transplants and Functionalism in Transitional Justice (on file with author and under review as a Book).*

Honors: Cornell Law School Graduate Legal Studies Fellowship, 2015 – 2018.

Graduate Resident Fellow, Cornell University, July 2016—July 2018.

Teaching: Co-Instructor and Graduate Resident Fellow—Cornell University.

Course Title: Learning Where You Live, CPR 3899 (with Professor Neema

Kudva)

Research: Graduate Research Assistant at Cornell Law School (Professor Muna Ndulo).

Activities:

- President Cornell Law School, J.S.D., Students Association, 2016—2017.
- Member Africa Reading Group—The Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University 2016—2017. Session.

Master of Laws (LL.M.) May 2015.

Honors: Cornell Law School Graduate Legal Studies Fellowship, 2014—2015.
Rudolph B. Schlesinger Fellowship, Cornell Law School 2014.

Focus:

International Investment Law, International Criminal Law, International Commercial Arbitration, and Comparative Law.

Activities:

Cornell Law School—LL.M., Speaker Series Presenter (Topic; Rethinking Access to Justice: A Social Justice Perspective).

The Hague Academy of International Law, Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands.

Certificate Courses in Public and Private International Law, August 2015.

Nigerian Law School, Council of Legal Education, Abuja, Nigeria.

Barrister-at-Law Certificate (B.L.), November 2007.

The University of Nigeria, Enugu State, Nigeria.

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) Degree (with Honors), June 2006.

Honors: Graduated in the Top 5% of the Class.

Activities:

The Moot Court, University of Nigeria—Joint Second Best Oralist Debo Akande Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2006.

Leader Zenith Associates, —A Students' Bar Body—Organized Debates, Moot Courts, and Prison Outreach.

PUBLICATIONS

Mapping The Trends: Human Trafficking, COVID-19 Pandemic, and International Law, in International Migration, COVID-19 and Environmental Sustainability (Manas Chatterji, Urs Luterbacher, et al. eds.) (2023).

Miserable Comforts or Concrete Protections: Human Rights Conventions, Treaties, Declarations, and the Rights of Indigenous/Othered Communities - Quo Vadis?, 21 Santa Clara J. Int'l L. 47,47 (2022).

A Tale of Two Rights? The Manifest Functions of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and the Ambivalence towards Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 20 Seattle J. Soc. Just. 1,1 (2021).

Handbook of African Law (Muna. B. Ndulo, & Cosmas Emeziem Eds.,) (Routledge, 2021).

Beyond Formalism, and Uti Possidetis: The International Court of Justice and Boundary Disputes Settlements in Africa, in The Routledge Handbook of African Law (Muna Ndulo & Cosmas Emeziem Eds.) (2021).

COVID-19 Pandemic, the World Health Organization, and Global Health Policy, 33 Pace Int'l L. Rev. 189,189 (2021).

A Time for Just Reckoning? Temporality, Law, and Transitional Justice in Changing Societies, 23 Loy. J. Pub. Int. L. 66,66 (2021).

FORTHCOMING WORKS

Untouchable Sovereign Debts: Towards a New Model of Transitional Justice and Global Finance __2023

This Article opens an epistemic dialogue between Transitional Justice and International Economic Law using Sovereign Debts as the point of intersection.

The Article delves into a comprehensive investigation and critique of the intricate web of factors and motivations that underlie the detachment of sovereign debts from the domain of transitional justice.

The Article concludes by recommending an innovative model of transitional justice and international economic law that facilitates a guided process of addressing sovereign debts within the realm of transitional justice, hinged upon the doctrine of qualified obligation.

Commercial and Economic Law Treaties in the Global South, *Book/Monograph Contract with Routledge, (Forthcoming 2025) (In Collaboration with Pontian Okoli, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK.)*

This Book investigates and questions the network of interests that inspire treaty relations between the global North and South. This investigation is conducted to understand how commercial interests should be determined, protected, and promoted concerning private and public parties. This inquiry is rooted in an analysis of treaties formulated by institutions such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the United Nations Commission of International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and other pertinent regional organizations such as the African Union, Southern American Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

The Book explores the captivating dimensions of how public international law profoundly impacts commercial dealings—contrary to the prevalent narrative in the canon.

The Law of The Sea Convention 1982 At 40: Milestones, Turbulent Waters and Global Peace, *George Washington International Law Journal* __ (Forthcoming 2023).

This Article provides a concise overview of the 40-year journey and historical significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982. It delves into the key milestones, challenges faced, and persistent enigmas associated with the Convention.

Types of Courts Exercising Constitutional Jurisdiction (*Commissioned Chapter by The Max Planck Institute*) __ (Forthcoming 2023).

The proliferation of written constitutions worldwide, influenced by the American constitutional model, has made constitutional deliberation an integral aspect of major legal systems. This development has also given rise to courts of constitutional adjudication—such as High Courts, Supreme Courts, or Coeur de cassation, and Constitutional Courts clothed with the responsibility of deliberating on constitutional controversies and issuing authoritative decisions.

Through a comparative lens, the study examines these courts' powers, subject matter jurisdiction, and general competence, emphasizing the application of functionalism as a comparative tool to explore their approaches to judicial review. It contributes towards a better appreciation of both jurisprudential and institutional dialogues in constitutional adjudication courts across legal systems and traditions.

WORKING PAPERS | FUTURE PROJECTS

Functionalism, Constitutionalism, Global Cooperation, and Public Good: Whither Formalism and *Opinio Juris*?

This Project contends that the significance of global governance within the context of 21st-century international law is increasingly pronounced. Various theories fuel global governance debates, including functionalism, constitutionalism, global cooperation, and interdependence. While International Organizations play a central role in these discussions, their part is relatively underexplored in legal studies. This creates a gap in comprehending the influence of these entities in shaping global norms. The Project's core involves an extensive exploration that utilizes the non-delegation doctrine to dissect international institutions such as the World Bank, Bank for International Settlements, International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations.

WORK EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, *American Society of International Law (Private International Law Interest Group Newsletter)*, ASIL, 2223 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington DC. April 2023—(Current).

Editorial work, coordinating the sub-Saharan aspect of the publication and general publication activities.

Editorial Board Member, *African Journal of Law, and Justice System (Adonis & Abbey Publishers)*, 24 Old Queen Street, London, UK—November 2021—(Current).

Editorial work, advising, and overall participation in journal review activities.

Cornell University Institute for Public Affairs, 294 Caldwell Hall, Ithaca, New York—Jan. 2020—April 2021

Researching in the intersecting area of international law, development policy, and public administration.

Activities.

- ***Fellow, Emerging Markets Institute, Samuel Curtis Johnson School of Business, Cornell University***,
Organizing conferences, leading discussions on corporate and regulatory ecosystems of business in Emerging Markets.
- ***Senior Editor, Cornell Policy Review (C.P.R.)***,
Editing and providing journal publications insights for Cornell Policy Review. Initiating a Speaker Series on public policy.
- ***The Savannah Dialogues Platform (SDP) is an Institute for African Development (IAD), Cornell University Digital Platform***,
Managed the Institute for African Development social media platform.

Cornell University Law School: Myron Taylor Hall, Ithaca, New York—July 2019—December 2019

Law Fellow/ Adjunct Professor: Teaching, researching, and mentoring.

State University of New York (SUNY) Tompkins Cortland Community College: 170 North Street, Dryden, New York—July 2019—December 2020

Instructor: Teaching and mentoring students on Corrections Policy and Criminal Justice.

Cornell University Law School: Myron Taylor Hall, Ithaca, New York—June 2018—July 2019.

Senior Research Assistant: Researching and drafting in topics intersecting arbitration, constitution-making, international investment, and comparative law.

Cornell University, West Campus Housing System (Carl Becker House)—July 2016—July 2018

Graduate Resident Fellow: Providing services to enhance undergraduate students' living and learning experience. Planned and co-instructed a weekly Seminar.

Cornell University Law School, Myron Taylor Hall, Ithaca, New York—September 2016—May 2018

Graduate Research Assistant: Researched and assisted on subjects like foreign investment and mining, investor-state arbitration.

Uzoma Onyeike & Associates, Legal Practitioners, Owerri Imo State Nigeria—2012—2014
Associate: Advised corporate clients on regulatory compliance procedures.

I.U.K Nlem, & Company, Legal Practitioners, Owerri Imo State Nigeria—2011—2012
Associate: Assisted the Litigation Department with general Litigation.

L.M. Alozie, (SAN) & Co., Legal Practitioners, Owerri, Imo State Nigeria—2007—2010
Associate: Corporate practice and complex cross-border litigations. Led negotiations for clients on tax policies, debt recovery, and refinancing.

T.J. Okpoko, (SAN) & Co., Legal Practitioners, Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria—April—June 2007
Intern: Legal research and drafting.

SELECT CONFERENCES /SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

American Society of International Law, *117th Annual General Meeting*, Washington DC., March 29, 2023 - April 1, 2023.

American Comparative Law Society, Conference 2021 *Regional Needs of Africa and International and Comparative Law* (Co-panellist on Regionalism and Comparative International Law), University of Wisconsin Madison, October 22, 2021.

Cornell Policy Review, *Issues in Public Policy Speaker Series—Spring 2021*, Co-convened and moderated the Talk, *Inequality Human Rights and Policy in the (post) COVID-19 Era* by Nadia Daar, Oxfam International Washington DC, April 30, 2021.

Focus on Liberia, Policy Dialogue Platform Interested in Law, Policy, and Social Change in Liberia: Speaker: *Restoration, Repair, and Development: Liberia and the Transitional Justice Dialogue*, April 18, 2021.

The Institute for African Development Cornell University: Speaker: *African States, The World Health Organization and Global Health Policy in the Time of Pandemics*, April 15, 2021.

Cornell Policy Review, *Issues in Public Policy Speaker Series—Spring 2021*, Co-convened and moderated the Talk, *The World Bank in the COVID-19 Era: Challenges and Policy Interventions* by Sheila Baraka Musiime (Chief Counsel, WB) March 26, 2021.

Doing Good Work Africa, Speaker, *Africa, Diaspora Youth, Contributions, Challenges, and Policy*, November 20, 2020.

Cornell Policy Review, *Issues in Public Policy Speaker Series, Fall 2020*, Co-convened and moderated the talk *Fugitive Loom: Policing and Racial Justice in America*, by Edward Baptist, Cornell Department of History, October 21, 2020.

Cornell Policy Review, *Issues in Public Policy Speaker Series Fall 2020*, Co-convened and moderated the talk *Judicial Appointments to the Supreme Court of the United States and Public Policy* by Michael Dorf, Cornell Law School, September 30, 2020.

Council on Foreign Relations, *Conference on Diversity in International Affairs*, Washington DC, May 9—10, 2019.

Cornell Research Academy of Development, Law, and Economics (CRADLE), *Conference*, Cornell Club N.Y.C., New York, 12—13 April 2018.

Harvard Law School, Institute for Global Law and Policy, *Scholars Workshop*, Dusit Thani, Bangkok, Thailand 7—11 January 2018. Presentation: *Legal Transplants and Functionalism—Towards New Approaches for the Study of Transitional Justice*.

REFERENCES

Professor Michael C. Dorf,
Robert S. Stevens Professor of Law,
Cornell Law School,
Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607- 255-3890
Email: michaeldorf@cornell.edu

Professor Frank J. Garcia,
Dean's Distinguished Scholar
Boston College Law School,
885 Centre Street,
Newton Centre, MA 02459
Phone: 617-552-6372
Email: frank.garcia@bc.edu

Professor Daniel Farbman,
Boston College Law School,
885 Centre Street,
Newton Centre, MA. 02459
Phone: 617- 552 -1790
Email: daniel.fabman@bc.edu

Professor Katharine G. Young,
Associate Dean of Faculty and Global Programs,
Boston College Law School,
885 Centre Street,
Newton Centre, MA. 02459
Phone: 617- 552 -1790
Email: katharine.young.3@bc.edu

Professor Gerald Torres,
Yale Law School,
127 Wall Street, New Haven, CT. 06511
Phone: 203-432-4992
Email: geraldtorres@yale.edu

Professor Daniel Lyons,
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Boston College Law School,
885 Centre Street,
Newton Centre, MA 02459
Phone: 617-555-3962
Email: daniel.lyons.2@bc.edu

Professor Neema Kudva,

Associate Dean for Academic Planning,
College of Art Architecture and Planning,
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 14853.

Phone: 607-255-3939

Email: kudva@cornell.edu

Professor Lourdes S. Casanova,

Director Emerging Markets Institute,
S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY. 14853.

Phone: 607-255-1656

Email: lc683@cornell.edu