

# Preface

Like the harmattan wind, regional integration has begun, though slowly, to sweep through the crevices of political and legal structures in West Africa. Whether the wind would intensify and swirl around their systems depends on the people of West Africa. It seems that one of the essential ingredients required in brewing regional integration is community law. So this book is a sincere contribution—to the brewing mix—aimed at reducing the dearth of community legal literature. It distils set of rules, standards, doctrines and principles from a plethora of ECOWAS material and Community Court judgments which are applicable at the Community level.

The language of the book is crafted with simplicity to make for easy and happy reading. And there is no design, either grand or subtle, to disguise this work as a comparative law book; rather, where important provisions in the ECOWAS texts, with European Union law equivalence, have not been applied or interpreted or have been interpreted after a fashion by the Community Court of Justice, recourse will be had to the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union for clarity.

Most of the major topics in community law jurisprudence are treated in different chapters of this book: human right, supranationality, free movement, sources of law, reference procedure, competition policy, discrimination, etc. Chapter 1 introduces the book and explains, in a definitive manner, what ECOWAS Law is all about. Considering the explanatory style, in-depth analysis and commentaries employed, it is hoped that students, researchers, Community citizens and practitioners would find this book worthwhile.

Importantly, I am very grateful to God for the idea and actual ability to transform this vision into reality. I thank David Kwame Asumda, Dean School of Law, Zenith University College, for his remarks and Chief Basil Ikpenwa, a learned colleague, for his constructive criticism. Also I am grateful to Ugonna, my wife and friend, for sourcing the initial ECOWAS material, reading a part of the manuscript and making

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