

EDITORIAL: Law, governance, and institutional change

Dear readers!

We are pleased to present the first 2026 issue of *Corporate Law & Governance Review*. The contributions in this volume reflect the breadth and evolving direction of contemporary governance scholarship. Across diverse jurisdictions, including Indonesia, the UAE and wider Arab region, Kazakhstan, and other transitional contexts, the articles address technology-driven liability, institutional design and legal certainty, ESG-oriented governance, leadership, and board performance. Together, they demonstrate how corporate law research is increasingly comparative, context-sensitive, and focused on practical impact.

One clear trend is the growing emphasis on governance as a system that must deliver measurable outcomes, not merely formal compliance. In their study on auditor personality and fraud detection, *Ni Nyoman Ayu Suryandari, Estanislau Bana, Ni Putu Lisa Ernawatiningsih, and Desak Ayu Sriary Bhegawati* examine how behavioral traits shape oversight effectiveness, extending prior work on auditor characteristics (Khaksar, 2022; Othman & Othman, 2025; Samagaio & Felício, 2022). Similarly, *Ferry Irawan, Amrie Firmansyah, Zef Arfiansyah, Suparna Wijaya, Resi Ariyasa Qadri, and Ekki Juniardi* show how governance structures combined with servant leadership influence asset management in village-owned enterprises. These studies reflect a broader shift from asking whether governance frameworks exist to examining how they function in practice (Gajewski et al., 2025; Sudyanto & Kurniawan, 2025).

Digital transformation and its legal consequences form another prominent theme. *Mohammad Airout's* analysis of AI-enabled misconduct and corporate criminal liability in Arab jurisdictions, together with the study by *Abeer Hassan Al-Qaisi, Mohammad Ali Ahmad Alamawi, Ma'en Abdel-rahim Abdel-aziz Juwaihian, Shadi Meeush D'yab Altarawneh, Sayel Mufleh Al-Momani, Mohammad Rajai Jaber, and Ahmad Al-Btoush* on programming and material defects in AI under Jordanian and EU law, highlights the strain that algorithmic systems place on traditional doctrines of liability and evidence. As AI becomes embedded in corporate operations, future scholarship will likely focus more intensively on attribution of responsibility, evidentiary standards, and cross-border enforcement, moving governance debates toward anticipatory and technologically informed legal design (Amoush, 2025; Elfeituri, 2025; Morshed & Ramadan, 2023).

Institutional coherence and legal certainty also emerge as central concerns. *Shiryn Baikenzhina, Gulzhazira Ilyassova, Karina Sabyrova, Yerdos Khamzin, and Saida Akimbekova* examine the challenges of transplanting Anglo-Saxon dispute resolution norms into Kazakhstan's legal framework, while *Iriansyah* and *Yalid* analyze inconsistencies in Indonesian investment law and their implications for investor confidence, echoing broader discussions of regulatory quality and institutional alignment (Khan et al., 2024; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD], 2022). *Nashwa Ahmed Mohamed, Ahmad Fadli, and Karem Sayed Aboelazm* further contribute to this discussion through their analysis of the exclusion of foreign law in constitutional disputes before the UAE judiciary, underscoring the need for clear constitutional gateways and adjudicatory competence when foreign law is at issue. These studies reflect an ongoing trend in comparative legal research: governance reforms must align with domestic institutional capacity and constitutional architecture (Yusuf et al., 2025). Future scholarship is likely to deepen its focus on how legal transplants function in practice, particularly in transitional and hybrid systems.

Finally, several articles connect governance to sustainability and long-term performance. *Sri Marti Pramudena, Lela Nurlaela Wati, and Eri Marlapa* link corporate law and Sharia governance to risk-based bank ratings and ESG considerations, while *Daniyar Japarkulov, Gulnar Aigarinova, Mikhail Gushev, Gulnur Rasheva, Zhanna Akshatayeva, and Kaliya Sartayeva* emphasize access to environmental information as a pillar of accountability. *Nafisah Yami, Hashem Alshurafat, and Husam Ananzeh* revisit the relationship between female directors and firm performance, reinforcing the ongoing importance of board

composition in shaping corporate outcomes. Collectively, the articles in this issue suggest that the future of corporate law and governance scholarship will be defined by rigorous analysis, technological awareness, and sustained attention to transparency, inclusivity, and institutional fit. We hope this collection stimulates further debate and thoughtful engagement.

Enjoy the reading!

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