وزارة التعليم
Ministry of Education
الملحقية الثقافية السعودية بالولايات المتحدة الامريكية
Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the USA

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Saudi International Legal Symposium 2027

A global forum for Saudi legal researchers

DATES	FORMAT	TRACKS
30 – 31 January 2027	Online	Graduate & undergraduate

Organized by

Saudi Legal Association

Washington University School of Law

القيادات القانونية الشابة
Young Legal Leaders

وازن

What is inside

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Foreword

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, who taught by the pen, and endowed humankind with knowledge of what they did not know. Peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad, sent as a guide and teacher, who said: *"Whoever treads a path in pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise."*

Legal scholarship does not fulfill its true promise on the written page alone. An idea reaches maturity only when brought into the arena of scholarly dialogue—where arguments are challenged, defenses are tested, and insights are refined. For many scholars, this vital stage remains just out of reach, not for a lack of intellectual ambition, but for the scarcity of substantive academic forums built to host it. Driven by a deep conviction in the intellectual caliber of Saudi legal scholars and their need for platforms commensurate with their ambitions, this symposium was founded. Over two immersive days, researchers step before an audience of dedicated peers who grasp the subtleties of the field, leaving with a clearer, more rigorous understanding of where their work stands. After all, disciplined academic debate remains scholarship's most reliable catalyst for excellence.

Our inaugural symposium drew over 470 registrants spanning eight countries—a powerful validation of our community's readiness for such an intellectual exchange. This second edition broadens its horizon while deepening its academic rigor. Each submission will undergo a rigorous, double-blind review conducted by expert legal scholars and practitioners. The call is open to Saudi legal researchers worldwide—across Saudi Arabia and throughout leading institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, and beyond.

This endeavor reflects Saudi Arabia's visionary dedication to developing its human potential and nurturing its brightest minds, wherever they may be. In step with that mission, we make two commitments, insha'Allah: that every submission will be evaluated objectively on the merit of the argument, and that accepted papers will be presented before a forum that listens thoughtfully, interrogates constructively, and engages with intellectual purpose. We will also work tirelessly to preserve and archive these proceedings, ensuring they reach scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike.

We warmly invite you to take part in this symposium, knowing full well that its true value does not lie in our facilitation, but in the depth and caliber of scholarship you bring to the table.

Yasir R. Aljadani

Founder & President — Saudi Legal Association

Washington University School of Law

Run by Saudi legal researchers, open to every Saudi legal researcher in Saudi Arabia and abroad

The first edition brought Saudi legal researchers in the United States onto one stage; the second widens the map.

THE FIRST EDITION IN NUMBERS

470+	8	220+	16
Registered participants	Countries represented	Institutions represented	Papers presented

WHERE IT BEGAN

Held under the patronage of the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the USA and WashU Law, and reported by the Saudi Press Agency, the Ministry of Education, Al-Yaum and Al-Madina.

WHERE IT GOES NEXT

A serious academic room, run by Saudi legal researchers and free for everyone, stays as it was. What changes is the map: Saudi researchers are welcome from Saudi Arabia and from anywhere in the world.

WHAT IS NEW IN 2027

One podium	Saudi researchers studying law, in Saudi Arabia and in any country in the world, now share one program.
A new track	A track of its own for undergraduate students.
Two days	More papers accepted, and more time for discussion after each one.

Register now One form for every kind of participation

Every field of law is welcome — public or private, domestic or comparative, doctrinal or empirical. What the committee looks for is a clear question and a serious attempt to answer it.

Presenting is for Saudi legal researchers

Submit an abstract if you are a Saudi researcher enrolled in a law or law-related program, in Saudi Arabia or abroad.

WHERE YOU STUDY — ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Saudi Arabia · United States · United Kingdom · Canada

Australia · France · China · Spain

The countries above are examples, not a limit: wherever you are studying, you are welcome.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

- Bachelor of Law and LL.B.
- Legal diplomas and pre-law programs
- Master's degrees, such as the LL.M. or MLS
- J.D. (professional doctorate)
- PhD, S.J.D. and J.S.D.

RECENT GRADUATES

Graduated within the past **24 months**? You are welcome to take part, in the track of the degree you graduated from.

- A graduate degree goes to Track A
- An undergraduate degree goes to Track B

LANGUAGE

Abstracts are submitted and papers presented in Arabic or in English.

STAGE OF WORK

A finished paper is not required: an abstract now, and slides once you are accepted.

FEES

No fee to submit an abstract, to moderate a session, or to register to attend.

Register now To present, to moderate, or to attend

Coming to listen is open to everyone, everywhere

Registering to attend is open to everyone, needs no affiliation, costs nothing, and takes one short form.

WHO COMES

Students	Of law and of any other field, at any stage of study, of any nationality.
Lawyers	Advocates, in-house counsel, legal consultants and trainee lawyers.
Bench and government	Judges, prosecutors, regulators and government legal departments.
Academia	Faculty members, supervisors, researchers and research centers.
Everyone else	Anyone at all, without exception — no affiliation and no legal background required.

Reserve your seat One form for every kind of participation

REGISTERING TO ATTEND

- Opens 3 November 2026
- Closes on its own date, later than the presenter and moderator deadlines — see the key dates
- A confirmation email arrives as soon as you register; the joining link and the agenda follow before the symposium

CERTIFICATES

Presenters and moderators receive a certificate from the association, and attendees may ask for a certificate of attendance in the registration form, where its conditions are set out.

Presenting a paper or chairing a session is a different route, with its own deadlines in the key dates. The agenda reaches every registered attendee by email — insha'Allah — before the symposium begins.

A track for every stage of study

Choose your track on the form; recent graduates choose the track of their degree.

TRACK A

Graduate

Research produced during graduate legal study: thesis chapters, dissertation proposals, articles under preparation and empirical work. A completed paper is not required.

Master's degrees (LL.M., MLS), J.D. (professional doctorate), PhD, S.J.D. or J.S.D.

TRACK B

Undergraduate

Research produced during undergraduate legal study. Work in progress is accepted, and a completed paper is not required.

Bachelor of Law, LL.B., legal diploma or pre-law program.

Both tracks are read by the same panel of legal experts and judged by the same criteria. The difference is that graduate papers are weighed against graduate papers, and undergraduate papers against their peers.

WHAT TAKING PART GIVES YOU

An audience	More than 470 people from eight countries registered for the first edition.
Expert review	A panel of legal experts, at least two reviewers for every abstract, and discussion after each session.
A lasting record	Sessions may be recorded and published, so your paper remains available as a reference on its subject after the symposium.
Defending your work	Standing before people who press you and push back is a skill that only practice builds.
A network	The Saudi legal researchers you will practice, debate and publish alongside.

القيادات القانونية الشابة
Young Legal Leaders

Research sponsorship for select papers

The registration form carries an option by which you allow your paper — if accepted — to be referred to **Young Legal Leaders**, an initiative launched by the Misk Foundation, which then selects a few of the referred papers to sponsor: guidance for the researcher in developing the work, and help bringing it before the institutions concerned.

One form, four steps, no fee

The form opens on 3 November 2026, and its link will be published on all of our channels.

01

Write your abstract

300 – 500 words in Arabic or English: your question, how you approach it, and what your answer adds. Keep your name out of the abstract itself, because review is anonymous.

02

Have your details ready

The form asks for them one field at a time: institution, program, graduation date, country of study and a correct email address you check.

03

Send the form

A confirmation email reaches you the moment the form is sent. If it does not, look in your spam folder; if it is not there either, write to us and we will look into it.

04

Wait for the decision

This step is for those who submitted a paper or applied to chair a session — attendees wait for nothing. Every submission receives a reply on the date in the schedule.

ABOUT YOUR PAPER

- Title
- Track: graduate or undergraduate
- Abstract of 300 – 500 words
- Three to five keywords

ABOUT YOU, THE AUTHOR

- Institution and program
- Graduation date, or the date you expect to graduate
- Country of study
- Contact email and preferred language

Open the registration form A few steps, and no fee

How your abstract is read

Every abstract is read by legal experts who never see who wrote it — and these are the rules we ask you to keep.

HOW REVIEW WORKS

Every abstract is read by **at least two reviewers** drawn from a panel of legal experts. Review is anonymous: the reviewer does not see who wrote the abstract.

- **A clear question — 30%.** What you ask should be plain in the first few lines.
- **Contribution — 25%.** What the paper adds to the literature: a new question, an angle not yet taken, material not yet studied, or a comparison drawn from both systems' own sources.
- **Method — 25%.** A method that is clear and suited to answering the research question.
- **Clarity — 20%.** Clear wording, correct language and well-ordered ideas.

RULES OF PARTICIPATION

01 Each person submits one abstract and appears on the program once.

02 A paper may be written and presented by more than one author, and the eligibility conditions apply to the submitting author alone.

03 Review is anonymous, so no names appear inside the abstract itself.

04 **The work must be researched and reasoned by you.** Any use of artificial-intelligence tools must be confined to language editing and must not extend to substance. The committee may withdraw any submission whose substance is found to have been generated by artificial intelligence, at any stage of the symposium.

IF YOUR PAPER IS ACCEPTED

Present in the language you submitted in, take part in the orientation, and send your slides by the date in the schedule.

A SECOND DOOR: MODERATING A SESSION

You are welcome to chair a session: introducing the speakers, keeping time and steering the discussion. The door is open to Saudi legal talent — practitioners, academics and students. The team looks at your legal background and any experience running meetings; you need not have chaired a session before. Applying takes a few minutes, in the registration form itself.

Opening, submitting, deciding

Deadlines close at 11:59 pm Saudi Arabia Time.

3 Nov
TUESDAY 2026

Call for abstracts opens

The form goes live across all of our channels.

PRESENTERS

3 Nov
TUESDAY 2026

Applications open for moderators

For Saudi legal professionals — practitioners, academics and students.

MODERATORS

3 Nov
TUESDAY 2026

Registration to attend opens

Free, and open to anyone anywhere in the world.

EVERYONE

10 Dec
THURSDAY 2026

Abstract submission closes

Submissions close on this date, so send your abstract before it.

PRESENTERS

23 Dec
WEDNESDAY 2026

Decisions sent to presenters

Every submission receives a reply: accepted, waitlisted or declined.

PRESENTERS

27 Dec
SUNDAY 2026

Accepted presenters confirm

Places not confirmed by this date pass to the waiting list.

PRESENTERS

Moderators, rehearsal, and the two days

29 Dec
TUESDAY 2026
Moderator applications close
MODERATORS

3 Jan
SUNDAY 2027
Decisions sent to moderators
Every application receives a reply: accepted, waitlisted or declined.
MODERATORS

7 Jan
THURSDAY 2027
Accepted moderators confirm
Places not confirmed by this date pass to the waiting list.
MODERATORS

21 Jan
THURSDAY 2027
Presentation slides due
PRESENTERS

24 Jan
SUNDAY 2027
Orientation and rehearsal
How the sessions run, what presenters and moderators each do, and a technical run-through on Zoom.
PRESENTERS & MODERATORS

25 Jan
MONDAY 2027
Registration to attend closes
Or earlier, if the platform reaches capacity.
EVERYONE

30 – 31 Jan
SAT & SUN 2027
The symposium
Two days, two tracks, online.
EVERYONE

If yours is not here, write to us

The questions we expect to hear most often.

Which language should I use?

Arabic or English, for the abstract, the slides and the discussion alike.

Is there any fee?

No. There is no submission fee and no attendance fee. A certificate of attendance is optional, and its conditions are set out in the registration form.

Do I need a finished paper?

No. An abstract is enough to be considered, and accepted presenters send slides before the symposium.

Can I present with a co-author?

Yes. A paper may have more than one author, and the eligibility conditions apply to the submitting author alone.

I graduated recently. Can I still take part?

Yes, within 24 months of graduating, in the track of the degree you graduated from.

Does my country qualify?

Every country does. Presenting is open to Saudi researchers studying anywhere in the world; the countries named in this booklet are examples only.

Are sessions recorded and published?

Sessions are recorded, and the committee may publish the recordings on the association's and the symposium's channels for educational and documentary purposes. This is arranged with the participants before the symposium.

Can I attend if I am not Saudi, or not a law student?

Yes. Presenting is limited by the eligibility conditions; attending is open to anyone.

How do I get a certificate of attendance?

Ask for it in the registration form; it reaches you after the symposium once the conditions set out there are met.

When do I receive the joining link and the agenda?

A confirmation email arrives as soon as you register; the joining link and the agenda reach you by email before the symposium.

Can I chair a session?

Chairing is open to Saudi legal professionals — practitioners, academics and students — and applications run from 3 November to 29 December 2026.

May I submit more than one abstract?

Each person submits one abstract and appears on the program once.

How long is a presentation?

Twenty-five minutes in all, covering the presentation and the discussion that follows.

Who reviews my abstract?

A panel of legal experts; at least two of them read every abstract, and the reviewer never sees the author's name or details.

Patrons and partners of this edition

The institutions that lend it their patronage, and the partners who support it in knowledge and in media.

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WashU Law

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القيادات القانونية الشابة
Young Legal Leaders

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

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وازن

MEDIA PARTNER

Wazen

Two inboxes for every inquiry

Saudi Legal Association

Washington University School of Law

Info@SLAWashU.com

Saudi_Law_Students@wustl.edu

For submissions, registration, certificates and partnerships.

FOLLOW THE ASSOCIATION

X

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#SILS2027

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