HARMONISATION OF THE SHARĪ‘AH AND CIVIL LAWS

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(PERSPECTIVE AND PRACTICE)

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# TABLE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Content</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Contributors</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PART I

### CHAPTER 1

**HARMONISATION OF CIVIL LAW AND SHARĪ'AH: THE SUDANESE EXPERIENCE**  
Akolda M. Tier  
1

### CHAPTER 2

**THE INTERRELATIONSHIP AND THE ASSOCIATED TENSION BETWEEN SHARĪ'AH AND CIVIL FAMILY LAW IN MALAYSIA: HARMONISATION AS A SOLUTION**  
Dato' Zaleha Kamaruddin  
21

### CHAPTER 3

**FROM ‘MAJALLAH’ TO ‘IRAQI CIVIL CODE’: A CRITICAL STUDY OF HARMONIZATION OF CIVIL LAW AND SHARĪ'AH**  
Najm-Aldeen K. Kareem al-Zanki  
31

### CHAPTER 4

**HARMONISING CIVIL JOINT TENANCY CONTRACTS WITH SHARĪ'AH**  
Sadali Rasban  
65

### CHAPTER 5

**REDEFINING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS THROUGH A HARMONISED APPROACH OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND ISLAMIC LAW**  
Majdah Zawawi  
105
CHAPTER 6
PERSONAL PRIVACY: THE CONCEPTUAL HARMONY BETWEEN SHARĪ'AH CIVIL LAW
Mohd Altaf Hussain Ahangar 153

CHAPTER 7
HARMONIZATION BETWEEN LAW AND MORALITY: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
Syed Khalid Rashid 171

CHAPTER 8
LAW AND MORALITY: PROSPECT OF HARMONIZING CIVIL LAW AND SHARĪ'AH PERSPECTIVE
Abdul Haseeb Ansari 191

CHAPTER 9
HARMONISING THE USE OF LIVING TRUST AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR ISLAMIC ESTATE PLANNING IN MALAYSIA
Akmal Hidayah Halim 227

CHAPTER 10
RIGHTS OF A CHILD TO MAINEANCE: HARMONISING THE LAWS IN MALAYSIA
Nora Abdul Hak, Roslina Che Soh & Noraimi Hashim 243

CHAPTER 11
HARMONISATION OF CIVIL LAW AND SHARĪ'AH IN A SMALL ISLAND NATION CASE STUDY: THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
Ismail Wisham & Aishath Muneeza 257

PART II

CHAPTER 12
IMPLEMENTING HUDUD ON WOMEN IN SHARĪ'AH: A COMPARISON WITH CIVIL LAWS IN THE PUNISHMENT OF ADULTERY
Noor Mohammad Osmani 289
CHAPTER 13
THE SHAR'I'AH PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO THE PERSON VERSUS THE WESTERN LAW OF TORTS
Syed Ahmad S A Alsagoff 321

CHAPTER 14
SHAR'I'AH AND LEGAL ISSUES IN HOUSING BUYING IN MALAYSIA: THE LEGALITY OF BAY'BITHAMAN-AL-AJIL ('BBA') IN THE LIGHT OF ABANDONED HOUSING PROJECT
Nuarrual Hilal Md. Dahlan & Sharifah Zubaidah Syed Abdul Kader 337

CHAPTER 15
THEORIES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE SHAR'I'AH AND THE CIVIL LAW: ITS CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN THE UNITED STATES OF EGYPT
Khairil Azmin Mokhtar & Nayel Musa Shaker Al-Omran 385

CHAPTER 16
CONTRACTUAL AGENCY: AN APPRAISAL OF SECTION 175-191 OF THE CONTRACT ACT 1950 (THE CIVIL LAW AND SHAR'I'AH PERSPECTIVE)
Zuhairah Ariff Abd Ghadas & Wan Rumaizi Wan Husin 411

CHAPTER 17
REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ISLAMIC LAW AND UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF 1965 ON REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE WITH REFERENCE TO MALAYSIAN FAMILY LAW
Mek Wok Mahmud & Olorogun Lukman Ayinde 451

CHAPTER 18
THE PROCESS OF GATHERING EVIDENCE IN CIVIL CASES: ITS APPLICATION IN CIVIL AND SHAR'I'AH COURTS
Duryana Mohamed & Afriddah Abas 475
CHAPTER 19

BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN IN DIVISION OF MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CIVIL LAW AND SHARĪ‘AH
Norliah Ibrahim 517

CHAPTER 20

RIGHT OF WORKING WIFE TO MAINTENANCE UNDER ISLAMIC LAW: A COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW WITH CIVIL LAW IN MALAYSIA
Azizah Mohd, Badruddin Hj Ibrahim & Normi Abd Malek 537

CHAPTER 21

THE STATUTORY ENACTMENT OF PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL BY INCORPORATING THE ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES: PROVIDING A BETTER PLATFORM FOR JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS IN THE SOCIETY
Wan Izatul Asma Talaat 555

CHAPTER 22

OBLIGATORY BEQUEST IN MALAYSIA: THE CLASSICAL LAW AND ITS ENFORCEMENT THROUGH VARIOUS ENACTMENTS
Tajul Aris Ahmad Bustami 589
THEORIES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE
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FRAMEWORK IN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT

Khairil Azmin Mokhtar
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1. Introduction

There is no single definition of Good Governance and there are differing norms for its measurement. Yet values such as accountability, transparency, participation, and equality are to some degree common in literature, writings and subject. According to the World Bank, good governance is ‘exercising that authority in ways that respect the integrity, rights, and needs of everyone within the State’. The values of good governance are common to the Shari’ah. In Islam the authority or government must follow principles which are prerequisites for establishment of just government. It is believed that good governance as propounded by the West and in Islam have more similarities than differences. Although the sources, origin and jurisprudence of the principles in Islam and the West may not be totally the same in most respects, the theory and principles of good governance from both perspectives are mostly mutually compatible. This can be observed in the first part of the paper.

The second part of the paper makes brief observation of the incorporation of the principles of good governance in two countries, namely, the United States of America and Egypt. This attempt is to show that Muslim and non-Muslim countries not only share the idea of good governance, but these countries also employ mechanism and institutions which are similar to achieve good governance. Thus, to a certain extent, there already exists harmonization between civil law