

# FREE PUBLIC LUNCH HOUR LECTURE



## THE KENYA SCHOOL OF LAW

In Conjunction with the International Law Association – East Africa Branch

### TOPIC: The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement's Dispute Settlement Mechanism: A Critique

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019

**WHERE:** Gate C Lecture Theatre

**TIME:** 1 pm

Dr. Akinkugbe will examine the “Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes” (the Protocol) by situating it in the context of the discontent with international adjudicative mechanisms in the multilateral trading system on the one hand, and comparable regional initiatives that have stalled or failed to achieve their expected impact on the other hand. Internationally, the dispute settlement mechanism described in the Protocol appears to be based on the Dispute Settlement Understanding of the World Trade Organization. Regionally, there are examples of similar dispute mechanisms such as the Southern African Development Community Tribunal and the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement between COMESA, EAC and SADC. Dr. Akinkugbe situates the dispute mechanism anticipated under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement within the context of these initiatives by asking what implications we can draw to inform a better dispute settlement mechanism under the AfCFTA.

#### Presenter:



**Dr. Olabisi D. Akinkugbe** is an Assistant Professor at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada. Professor Akinkugbe completed his Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa, an LL.M. from the University of Toronto, and an LL.B. from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Professor Akinkugbe's current research focuses on regional courts and economic integration in Africa. Specifically, he examines the role of regional courts in economic integration in Africa and how the complex socio-historical, economic, political and legal contexts that they are embedded shape them. He also has research interests in Business Law, Transnational Law, African Regional Economic Cooperation/Integration, International Law & Development, and Socio-Legal Approaches to Law.

His book titled, *Law, Economics & Regionalism in Africa - A Socio-Legal Analysis of the Economic Community of West African States* is under contract with Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.

He is an Editor with AfronomicsLaw Blog. AfronomicsLaw focuses on the international economic law landscape as it relates to the Africa. Its primary goal is to complement existing forums that analyze, discuss and debate international economic law issues as they relate to Africa.

Prof. Akinkugbe is the current President of the African International Economic Law Network. (AfIELN).

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