

*Perspective*

## The political canvas of legal evolution

Gary Forrester\*

Department of Political Science, Madonna University, Okija, Nigeria

Received: 27-Dec-2023, Manuscript No. IJLLS-23-123720; Editor assigned: 30-Dec-2023, Pre QC No. IJLLS-23-123720 7 (PQ); Reviewed: 15-Jan-2024, QC No. IJLLS-23-123720; Revised: 19-Feb-2025 Manuscript No. IJLLS-23-123720 (R); Published: 27-Feb-2025

### INTRODUCTION

The intersection of politics and law is a complex and multifaceted domain that permeates the very fabric of society. In the realm of legal studies, the influence of politics is undeniable, shaping the development, interpretation and enforcement of laws. The intricate dance between these two realms underscores the dynamic nature of the legal system and its responsiveness to the ever-evolving political landscape. At its core, law serves as a mechanism for regulating human behavior and maintaining order within a society. However, the formation and evolution of laws are not immune to political influences. The legislative process, where laws are conceptualized, debated, and enacted, is inherently political. Elected officials, representing diverse constituencies, bring their political ideologies and beliefs into the legislative arena, contributing to the creation of laws that mirror the prevailing political climate.

### DESCRIPTION

Moreover, the appointment of judges, who play a pivotal role in interpreting and applying the law, is a process deeply entrenched in politics. Judicial appointments often become a battleground for competing political ideologies, as policymakers seek to shape the judiciary in a manner consistent with their own views. This intersection of law and politics is evident in the ideological leanings of judges and the subsequent impact on legal decisions. In addition to the legislative and judicial branches, the executive branch also plays a significant role in the intertwining of politics and law. The enforcement of laws, a prerogative of the executive, is influenced by political priorities and policy agendas. Law enforcement agencies, as instruments of the state, operate within the parameters set by political leaders, reflecting the broader political objectives of the government.

Beyond the formal structures of government, politics also seeps into the legal system through public opinion and activism. The socio-political climate of a given era shapes public perceptions of justice, fairness and the need for legal reforms. Movements advocating for social change, driven by political ideologies, can catalyze legal transformations by challenging existing laws and norms.

The concept of legal realism, a school of thought within legal studies, acknowledges the impact of politics on the law. Legal realists contend that legal decisions are not solely based on abstract legal principles but are influenced by pragmatic considerations and the social and political context in which they arise. This perspective underscores the inherent connection between law and the broader political landscape.

Furthermore, international law, which governs the relationships between sovereign states, is deeply entwined with politics. Treaties, agreements and conventions are negotiated and ratified based on the geopolitical interests of nations. The international legal system reflects power dynamics among states, with political considerations often shaping the content and enforcement of international laws.

The notion of legal positivism, which emphasizes the formal sources of law, is also challenged by the intricate relationship between law and politics. While legal positivism posits that law is derived from authoritative sources such as legislation and judicial decisions, the reality is that these sources are not immune to political influences. The creation and interpretation of laws are subject to the values and ideologies prevailing in the political sphere.

---

\*Corresponding author. Gary Forrester, E-mail: [Forrestgary@gmail.com](mailto:Forrestgary@gmail.com)

In democratic societies, the role of politics in law is particularly pronounced. The democratic process, characterized by citizen participation and representation, ensures that political ideologies directly impact the formulation of laws. The concept of the rule of law, central to democratic governance, is itself a product of political philosophy, emphasizing the supremacy of law over arbitrary power. However, the relationship between politics and law is not without tensions and challenges. Legal scholars often grapple with questions of judicial independence, the separation of powers, and the need to maintain a balance between political expediency and the protection of individual rights. Striking this delicate balance requires constant vigilance and a commitment to upholding the principles that underpin the rule of law.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the intertwining of politics and law is an intrinsic aspect of legal studies. From the creation of laws to their interpretation and enforcement, politics exerts a pervasive influence on the legal system. Recognizing and understanding this dynamic relationship is essential for comprehending the complexities of legal structures and their responsiveness to the ever-shifting currents of political thought. As we navigate the intricate web of law and politics, it becomes apparent that the pursuit of justice is inexorably linked to the socio-political context in which it unfolds.