

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



We are pleased to introduce the first issue of the fourth volume of the *Brazilian Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, a scientific journal of the *Brazilian Network of Empirical Legal Studies*, which aims to foster and develop empirical research in the area of Law in Brazil since 2011.

We maintain our commitment to accomplish a high-quality journal that represents Brazilian and international research. All articles published in this number undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process, respecting as far as possible the regional and thematic diversity that characterizes the empirical research in law.

The year 2017 brings to our Journal three important new features. The first affirms the emergence of the academic field we instilled. Considering the increase in the number of articles submitted and approved, the Editors decided to increase the periodicity of the Journal. Therefore, as of this year the Journal becomes four-monthly, counting each volume with three numbers, to be published in the months of February, June and October.

The second new feature affirms our multidisciplinary character. In addition to our qualification of the B1 extract of the Brazilian Qualis-CAPES in the area of Law, the new evaluation assigned us the extract B3 in

the areas of Sociology and Public Administration and Business, Accounting and Tourism, and the extract B5 in the area of Economics.

The third new feature affirms our commitment to best publishing practices and to preserving the free and democratic diffusion of knowledge. Since January 2017 all our editorial flow has been migrated to the *Open Journal System - OJS* platform. It is through OJS that we will receive all submissions of articles.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank everyone that contributed to this Journal. We are grateful for the gracious and qualified participation of the peer reviewers and the members of our Editorial Board, which includes representatives from prestigious institutions in many countries and different states in Brazil. We are also thankful for the dedication and effort from our editorial team, without whom this issue would not have been possible. We would like to voice our deepest gratitude to everyone that contributed in order to assure this Journal would be an instrument for the development of its relevant scientific mission.

Happy reading!

**FERNANDO DE CASTRO FONTAINHA AND
JOSÉ ROBERTO FRANCO XAVIER // EDITORS**