

## ENGLISH EDITORIAL

The eighth edition of *Revista Cognitio* consistently reaffirms the role of the Escola Superior da Magistratura da Paraíba (ESMA-PB) as a promoter of scientific excellence in the fields of Law, Public Policy, and Citizenship. More than consolidating the journal's trajectory as a space for academic dissemination, this edition represents a milestone of expansion and editorial maturity, emphasizing the internationalization of research and the construction of transnational dialogues.

By bringing together contributions from researchers affiliated with renowned institutions worldwide, the journal strengthens its vocation as a plural and interdisciplinary channel, capable of articulating theoretical and practical reflections that directly impact democratic development and the realization of fundamental rights. In this sense, *Cognitio* reaffirms its commitment to scientific quality, diversity of perspectives, and the social relevance of academic production, establishing itself as a reference in the contemporary legal and political landscape.

Launching the formalization of the journal's new section on foreign literature, the article *Configurational Power and the Constitutional Crisis of Digital Democracy*, by Sümeyye Nur Mete, examines how technology corporations act as de facto sovereign actors over infrastructures essential to democracies, shaping political life without direct accountability to citizens. It argues that this meta-institutional power, exercised through platforms and algorithms, requires new constitutional participation mechanisms to align corporate power with democratic accountability.

With an innovative perspective, the article *The Dual Effect of the Legal System on the Technical Standardization of New Energy Enterprises*, authored by Hong Zhang, Chenying Luo, and Ming Li, examines how legal frameworks can both promote and restrict technological standardization in renewable energy companies. Combining theoretical and empirical analysis, it identifies challenges such as unclear legal scope and difficulties in implementing technical standards. It concludes that a robust legal system enhances innovation, strengthens competitiveness, and supports effective policymaking.

Reinforcing the integrative perspective, the article *“Case Márcia Barbosa de Souza vs. Brazil: The Universalization of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Judgment from the Perspective of Integrative Theory”*, by Nilson Dias, applies Neil MacCormick’s integrative theory to the 2021 case. It highlights failures of Brazil’s legal system regarding gender-based violence and argues for the universalization of the Court’s ruling as a guarantee of non-repetition, promoting equality and justice.

In a differentiated manner, and beginning our reflection on the articles in Portuguese, the article *“Limits and Possibilities of Control over the Act Practiced by the Notary Acting as Arbitrator”* analyzes the inclusion of notaries in the “multi-door” conflict resolution system, introduced by Law No. 14,711/2023. Grounded in a critical approach and deductive method, it discusses the legal nature of the arbitral act and the private autonomy established by Law No. 9,307/96. It concludes that corrective control does not apply to arbitral decisions, leaving the Judiciary only to verify their formal validity, while preserving ethical and disciplinary oversight.

From an international perspective, the article *“Democracy and Human Rights in Colombia: An Analysis of the Last Decade”* examines Colombian democracy between 2015 and 2024. It identifies legal progress but persistent structural instability. It concludes that violence, inequality, and fragile institutions undermine democratic effectiveness, requiring a rethinking of democratic form and human rights.

With a specific approach to gender ideology, the article *“The Safeguarding of Girls in the Normative Context”* discusses the guardianship of girls as a central dimension of human rights and citizenship, linked to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5. Grounded in bibliographic and documentary research, it highlights institutional advances such as CNJ Resolution No. 492, proposing intersectional judicial analyses to strengthen gender equality.

From the perspective of the right to development, the article *“Emoluments of Property Registration in Paraíba”* analyzes the impacts of notarial fees on land regularization. It argues that, in a context of poverty and low HDI, such fees, although legitimate, become disproportionate, creating barriers to the exercise of property and housing rights. It concludes by emphasizing the need for fairer taxation, sensitive to social vulnerabilities.

From the perspective of criminal law, the article *“Between the Law and the Margin: Penal Selectivity and Social Control in the Incarceration of Poverty in Brazil”* examines penal selectivity in the country, highlighting the dualization between Minimal Criminal Law, directed at the elites, and Maximal Criminal Law, applied to poor and Black populations. Grounded in Critical Criminology, the study demonstrates the phenomenon of mass incarceration and concludes with the need to restore the Social Rule of Law.

] Next, we can follow the reflection presented in the text *Plain Language for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder within Public Administration*, which highlights the hypervulnerability of this population. Since the enactment of Law No. 15.263/25, the role of the State as a facilitator of access to information and citizenship has been discussed. The text further emphasizes that the policy must evolve to address the specific needs of autistic individuals and extend its scope to all citizens.

The article entitled *“We Are Still Here: Civil Registry Offices and the Work in Favor of Collective Memory and the Importance of the Right to Truth”* presents a relevant reflection on the film *Ainda Estou Aqui* in dialogue with the right to memory. In this context, it offers an understanding of the legal framework consolidated in 2024 with the issuance of CNJ Resolution No. 601/2024, which mandates the rectification of death records, officially acknowledging violent deaths perpetrated by the dictatorial State. The case embodies transitional justice and reaffirms the fundamental rights to memory, truth, and reparation.

Still within the same panorama of social justice, the article entitled *“Free Legal Aid in the Civil Courts of João Pessoa/PB in 2024: Analysis of Socioeconomic Aspects and Their Implications for Access to Justice”* investigates the effectiveness of free legal aid as an instrument for democratizing access to justice, based on an empirical analysis of the civil courts of the João Pessoa district in 2024. The study compares rates of approval, denial, and partial concession between central and regional courts, relating them to the socioeconomic conditions of the neighborhoods served. The results indicate higher approval rates in regional courts that serve areas with lower income and Human Development Index, suggesting a positive impact on legal inclusion. However, heterogeneities are observed in the criteria and reasoning of decisions,

pointing to the need for greater uniformity, objectivity, and transparency, while maintaining sensitivity to social vulnerabilities.