Reforming Family Law

As the only area of law that is still commonly termed “Islamic law,” family law is one of the most sensitive and controversial legal areas in all Muslim-majority countries. Morocco and Jordan both issued new family codes in the 2000s, but there are a number of differences in the ways these two states engaged in reform. These include how the reform was carried out, the content of the new family codes, and the way the new laws are applied. Based on extensive fieldwork and rich in sources, this book examines why these two ostensibly similar semi-authoritarian regimes varied so significantly in their engagement with family law. Dörthe Engelcke demonstrates that the structure of the legal systems, shaped by colonial policies, had an effect on how reform processes were carried out, as well as the content and the application of family law.

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To my mother Ilse
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Acknowledgments

This book stands at the end of a long journey that included some considerable detours. Detours enhance one’s knowledge of a place, and this project was no exception to this rule. Writing these acknowledgments allows me to revisit these places and, more importantly, the people who made these places what they are and to thank all of them for their generous support without which this book never would have seen the light of day.

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Note on Transliteration

I follow the transliteration system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES) because it is the most commonly used across disciplines. Some terms have become standardized in French, but I decided to transcribe them as well using the IJMES system to avoid confusion and multiple spellings of the same words: so it is qā‘īd and not qaid. For proper names I use the official or most commonly used spelling in either country. This explains some variation in spelling: it is ‘ulama‘ but Conseil Supérieur des Oulémas. In line with the IJMES guidelines I do not transcribe names of people and places. In an effort to increase clarity I have transcribed titles of books and other content originally produced in Arabic. All transcribed Arabic words are italicized except if they have become standard in English, such as Qur‘an and shari‘a.
Acronyms

ADFM Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc
AMDF Association Marocaine des Droits des Femmes
AWO Arab Women’s Organization
CCDH Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l’Homme
CEDAW Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CJLHR Committee for Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights
CSO Conseil Supérieur des Oulémas
FFD Front des Forces Démocratiques
FTA Free Trade Agreement
GFJW General Federation of Jordanian Women
GSU Gauche Socialiste Unifiée
IAF Islamic Action Front
IMF International Monetary Fund
ISM Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature
JBM Justice and Benevolence Movement (JBM)
JJ Judicial Institute of Jordan
JLFR Jordanian Law of Family Rights
JNCW Jordan National Commission for Women
JNFW Jordanian National Forum for Women
JWU Jordanian Women’s Union
LDDF Ligue Démocratique des Droits de la Femme
MAP Maghreb Arab Press
MP Mouvement Populaire
MSWFSD Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family, and Social Development
MUR Movement for Unity and Reform
NCFA National Council for Family Affairs
OLFR Ottoman Law of Family Rights
OMDH Organization Marocain des Droits de l’Homme
ORCF Organization for the Renewal of the Female Consciousness
## List of Acronyms

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<tr>
<td>PANAFID</td>
<td>Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>PJD</td>
<td>Party of Justice and Development</td>
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<td>PPS</td>
<td>Parti du Progrès et du Socialisme</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCHR</td>
<td>Royal Commission for Human Rights</td>
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<td>RNI</td>
<td>Rassemblement National des Indépendants</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIGI</td>
<td>Sisterhood is Global Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJD</td>
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