

WHEN JUSTICE GAMBLES

~ The Dangerous Collapse of the Modern Judiciary ~

BY

CYPRIAN F. EDWARD-EKPO, LL.D

SYNOPSIS

The scales of justice are being treated like a roulette wheel—the dangerous collapse of the modern judiciary, and everyday citizens are bearing the negative impact. This particular article is a sneak-peek version of a new book: " When Justice Gambles," by Cyprian F.Edward-Ekpo.

In When Justice Gambles, a systemic evaluation reveals a modern judiciary pushed to its absolute limits. This provocative work peels back the robes of the legal system to expose how political polarization, systemic erosion, intellectual poverty, and weaponised legal maneuvering have turned the halls of justice into a game of chance. By x-raying cases across jurisdictions, distorted precedents and illogical judicial activism have become the new world order of law. This work delivers a searing wake-up call about what happens to the system of human rights, the rule of law, and the future of democracy when the unyielding principles of law become entirely unpredictable .

1. Distortion of Modern Legality

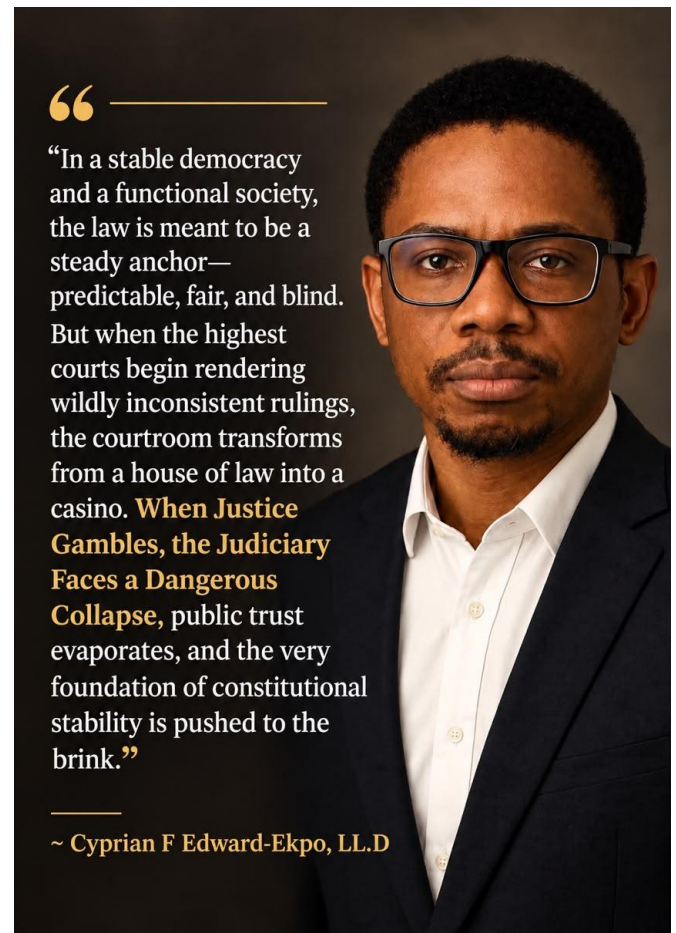
I was very cautious in selecting this title because it is quite concerning — highlighting a deeply fascinating, yet worrisome reality.

We are experiencing a new world of legal mechanisms increasingly obscured by illusion and distortion. I am going to contend today that we are bombarded with so many unsettled principles of law in our contemporary world — in different jurisdictions, including places that for decades, we knew them to be the bastions of the rule of law and democracy. I could make a whole lot of puns about driving you “potty” with specific instances and cases, but I won’t.

However, for the sake of humanity and universal human rights, we must confront a fundamental truth: judging and judgment-writing exert a profound influence on how humans navigate reality within our social and political landscapes.

2. The Fragile Equilibrium of Governance and the Rule of Law

This friction is inevitable. Because humans do not live in isolation, conflict over rights and privileges is a permanent fixture of society. Our consciousness, perception, and perspective are naturally diverse—as are our characters, desires, and interests. Ultimately, the boundaries of our perception define the limits of our individual worlds. To navigate these boundaries and resolve the grievances born from these clashing perspectives, society relies on three arms of power — the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. Chief among them to arbitrate these disputes is the judiciary — the reason it stays as the centripetal and centrifugal institution by which society could be perfected or ruined.



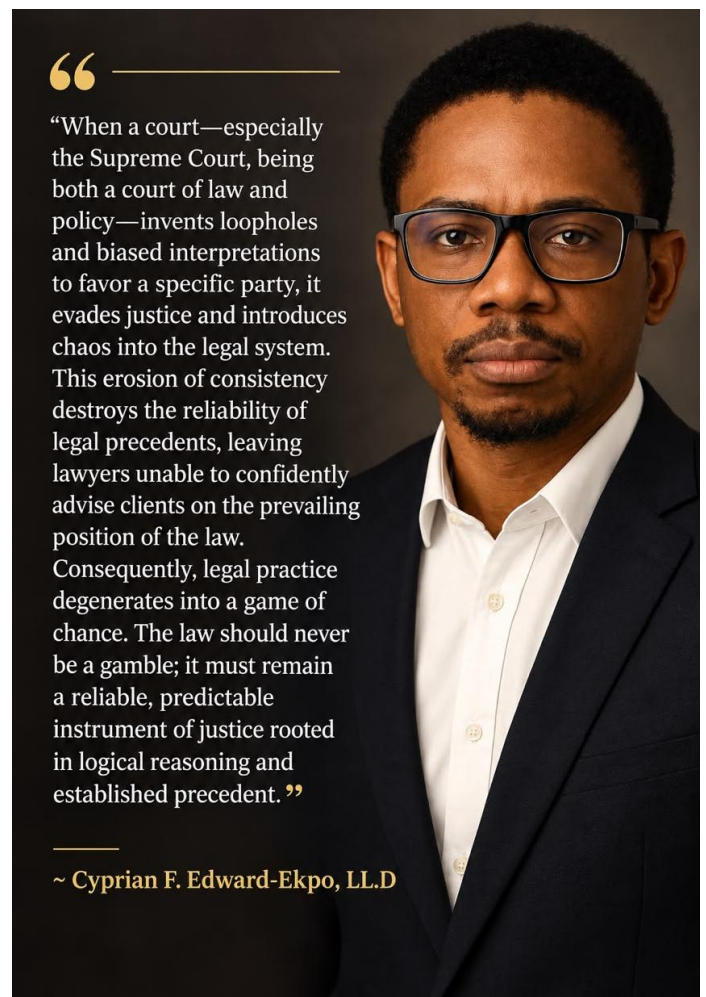
Speaking practically, as a citizen of this world — and unlike those who demand no government at all — I am not asking for the destruction of our institutions by another. I am advocating, right now, a better government — in a manner that each branch of government respect each other and none compromises its authority and moral principles or surrenders their own functions and powers to another. And this, of course, can be practical when the rule of law and letter of the constitution are absolutely respected by

all, and to that extent, when twisting the spirit and letter of constitution to please anyone is not encultured as a new way of life.

3. The Limitations of Majority Rule

If every single one of us stands up and declares what kind of government deserves our respect, we take the very first step toward building it through the demands that the sacrosanctity and inner morality of the law be given full respect — without compromising the principles of checks and balances.

Let's be honest about why the majority rules. When power is placed in the hands of the people, the majority is allowed to govern; not because they are always right, and not because it is fair to everyone else. They rule simply because they have the population and physical power to do so. But a government where the majority rules unconditionally may not be guaranteed to be a just government — it may be unjust if the majority elects a moron — a Denning-Kruger Effect patient or a dictator as the state leader. But the majority will still be spared of their error if men and women of integrity, intelligence and principles are in the legislature and the judiciary to checkmate and curtail the negative impact and actions of such morons or dictators erroneously placed on the throne.



4. Conscience and the Morality of Law

Why can't we have a society where conscience—not only a headcount—determines right and wrong? Why can't the majority stick to deciding every day, practical matters where simple convenience is all that matters? Why should a citizen ever, for even a fraction of a second, hand their conscience over to a politician? What is the purpose of having a conscience if we don't use it?

We must remember that we are human beings first, and subjects second. Our duty is not to cultivate a blind respect for the law, but a fierce respect for what is right, and to know that what is right can only be sustained by the law and upheld by a system of checks and balances — thus making respect to constitutional law a *sine qua non* for every person and authority.

The only true obligation I have is to do what I believe is right at any given moment, but to do so fairly and judiciously in accordance to law. For example, people often say that a corporation has no soul, no conscience—but an organization made of principled, conscientious people who follow the law becomes an organization with a conscience. The law has never made humanity a single bit more just. In fact, through a misplaced, blind respect for the law dictated by autocrats, even the most well-intentioned people among us are turned into tools of injustice every single day. This is why when laws are coordinated across all three branches of government—rooted in a constitution created by the people—they are inherently and considerably fair

5. The Decay of Precedent and Predictability

When these laws are faithfully obeyed and enforced, society thrives in harmony devoid of chaos. Ultimately, the judiciary plays a vital role in sustaining this better world for humanity. However, if the courts begin to serve individual interests rather than the inner

morality of the law, societal collapse can happen rapidly. The clearest warning sign of this failure is inconsistent interpretation and unjust decisions of the court. When a court—especially the Supreme Court, being both a court of law and policy—invents loopholes and biased interpretations to favor a specific party, it evades justice and introduces chaos into the legal system. This erosion of consistency destroys the reliability of legal precedents, leaving lawyers unable to confidently advise clients on the prevailing position of the law. Consequently , legal practice degenerates into a game of chance.

6. The Casino of Justice

The law should never be a gamble; it must remain a reliable, predictable instrument of justice rooted in logical reasoning and established precedent.

In a stable democracy and a functional society, the law is meant to be a steady anchor—predictable, fair, and blind. But when the highest courts begin rendering wildly inconsistent rulings, the courtroom transforms from a house of law into a casino. When Justice Gambles, the Judiciary faces a dangerous collapse, public trust evaporates, and the very foundation of constitutional stability is pushed to the brink.

Sadly, today, a deeply worrisome reality is unfolding across our legal landscapes—one where inconsistent interpretations are trading — transforming the bedrock of societal harmony and democracy into an unpredictable lottery.

~ **Prof. Cyprian Edward-Ekpo** is a globally renowned legal scholar, author, public international law and international environmental law specialist, and human rights advocate. He is widely recognized for his leadership roles in global and regional legal research institutions, as well as his outspoken public commentary on governance, constitutional law, and international relations. He can be reached via email: cyprian.edward@uniserl.education and cyprian.edward@ilawdun.us