

ITP Research Form

ITP: **Morocco 2019**

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Paper Title: **No Longer “Minors for Life”? *The Reality of Moudawana Reform in Morocco and a Comparison to Family Law in Illinois***

Abstract:

After gaining independence from France, Morocco is simultaneously an old society and new state. Post-colonial Morocco required new codified bodies of law, but in furtherance of the paradox, in 1958, the King established Morocco's first family code by codifying 8th century Maliki jurisprudence.

Until its reform in 2004, the *Moudawana*—or Code of Personal Status—defined Morocco's cultural identity as entrenched in Islamic law and male dominated. However, after a nearly 50-year-long feminist and ideological fight, King Mohammed VI commissioned a replacement of the *Moudawana*. 15 years after this shift, we examine the reality of reformed family law in Morocco for Moroccan women and compare the Moudawana's successes and challenges to similar law in Illinois.