The research project’s topic is "The Proliferation of Laws in the United States and its Adverse Impacts." It is a research project deriving from the John Locke Global Essay Competition 2023’s law category question 3 "Are there too many laws." The research focused on the United States legal system because the United States is a country with a strong tradition of protecting human rights, and the U.S. has made considerable efforts to amend past laws and pass new laws. Besides, the U.S. is a trendsetter with substantial global influence. As such, the research project focuses on the United States’ legal system. Notably, it seems to be a trend for the legislative body to pass and amend large amounts of laws, and for the citizens to become estranged from the legal system. For instance, a stunning amount of people in the US are indeed criminals who can be imprisoned while most of them are unaware of their illegal actions. This absurd circumstance motivated me to write a research paper regarding the situation of the proliferation of laws and its adverse impacts.

The research project starts with two shocking statistics where 70% of U.S. citizens have committed a crime and there are over 300,000 federal laws. Deriving from these two statistics, it is observed that there’s a proliferation of laws in the United States. The research mainly focuses on two sectors “governed” and over-flowed by-laws, i.e. the political and social sectors, where the proliferation of laws overly restricts our socio-political life. Lastly, four adverse impacts of these over-restricting laws that contradict the purpose of the legal system are identified and explained to further investigate the proliferation of law. In the end, it is concluded that there is a proliferation of law in the United States which leads to the restrictions of people's rights, crime ambiguity, enforcement injustice, and direct estrangement from the law.