**WRITING SKILLS IN LEGAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

**11 – 12 September 2014**

**STIAS, Stellenbosch**

**Introduction:**

The development of law students' writing skills has become a topic of particular interest and concern in South African legal education in recent times. Stakeholders in the legal services industry have voiced criticism regarding the quality of law graduates' writing skills. Many law faculties have also started to grapple with this issue and various interventions have been implemented. Scholarship has also started to emerge locally on this issue with a number of recent articles in local law journals addressing topics within this area.

This workshop is aimed at bringing together these developments. The general purpose is to create a platform for an enriched discussion and exchange of ideas and perspectives on the development of writing skills in the context of legal education in South Africa.

**Programme:**

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| **DAY 1: 11 September** | |
| The programme for day 1 focuses on the sharing of experiences between law faculties regarding the development of students' writing skills. To facilitate such discussion, a number of faculties will formally present their experiences in 20 minute presentations. Each presentation will be followed by a further 20 minutes of discussion. While only eight faculties will formally present, the intention is that all participating faculties will share their experiences during discussions and that engagement should not be limited to the eight presenting faculties. | |
| 09h00 | Registration |
| 09h45 | Opening:  Prof Sonia Human, Dean, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University |
| 10h00 | Why this workshop?  Prof Geo Quinot, Stellenbosch University |
| 10h30 | Faculty 1 UCT: Ms Toni Gottlieb & Dr Lesley Greenbaum |
| 11h10 | Break |
| 11h40 | Faculty 2 Wits: Mr Paul Kaseke |
| 12h20 | Faculty 3 NWU (Mafikeng): Ms Charlene Lanser - Labuschagne |
| 13h00 | Lunch |
| 13h50 | Faculty 4 UKZN: Ms Angela Crocker |
| 14h30 | Faculty 5 UFS: Dr Manie Moolman |
| 15h10 | Break |
| 15h30 | Faculty 6 NWU (Potch): Mr Michael Laubscher |
| 16h10 | Faculty 7 NMMU: Ms Lynne Biggs |
| 16h50 | Faculty 8 SU: Mr Theo Broodryk |
| 17h30 | Closing Day 1 |
| **17h30 – 19:00**  **Cocktail Reception** | |

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| **DAY 2: 12 September** | |
| The programme for day 2 is divided into two parts. In the first three presentations experts will share insights from their respective research fields that are of particular relevance to the development of students' writing skills. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long with at least 20 minutes for discussion. These sessions are aimed at facilitating a research-grounded reflection on approaches to writing skills development in legal education. The afternoon sessions will focus on perspectives from practice during two panel discussions involving representatives from various legal services environments. | |
| 09h00 | Expert Session 1:  *Developing powerful writers: embedding writing development in the disciplinary curriculum*  Dr Cecilia Jacobs, Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning, Stellenbosch University |
| 09h50 | Expert Session 2:  *The unseen link: Reading for writing*  Prof Christa van der Walt, Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, Stellenbosch University |
| 10h30 | Break |
| 11h00 | Expert Session 3:  *Information and communication technology for writing skills development: A prudent venture?*  Dr Amanda Lourens, Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University |
| 11h50 | Panel: Perspectives from practice 1  *Writing skills training post university study*  Adv Tim Bruinders SC, Johannesburg Bar; Ms Marcelle Luter, State Attorney's Office; Mr Nic Swart, CEO LSSA |
| 12h30 | Lunch |
| 13h30 | Panel: Perspectives from the practice 2  *The professions' expectations and experiences of graduates' writing skills*  Adv Tim Bruinders SC, Johannesburg Bar; Ms Kathy Colman, Webber Wentzel; Mr Ettiene Barnard, co-chair LSSA |
| 14h30 | Closing discussion: The way forward  Prof Geo Quinot |
| **15h30**  **Conference closes** | |