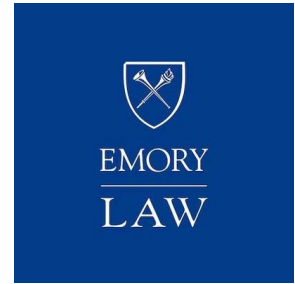


## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 2025



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# AGGREGATE LITIGATION – CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Hosted by the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law

### Organized by:

**Professor Theo Broodryk**, Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law,  
**Professor Robert Klonoff**, Jordan D. Schnitzer Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School, and

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### CALL FOR PAPERS (YOUNG SCHOLARS) – ‘AI AND AGGREGATE LITIGATION’

On 24 and 25 June 2025, the University of Stellenbosch Faculty of Law (South Africa) will host the international conference ‘*Aggregate Litigation – current challenges for civil justice in the global perspective*’. The conference will include panels and discussions on a variety of current challenges in class actions across the world (funding, privatization of dispute resolution, judicial case management, AI). Aggregate litigation will be the main point of focus, but discussions will touch civil justice systems - as complex systems of judicial and out-of-court mechanisms for resolving disputes and providing justice - in general.

The conference will include a panel on artificial intelligence (AI). The panel will elaborate on complex interactions of AI, algorithms and machine learning with class actions. AI is one of the most significant challenges as well as opportunities for civil justice. We are seeking scholarly papers from **young scholars\*** covering one of two distinct yet related strands of scholarship:

1. AI has become a subject of legal disputes concerning everything from its impact on privacy and other human rights, through its interactions with copyright law, to its

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\* Scholars who graduated from law school by no earlier than 2014.

plentiful functions in industry. As GitHub, Google, Microsoft, Open AI, and other companies are racing to develop and train new and improved AI forms, repeatedly clashing against the existing laws and regulations, legislators and regulators around the world are working on placing some regulatory footing and constraints on AI. We are faced with a question on the role of aggregate litigation in this process. Class actions have proven effective in highlighting gaps in regulatory and legislative frameworks and the need for addressing new, complex social and economic phenomena. Can they play such a role in regulating AI? Have they already started playing such a role?

2. AI offers promises of efficiency gains and potentially other benefits in civil litigation in general and aggregate litigation in particular. It offers faster and cheaper ways of identifying potential class members, potential common issues, potential problems, find relevant evidence and even examine the legal position. Are these efficiency gains going to meaningfully alter the aggregate litigation landscape? Or could AI perhaps help channel cases away from courts and into some form of privatized, digital dispute resolution forum?

We welcome submissions related to the first and/or the second thread. One abstract will be selected from the submissions by the organizers. The winner will be invited to present their draft paper during the conference. Their travel and accommodation expenses will be covered. Further, it is anticipated that the final paper will be published in a scholarly journal in South Africa and/or in the United States.

**LONG ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS (1000 words):** The deadline for submissions is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please submit the abstract and your CV to: [tbroodryk@sun.ac.za](mailto:tbroodryk@sun.ac.za).

Papers should be submitted using the following guidelines:

- Papers must not have been accepted for publication at the time of submission.
- Please use the following format as the file name when you save your paper: Last name (all caps), underscore, shortened name of paper, period, pdf.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** General inquiries regarding the competition or the Conference should be directed to: [tbroodryk@sun.ac.za](mailto:tbroodryk@sun.ac.za).