

JULIE • 2025 • JULY

FACULTY OF LAW  
IFACULTHI YOMTHETHO  
FAKULTEIT REGSGELEERDHEID

# NUUSBRIEF NEWSLETTER



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News from the  
Dean's office

Nuus van die  
Dekaan se  
kantoor



# Boodskap van die Dekaan

Beste kollegas, studente, alumni en vriende

Dit is met groot plesier dat ons hierdie nuusbrief met julle deel. Die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid het die 2025 akademiese jaar met hernieuwe entoesiasme begin.

Hierdie jaar het ons 'n diverse groep eerstejaarstudente verwelkom, insluitend LLB (vierjaar) studente, BA (Regte) studente, BCom (Regte) studente en BRek LLB studente. Daarbenewens het ons die eerste finalejaargroep van ons hernieuwe LLB-program verwelkom.

Behalwe vir 'n nuwe verpligte module in ons finale jaar (Reg en Tegnologie), het ons nuwe modules in ons kursuswerk LLM-programme ingesluit, spesifiek in Stedelike Reg en Klimaatreg en Volhoubaarheidsregeerkunde. Ons het ook 'n nuwe kortkursus bekendgestel, getiteld Klimatsveranderingsreg vir Plaaslike Regeringsaksie.

'n Noemenswaardige prestasie is die stigting van die Prestige Beurse vir Regte, geborg deur die Regsfakulteit Trust. Hierdie omvattende beurse is toegeken aan twee uitsonderlike studente, wat gekies is op grond van akademiese meriete, 'n kort opstel en 'n onderhoud met lede van die Fakulteit en die Regsfakulteit Trust.

Dit is noodsaaklik om te erken dat studentesukses beduidend beïnvloed word deur holistiese ondersteuning, insluitend toegang tot voldoende finansiële hulpbronne wat bydra tot voldoende studiegelde, verblyf, voedselsekerheid, reiskoste en studiemateriaal. Met die ruim ondersteuning van die Regsfakulteit Trust en ander alumni en skenkers, benewens die voorsiening van pryse, kon ons vanjaar ongeveer R5,5 miljoen in beurse aan regstudente versprei. Ons betuig ons opregte dank aan elke skenker en ondersteuner van ons studente, aangesien u bydraes 'n diepgaande impak op die sukses van hierdie studente maak en terselfdertyd 'n langtermynbelegging in ons samelewing verteenwoordig.

Die Fakulteit het sy onderneming om navorsings-gebaseerde kollokwiums op sleutelgebiede te organiseer (soos internasionale privaatrecht, demokrasie en die sosiale staat, groepsgedinge en straf(proses)reg), gehandhaaf. Hierdie semester het ons drie openbare

lesings suksesvol aangebied. Die lesings is met 'n hoë vlak van bywoning begroet en het besprekings oor kontemporêre kwessies aangemoedig. Die komende tweede semester sal 'n uitbreiding van sulke navorsingsintensiewe byeenkomste sien en verdere geleenthede vir betrokkenheid bied.

In antwoord op institusionele verwikkelinge is sekere aanpassings aan die leierskap van die Fakulteit aangebring. Met ingang van 1 April het professor Richard Stevens die rol van Waarnemende Viserektor: Leer en Onderrig aanvaar. Terselfdertyd het die vertrekkende Bedryfshoof (professor Stan du Plessis) my formeel opgelei voordat ek die posisie as Waarnemende Bedryfshoof vanaf 1 Junie 2025 aanvaar het. Professor Juanita Pienaar het die rol van Waarnemende Dekaan aanvaar, professor Bradley Slade het as Waarnemende Visedekaan Leer en Onderrig ingetree, en professor Theo Broodryk het vanaf 1 Julie die rol van Waarnemende Visedekaan Navorsing en Internasionalisering aanvaar. Saam met professore Sadulla Karjiker, Anél du Plessis, Geo Quinot, mev. Karin Wiss en dr. Franziska Myburgh, gaan die Fakulteit voort onder leiding van die hersiene Fakulteitsbestuurskomitee.

Die huidige tydperk is 'n noemenswaardige tyd vir die onderrig en studie van regte. Die verreikende wêreldwye ontwikkelings wat in onlangse maande waargeneem is, die onlangs vrygestelde kwartaalike arbeidsopnamestatistieke en die bekendstelling van belangrike nuwe (en voorgestelde) wetgewing bied ruim gevallestudies vir klasbesprekings en interessante navorsingsnavrae. Dit beklemtoon die beduidende verantwoordelikheid wat verband hou met die titels van 'regspraktisyn', 'akademikus' of 'leier' in ons veld, wat die handhawing van geregtigheid, die dien van die openbare belang en die bydrae tot 'n meer billike samelewing behels.

Soos die semester tot 'n einde kom, wil ek ons personeel en studente bedank vir al hul harde werk en toewyding. Ek hoop julle almal geniet 'n ontspannende en welverdiende ruskans!

**Professor Nicola Smit**  
**Dekaan**

Waarnemende Bedryfshoof



# Message from the Dean

Dear colleagues, students, alumni, and friends

It is with great pleasure that we share this newsletter with you. The Faculty of Law commenced the 2025 academic year with renewed enthusiasm.

This year, we welcomed a diverse cohort of first-year students, including LLB (four-year) students, BA (Law) students, BCom (Law) students, and BAccLLB students. Additionally, we welcomed the inaugural final-year group of our renewed LLB programme.

Other than a new compulsory module in our final year (Law and Technology), we have introduced new modules into our coursework LLM programmes, specifically in Urban Law and Climate Change and Sustainability Governance. We have also launched a new short course, titled Climate Change Law for Local Government Action.

A notable achievement is the establishment of the Prestige Bursaries for Law, sponsored by the SU Law Trust. These comprehensive bursaries have been awarded to two exceptional students, who were selected based on academic merit, a short essay, and an interview with members of the Faculty and the Law Trust.

It is imperative to acknowledge that student success is significantly influenced by holistic support, including access to adequate financial resources that contribute to adequate tuition, accommodation, food security, travel costs, and study materials. With the generous support of the SU Law Trust and other alumni and donors, beyond the provision of prizes, we were able to distribute approximately R5,5 million in bursaries to law students this year. We extend our sincere gratitude to every donor and supporter of our students, as your contributions make a profound impact on the success of these students and, simultaneously, represent a long-term investment in our society.

The Faculty has maintained its commitment to organising research-based colloquiums in key areas, such as private international law, democracy and the social state, aggregate litigation, and criminal (procedural) law. This semester, we successfully hosted three

public lectures, which were met with a high level of attendance and facilitated engaging discussions on contemporary issues. The upcoming second semester will witness an expansion of such research-intensive gatherings and provide further opportunities for engagement.

In response to institutional developments, certain adjustments were made to our Faculty leadership. Effective 1 April, Professor Richard Stevens assumed the role of Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning. Simultaneously, I formally shadowed the departing Chief Operating Officer (Professor Stan du Plessis) prior to assuming the acting COO position from 1 June, 2025. Professor Juanita Pienaar assumed the role of Acting Dean, Professor Bradley Slade served as Acting Vice Dean Teaching and Learning, and Professor Theo Broodryk took on the Acting Vice Dean Research and Internationalisation role from 1 July. Alongside Professors Sadulla Karjiker, Anél du Plessis, Geo Quinot, Mrs Karin Wiss, and Dr Franziska Myburgh, the Faculty continues under the guidance of the revised Faculty Management Committee.

The current period presents a notable time for teaching and studying law. The far-reaching global developments observed in recent months, the recently released Quarterly Labour Survey statistics, and the introduction of key new (and proposed) legislation provide ample case studies for class discussions and intriguing research inquiries. This underscores the significant responsibility associated with the titles of 'lawyer,' 'scholar,' or 'leader' in our field, which entails upholding justice, serving the public good, and contributing to a more equitable society.

As the semester comes to an end, I want to thank our staff and students for all their hard work and dedication. I hope you all have a relaxing and well-deserved break!

**Professor Nicola Smit**

*Dean*

Acting Chief Operating Officer



# Umyalezo ovela kwiNtloko yeFakhalthi

## Umyalezo ovela kwiNtloko yeFakhalthi

Boogxa, bafundi, zithwalandwe, nabahlobo ababekekileyo Kuluvuyo olukhulu ukwabelana nani ngale ncwadana yeendaba. IFakhalthi yezoMthetho iye yaqalisa unyaka wezifundo ka2025 ngovuyo oluhlaziyekileyo.

Kulo nyaka, siye samkela iqela elizintlobontlobo labafundi abenza unyaka wokuqala, kuquka abafundi beLLB (yeminyaka emine), abafundi beBA (ezoMthetho), abafundi beBCom (ezoMthetho), nabafundi beBAccLLB. Ukongeza, siye samkela iqela lokuqala elenza unyaka wokugqibela kwinkqubo yethu yeLLB ehlaziyiweyo.

Ngaphandle kwemodyuli entsha enyanzelekileyo kunyaka wethu wokugqibela (ezoMthetho neTekhnoloji), siye sazisa iimodyuli ezintsha kwiinkqubo zethu zomsebenzi wezifundo zeLLM, ngokungqalileyo kwezomthetho wasezidolophini noGuquguquko lweMozulu noLawulo obuluQilima. Siye kananjalo saphehlelela isifundo sexesha elifutshane esitsha, esihloko saso sithi uMthetho woGuquguquko lweMozulu ukulungiselela amaNyathelo ooRhulumente beeNgingqi (*Climate Change Law for Local Government Action*).

Impumelelo eqaphelekayo kukumiselwa kweeBhasari zoDumo kwezoMthetho, ezixhaswa ngezimali yiThrasti yezoMthetho yaseSU. Ezi bhasari zibanzi ziye zanikwa abafundi ababini ababalaseleyo, nabaye bakhethwa ngokusekelwe ekusebenzeni kwabo kwizifundo zabo, kwisincoko esifutshane, nakudliwanondlebe kunye namalungu eFakhalthi neThrasti yezoMthetho.

Kubalulekile ukuqaphela ukuba impumelelo yabafundi ifumana ifuthe elibonakalayo kwinkxaso ephelileyo, kuquka ufikelelo kwimithombo yezezimali eyaneleyo nenegalelo ekuqinisekiseni imfundo, iindawo zokuhlala, ukhuseleko lokutya, iindleko zokuhamba, neemathiriyeli zokufunda. Ngenkxaso enesisa yeThrasti yezoMthetho yaseSU nezinye izithwalandwe nabanikeli, ngaphezu kobonelelo ngamabhaso, siye sakwazi ukuhambisa iibhasari ezimalunga neR5,5 yezigidi kubafundi bezomthetho kulo nyaka. Sidlulisela umbulelo wethu ongazenzisiyo kuye wonke umnikeli nomxhasi wabafundi bethu, najengoko igalelo lenu lisizisa iziphumo ezibalulekileyo kwimpumelelo yaba bafundi kwaye, ngaxesha linye, lisiza notyalomali lwexesha elide kuluntu lwethu.

Le Fakhalthi iye yakugcina ukuzinikela kwayo ekuququzeeleni iingqungquthela zezemfundo ezisekelwe kuphando kwimimandla ephambili, njengomthetho wabucala wukumazwe ngamazwe, inkqubo yentando yesininzi nobume bezentlalo, ukuthathwa kwamanyathelo ezomthetho ngokupheleleyo nomthetho wezolwaphulomthetho (wezemigaqo yomthetho). Kule simesta, siye sasingatha

ngempumelelo izifundo zikawonkewonke ezithathu, neziye zazinyaswa ngobuninzi kwaye zaba neengxoxo ezingokuzibandakanya ngemiba yexesha langoku. Le simesta yesibini izayo iza kuba nokwandiswa kwezi ndibano zinjengazigxile kuphando kwaye ibonelele ngamathuba angamanye okuzibandakanya.

Ukuphendula kuphuhliso lweziko, kuye kwenziwa ulungelelwaniso oluthile kubunkokheli beFakhalthi yethu. Ukuqala ngomhla woku1 kwekaTshazimpuzi, uNjingalwazi uRichard Stevens waye wangena kwisikhundla sokuba nguSekela weSekela Ngqonyela oBambeleyo kwezokuFundisa nokuFunda. Ngaxesha linye, ndiye ndalandela ngokusesikweni iGosa eliyiNtloko kwezeMisebenzi eliphumayo esikhundleni (uNjingalwazi Stan du Plessis) ngaphambi kokungena ngokusesikweni kwisikhundla sokuba nguCOO obambeleyo ukususela ngomhla woku1 kweyeSilimela, ku2025. UNjingalwazi Juanita Pienaar uye wangena esikhundleni sokuba yiNtloko yeFakhalthi eBambeleyo, uNjingalwazi Bradley Slade uye wasebenza njengoSekela Ntloko weFakhalthi oBambeleyo kwezokuFundisa nokuFunda, waza uNjingalwazi Theo Broodryk wathatha isikhundla sokuba nguSekela Ntloko weFakhalthi oBambeleyo kwezoPhando nezaMazwe ngaMazwe ukususela ngomhla woku1 kweyeKhala. Ngokusebenzisana noNjingalwazi uSadulla Karjiker, uAnél du Plessis, uGeo Quinot, uNkskz Karin Wiss, noGqr. Franziska Myburgh, le Fakhalthi iqhubeka phantsi kwesikhokelo seKomiti yoLawulo lwale Fakhalthi ehlaziyiweyo.

Esi sithuba sexesha sikuso silixesha eliqaphelekayo sokufundisa nokufunda ezomthetho. Uphuhliso lwakwihlabathi jikelele olufikelela kwiindawo ezikude oluye lwabonakala kwezi nyanga zakutshanje, iinkcukachamanani zoVanyozimvo lwaBasebenzi lwaRhoqo ngeKota ezisandula ukukhutshwa mvanje, nokwaziswa kowisomthetho olutsha oluphambili (noluphakanyisiweyo) kubonelelwa ngemizekelo emininzi yeengxoxo zaseklasini nemibuzo yophando enika umdla. Oku kususiseko soxanduva olubonakalayo olwayanyaniswa nezihloko ezithi 'igqwetha,' 'isifundiswa,' okanye 'inkokheli' kwikhondo lomsebenzi wethu, neliquka ukuphakamisa ubulungiswa, ukusebenzela okulungele uwonkewonke, nokuba negalelo kuluntu olulinganayo nangakumbi.

Nanjengoko le simesta ifikelela esiphelweni, ndifuna ukubulela abasebenzi nabafundi bethu ngako konke ukusebenza nzima nokuzinikela kwabo. Ndiyathemba ukuba nonke niza kuba nekhefu elipholileyo nelinifaneleyo!

**Njingalwazi Nicola Smit**

*INtloko yeFakhalthi*

NguCOO oBambeleyo



# Research and Internationalisation

## Research and Postgraduate Studies

### Conferences, seminars, and colloquia



The year had an early start with a Private International Law colloquium on 17 January 2025, organised by Ms Ray de Villiers, in collaboration with Professor Thalia Kruger of Antwerp University, an alumna of the Faculty of Law, and Professor Jan Neels, Director: Research Centre for Private International Law in Emerging Countries, University of Johannesburg. The colloquium showcased new research in the field of Private International Law, including doctoral research.







A variety of other seminars, research discussions and lectures took place, including departmental research days. The Department of Private Law held a research day on 19 May 2025.







## ***Mercantile Law Departmental Research Seminars***

The Department of Mercantile Law hosted its first research seminar for the year on 4 February 2025, at Alluvia Boutique Winery. The seminar also welcomed Professor Christoph Ann, a regular visiting academic, along with the department's new research assistants and the new postdoctoral fellow in the Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance.

Dr Enelia Jansen van Rensburg, recently returned from sabbatical, delivered a paper titled, "The role of

the purpose element in the South African and Belgian General Anti-Avoidance (GAARs)". Professor Phillip Sutherland, also recently returned, presented a paper titled "Delictual liability of directors to third parties". Professor Anél Du Plessis presented her paper titled, "Trade, tradeoffs, and the quest to regulate the unruly city". Professor Sope Williams concluded the seminar with a presentation titled, "Gendered corruption barriers in public procurement systems".

*Department of Mercantile Law's first research seminar.*





The Department of Mercantile Law's second research seminar was held on 20 May 2025 at ASARA Wine Estate. From Mediation to Artificial Intelligence, Deep Fakes to Workplace Law, the day was set for engagements in connection with the research being undertaken by colleagues.

The first presenter of the day (and recent LLD graduate) was Dr Gretchen Jansen. Dr Jansen presented a paper titled, "From fixation to fabrication: Performers' rights in the age of artificial intelligence". The next presenter was Dr Aisha Adam (postdoctoral fellow in the Department) with a presentation titled,

"Dignity as a transformative tool in the workplace". After the tea break, Dr Victoria Banke Olagbegi-Oloba (Consolidoc in the Department of Private Law being hosted by Professor Theo Broodryk) presented a paper titled, "The Impact of court-connected alternative dispute resolution (CCADR) on the dispensation of civil justice in Nigeria: A comparison with South Africa and the USA". The seminar was closed off by Mr James Haw (LLM by research student under the supervision of Professor Christoph Garbers) with a presentation titled, "ChatGPT turns three and earns an LLB?" Legal education in the age of large language models - A student's perspective".



# Skryfwegbreek

Die jaarlikse skryfwegbreek het van 16 tot 18 Mei plaasgevind. Elf kollegas het die geleentheid gekry om op hul skryfwerk te fokus - hetsy werk in wording, artikels, boekhoofstukke of navorsing wat verband hou met doktrale studies.



## New postdoctoral fellow

The Faculty welcomed a new post-doctoral fellow, Dr Lungelwa Kaywood, who is a member of the Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance, with Professor Anél du Plessis as her host.

# The Faculty of Law Research Community: Cultivating Scholarship and Community

The Faculty of Law Research Community returned in 2025 with many fresh faces and renewed energy, committed to creating an open and collaborative space for the Faculty post-graduate students and early-career academics. Meeting monthly on Friday afternoons, this initiative, spearheaded and facilitated by Dr Bryony Fox and Dr Tanveer Jeewa, with the support of Professor Juanita Pienaar, brings together master's students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career faculty members in an inclusive and intellectually generous environment.

The Research Community offers an invaluable platform for early-career scholars to share the daily challenges they encounter and find ways to overcome them through shared knowledge, peer support, and professional guidance. Each monthly session typically comprises two parts: a workshop led by a senior academic or practitioner, followed by a reading group where a member presents their work for discussion and constructive feedback.

This year began with a focus on supporting scholars at various stages of their academic journey. Professor

Pienaar led a foundational session on crafting an effective LLM and LLD research proposal, followed by practical insights from community members on preparing for the road ahead. Building on this strong foundation, Professor Sandra Liebenberg shared strategies for developing a focused publishing

trajectory while managing the time pressures young academics often face. To conclude the semester, Professor Quinot delivered a seminar on enhancing research presentation skills - equipping community members with tools to disseminate their work confidently and clearly.

Beyond skill building, these gatherings have nurtured a genuine sense of

belonging and mutual support, strengthening not only the research community's academic capabilities but also the personal connections that sustain them.

This initiative would not be possible without the generosity of the Faculty's senior colleagues who so willingly share their time and expertise. The research community also extends their gratitude to Ms Shazneen Arnolds, whose administrative support ensures that the sessions run smoothly.

*"... these gatherings  
have nurtured a  
genuine sense of  
belonging and  
mutual support ..."*

# Internationalisation



*Professor Jackie Yeats and Professor Irene-Marie Esser*

The Faculty welcomed various international scholars and visitors during the first few months of 2025. Gordon Silverstein (Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs) and Carrie Field (Director of Graduate Programs), from Yale Law School, visited the Faculty of Law on 16 and 17 March 2025. Discussions are underway to explore potential collaborations across various areas, including clinical training.

From 17 to 21 March, Professor Irene-Marie Esser, a professor at the School of Law, Glasgow University, and Dean of the Graduate School, College of Social Science, visited the Faculty. Beyond exploring future undergraduate and postgraduate collaborations, Professor Esser led a buzz group in the Department of Mercantile Law on 17 March. Her presentation was titled, "The legal dimension of 'corporate purpose': A study of companies with a religious influence". She also delivered a guest lecture for the LLM programme, focusing on the position of stakeholders in UK company management. During this lecture, she discussed various mechanisms that support stakeholders, such as non-financial reporting, due diligence, and the role of board committees.

From 26 May to 1 June, Professor Juanita Pienaar served as a visiting professor at the Université Paris Cité, contributing to their international LLM programme in Common Law and Comparative Law.



*Faculty of Law, Université Paris Cité*



*Carrie Fields (left) and Gordon Silverstein (right) with Professor Juanita Pienaar and Professor Richard Stevens*





# Research Chairs and Units

## Navorsingsleerstoele en Eenhede

# Centre for Social Justice



## Social Justice Lecture

The Social Justice Lecture is an annual commemoration of the United Nation's World Day of Social Justice. At the 6th Annual Social Justice Lecture, held on 20 February 2025, Lord Michael Hastings urged the audience to embrace sacrifice and solidarity in the quest for a more just and equitable society.

## Think Tank Roundtable on Social Justice, Fiscal Policy and VAT

On 6 March 2025, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ) held a roundtable to evaluate revenue policies and to assess the social and economic justice implications thereof. The roundtable emphasised the need for courageous decisions that avoid placing disproportionate burdens on disadvantaged communities.





## Social Justice Café on “South Africa's Rape Epidemic: Can mainstreaming social justice foster justice?”

The Social Justice Café, which took place on 7 May 2025, highlighted how South Africa's rape epidemic - driven by patriarchy, poverty, and a weak institutional response - persists in places like schools and workplaces where survivors are often overlooked, undermining the country's constitutional commitment to dignity, equality, and justice.



## Constitution Review Roundtable: “The Constitutional Commitment to Social Justice: A Constitution review conversation for a reimagined South Africa”




### Constitution Review Roundtable

*The Constitutional Commitment to Social Justice: A Constitution Review Conversation for a Re-imagined South Africa*








**Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi**  
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development

**Prof Thuli Madonsela**  
Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

**Mr Thembaethu Seyisi**  
Researcher, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

**Justice Albie Sachs**  
Retired Justice of the Constitutional Court

**Ms Alex Mathole**  
V20 Sustainability Stream Co-Lead

**Ms Maricia Freneman**  
Head of Access to Justice, Thuli Madonsela Foundation

**Date: Thursday 22 May 2025 | Time: 17:00 - 19:00 | Platform: MS Teams**

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 Centre for Social Justice @CFSJ\_MPlan  
 Stellenbosch University Centre for Social Justice


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forward together  
 saam saam phambili  
 SAAM VORENDE

The Constitution Review Roundtable, held on 22 May 2025, touched on issues such as the wide gap between the constitutional vision and today's reality. The CSJ's Director, Professor Thuli Madonsela, emphasised that the structural disparities of colonialism and apartheid still cast long shadows.



# Roundtable and Policy brief launch on Social Justice, Hunger, and the Constitution

On 30 May 2025, the CSJ hosted the Stakeholder Roundtable on social justice, hunger, and the Constitution, where a bold new Policy Brief was launched, drawing on lived experiences gathered from national symposia and calling for urgent, transformative action, including the introduction of a national right to food law. (Read more [here](#).)





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## *Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance*

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**Top:** Dr Bryony Fox (Postdoctoral Fellow), Dr Luzuko Mdunyelwa (Doctoral researcher), Camagu Luvo (Doctoral researcher), Timothy Arendse (LLB researcher), Hannes Swart (LLM researcher)

**Bottom:** Michaela O'Donoghue (LLM researcher); Dr Lungelwa Kaywood (Postdoctoral Fellow), Prof Anél du Plessis (Chairholder), Vuyiseka Klaas (Project coordinator), Robyn Bayer (LLM researcher)



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Urban Law & Sustainability Governance Public Lecture

The ULSG Chair hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Lecture on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. This year's invited presenter was Professor Edgar Pieterse, Founding Director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town. The Public Lecture was titled "Truncated futures for African Cities". It served to highlight legally relevant megatrends in the urban development context with a particular focus on governance challenges facing African urbanisation, including path dependency, institutional inertia,

and limited resources. This stimulating presentation also invited the audience to reimagine constructive and sustainable responses to the unique poli-crisis confronting African cities, with an emphasis on the coalescence of different fields, including law, human rights, and spatial justice.

The lecture was well-attended by SU students, staff, scholars representing other Faculties as well as members of the public.

A recording of the lecture is available [here](#).







## Ongoing collaborative research with SALGA and KAS

This year, the Chair is partnering with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) to develop a Working Paper titled "Urban\_Law@work for developmental local government in South Africa". The objective of the project is to identify how national and local government legislation, as well as local legislative authority, empowers or impedes municipalities in the pursuit of a 'lived' developmental local government, as originally envisioned in the White Paper on Local Government of 1998.

The project is implemented around two parts. The first is desktop research on the existing national law and policy framework directing local government affairs in the country and documented commentary on its ability

to deliver; and the second is interactive discussions with organised local government and municipalities to inform understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the said law and policy framework as experienced by local government role-players. A subsidiary objective of the project is to assess the research needs surrounding the design and implementation of local government law in 2025, thereby helping to set the future research agenda of the ULSG Chair.

As part of this ongoing project, SALGA, KAS, and the ULSG Chair co-hosted a successful, interactive workshop on 2 and 3 June 2025 at the Lagoon Bay Hotel in Cape Town. A large group of local government role-players attended the event.





# First graduates of the Chair perform well

At the December 2024 Graduation ceremony, LLM candidate Robyn Bayer graduated with her LLB degree. Robyn was also the well-deserved recipient of the 2024 SU Law Prize for Best Student in Environmental Law (LLB fourth-year elective). This prize was sponsored by Warburton Attorneys Inc.

Robyn also completed her LLB dissertation in environmental law under the Chair and the supervision of Professor Du Plessis. Her dissertation was titled: "Nature-based solutions in South African coastal management law". Robyn is currently conducting her LLM research in the Chair in biodiversity and conservation law.

At the March 2025 Graduation ceremony, the Chair celebrated the LLM graduation of Wilmien van Biljon. She received her degree cum laude. Wilmien completed part of her studies as an exchange student at KU Leuven in Belgium. Her LLM dissertation focused on climate change, insurance law, and climate risk.



*Wilmien van Biljon and Prof Anél du Plessis*



*Robyn Bayer and Prof Anél du Plessis*

## Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Colloquium: "Shaping Tomorrow's Humboldt Network - Perspectives from Southern Africa"

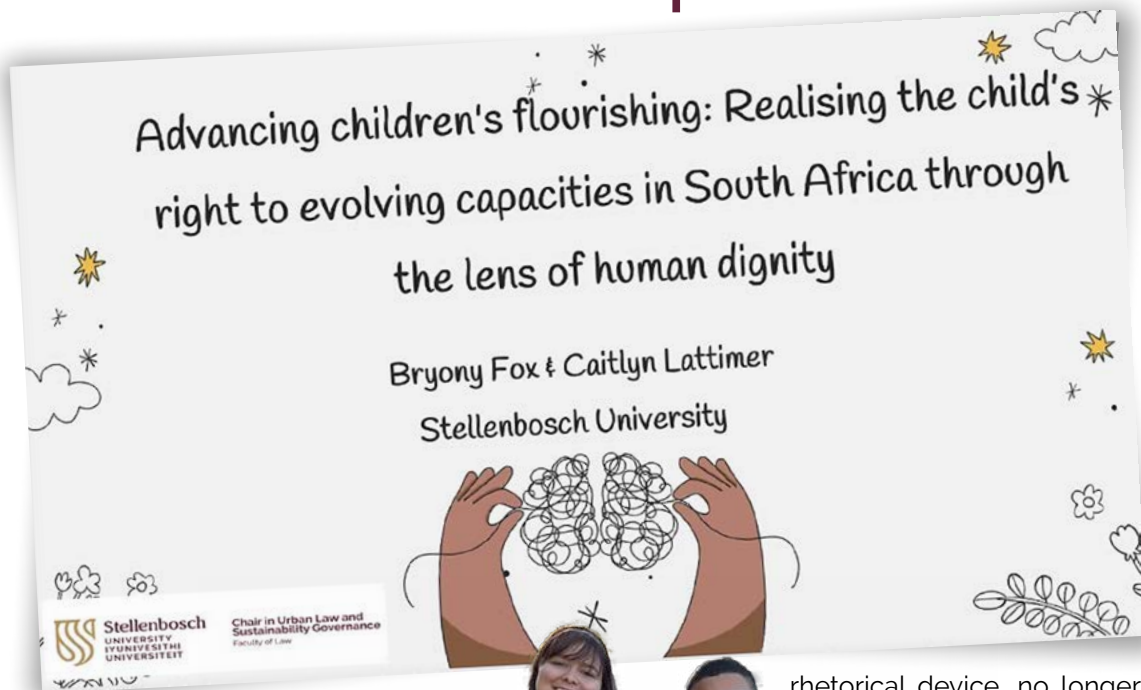
Professor Anél du Plessis has been an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow since 2014 and was invited to present a plenary talk at this year's Humboldt Network Colloquium that was held in Pretoria. She

addressed the multidisciplinary group of scholars from across Africa on the topic of "When (urban) law and other sciences meet: The value of mixed research methodologies and collaboration."





# Dr Bryony Fox presents at the “*Alchemical Tales*” Conference in Cape Town



From 12 to 14 February, Dr Bryony Fox attended and presented a paper at the conference: “*Alchemical Tales: A Conference Curated in Honour of Albie Sachs*”, co-hosted by the Faculties of Law of UCT, UWC and Stellenbosch University.

Joined by Caitlyn Lattimer, Dr Fox presented a Paper, titled “*Advancing children's flourishing: Realising the child's right to evolving capacities in South Africa through the lens of human dignity*”. This paper builds on Justice Sachs' warning in the seminal children's rights case of *S v M*, cautioning that the overuse of the best interests principle by South African courts risks reducing it to a mere

rhetorical device, no longer effectively safeguarding children's rights. The paper explores how the principle of evolving capacities, as envisioned in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), can serve as a meaningful judicial tool. They argue that grounding this principle in the constitutional values of dignity and human flourishing offers a framework that allows courts to both protect children from harm and respect their growing autonomy - ensuring decisions reflect each child's unique context. A fascinating discussion at the intersection of law, dignity, and child development.

Stellenbosch University was well represented at the conference and several colleagues and postdoctoral fellows of the Faculty of Law accompanied Dr Fox.





# Dr Lungelwa Kaywood inspires young finance, audit and risk officers

On 19 May 2025, Dr Lungelwa Kaywood (ULSG Chair Postdoctoral Fellow), addressed the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO) Public Sector Finance and Young Professionals Summit. Her presentation was titled: "From surviving to thriving in the engine room: Navigating internships in the public sector". Drawing on her

experience from entry-level roles to executive leadership in the public sector, she unpacked some of the public sector pressures, politics, and pitfalls. She encouraged young public servants to view internships as transformational journeys with opportunities to rebuild ethical, resilient, and impactful leadership in government from day one.



## New LLM Urban Law Module successfully delivered

The Faculty's new LLM elective module in Urban Law was successfully delivered during the first semester of 2025. It attracted attention among students from South Africa and beyond. The module focuses on recent international urban development policy developments, as well as the human rights and justice implications of urbanisation at multiple governance levels. A portion of the module is also devoted to the local government law framework of South Africa.

A range of guests were invited to present throughout the semester. Some of the guests included Professor Oliver Fuo, Dr Jonty Cogger, Dr Bryony Fox, Dr Lungelwa Kaywood, Ms Michaela O'Donoghue, and Dr Susan Mosdell.

The ULSG Chair is excited to see this unique and first-of-its-kind module grow in the future.





# Father-daughter duo joins Stellenbosch University

Dr Luzuko Mdunyelwa joined the Chair in January 2025 to conduct a second doctoral degree. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Luzuko's daughter, Lindokuhle, also joined Stellenbosch University this year as a first-year student in economic management sciences and accounting.

In a brief interview with the father-daughter duo, it transpired that they both take keen interest in the law, politics and news of the day. Lindokuhle mentioned that she is "really interested in forensic accounting. I think that's a part of why the law interests me, because just the thought of being able to testify in court mixed with accounting makes me very excited." Turning to the fact that she's joined at university by her father as a fellow 'student', she mentioned that she finds it inspiring how hard her father works for what he wants - "he has remarkable determination".

Luzuko has a background in public administration and has served many years in local government. His doctoral thesis, supervised by Professor Anél du Plessis, explores aspects of urban informality through the lens of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

When Luzuko was asked what he admires about his daughter, he said that he truly appreciates her determination to achieve her personal goals and that he enjoys watching her grow. In response to the question of what he would recommend to other doctoral candidates who have just

embarked on the journey, he replied, "You have to work really hard. There is no two ways about it. Keep the end goal in mind." For his daughter and other first-year students, Luzuko recommended, "Everything in moderation", and remember "that one's body needs a schedule to function at its best."

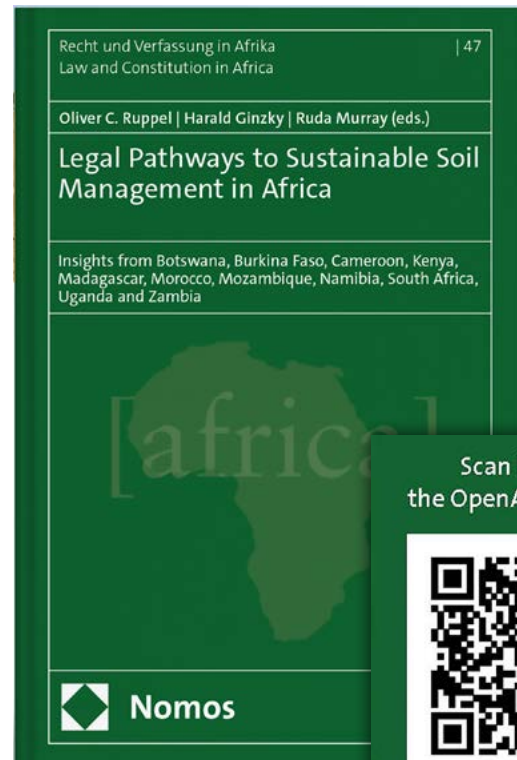




# Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP)

## Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa

DROP is pleased to announce the release of its new book, "Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia", edited by Professor Oliver Ruppel and Ms Ruda Murray. (Click [here](#) to access the book or scan the QR code.)



Scan here for the OpenAccess eBook



## DROP and SU School for Climate Studies Explore Digitalisation, AI, and Soil Protection

DROP and the Stellenbosch University School for Climate Studies co-organised a workshop, titled "Digitalisation, AI, Sustainability and soil protection: Multiple perspectives" which took place at STIAS in April. (Read more about the workshop [here](#).)





# The 10<sup>th</sup> LLM Legal Aspects of World and Regional Trade Workshop

The 10<sup>th</sup> LLM Legal Aspects of World and Regional Trade Workshop on “Digitalisation, AI, sustainability and international trade law”, which was organised by Professor Oliver Ruppel and DROP, took place at the Wallenberg Conference Centre, STIAS, from

7 to 8 April 2025. The workshop focused on AI trade-relevant regulation at the global, regional, and domestic levels, with a special focus on sustainability in times of climate change.





# *HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law*

## *Postgraduate Seminar on “The Cultivation of Your Legal Craft: Your Postgraduate Research Journey”*

On 12 March 2025, the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Professor Sandra Liebenberg, hosted a lunchtime seminar in the CL Marais Building, which focused on the important topic of the journey and process of research. The seminar was well attended by SU postgraduate students.

The guest speaker for this seminar was one of the Chair's special alumnus members and current extraordinary research fellow at the Department of Public Law, Gideon Basson. Gideon is currently pursuing his DPhil in law studies at the University of Oxford, where he is also the convener of the Bonavero Graduate Research Forum. He offers research training

in this convening role.

In an interactive online presentation format, Gideon presented his thoughts on what is important in the process of research and writing. From discussing broader principles such as situating one's research as part of a knowledge conversation, to drilling into finer details such as having a good filing system for one's research and being meticulous when it comes to referencing - the postgraduate students learnt some invaluable lessons from Gideon during this seminar. The Chair is extremely grateful to Gideon for his time and passion for sharing his immense research expertise.



*HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law incumbent, Professor Sandra Liebenberg, along with the seminar presenter, Gideon Basson, and the postgraduate attendees*



# HF Oppenheimer Chair Hosts Prof Fowkes on Constitutional Power



On 26 March 2025, the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights hosted Prof James Fowkes for his seminar "On constitutional power in South Africa: beyond the story of negotiation".

Professor Fowkes, Professor of Foreign and International Law at the University of Münster (Germany), who studied at Wits University and Yale Law School, challenged the widely accepted narratives about South Africa's Constitution. He disputed the conventional wisdom that portrays South Africa as having a negotiated and fundamentally value-based constitution, arguing instead that both perspectives misunderstand our constitutional foundations.

In his presentation, Professor Fowkes proposed that the South African constitutional order is fundamentally grounded in power rather than values or negotiated compromise. He characterised South Africa's constitutional development as a constructive revolution led by the ANC, comparing it to India's post-1949 constitutional order under the Congress Party as the closest historical parallel.

Central to his argument was an analysis of Section 74(1) of the Constitution, which he described as revealing the true nature of our constitutional foundations. This section, requiring a 75% threshold for amending the Constitution's founding provisions, represents, in his view, not a limitation imposed on Black majority power, but rather an acknowledgement and expression of that power.

Professor Fowkes concluded by arguing that South African constitutional defenders have historically distanced the Constitution from Black democratic authority - the very force that gives it legitimacy. He called for a reframing of the constitutional narrative that acknowledges the revolutionary nature of South Africa's constitutional transformation. This perspective, he suggested, offers an understanding of the Constitution that is more faithful to South Africa's history and provides a stronger foundation for its defence in contemporary debates.



# Dr Christiaan van Schalkwyk

The HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights was delighted to celebrate the LLD Graduation of Dr Christiaan van Schalkwyk in the March 2025 University Graduation ceremonies. Dr Van Schalkwyk completed his LLD under the supervision of Professor Liebenberg with a study entitled, *"Integrating environmental considerations in socio-economic rights adjudication: The role of ecologically sustainable development."* This study explores how the judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights can be made more responsive to the impacts of the ecological crisis. It demonstrates how the concept of sustainable development could serve as a bridge between environmental and socio-economic rights. It also recommends a novel approach to integrating environmental considerations in socio-economic rights adjudication. Dr Van Schalkwyk was holder of the prestigious EP Bradlow Human Rights Postgraduate Bursary awarded to a student doing their doctoral dissertation under the auspices of the Chair.

Paying tribute to Dr Van Schalkwyk, Professor Liebenberg said:

"Christiaan made a tremendous contribution to the Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law over the past 4 to 5 years. He was a brilliant research assistant when I served on the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; took responsibility for organising the inaugural Chair's Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar; assisted myself and Ms Margot Strauss to transition to online teaching of Constitutional Law 312 during the Covid pandemic; helped organise several of the Chair's annual human rights lectures as well as editing them for publication; and supported and mentored several postgraduate students in the Chair over the years."

Dr Van Schalkwyk has been awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship working with Professor Melanie Murcott at UCT in environmental rights. At the same time, he will also pursue publishing from his doctoral dissertation. All those associated with the Chair wish Dr Van Schalkwyk well in his new position. Although he will be greatly missed, the Chair will look forward to future collaborations with him in his capacity as alumnus of the Chair.



Professor Sandra Liebenberg and  
Dr Christiaan van Schalkwyk



## *Professor Cathi Albertyn delivers HF Oppenheimer Chair's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Lecture on Substantive Equality*

On 9 April 2025, the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Professor Sandra Liebenberg and Professor Nicola Smit, Dean of the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law, hosted the Chair's annual human rights lecture.

This year's speaker was highly renowned Professor Cathi Albertyn who currently holds the National Research Foundation Chair in Equality, Law and Social Justice at the University of the Witwatersrand. Given Professor Albertyn's deep expertise in equality law, it is no surprise that her lecture addressed the topic of "Substantive equality in South Africa: Past, present and

future".

Professor Albertyn commenced her lecture by reminding the in-person and online audience of the startling fact that "formal equality is back, with a particular vengeance". She was referring to the recent rise of far-right politics, such as the Trump administration in the US and its remarks regarding race laws in South Africa. Highlighting this startling trend set the scene for how apt a time Professor Albertyn's lecture was and reinforced the immediate importance of developing a more transformative understanding of equality law in South Africa today.

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*From left to right: Jos Venter, Dr Anisa Mahmoudi, Professor Juanita Pienaar, Professor Sandra Liebenberg, Ms Melissa Robertson, Professor Cathi Albertyn, Professor Richard Stevens, Professor Bradley Slade, Dr Zethu Mkhize, Professor Sibusiso Moyo, Professor Nicola Smit, and Vuyiseka Klaas.*





*Professor Cathi Albertyn and Professor Sandra Liebenberg*

After traversing equality's contested history in South Africa, Professor Albertyn remarked that her address would focus on the South African courts and their deliberation over the meaning of the right to equality. Focusing on our Constitution's demand for substantive equality and the related jurisprudence, Professor Albertyn explained the following characteristics as being instrumental in understanding what substantive equality entails: concern with group discrimination and disadvantage focusing generally on social not economic groups; concern with structural and systemic forms of power; focus on the nature of the harm that flows from differential treatment; concern with a contextual examination of differential treatment; and a focus on various values that may guide an equality assessment.

However, Professor Albertyn expressed that the country's jurisprudence in fact requires a more transformative understanding of substantive equality, that does not merely solely focus on dignity and equal concern and respect. Rather, equality should demand a focus on eradicating structural, social and economic disadvantage, allowing the achievement of individual well-being. Further, Professor Albertyn argued that

the value of equality should play a more pivotal role in shaping our understanding of the right to equality. Here, Professor Albertyn highlighted the concept of "equality of condition" as a means to achieving true substantive equality in South Africa.

Expanding on the concept of "equality of condition", Professor Albertyn explained that this type of transformative jurisprudence would focus on multi-dimensional equality and intersectionality, while taking the factual context and effects of the law into account. Further areas that would need to be reorganised would include, for example, examining the private sphere, as well as addressing economic inequality in our country. Professor Albertyn pointed out that these future developments could be possible by drawing on existing case law.

Professor Albertyn ended her lecture by indicating that even though politics are crucial for delivering real change in a society, the courts and their jurisprudence matter. Professor Albertyn reminded the audience that their understanding of equality should enable transformative change in South Africa. This powerful reminder is timely and critical to achieving the society the Constitution demands in South Africa.





Faculty and  
students

Fakulteit en  
studente





## Visual redress in the Faculty of Law: exciting inauguration of Room 1031 (Old Main Building)

The overall aim of the project of visual redress in the Faculty of Law is to transform the physical spaces of the Faculty into spaces that are welcoming to all and conducive to a positive learning environment. Apart from creating attractive visual spaces, the Faculty pursues:

- a. Memorialisation. Remembering past events, injustices, struggles and achievements, and inviting reflection on how the past continues to inform the present.
- b. Contextualisation. Placing the law (and past legal events and outcomes) in a historical and social context. The aim is to make the legal past more concrete, and to show how general laws and abstract legal concepts and principles impact(ed) on real people's lives and shaped and informed social relations and struggles.
- c. Contestation. Showing that law is sometimes a space of contestation and struggle, and that court judgments, legal processes and the substance of the law are often subjects of controversy.
- d. Critical reflection. The depictions of cases and

other manifestations of law and justice are meant to stimulate critical reflection on law, litigation and adjudication. Each depiction will and should be open to different interpretations.

e. Imagination. Reimagining the law, finding different lenses for looking at the legal past, and imagining more humane and just futures, in which all people living in South Africa will be free from the shackles of institutionalised racism, patriarchy, poverty, and other forms of marginalisation and structural disadvantage.

The visual changes in and around the Old Main Building over the past couple of years are in line with the Faculty's commitment to a critical inquiry into historical injustices and their continuing legacy, and the capacity of law-based processes (like visual redress) to challenge and transform social, economic, and political practices that result in inequality, degradation and oppression.

On Friday 9 May 2025, the Faculty of Law formally marked the completion of the first Storyboard Installation in its continuing visual redress initiatives.

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Members of staff and SU management, as well as different role-players who have been involved in the conceptualisation and implementation of this multi-year project, attended this occasion.

During the inauguration of Room 1031, the Dean, Professor Nicola Smit, noted that: "Many of you will recall how this room once displayed portraits of former chief justices, predominantly reflecting a singular demographic. In the wake of transformative movements such as Rhodes Must Fall and Fees Must Fall, we recognised the need to reimagine our spaces - not as relics of the past, but as environments that reflect diversity, inclusivity, and the dynamic nature of our world and community."

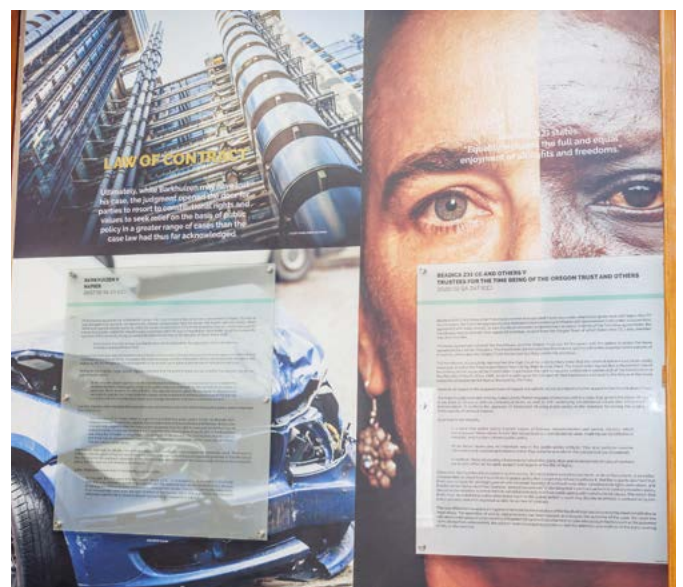
This particular "storyboard" project, involves moving beyond traditional depictions, such as presiding officers, shifting the focus towards narratives that highlight pivotal legal cases and the people profoundly impacted by them. The theme of this first room is "Contractual and labour disputes - fairness, dignity, equality, freedom and social justice".

The Dean recalled that "Iblack in 2018, and again in March 2022, the Law Faculty reached out to students and staff to suggest appropriate cases to be shown on the storyboards ... It was quite challenging to imagine how to achieve this as we are not designers or artists but lawyers! The Transformation Committee was

then given the task of taking this idea further ... The timeline of this initiative underscores the collaborative effort required - spanning public participation, inter-departmental cooperation, and dedicated resources." She concluded by stating that the Faculty's commitment to being forward-thinking, their embrace of visual redress initiatives, and their courage to imagine something new within the beautiful Old Main Building truly creates a community to be proud of.

As the Faculty's staff and students now embark on the next steps in its overarching visual redress project (Rooms 1017 and 2034), it looks forward to continuing to imagine, create, and nurture spaces that reflect who we are and who we aspire to be.

*isiXhosa translation continues on next page*





# Ulungiso lokubonakalayo kwiFakhalthi yezoMthetho: usungulo olwenza imincili

Iyonke injongo yale projekthi yolungiso lokubonakalayo kwiFakhalthi yezoMthetho kukwenza iinguqu kwiindawo eziphathekayo zeFakhalthi yezoMthetho ukuze zibe ziindawo ezamkelayo kuye wonke ubani nezifanele imekobume yokufunda entle. Ngaphandle kokwenza iindawo ezibonakalayo ezinomtsalane, le Fakhalthi ifuna:

a. Ukwakhiwa kweenkumbulo. Ukukhumbula izehlo zakumaxesha adlulayo, ukungabikho kobulungiswa, iintsokolo neempumelelo, nokumemelela ukucinga ngendlela elithi ixesha eladlulayo liqhubekeke nokuxhobisa ngayo ixesha langoku.

b. Ukwakhiwa kweemeko. Ukubeka umthetho (nezehlo zezomthetho zakumaxesha adlulayo neziphumo zazo) kwimeko yasezimbalini nakwezentlalo. Injongo kukwenza ezomthetho zakumaxesha adlulayo zibe luqilima nangakumbi, nokubonisa iindlela ethe imithetho jikelele neengcaman-

go nemigaqo yezomthetho yaba nefuthe ngayo kubomi babantu bokwenyani yaza yabumba kwaye yaxhobisa ngayo ubudlelwane neentsokolo zasentlalweni.

c. Uchaso. Ukubonakalisa ukuba umthetho ngamanye amaxesha uyindawo yochaso nentsokolo, kwanokuba izigwebo zeenkundla, iinkqubo zezomthetho nomongo wezomthetho amaxesha amanzi ziba yimiba yempikiswano.

d. Ukucinga ngokuhlalutyayo. Imbonakaliso zeemeko nezinye izibonakaliso zezomthetho nobulungiswa zikholo ukukhuthaza ukucinga ngomthetho ngokuhlalutyayo, ukuthathwa kwamanyathelo ezomthetho nokusonjululwa kwamatyala. Imbonakaliso nganye iya kuthi kwaye kulindeleke ukuba ibe nokuqondwa ngeendlela ezahluahlukeneyo.

e. Umfanekisongqondweni. Ukuba nomfanekisongqondweni wezomthetho ngendlela entsha, ukufumana iindlela ezahluahlukeneyo zokujonga amaxesha adlulayo kwezomthetho, nokuba nomfanekisongqondweni wamaxesha asezo anobuntu nobulungisa nangakumbi, nalapho bonke abantu abaphila eMzantsi Afrika baya kube bekhululekile

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Faculty of Law  
concerns  
labour

reflect the law's  
form and function





kumatyathanga obuhlanga obumiliselweyo, ukongama kwesinye isini ngaphezu kwesinye, ubuhl-wempu, nezinye iintlobo zokubekelwa bucala noku-silela ngokwezakheko.

linguqu ezibonakalayo ngaphakathi nezingqonge iOld Main Building kule minyaka iliqela idlulileyo zihambelana nokuzibophelela kweFakhalathi yezoMthetho ekuphandeni ngokuhlalutyayo ukungabikho kobulungisa kwasezimbalini neziphumo zako eziqhubekekayo, namandla eenkqubo ezisekelwe emthethweni (ezifana nolungiso lokubonakalayo) okucela umngeni nokwenza iinguqu kwimisebenzi yezentlalo, yezoqoqosho neyezopolitiko ebangela ukungalingani, ukujongelwa phantsi nengcinezelo.

NgoLwesihlanu umhla we9 kwekaCanzibe ku2025, iFakhalathi yezoMthetho yaye yaphawula ngokusesikweni ukugqitywa kokuFakelwa kweBhodi yamaBali yokuqala ekuqhubekekeni kwayo namaphulo olungiso lokubonakalayo. Amalungu abasebenzi nabaphathi baseSU, kwakunye nabadlali beendima abahlukahlukeneyo abaye babandakanyeka kwiingcamango nakumiliselo lwale projekthi yeminyaka eliqela baye bawuzimasa lo msitho.

Ngelixa lokusungulwa kweGumbi 1031, iNtloko yeFakhalathi, uNjingalwazi Nicola Smit, waye waphawula ngelithi: "Uninzi lwenu luza kukhumbula indlela elakhe lathi eli gumbi labonakalisa imifanekiso yabo babe-sakuba ziintloko zeejaji, ebonakalisa ngokubanzi iqela labantu elinye. Ekuveleni kweentshukumo zeenguqu ezifana *neRhodes Must Fall neFees Must Fall*, saye saqaphela imfuneko yokucinga ngeendawo zethu ngokutsha - hayi njengeentsalela zamaxesha adlulayo, kodwa njengeemekobume ezibonakalisa ukwahlukahlukana, uquko, nobunjani behlabathi lethu noluntu lwethu obunokuguquguquka."

Le projekthi ingqalileyo "yebhodi yamabali", ibandakan-

ya ukugqithela ngaphaya kweembonakaliso ezizizithethe, njengamagosa ongameleyo, itshintsha ukugxila ukuze kuye kumabali agqamisa amatyala ezomthetho abalulekileyo nabantu abachaphazelela ngokunzulu ngawo. Umxholo weli gumbi lokuqala uthi "limbambano zeekhontrakthi nezabasebenzi – ubulungisa, isidima, ukulingana, inkululeko nobulungisa kwezentlalo".

INtloko yeFakhalathi yaye yakhumbula ukuba "ngo2018, kwaye kwakhona ngeyoKwindla ngo2022, iFakhalathi yezoMthetho yaye yamemelela abafundi nabasebenzi ukuba bacebise malunga namatyala afanelekileyo ukuba abonakaliswe kwiibhodi zamabali ... Kwaba ngumngeni ke noko ukucinga ngeendlela zokufezekisa oku nanjengoko singengabo abayili okanye amagcisa kodwa singamagqwetha! IKomiti yeeNguqu yaye ke ngoko yanikwa umsebenzi wokuqhubela lo mbono phambili ... Ixesha lokuqhuba eli phulo lisisiseko leenzame ezingobanjiswano ezifunekayo - nto leyo yandisa intathoxaxheba kawonkewonke, intsebenziswano yamasebe, nemithombo eyaye yabelwa lo msebenzi". Waye waqukumabela ngokutsho ukuba, ukuzibophelela kwale Fakhalathi ekucingeni ngezinto eziza kwenzeka kwixa elizayo, ukwamkela kwabo amaphulo olungiso lokubonakalayo, nesibindi sabo sokuba nomfanekisongqondweni wento entsha ngaphakathi kweOld Main Building entle, ngokwenene kudala uluntu ubani anokuzingca ngalo.

Njengoko abasebenzi nabafundi bale Fakhalathi kungokunje bengena kumanyathelo alandelayo kwiprojekthi yayo ebanzi yolungiso lokubonakalayo (amaGumbi 1017 ukuya ku2034), ingxamele ukuqhubekeka nokucinga, nokudala, nokunonophela iindawo ezibonakalisa ukuba singoobani kwaye siqwenela ukuba ngoobani.





## Lectures • Conferences • Seminars • Workshops • Book Launches

# Professor Sandra Liebenberg

Professor Sandy Liebenberg presented papers at the following conferences. She participated in "Democracy, the South State and The Economy" the 7<sup>th</sup> Biannual German-South African Dialogue held at UWC on 6 and 7 February 2025. Additionally, she was a joint respondent with Professor Ngwako Raboshakga from North-West University to the keynote address by Professor James Fowkes of the University of Münster, at "Alchemical

Tales: A Conference Curated in Honour of Albie Sachs", organised by the Law Faculties of UCT, UWC, and Stellenbosch University. Finally, Professor Liebenberg also presented at "Celebrating and Interrogating 30 Years of the South African Constitutional Court", an event hosted by SAIFAC, Constitutional Court Review, and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung at the University of Johannesburg from 23 to 24 April 2025.

## Interactive Values in Action Staff Workshops

During February and March 2025, staff members attended a series of interactive "Values in Action" workshops. The workshops were facilitated by Dr Arnold Smit.

Acknowledging that we all work and interact in a mix of value-based systems, the workshops aimed to show how to operationalise institutional as well as one's personal values.

During the workshops, Dr Smit emphasised that: "Widely accepted common values are honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion. Upholding these values has positive benefits for our personal, organisational, and social relationships; neglecting or violating them has the opposite effect."

As part of the practical application of the theory, staff were challenged to compete in an enjoyable round of Jenga.







*Above left: ACFE SU executive committee; Above middle: The Capitec Financial Crimes Unit and the ACFE SU executive committee; Above right: Mr Joubert discussing behavioural risk modelling*

## ACFE SU x Capitec Collaboration

On 15 April, the the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Stellenbosch University Student Chapter hosted an event in collaboration with Capitec Financial, which provided a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for students. This partnership highlights the importance of financial crime prevention and the role of Capitec in maintaining financial integrity within the banking sector. Mr Orpen (Head of Credit Operations, Capitec) provided an introduction to fraud and financial crime, sharing an overview of the complex nature and types of fraud. Mr Elema (Syndicate Intelligence, Capitec) discussed and demonstrated the techniques and methods used in syndicate intelligence and investigations.

Mr Joubert (Behavioural Risk Modelling and Financial Crime Modelling) provided insight into the behavioural risk modelling and financial risk modelling aspects of financial crime detection and prevention, demonstrating how data science is used to predict and prevent fraud. Following these insightful presentations, Mr Gosai (Stellenbosch University Student and intern at Capitec Bank) and Mrs Hendricks (Specialist: Early Careers) engaged with students on the topic of careers at Capitec, highlighting the fulfilling and cooperative nature of their career opportunities. The event was concluded by an informative question and answer session, after which students and guests enjoyed refreshments in the Quad.

## Constitutional Court Review Conference

Professors Sandra Liebenberg and Bradley Slade, and Drs Jeewa and Barnes attended the Constitutional Court Review Conference, *Celebrating and Interrogating 30 Years of the South African Constitutional Court*, at the University of Johannesburg on 23 and 24 April.





# 16<sup>th</sup> ATAX International Conference on Tax Administration



*Zinhle Novazi and Khodani Tshidzumba-Sengwane co-presenting at the 16<sup>th</sup> ATAX Conference in Sydney, Australia.*

From 8 to 9 April, Ms Zinhle Novazi had the privilege of attending and co-presenting a co-authored paper, with Ms Khodani Tshidzumba-Sengwane (Lecturer at the University of Pretoria), at the 16<sup>th</sup> ATAX International Conference on Tax Administration, held in Sydney, Australia. The conference brought together global experts in tax law, policy, and administration to explore innovative strategies for improving tax systems worldwide.

The paper, titled "Cracking the crypto code: SARS' approach to taxing the untouchable", critically examines the South African Revenue Service's (SARS) approach to taxing crypto assets. The paper unpacks the legal and administrative challenges SARS faces in this evolving space, and offers recommendations for a more agile, transparent, and effective regulatory response.

The programme featured keynotes from leading tax authorities, including Mr Rob Heferen, Commissioner of the Australian Taxation Office, who shared how Australia has achieved a 90.9% voluntary compliance rate through targeted interventions. Mr Peter Mersi, Commissioner and CEO of New Zealand's Inland Revenue Department, also shared insights on the benefits of automated income assessments and data-driven compliance.

Ms Novazi reflects, "One powerful insight from the conference is the importance of academic voices in shaping policy, industry practice, and social progress. In times marked by rapid technological change and economic uncertainty, we are not just observers of these shifts - we are essential contributors to the knowledge that drives them."





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Criminal Justice Colloquium



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Criminal Justice Colloquium took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at the Faculty of Law. The Colloquium featured a range of thought-provoking contemporary and intersectional issues within the criminal justice system. The Colloquium was organised and hosted by Professors Hctor and Van der Linde, as well as by Dr Nel. Several members of staff and postgraduate students presented at the conference, namely: Professor Shannon Hctor "The notion of reasonableness in private defence"; Dr Mary Nel and Dr Marna Lourens "An intersectional approach to legal reform of sex work in South Africa"; Professor Delano Cole van der Linde "Judicial considerations in granting forfeiture orders of immovable property"; Ms Anesu Musabayana "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: How South

African Courts Assess Eyewitness Testimony in Murder Trials"; GP Bouwer (LLD candidate) "The interpretation of Section 2 of the Cybercrime act and as it relates to the end user or "subscribers of illegal pirate services"; Ms Katherine Butler (LLD candidate) "Should 'coercive control' be made a standalone criminal offence as part of the effort to combat domestic violence?"; Ms Kirstin Hagglund (LLD candidate; with Professor Franaaz Kahn (UJ)) "A discussion of the legal implications for crimes committed in the metaverse in South Africa". Two colleagues from the Department of Educational Psychology, Dr Sifiso Shabangu and Professor Melanie Moen, also presented their research at the Colloquium ("Empirical findings on filicide offenses in eSwatini").



# Human Rights Day 2025: “Mother City” screening



To mark Human Rights Day 2025, the JV/S (in collaboration with the Faculty of Law's Transformation Committee) organised a special screening of the award-winning documentary film, “Mother City”, featuring the struggle for affordable, well-located land and housing in Cape Town.

The film offers a gripping account of community organisation, activism, and legal strategies to realise the constitutional rights to land and housing for disadvantaged residents of Cape Town.

Following the screening, Disha Govender and Ntombi

Sambu of Ndifuna Nkwazi and Miki Redelinghuys, the Director of the film, answered questions from the audience. Professors Sandra Liebenberg and Anél du Plessis facilitated the discussion. The audience comprised a mix of students and staff from different Faculties, all of whom were treated to popcorn and soft drinks to simulate an authentic movie experience.



## Training Programme for the Office of the Public Protector

At the end of May, a training programme for the Office of the Public Protector of South Africa, focusing on public procurement law, was launched. The programme was facilitated by Professor Geo Quinot and Professor Sope Williams and supported

by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This week-long intensive training course will be offered in all regions of the country to build the PPSA's capacity in investigating public procurement.





# Association for Law, Property & Society (ALPS) 2025 Conference

In the last week of May, Professor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel and Dr Tanveer Jeewa attended the 2025 Annual Association for Law, Property & Society (ALPS) Conference hosted by the University of Sydney. ALPS is an open international organisation of scholars and teachers engaged in a wide range of interdisciplinary research covering all aspects of property law, policy, and theory, and the role property plays in social structures, human relationships, and ecology.

Professor Boggenpoel presented an article, entitled "Unpacking the notion of 'suitable alternative accommodation': What do we mean with this notion and how is it applied in South African law?", which elaborated on her most recent research on the "safe spaces" in Cape Town - shelters designed to accommodate homeless people in the area. Her presentation focused on whether these facilities constitute suitable alternative accommodation for evictees, and what this choice of shelter means for eviction jurisprudence on a national

scale. The Conference was an invaluable opportunity to obtain feedback on comparative jurisdictions and their approaches to alleviating homelessness, even temporarily.

Dr Jeewa presented her co-authored article with Prof Boggenpoel, entitled "Neighbour law or apartheid's echo? Unlawful occupation and the misuse of public nuisance doctrine". The article explored the persistent misapplication of public nuisance doctrine in cases of unlawful occupation and the racialised harm this perpetuates in post-apartheid South Africa and beyond. The presentation sparked rich discussions and critical reflections on the wider role of property law in society.

These engagements reaffirmed the value of international scholarly exchange - not only in sharpening legal inquiry, but in building a more inclusive academic community invested in justice, reflection, and meaningful reform.





# Annual Maastricht Private Law Lecture



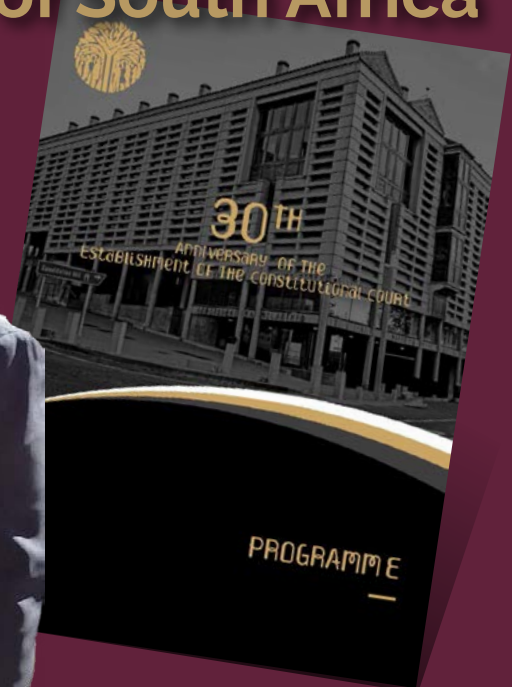
On 19 June 2025, the Maastricht University Department of Private Law hosted its annual Maastricht Private Law Lecture, featuring Professor Zsa-Zsa Temmers Boggenpoel.

Professor Boggenpoel's lecture challenged conventional approaches to land occupation and evictions. Drawing from South Africa's transformative legal journey, she examined the profound implications of applying private law frameworks to these complex social issues.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Constitutional Court of South Africa



*Professor Juanita Pienaar; Former Constitutional Court Justice, Kate O'Regan; and Professor Sandra Liebenberg*



Professors Sandra Liebenberg and Juanita Pienaar attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, on 20 June 2025.

Of particular note, Professor Liebenberg presented her paper, "Socio-Economic Rights in the South African Constitutional Court: Taking stock at 30," contributing to critical discussions on the evolution of socio-economic rights in South Africa.



# 14<sup>th</sup> Counter Fraud, Cybercrime and Forensic Accounting Conference

Professor Delano van der Linde presented a paper titled "Understanding and combating business email compromise fraud in the South African context" at the 14th Counter Fraud, Cybercrime and Forensic Accounting Conference, hosted at the University of Portsmouth (18 to 19 June). Professor Van der Linde's

presentation focused on the growing risk of cybercrime (particularly business email compromise) in South Africa, and focused on the recent judgments in *Edward Nathan Sonnenberg Inc v Judith Mary Hawarden* 2024 (5) SA 9 (SCA) and *Ross and Another v Nedbank Limited* (10029/2020) [2024] ZAGPJHC 1146 (8 November 2024). He also considered whether South Africa's criminal justice infrastructure is equipped to deal with these prevalent crime forms.





## Colleagues Abroad

### *Ms Parker visits the University of Groningen*

Ms Rukshana Parker, a lecturer in the Department of Private Law, recently spent three weeks at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands conducting research for her doctorate. Her study examines the effect of religious polygamous marriages and

domestic partnerships on the intestate inheritance rights of descendants.

During her time in Groningen, she was based at the Notarial Institute, which is internationally recognised for its expertise in succession law. She engaged with scholars in the field, attended lectures, and presented her research to faculty members. The visit also enabled valuable conversations with academics whose research intersects with hers, opening the door to potential future collaborations.

The comparative aspect of her doctoral research draws on Dutch inheritance law; thus, the visit to Groningen provided excellent access to legal materials, institutional insight, and scholarly expertise. She describes the atmosphere at the university as welcoming and intellectually generous, with informal moments - including faculty dinners and everyday office chats - often sparking stimulating academic discussion. The experience has not only enriched her research but also reaffirmed the importance of global academic exchange and collegial engagement.



*Ms Rukshana Parker with Professor Leon Verstappen (L) and Dr Hans ter Haar (R).*



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## *In the Media*

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# Exploring the Power of Vulnerability and Agency

Dr Marna Lourens delves into the powerful duality of vulnerability and agency through her art, research, and activism. Dr Lourens' research explores sexism, gender discrimination, and

the experiences of sex workers. Her work was recently featured in Stellenbosch University's digital magazine, *Research for Impact*. (The full feature is available [here](#), and read more [here](#).)



## THE NAKED TRUTH: SEX WORK SHOULDN'T BE A CRIME

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Ufrieda Ho



## Faculty staff Fakulteit personeel

*The Faculty would like to extend warm congratulations to colleagues for several achievements, milestones, and awards:*



*Dr Gretchen Jansen and Prof Sadulla Karjiker*

Dr Gretchen Jansen received her LLD degree during the March 2025 graduation ceremony.



*Professor Richard Stevens and Ms Lerato Melato*



*Professor Richard Stevens and Ms Ray de Villiers*

At the ROCTAS (Recognition of Contributions Towards Academic Success) Awards on 7 May 2025, Ms Ray de Villiers and Ms Lerato Melato, both first-year lecturers, received recognition for their contributions to the success of their first-year students.



- Professor Jacques du Plessis received an award for the best full length article contribution in the THRHR in 2024, for the contribution "Private law, public law, and the state: A South African perspective".
- The second edition of Professor Jacques du Plessis' book, *The South African law of Unjustified Enrichment*, was published by Juta.
- According to the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject, SU ranks among the world's top 150 in Law.
- Professor Henk Botha's e-publication, *Conflictual Democracy and the South African Constitution: Dignity, Equality and Freedom*, was published by Routledge.
- Professor Geo Quinot co-authored *Municipalities in Financial Distress: An Environmental, Social and Governance Critique*.
- Professor Theo Broodryk contributed to the *Fundamental Principles of Civil Procedure* (5th edition) as editor, and Dr Stephan van der Merwe contributed as author.

## New Appointments

# Dr Ntando Sindane

Dr Ntando Sindane joined the Department of Public Law in January 2025. He teaches Public International Law and Jurisprudence (legal philosophy). Previously, he taught Public International Law and Research Methodology at the University of the Western Cape, and he also taught African Customary Law, Private International Law, and Legal Pluralism at the University of the Free State. He holds LLB and LLM degrees from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and a PhD degree in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Dr Sindane's research is rooted in Intellectual Property Rights, International Law, and the Philosophy of Law, with a strong focus on Epistemologies of the South. His work explores themes like decoloniality and Africanisation - particularly in rethinking how copyright law is taught in South African universities. Currently, he is exploring the complex links between racial capitalism and the global copyright regime.

He is a dedicated editor of academic and literary journals. In his downtime, he enjoys following Test Cricket and is a loyal supporter of Kaizer Chiefs Football Club.

***We trust that our new colleague will enjoy an enriching, collegial, and productive career at Stellenbosch University.***





# Farewell Afskeidsgroet

## Dr Debbie Horsten

"Dr Debbie Horsten joined the Faculty of Law in 2013 and taught various modules, including the Law of Persons, Family Law, and Advanced Family Law, within the Department of Private Law until her departure in March of this year.

Debbie is known for her unmatched wit, keen sense of justice, and warmth - always placing the needs of others before her own. She embodied family law and law of persons as she brought an exceptional relatability to these subjects, making abstract concepts come alive. (I have been known to conclude dubious contracts of sale in various tutorials...) She constantly reminded students to think of the people impacted by legal norms and rules and to move beyond thinking of law as a cold mechanism applied in a vacuum.

Debbie's excellence as a lecturer was recognised on several occasions when she was nominated by students as their most impactful lecturer. Her patience and care for others, in particular the most vulnerable in society, and students, are significant qualities that many value in Debbie as a lecturer and a person.



This care also extends to her love for her animal companions.

She possesses the ability to see potential in others that they may not yet recognise in themselves. Over the years, Debbie has inspired, nurtured, mentored, and guided countless students, who are all immensely grateful for her role in their lives. This includes me as Debbie has guided me during some of the most important decisions of my career.

Debbie, we wish you all the very best with your journey and I hope you still regularly dazzle us with your presence. In your case, all that glitters is gold."

Professor Delano Cole van der Linde

## Welcome, little ones

The Faculty is pleased to announce the births of Lana Elizabeth Broodryk, born on 12 March 2025 to Professor Theo Broodryk and his wife, and Somangaye

Izibele Mjiba, born on 9 May 2025 to Mrs Phumla Mjiba and her husband.

Congratulations to the proud parents!



Lana Elizabeth Broodryk



Somangaye Izibele Mjiba



# Meet the Law Clinic Ontmoet die Regskliniek

Professor Theo Broodryk is an Associate Professor and Manager of the Law Clinic. He obtained the degrees BA, LLB and LLD from Stellenbosch University. Professor Broodryk is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa, a Y1-NRF rated researcher and the author of Eckard's Principles of Civil Procedure in the Magistrates' Court. He has been institutionally recognised for his research contributions, including being one of the University's researchers who made the biggest contribution to Department of Higher Education and Training accredited scientific publications (2014 output year). Professor Broodryk has received the Rector's Award for outstanding work performance. He is a member of the International Association of Procedural Law. His research focus is collective redress, including class actions. He is also certified as an arbitrator by the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) and obtained a certificate in advanced labour law from the University of South Africa's Centre for Business Law.

Aside from work, Professor Broodryk remarks, "With a two-year-old boy and a three-month-old girl, our free time is completely spoken for!"



**Professor Theo Broodryk**

*Professor and Clinic Head*

Ms Nikita Stander joined the Law Clinic as a student consultant in the Law Faculty's Practical Legal Training course during the final year of her LLB studies in 2008. She started with her articles at the Law Clinic in January 2009, when she obtained her LLB degree. After ceding her articles to Legal Aid, South Africa during October 2009, she completed her articles there in December 2010, whereafter she was admitted as an attorney of the High Court in February 2011. She was appointed as practising legal practitioner at the Law Clinic in February 2011, and qualified as attorney with right of appearance in the High Court thereafter. Ms Stander assists clients with opposing eviction applications and with related security of tenure disputes. She also assists final-year law students at the Law Clinic with advice, and mentors the candidate legal practitioners who are employed in her department.

She obtained her LLM (by research) degree in April 2022.

"In my free time, I enjoy staying active through running, rebound classes, and gym workouts. I also enjoy spending time socialising with friends and family."



**Nikita Stander**

*Senior Attorney and Deputy Head of the Law Clinic*

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Dr Stephan van der Merwe joined the SU Law Clinic as practising attorney in 2001, after serving his articles of clerkship in private practice. Earlier, he graduated from Stellenbosch University with a B Comm and an LLB, and during 2002 he obtained an Advanced Certificate in Children's Rights. In 2005, he obtained an LLM (cum laude) and, during 2007, he qualified as notary public and attorney with right of appearance in the High Court. In 2017 he obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Higher Education Teaching and Learning (cum laude). In 2022, Dr Van der Merwe obtained his doctorate in law (LLD). The title of his dissertation is "Developing a Procedural Framework for Advanced Debtor Protection: The Case of Emolument Attachment Orders", in which he makes motivated recommendations aimed at advancing debtor protection.

Dr Van der Merwe is deeply involved with community service in his capacity as the senior supervising attorney at the Law Clinic. In 2019, he was awarded the Stellenbosch University Institutional Teaching Excellence Award in the category 'Scholarly Teacher'. The award is based on experience and leadership in the scholarship of teaching and learning. In 2024, he was also shortlisted for the Stellenbosch University Institutional Research Excellence Award. He lectures Practical Legal Training, Legal Ethics, and Foundational Oral Advocacy at the Faculty.

"I am a fan of the strategic designer boardgame (i.e., not mass-produced games like Monopoly) hobby and own an embarrassing large and diverse collection of these board and card games."



***Dr Stephan van der Merwe***

*Senior Attorney, Senior Attorney, Public Notary, and Lecturer*

Odwa Nwebi joined the Law Clinic in 2018. He was admitted as an attorney of the High Court in May 2018, after he completed his articles at Legal Aid in April 2018. He obtained his LLB from the University of Fort Hare and concluded his Practical Legal Training at the University of Cape Town School for Legal Practice. He is a registered member of the Compliance Institute of Southern Africa as a compliance officer. He assists with general civil litigation and advice. He has a passion for assisting the less fortunate in society.

"Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, which offers a valuable opportunity to disconnect, reflect, and maintain balance while engaging with the natural environment."



***Odwa Nwebi***

*Attorney*

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Demi Johannisen joined the Law Clinic on 1 February 2025. She obtained her LLB degree from the University of the Western Cape in 2016 and completed her articles in 2019 at the University of the Western Cape Law Clinic. She was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court in September 2019. Demi assists clients with family law related matters, such as divorce proceedings, maintenance applications, children's court and wills. Demi assists final-year law students and supervises and mentors the candidate legal practitioners within her department.

"I consider myself a radical adventurer and love exploring hidden little coffee shops and restaurants."



**Demi Johannisen**

*Attorney*

Sharon Smith holds a diploma in Business Management and has extensive experience in finance, office management, human resources, and administration. Before joining the Law Clinic in 2020, she worked in the financial sector. She is responsible for managing office operations and administrative procedures, and she provides support to both leadership and staff. She completed her Paralegal Certificate in 2023 and plays a supportive role in contributing to the Clinic's mission of providing legal assistance to marginalised communities.

"On a personal note, I also hold a diploma in hairdressing and enjoy line dancing in my free time."



**Sharon Smith**

*Administrative Manager*

Priscilla Khoaeane is the welcoming face of the Law Clinic. She ensures that clients, students, and visitors are warmly received and assisted efficiently. She manages the front desk, handles appointments and enquiries, and supports the Clinic's operations with efficiency.

"I enjoy gardening and have a talent for growing succulent plants."



**Priscilla Khoaeane**

*Receptionist*

Magda Essau plays a valuable role in keeping the Law Clinic running smoothly and looking its best. She provides administrative support and ensures a clean, welcoming environment for staff, students, and clients.

"I love spending time with my extended family."



**Magda Essau**

*Admin Assistant*



# Students Studente

## First-year welcoming programme

During the Law Faculty's Welcoming Programme, the new first-year group of 2025, along with their parents and guardians, met the Dean and selected staff in the Endler Hall of the Conservatory, on Tuesday, 28 January. Wednesday marked yet another full day of activities across from the Old Main Building, where the students officially began their journey in preparation for the academic year ahead. The programme, featuring guest lectures from some of the staff, focused on giving students the invaluable opportunity to connect with one another. A particular highlight was the annual first-year law student welcoming luncheon, generously sponsored by Werksmans Attorneys, held in the spacious Simonsberg Residence, which comfortably accommodated the approximate 250 students in attendance.

The rest of the programme, spanning the latter half of the week and continuing until the following Wednesday, featured a series of informative sessions. These covered topics such as the anticipated

differences between school and university; the academic calendar of the year ahead; the weekday of the 'ideal law student'; consequences of misbehaviour as a student (and the possible impact of this on future career options); ethical requirements to be admitted as a legal practitioner; as well as the various support services that are available on campus, which also included programme-specific information sessions, targeting the various law programme articulations.

The JV/S and various societies active within the Faculty, which included the Moot Society, Students for Law and Social Justice, the Black Lawyers Association, Stellenbosch Chapter, and the Student Court, were also present. On Wednesday, 5 February, after meeting their respective first-year lecturers, the Dean wished them well with the start of the academic year - thereby bringing to a close the 2025 iteration of the Welcoming Programme.





# Faculty of Law Pledge Ceremony 2025

The annual Pledge Ceremony was held on the final day of the first semester, 16 May. To help celebrate this special occasion, the Judge-President of the Cape High Court, JP Mabindla-Boqwana, and her colleague Judge Nuku, were in attendance.

Prior to the Pledge Ceremony, the Judge-President addressed the first-year group in their final Legal Skills 114 lecture, and spoke to them about the critical importance of the rule of law in South Africa; the meaningful role that law students will play as future graduates; and a day in the life of a judicial officer against the backdrop of transformation imperatives within all facets of the profession. Hereafter, Judges Mabindla-Boqwana and Nuku engaged with our students in answering their questions, before crossing the road to the Old Main Building, to commence with the Pledge Ceremony.

After a welcoming and address by our Acting Dean, Professor Juanita Pienaar, the group was addressed by the current Chair of the JV/S, Ms Alexia Cawood,

and former Chair, now colleague, Ms Lerato Melato on what lies ahead in their journey as future jurists. In her address, Ms Cawood remarked:

*"I remember my own pledge ceremony vividly - right here in the courtyard of the Ou Hoofgebou. We were masked, uncertain, and just beginning to grasp what it meant to step into the world of law. That night felt like the start of something much bigger than myself. It was the moment I decided not just what kind of law student I wanted to be, but what kind of person I wanted to become.*

*Tonight is not simply ceremonial. It is meaningful. You are not just signing a document - you are making a commitment. A commitment to uphold the values of integrity, fairness, and discipline. A decision to hold yourself to a higher standard, even when it is difficult. Especially when it is difficult.*

*In this field, you will often face a choice: to take the easier path, or to take the right one. The right path may require you to say no - to friends, to comfort,*

*Continues on next page.*







to shortcuts. But that same path builds the kind of character that defines what it means to be fit and proper.

Law is exciting, but it is also deeply serious. It shapes the lives of people - especially the vulnerable, the unheard, and the unseen. Your words, your research, your arguments - they matter. They will carry weight in the lives of others, sometimes in ways you may never fully realise.

As you move forward from your final Legal Skills lecture today, take with you not just the tools of reading and writing the law, but the responsibility of being the law in action. The Preamble of our Constitution begins with the words: 'We, the people of South Africa...' This is not just a phrase. It is a call. The healing, the justice, the transformation of this country - it begins with us. With you.

Use your years ahead to become the kind of person

you wish you had when you were younger. Let your studies be more than a pursuit of marks - let them shape your character. Grow from every case you read, every debate you have, every mistake you make. And when you're faced with a choice to compromise your values, remember this night. Choose the harder path. Choose the path that builds a more accountable, more just South Africa.

Congratulations on making it this far. Tonight, we send you forward - not just as students, but as future custodians of justice."

Thereafter, Dr Greenhalgh read out the wording of the Preamble of the Constitution, before the students proceeded to sign their Pledge Document, which they handed over to the Acting Dean and Judges Mabindla-Boqwana and Nuku and, in return, they received personalised copies of the Faculty's Code of Conduct and the Constitution.





# Renewed Postgraduate Diploma in Tax Law

In February, the Faculty welcomed students to its first intake of the renewed Postgraduate Diploma in Tax Law. This part-time, in-person programme is offered over a two-year period, at the Stellenbosch campus, with classes and assessments taking place on several Saturday mornings. The diploma is a unique qualification for individuals with a legal or accounting background, and requires a law, accounting or commerce undergraduate degree for admission. The 120-credit programme at NQF level 8 comprises four modules: Foundations of Tax Law (with emphasis on tax administration), Principles of Income Tax Law, Law of Selected Taxes (including donations tax, estate duty, value-added tax and transfer duty), and International & Further Tax Law (including the legal aspects relating to the taxation of companies, dividends and trusts, as well as anti-avoidance). The four modules introduce students to South African tax law principles, offering a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing taxation in South Africa. Emphasising the

practical application of these principles, the modules enable students to analyse factual scenarios, identify pertinent legal issues, develop solutions, and provide advice. Professor Izelle du Plessis, Dr Enelia Jansen van Rensburg, and Ms Silke de Lange are the lecturers in the diploma. The next intake will be in January 2027.



*Postgraduate Diploma in Tax Law 2025 group*

## Gradeplegtigheid

Die volgende **grade** en **diplomas** is tydens die **gradeplegtigheid** van **27 Maart 2025** toegeken:



Die Fakulteit is baie trots op al die studente wat gegradueer het en wens hulle alle sukses toe.



# Doctoral Qualifications



## **HUYSAMEN, Elsabé** (Mercantile Law)

**The future of a prohibition on indirect unfair discrimination as part of South African anti-discrimination employment law: A comparative reflection**

Equality in employment is promoted through a combination of a prohibition on direct and indirect unfair discrimination, and the implementation of affirmative action. Among these mechanisms, the prohibition on indirect discrimination holds significant potential as a transformative tool, departing from the premise that equal treatment may have unequal outcomes. This study analyses this transformative potential, as well as the reasons why indirect discrimination has enjoyed scant attention in South African workplaces, especially compared with the United States, United Kingdom and Canada. The research affirms the need for a continued role for the concept and makes proposals for its efficient dissemination.

*Supervisor:* Prof CJ Garbers

## **JANSEN, Gretchen Sulene** (Mercantile Law)

**A critical examination of performers' rights to remuneration as an effective protective mechanism for commercial musicians in South Africa**

The plight of South African commercial musicians has been observed for decades, with the relationship between musicians and record companies playing a central role. In this regard, the role of performers' rights under the Performers' Protection Act 11 of 1967 is often overlooked. This study examines how performers' rights to remuneration can help improve musicians' financial outcomes. It calls for stronger protection of performers' rights, along with more robust regulation of collective management organisations entrusted to administer such rights, to ensure fair and equitable remuneration for musicians from the commercial exploitation of their music.

*Supervisor:* Prof S Karjiker

## **JEEWA, Tanveer Rashid** (Public Law)

**Using the master's tool to secure the occupiers' house: Expropriation as appropriate and effective relief in cases of mass unlawful occupation**

South Africa's housing crisis has led to mass unlawful land occupations, reinforcing apartheid-era spatial inequalities. This study canvasses a definition for mass unlawful occupation, expands on a critical transformative property theory, and proposes an innovative remedial framework. Existing legal remedies fail to balance landowners' rights with occupiers' protection from eviction. The research advocates for statutory expropriation as a viable solution. By amending section 9(3) of the National Housing Act, the state can acquire occupied land, ensure secure tenure for occupiers, and address landowners' concerns – offering a principled, practical response to this urgent issue.

*Supervisor:* Prof ZT Boggempoel

## **LETLONKANE, Katlego Princess** (Mercantile Law)

**Social Justice at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and the Critical Role of the Commissioner**

This study provides exploratory insight into the social justice mandate of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and its most critical functionary, the Commissioner. The main objective is to transform the pursuit of social justice from an elusive endeavour to a more tangible, realistic one. The research offers a way of thinking about and applying social justice by engaging the interwoven power asymmetries and bias in labour relations, presenting a transformative lens that integrates ubuntu. The study advocates for the empowerment of CCMA Commissioners to take up their role as social justice agents and disrupt workplace inequality.

*Supervisor:* Prof T Madonsela

*Co-supervisor:* Prof T Broodryk

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## UYS, Hugo (Public Law)

### Framed and caged: Theorising the vulnerability of animal bodies before the law

Despite laudable aims, animal advocacy efforts remain ineffective at realising a widespread transformation of human-animal relations. One significant challenge is the law's failure to confront its own complicity in enabling and maintaining the ongoing subjugation of animals. In the pursuit of animal liberation, this study offers a sympathetic critique of animal law. To this end, it reads critical legal theory together with the emerging posthumanities to think through the entanglement of bodiment, animality and law. Ultimately, the study offers a post-disciplinary articulation of a renewed juridical imaginary with which to pursue the future emancipatory and post-anthropocentric development of animal law.

*Supervisor:* Prof H Botha

*Co-supervisor:* Prof L du Toit

## VAN SCHALKWYK, Christiaan (Public Law)

### Integrating environmental considerations in socioeconomic rights adjudication: The role of ecologically sustainable development

The intersecting threats that the ecological crisis poses to human rights require a recognition of the interdependence between socioeconomic and environmental rights. Of particular importance is the responsiveness of socioeconomic rights adjudication to the convergence of socioeconomic and environmental disadvantage. This study explores how the concept of sustainable development in section 24(b)(iii) of the Constitution should serve as a bridge to operationalise the interdependence between socioeconomic and environmental rights. It makes recommendations on how environmental considerations could be integrated in all stages of socioeconomic rights adjudication, including interpreting the normative content of rights and broadening the reasonableness standard of review.

*Supervisor:* Prof S Liebenberg

# First-year Prestige Bursary

In 2024, the SU Law Trust approved the awarding of two prestige bursaries to incoming first-year students, initially set at R200 000 per student per annum for the duration of their law studies, to further reinforce our excellent and diverse student body. The Faculty is pleased to announce the first recipients of this bursary. Congratulations to *Miss Mills* and *Miss Bassios*.



# 2024 Top Academic Achiever Prize Announcement

## 2024 Top Akademiese Presteerder-Prys Aankondiging

The alumni of the Faculty annually fund various bursaries for financially needy and academically deserving students. However, until 2020, exceptional academic achievement has never been recognised specifically. In 2020, the Law Faculty Trust first introduced a prize (amounting to R200 000, which approximately covers the tuition cost of a legal qualification) awarded to an academic top achiever.\*

Following the 2024 academic year, we can now announce the fifth recipient of this award: Chris Malherbe, a BAccLLB (cum laude) graduate. He works as an Associate at Bain & Company in Johannesburg and serves as an International Editor of the Cambridge Law Review. Congratulations, Chris!

\* [All LLB programmes, i.e. LLB (four years), LLB (three years), LLB (two years) and BAccLLB, qualify. Students are considered for the prize when all the requirements for graduation are met, and all compulsory law subjects (weighted average), as set out in the last two years of the LLB (four years) programme, are taken into account (with the exception of Law of Civil Procedure as it falls in the final year of the BCom and BA (Law) programmes). Furthermore, the programme must be completed in the minimum period.]

*Die alumni van die Fakulteit befonds jaarliks verskeie beurse vir finansiële behoeftige en akademiese waardige studente. Alhoewel, tot 2020 is uitsonderlike akademiese prestasie nooit spesifiek erken nie. In 2020 het die Regsfakulteitstrust vir die eerste keer 'n prys (ten bedrae van R200 000, wat ongeveer die onderrigkoste van 'n regskwalifikasie dek) bekendgestel wat aan 'n akademiese toppresterder gegee word.\**

*Na die 2023 akademiese jaar kan ons nou die vyfde ontvanger van hierdie toekenning aankondig: Chris Malherbe, 'n BRekLLB (cum laude) graduand. Hy werk as 'n vennoot by Bain & Company in Johannesburg en dien as 'n internasionale redakteur van die Cambridge Law Review. Baie geluk, Chris!*

*\* [Alle LLB-programme, dit wil sê LLB (vier jaar), LLB (drie jaar), LLB (twee jaar) en BRekLLB, kwalifiseer. Studente word vir die prys oorweeg wanneer hulle aan al die vereistes vir graduering voldoen en alle verpligte regsvalke (met geweege gemiddelde), soos uiteengesit*

*Continues on next page.*





*in die laaste twee jaar van die LLB (vier jaar)-program, word in ag geneem (met die uitsondering van Siviele Prosesreg omdat dit in die finale jaar van die BCom en BA (Regte)-programme plaasvind). Verder moet die program in die minimum tydperk voltooi word.]*

We sent Chris some questions, compiled by current law students, to hear more about his experience at the Faculty:

**1. As jy 'n alternatiewe studierigting en loopbaan moes kies, wat sou dit wees?**

*Ekonomie. My ideale werk is om 'n skrywer vir die Economist te wees.*

**2. When you think of the Stellenbosch Law Faculty, what image or idea comes most strongly to mind?**

*I picture a blend of classic character and progressivism. Stellenbosch has always felt like home to me, but the Faculty introduced me to so many new ideas.*

**3. Waar is jou gunsteling plek om te studeer?**

*By die huis. Ek het op 'n wynplaas in Stellenbosch grootgeword. Ek het 'n plekkie op die boonste verdieping van 'n toring in 'n wynkelder gehad met panoramiese uitsigte oor die wingerde. Ek het gereeld daar gestudeer, veral tydens Covid - die natuurskoon was ongelooflik.*

**4. Why did you choose to study law, and why at the Stellenbosch Law Faculty?**

*I chose law because it's about so much more than just the letter of the law. It taught me how to think more clearly, how to make cohesive arguments, and how to be comfortable with ambiguity. Ultimately, I'm not using the law directly in my life, but indirectly, it makes all the difference.*

**5. Wat is 'n kosbare herinnering van jou studentejare?**

*Die avonture in die berge saam met my vriende.*

**6. What was your most enjoyable module and why?**

*Interpretation of Enacted Law. This surprised me, since initially I was quite sceptical about the module. I felt like I gained many fundamental, systematic ways of thinking about issues. Despite not working in law, it still influences my thinking to this day.*

**7. Wie was jou gunsteling dosent, en hoekom?**

*Dis moeilik om net een te kies. Professore Sandra Liebenberg, Richard Stevens en Christoph Garbers was werklik ongelooflik - nie net ten opsigte van hul kennis nie, maar ook as gevolg van hul belangstelling in my ontwikkeling.*

**8. What advice would you give a fellow law student who is struggling to manage the workload? And what is your approach to large volumes of work?**

*Focus on the core ideas and principles and condense the content without losing its essence. My memory is fairly average, so pure memorisation was rarely my approach. Law school isn't about memorising everything. It's more about finding the truly important substance and knowing how to apply it properly. Also, going into gloomy spirals of despair about the workload won't make it go away - it's best to be as pragmatic and optimistic as possible.*

**9. Luister jy na musiek wanneer jy studeer? Indien wel, wie is jou gunsteling kunstenaar/groep of gunsteling genre?**

*Ek luister altyd na musiek wanneer ek analitiese werk doen of opsommings maak. Ludwig Göransson is al jare lank bo-aan my lys op Spotify. Anders luister ek obskure Duitse rap.*

**10. Do you believe it is important to have a studying/social life balance?**

*Absolutely. I worked extremely hard throughout university (sometimes notoriously so), but I always made time to spend time with my friends and family. I also had a few personal non-negotiables: never work past 8 PM, exercise at least three or four times a week, eat healthily, and the like. These will naturally differ from person to person, but I felt like having clear boundaries made the mental aspect of things much more manageable.*

**11. Wat is jou belangstellings buite die reg en is dit belangrik om sulke belangstellings te hê?**

*Openbare beleid, skaak, UFC, en reis (veral na minder gewilde lande). Baie min mense hou genoeg van hul studies of loopbaan dat dit hul enigste bron van stimulasie is, en ek is geen uitsondering nie.*

**12. What are your plans for the future?**

*I'm currently working for Bain & Company and will transfer to either their Copenhagen or Sydney offices in the next few months. I try not to plan too far ahead, but I wouldn't be surprised if I pursue an LLM in the US (Harvard has always been a dream) and eventually return to South Africa to work in public policy. A certainty, though, is that all roads lead back home.*

**13. Wat is die waardevolste vaardigheid/eienskap/kennis wat jy uit jou regstudies opgedoen het?**

*Die belangrikste was om 'n sterk werksetiek te ontwikkel. BRekLLB se werkklas is baie inspannend, dus dink ek werklik dat dit een van die belangrikste eienskappe is wat 'n persoon kan ontwikkel.*

**14. What advice do you wish you had been given as a first-year student?**

*Not to let one bad result ruin your day. My very first*

law test - Criminal Law - went quite badly, and I was immediately questioned whether law was for me. It turned out that the mental turmoil after that test, and many others, was unnecessary. Don't let slips change your perception too much.

15. *Waar is die beste koffieplek op kampus?*

*Häzz was die beste, en ek is steeds hartseer dat hulle toegemaak het.*

16. What is your favourite Social Media App to use as a break from studying?

I avoid most forms of social media, since I think these typically take far more than they give. But if I had to

pick one, it's probably Strava.

17. *Wat is erger, klas om 08:00 of 16:00?*

*Klas om 16:00 is beslis erger. Om die tamheid in die middag te oorkom, het ek gewoonlik in hierdie gleuf gaan draf wanneer ek nie klas gehad het nie.*

18. Do you have a particular method for studying and note-taking?

I made "executive summaries" of everything - cryptic, concise, and hyper-personalised notes. It allowed me to work through the content far quicker, leaving more time for deeper thinking about more complex parts of the work.

# Moot Court

Stellenbosch University was represented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, which took place from 29 June to 5 July 2025 at the University of Cape Town. The University's team comprised Ms Isabelle Scribante and Ms Carolyn Laker, who were coached by Dr Anisa Mahmoudi.

This year's competition featured a complex hypothetical case before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (representing the Association for Zambebian Migrants) and the fictional state of Baharia. The case engaged with pressing human rights issues including nationality rights, statelessness, electoral

rights, migrants' rights, and state obligations toward non-citizens.

The Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, named after the late renowned human rights scholar and UN Special Rapporteur, continues to be Africa's premier platform for aspiring human rights lawyers to hone their advocacy skills on contemporary human rights challenges facing the continent.

The team reached the quarter-finals. They placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the Preliminary Rounds, and Ms Laker was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the Best English Oralist category.

Congratulations to the team.





# Student Court



In March, the Student Court hosted its annual Constitutional Compliance Workshop. This event aimed to equip student leaders with knowledge about their constitutions, elections, and student governance. Various student leaders across residence, faculty,

and society structures attended. This workshop featured presentations from Professor Nicola Smit, Ms Lerato Melato, Mr Jonathan-Dale Blanckenberg, Chief Justice Risuna Risimati, and Justice Carolyn Laker.

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## *Juridical Society* *Juridiese Vereeniging (JV/S)*

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## Adams and Adams Luncheon

On 13 February, Adams & Adams visited the Faculty to engage with the first-year law students, offering an inside look into life at the firm, their application process, and what it takes to become a candidate attorney. The seminar provided students with invaluable insights from seasoned professionals, helping them better

understand what law firms expect from aspiring candidate attorneys. The session was interactive, with Adams & Adams generously answering a range of thoughtful questions, leaving students with a clearer vision for their legal careers.

# Khayaalethu Collab

The JV/S Transformation Officer, Miss Joy Hlatshwayo, had the privilege of collaborating with Khayaalethu, a newly established residence, to tackle food insecurity in Stellenbosch. Their Social Impact Officer and Miss Hlatshwayo worked together to donate surplus food from their orientation programme. They delivered over 100 food packs (including fruit, wraps, and bread) to the Stellenbosch Night Shelter, supporting those in need.

One can buy a Night Shelter Ticket at the following places: Paul Roos Spar; Pick 'n Pay Express; Neelsie Spar; PostNet (Plein Street); Die Blom Huis (Eikestad Mall). (The cost is R10 per ticket.)



## Public Protector visit

On 20 February 2025, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), collaborating with the JV/S, hosted the Public Protector of South Africa's team. This event furthered the CSJ's Everyday Law & Justice initiative.

The Public Protector's Office, a vital Chapter 9 institution, investigates maladministration and ensures accountability. During their campus visit, they engaged with students directly at their interactive stall. They offered

advice on legal and administrative challenges, including strike-related concerns, and detailed the support available for unfair treatment by public institutions. Students also learned about internship opportunities within the office, encouraging practical experience in upholding justice and governance. This engagement underscores the Public Protector's commitment to transparency and accessibility for future legal minds.

## Law week

Law Week at the Faculty was a vibrant success, featuring a diverse array of events from legal insights to lively celebrations and community outreach.

On Monday, 3 March, Law Week kicked off with Moot Monday, a dynamic event hosted by the Stellenbosch University Moot Society and the JV/S. A panel discussion featuring legal experts, including Professor du Plessis and Advocate Jade Aspeling, offered invaluable insights into courtroom etiquette and legal drafting. The session, supported by Adams & Adams Attorneys, culminated in an exceptional mock moot, providing students with a practical understanding of proceedings and boosting their confidence.

*Continues on next page.*





*Toga Party*

The annual Toga Party, which is a highlight of the social calendar, took place on Tuesday, 4 March 2025. Renowned artists like TIMO ODV, Aidin Caye, and Mr Morris, electrified the evening, as attendees in all-white attire and togas mingled, enjoying the sunset, food, and drinks. Sponsored by Unilever, who generously provided a variety of toiletry products for attendees, the event was a joyful celebration of community, with the dance floor alive with energy.

On Wednesday, 5 March, the Transformation Officer, with the support of the JV/S, visited Kayamandi Primary School. They delivered much-needed stationery and school shoes, addressing the challenges faced by learners due to limited financial resources and other factors impacting school attendance. This initiative aimed to foster ongoing partnerships to support the children's educational journey.

The JV/S hosted its highly anticipated annual Stellenbosch Law Quiz evening at the Courtyard Café on Thursday, 6 March 2025. This challenging eight-section quiz tested participants on general knowledge, pop culture, history, and law. With exciting prizes and collaborations from Old School and Unilever, it was a lively evening of friendly competition, allowing students to showcase their knowledge.

Law Week concluded on Friday, 7 March 2025, with an elegant Postgraduate Cocktail evening, hosted by the JV/S. LLB, LLM, and LLD candidates, alongside Faculty staff, gathered in their finest cocktail attire. In collaboration with Aperol Spritz and Fitch & Leedes, the evening offered a sophisticated setting for mingling, dancing, and enjoying delicious food and drinks, providing a perfect end to a memorable week.

*Postgraduate cocktail evening*

# Career Fair

On 13 March, the Law Faculty hosted a memorable Career Fair that brought together ambition, opportunity, and diverse perspectives. With the participation of over 25 esteemed law firms, the event offered the students invaluable insights into various career trajectories within the legal profession. Representatives from these firms engaged one-on-one with the budding legal minds, sharing expertise and guidance to help them shape their professional journeys. Adding a unique dimension

to this year's fair, several NGOs also joined the event. Their presence highlighted the impact of alternative career paths in law, allowing for differing avenues for students to contribute meaningfully to society through advocacy, policy work, and public service. The Career Fair is not just an event - it is a vibrant celebration of potential, collaboration, and innovation. Students left feeling motivated and better equipped to make informed decisions about their futures.

## The role of the Public Protector's Office

On 19 March, the Transformation Officer participated in a radio interview with MatiesFM (MFM 92.6) to discuss the role of the Public Protector's Office in assisting NSFAS students within the Faculty of Law. The JV/S remains committed to ensuring that all lodged complaints are processed efficiently and that students receive timely and adequate responses.

## Beyond the Books

The Beyond the Books series kicked off with an engaging session on Class Action Lawsuits on 27 February 2025, which offered students a deeper look into how collective legal action operates within the South African legal system. The discussion was led by an attorney from the Law Clinic, Mr Odwa Nweba, who shared real-world experiences and landmark cases that highlighted the power and impact of class actions in achieving justice for marginalised communities. Key topics included the procedural challenges of launching a class action, the importance of access to justice, and how these

lawsuits can drive social change. Attendees left with a clearer understanding of how class actions work beyond the theoretical framework, and how they serve as crucial tools for public interest litigation.





# Visit by senior law students from Utrecht University

On 17 April 2025, senior law students from Utrecht University visited the Faculty as a part of a Global Legal Experience trip to South Africa. After a lecture on the history and context of the South African legal system,

presented by Professor Juanita Pienaar, Dr Bradley Greenhalgh showed the students around the Faculty, CL Marais, and Law Clinic.



*The students from Utrecht University in the (postgraduate) Carnegie Research Commons in the SU Library, following a tour of the various facilities on offer by one of the law librarians, Ms Sanda Nyoka.*







Social  
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Sosiale  
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## US Regskliniek SU Law Clinic

# ProBono.org Awards Ceremony

On 20 February 2025, the Law Clinic had the privilege of attending the ProBono.org Awards Ceremony at Norton Rose Fulbright, where Candidate Legal Practitioner, Brandon Taylor, won the Outstanding Student Contribution Award, recognising his dedication to access to justice and his impactful work at the SU Law Clinic during his time as student consultant during his final year of studies in 2024. Through his hard work, compassion, and dedication to justice, Brandon has made a meaningful impact on both clients and colleagues alike.

The evening was a celebration of legal professionals and students who go above and beyond to serve their communities. The keynote speaker was Advocate Jason Brickhill, who spoke powerfully about the role of lawyers in advancing justice and human rights. His words were

a reminder of the importance of this work - namely, why access to justice matters and why pro bono efforts remain a cornerstone of a fair and democratic society.

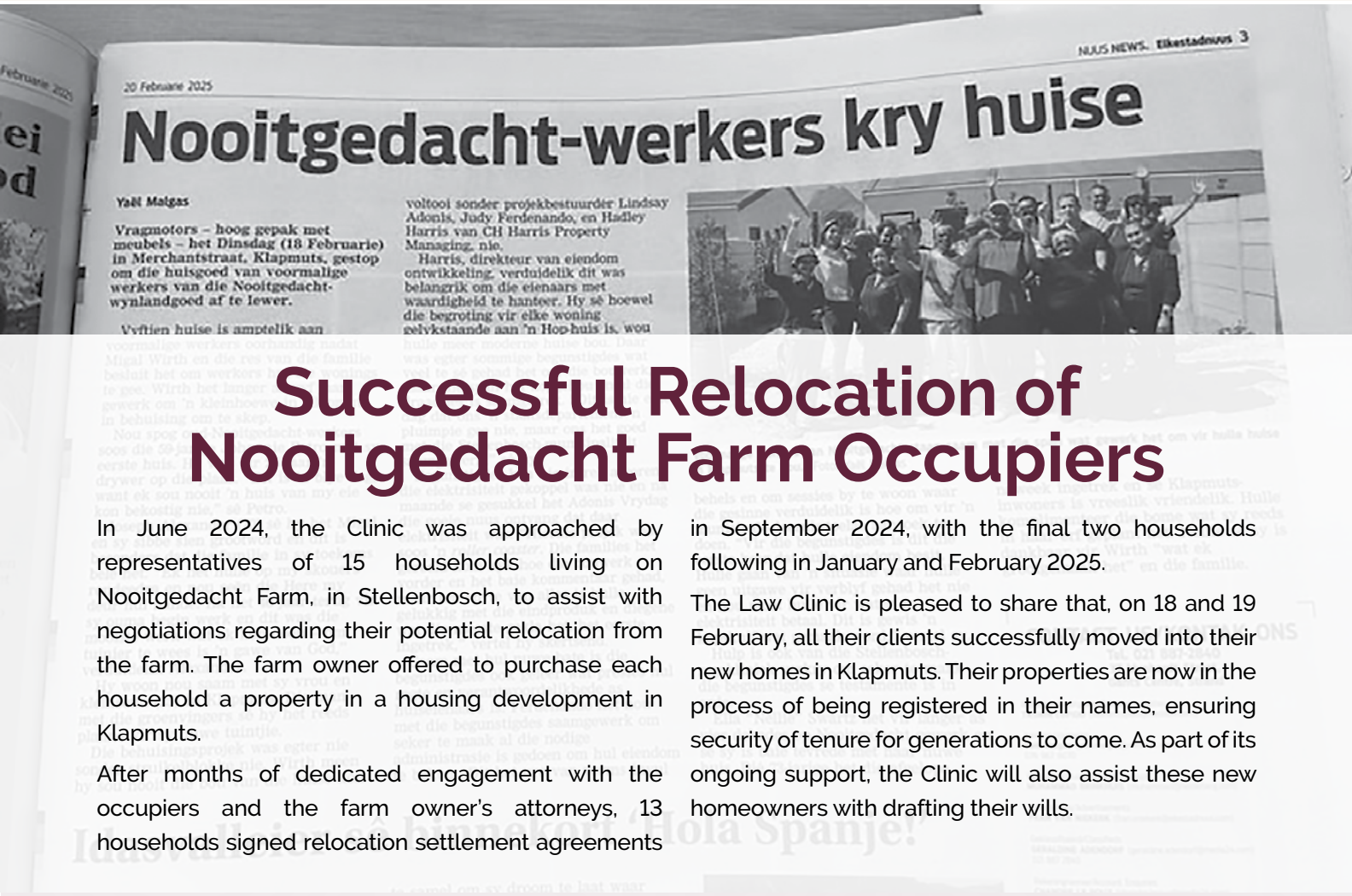
The Law Clinic is immensely proud of Brandon and looks forward to seeing his continued success in the legal field.



*Above: Brandon Taylor and Emily Anderson pictured with keynote speaker, Adv Jason Brickhill, and National Director of ProBono.org, Adv. Mohamed Shafie Ameermia. Below: All award winners*







## Successful Relocation of Nooitgedacht Farm Occupiers

In June 2024, the Clinic was approached by representatives of 15 households living on Nooitgedacht Farm, in Stellenbosch, to assist with negotiations regarding their potential relocation from the farm. The farm owner offered to purchase each household a property in a housing development in Klipmuts.

After months of dedicated engagement with the occupiers and the farm owner's attorneys, 13 households signed relocation settlement agreements

in September 2024, with the final two households following in January and February 2025.

The Law Clinic is pleased to share that, on 18 and 19 February, all their clients successfully moved into their new homes in Klipmuts. Their properties are now in the process of being registered in their names, ensuring security of tenure for generations to come. As part of its ongoing support, the Clinic will also assist these new homeowners with drafting their wills.

## Welcome to New Team Members

The Law Clinic is excited to announce that Amber Mignon Jamo Matheus, Brandon Taylor, and Chloe Neelse have joined the team at Stellenbosch University Law Clinic as candidate legal practitioners with effect from 1 February 2025. The Law Clinic looks forward to their contributions as they embark on this crucial phase of their legal careers.

Additionally, the Law Clinic is pleased to welcome Demi Johannisen as the new Attorney heading up the Family Law Department. Demi obtained her LLB degree

from the University of the Western Cape in 2016 and completed her articles at the UWC Law Clinic in 2019. She was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court in September 2019.

With her extensive experience in family law matters, Demi assists clients with divorce proceedings, maintenance applications, children's court matters, and wills. She also plays a vital role in mentoring and supervising final-year law students and candidate legal practitioners within her department.





# Empowering Young Voices: SULC's Children's Rights Project



*B Taylor at Vlotenburg Primary School*

In the first term of 2025, the Law Clinic visited nine primary schools in and around Stellenbosch as part of its ongoing Children's Rights Project. Through this initiative, the trained Candidate Legal Practitioners (CLPs) presented engaging, age-appropriate sessions to learners aged six to nine, educating them about their rights and responsibilities in a fun and interactive way.

Over the course of the term, the project reached a total of 817 Grade 1 to 3 learners. The impact of the sessions was clearly reflected in the data:

- There was an estimated 47% increase in the number of learners who could identify what a "right" is.
- There was a 47% improvement in understanding what a "responsibility" is.
- Most notably, there was a 62% increase in learners who knew whom to approach when feeling scared or unsafe.

The CLPs strive to deliver informative and empowering sessions while keeping young learners focused and involved and the feedback from schools has been



*R Garson at Stratford Primary School*

*Continues on next page.*



overwhelmingly positive. Educators consistently highlight how well the sessions align with their curriculum and how much the learners enjoy the CLPs' engaging, relatable approach. Teachers noted that learners were enthusiastic participants and expressed a keen interest in having the Law Clinic return in the future.

The Clinic is proud of the work being done through the Children's Rights Project and look forward to reaching even more young voices in the terms ahead.

Schools interested in hosting a Children's Rights session can contact the Law Clinic at: [eanderson@sun.ac.za](mailto:eanderson@sun.ac.za).



*T Makasi at Bizweni Primary School*

## *Alumni*

# Klas van 1964 reünie

Lede van die klas van 1964 het op 25 Maart die Ou Hoofgebou besoek. Die groep het ontmoet vir koffie en tee in die Fakulteit se teekamer, die binneplein en die stoepe weer verken en reggestaan vir die

fotograaf, Neels Beyers, voordat hulle middagete saam met Professor Nicola Smit by die Postcard Café in Jonkershoek geniet het.



*Agter van links na regs: Andreas van Wyk (Stellenbosch), Charlie Abelsohn (Tel Aviv), Chris du Plessis (Pretoria), Neels Beyers (Strand). Voor van links na regs: Eddie Mostert (Malmesbury), Appie Louw (eks-Lüderitz)*



## Memorial Herdenking

### John Newdigate (LLB 1981)

Op 31 Januarie 2025 het John Newdigate SC die stryd teen kanker verloor. Die Kaapse Balie het 'n geliefde en gewaardeerde lid verloor. Hy word onthou vir sy skerp intellek, wye regs kennis, deeglike hantering van sy regspraktyk, hoflike en vriendelike optrede teenoor kollegas en diegene met wie hy konsulteer het, besonder bekwame kruisondervraging en sy belangstelling in die wel en weë van diegene rondom hom.

Hy het in Desember 1985 by die Kaapse Balie aangesluit en is in November 2000 as senior advokaat aangestel.

Hierdie huldeblyk is saamgestel uit kommentare deur die senior lid van die stel kamers waaruit hy in Keeromstraat gepraktiseer het, 'n senior prokureur wat hom dikwels opdrag gegee het, die sekretariaat van die Kaapse Balie, gesprekke met persone wat hom geken het en die herinneringe van 'n lang en ingewikkelde saak waarin hy die skrywer hiervan oor 'n periode van meer as twee jaar gelei het.

Die Regsfakulteit van die Universiteit Stellenbosch vereer 'n gedenkwaardige alumnus.

*Professor Charl Hugo*

### Awiwe Liwani LLB 2024

The Faculty is profoundly saddened by the passing of Mr Awiwe Liwani, a dedicated student and alumnus of our institution. Mr Liwani was renowned for his humble demeanour and unwavering respect for others.

Mr Liwani completed his LLB in December 2024 and was scheduled to graduate in March 2025. Regrettably,

his mother had to accept his degree on his behalf at the March graduation ceremony. With heavy hearts, the Faculty mourns the loss of his promising future. As Cicero observed, "The life given us, by nature is short; but the memory of a well-spent life is eternal."





**Stellenbosch**

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