

NUUSBRIEF NEWSLETTER

DESEMBER
DECEMBER

2025

FACULTY OF LAW
IFACULTHI YOMTHETHO
FAKULTEIT REGSGELEERDHEID





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POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Postgraduate Diploma in Tax Law (The next intake is in 2027)

A two-year programme aimed at law, accounting, and commerce graduates focussing on the interpretation of tax law.

Modules: Foundations of Tax Law, Principles of Income Tax Law, Law of Selected Taxes, and International & Further Tax Law

Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law

A one-year programme aimed at law, science, and engineering graduates focussing on Copyright Law, Trademark Law, and Patent Law.

Modules: Copyright Law, Economic Perspectives of Law, Intellectual Property Law in the Digital Environment, Patent Law and the Law of Registered Design, Trademark Law, Competition Law, Intellectual Property Law: Research Paper

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Procurement Policy and Regulation

A one-year, hybrid-learning programme aimed at graduates with an interest in public procurement focussing on public procurement policy, compliance, corruption, as well as infrastructure and defence procurement.

Modules: International Legal Regimes on Public Procurement, Public Procurement Regulation and Policy in South Africa, and 2 elective modules (Corruption and Public Procurement, Defence Procurement Regulation and Policy, Infrastructure Procurement Regulation and Policy in South Africa, Policy and Public Procurement Law, Procurement Law Compliance)

More information: www.su.ac.za/en/faculties/law or www.su.ac.za/en/apply



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MASTER THE LAW

with an LLM from

Stellenbosch University



LLM PROGRAMMES

LLM by coursework

Students complete 4 taught modules and a research paper. Students can either enrol in the general programme (free choice of modules) or specialise in a specific area of law.

LLM [General]

Modules: Choice of 4 modules offered during the relevant year

LLM in Alternative Dispute Resolution

Modules: International Commercial Arbitration, Mediation, Specialised Dispute Resolution Techniques and 1 elective

LLM in Intellectual Property Law

Modules: Copyright Law, Trademark Law, Patent Law and the Law of Registered Design and either Intellectual Property Law in the Digital Environment or Competition Law

LLM in International Trade Law

Modules: Carriage of Goods by Sea, International Sales Law, International Commercial Arbitration, International Tax Law, Legal Aspects of World and Regional Trade, Payment and Guarantees in International Contracts, Climate Change and Sustainability Governance

Professional LLM

LLM in Public Procurement Policy and Regulation

Modules: International Legal Regimes on Public Procurement, Public Procurement Regulation and Policy in South Africa and 2 electives (Policy and Public Procurement Law, Corruption and Procurement, Infrastructure Procurement Regulation and Policy in South Africa, Defence Procurement, Procurement Law Compliance)

LLM by research

Students complete a thesis of +/- 60 000 words

LLM by coursework

- Full-time: 1 year (2 modules per semester and research project over 1 year)
- Part-time: 2 years (1 module per semester and research project over 2 years)
- January or July intake
- Compulsory class attendance - weekly lectures in Stellenbosch normally from 18:00 to 20:00 (some modules are offered in blocked sessions)
- Fully taught in English

Professional LLM

- * The programme consists of four modules and a research portfolio
- * Hybrid learning programme (contact sessions take place during specific block periods each semester at the Stellenbosch campus)

LLM by research

- 1 year programme (full-time students have a maximum of 2 years to complete and part-time students have a maximum of 3 years to complete)
- January intake

Applications:

Please read the Postgraduate Guide of the Faculty of Law (www.sun.ac.za/law) before submitting an application

Apply at www.maties.com

More information: www.su.ac.za/en/faculties/law or www.su.ac.za/en/apply

News from the Dean's office



Prof Juanita Pienaar

“ Boodskap van die Waarnemende Dekaan

Beste kollegas, studente, alumni en vriende

Die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid het 'n gebeurtenisvolle jaar beleef, waartydens beide die Dekaan, professor Nicola Smit, en die Vise-Dekaan: Leer en Onderrig, professor Richard Stevens, in waarnemende poste in die rektorat aangestel is, nadat Professor Deresh Ramjugernath op 1 April 2025 die pos as 13de Rektor en Visekanselier van die Universiteit Stellenbosch aanvaar het. Hierdie oorgang het die geleentheid gebied vir ander Fakulteitslede om nuwe rolle te beklee en in hierdie hoedanighede by te dra. In my rol as Waarnemende Dekaan word ek bygestaan deur professor Theo Broodryk as Waarnemende Vise-Dekaan: Navorsing en Internasionalisering, en professor Bradley Slade as Waarnemende Vise-Dekaan: Leer en Onderrig. Op Fakulteitsbestuursvlak het dr. Franziska Myburgh en professor Geo Quinot verder by die Fakulteitskomitee aangesluit. Hierdie gesamentlike poging het die gladde voortsetting van alle akademiese en navorsingsprojekte verseker. Dit was ook 'n jaar gekenmerk deur uitstaande prestasies deur personeel en studente. Dr. Stephan van der Merwe het 'n Sosiale Impak-toekenning in die individuele kategorie ontvang; professor Anél du Plessis is vereer met 'n toekenning vir Navorsingsuitnemendheid in die kategorie "Vroue in Navorsing"; en dr. Bryony Fox is erken as een van die Universiteit se top sewe postdoktorale genote.

Die kaliber van ons personeel word weerspieël in die gehalte van ons studente op beide voorgraadse en nagraadse vlak. Die Fakulteit het uitblink in skynhofkompetisies: twee eerstejaarstudente het die 14de Jaarlikse Kinderreg-skynhofkompetisie gewen, en Span KNASA (US Fakulteit Regte) was die algehele wenner van die Vroue in Alternatiewe Geskilbeslegting-kompetisie. Dr. Hugo Uys, 'n nagraadse student onder studieleiding van professors Henk Botha en Louise du Toit, het die Christof Heyns Gedenkprys vir Doktrale Proefskrif gewen, met die twee naasweners ook van ons Fakulteit: dr. Tanveer Jeewa (onder studieleiding van professor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel) en dr. Christiaan van Schalkwyk (onder studieleiding van professor Sandra Liebenberg). Al drie doktrale proefskrifte sal omskep word in monografieë wat deur Pretoria University Law Press gepubliseer sal word. Hierdie is bewys dat die talent wat na die Fakulteit getrek word

oor die volle spektrum strek – van eerstejaarstudente tot doktrale kandidate.

By die Desember-gradeplegtigheid is 251 grade toegeken, insluitend 14 cum laude LLB-kwalifikasies. Ons is ook bevoorreg om die toekenning van 'n LLD honoris causa aan 'n alumnus van die Fakulteit, dr. Chris Otto, te vier ter erkenning van sy veelvuldige bydraes in die regs- en sakewêreld.

Die jaarlikse Tuiskoms het op 13 September plaasgevind, wat die Fakulteit die geleentheid gebied het om bande met ons alumni te versterk. By hierdie geleentheid het vyf jaargroepe reünies gehou: 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 en 2015. Hierdie interaksies getuig van die blywende bande wat hier gevorm word, wat veel verder strek as graduering.

Gegewe die uitnemendheid van ons personeel en studente, ons programaanbod, tesame met ons internasionale samewerkings en aansien, is die Fakulteit verheug om weer onder die top 150 Regsfakulteite wêreldwyd in die 2025 Times Higher Education-ranglys gereken te word. Ten opsigte van die talent wat die Fakulteit lok – beide personeel en studente – en die betekenisvolle betrokkenheid met ons alumni, bly die vooruitsigte vir huidige en toekomstige studente, sowel as vir die werkgewers wat hulle aanstel, besonder sterk.

Op hierdie hoë noot wens ek almal 'n welverdiende ruskans en 'n wonderlike, vreedsame en herstellende feestyd saam met geliefdes toe. Dit was 'n gebeurtenisvolle jaar – my hartlike dank aan alle personele vir die vele ure se toewyding, dikwels agter die skerms. Aan die studente: dankie vir julle harde werk, en welgedaan met die suksesvolle voltooiing van die akademiese jaar. Mag ons almal verfris en versterk terugkeer om hierdie reis saam in 2026 voort te sit.

Professor Juanita Pienaar
Waarnemende Dekaan

”

Message from the *Acting Dean*



Dear colleagues, students, alumni and friends,

The Faculty of Law experienced an interesting year when both the Dean, Professor Nicola Smit, and the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, Professor Richard Stevens, were appointed to acting positions in the rectorate, following Professor Deresh Ramjugernath taking up the position of the 13th Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University on 1 April 2025. This transition provided the opportunity for other Faculty members to take up new roles and to contribute in that capacity. In my position as Acting Dean, I am joined by Professor Theo Broodryk as acting Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation and Professor Bradley Slade as acting Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching. At Faculty management level, Dr Franziska Myburgh and Professor Geo Quinot further joined the Faculty Committee. This collective effort ensured the smooth continuation of all academic and research projects.

It was also a year to celebrate excellent achievements by staff and students. Dr Stephan van der Merwe received a Social Impact Award in the individual category, Professor Anél du Plessis was awarded a Research Excellence Award in the category for 'Women in Research', and Dr Bryony Fox was recognised as one of the top seven postdoctoral fellows at the University.

The calibre of the staff is reflected in the quality of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Faculty was particularly successful within the moot court domain: two first-year students won the 14th Annual Child Law Moot Court Competition, and Team KNASA (SU Faculty of Law) was the overall winner in the Women in Alternative Dispute Resolution competition. Dr Hugo Uys, a postgraduate student supervised by Professor Henk Botha and Professor Louise du Toit, won the Christof Heyns Memorial Doctoral Thesis prize, with the two runners-up also from the Faculty of Law: Dr Tanveer Jeewa (supervised by Professor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel) and Dr Christiaan van Schalkwyk (supervised by Professor Sandra Liebenberg). All three doctoral studies will be converted into monographs to be published by Pretoria University Law Press. This highlights that the talent the Faculty attracts spans

the full spectrum, from first-year students to doctoral candidates.

At the December graduation, 251 degrees were awarded, including 14 cum laude LLB qualifications. We are also very fortunate to celebrate an LLD honoris causa awarded to an alumnus of the Faculty, Dr Chris Otto, in acknowledgement of his manifold contributions within the legal and business domains. The annual Homecoming took place on 13 September, enabling the Faculty to engage with and further cement ties with our alumni. On this occasion, five year groups gathered for reunions: 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015. These interactions are testament to the fact that the ties formed here endure far beyond graduation.

Given the excellence of staff and students, our programme offering, coupled with our international collaborations and standing, the Faculty is delighted to have yet again been placed amongst the top 150 Law Faculties globally, in the *2025 Times Higher Education Rankings*. Considering the calibre of talent the Faculty attracts, both staff and students, and the meaningful interaction with alumni, the prospects for current and future students, as well as for those who employ them, are exceptionally high.

On that high note I wish everyone a well-deserved break and a wonderful, peaceful, and restorative festive season with loved ones. It has been an eventful year – heartfelt thanks to all staff members for the many hours and dedication, often behind the scenes. To the students: thank you for your hard work and well done on completing the academic year successfully. May we all return, refreshed and invigorated, to continue this journey in 2026, as a team.

Professor Juanita Pienaar
Acting Dean



Umyalezo ovela *kwiNtsumpa*



Boogxa bam, bafundi, ialumnayi nezihlobo,

IFakhalti yezoMthetho iye yaba nonyaka onika umdla xeshikweni kutyunjwa uNjing Nicola Smit njengeNtloko yeFakhalthi noNjing Richard Stevens njengoSekela Ntloko weFakhalthi: wezoKufunda nokuFundisa betyunjelwa ukungena ezikhundleni zobubambela emva kokuba uNjing Deresh Ramjugernath engene esikhundleni sokuba yiNqununu neSekelaNgqonyela ye13 kwiYunivesithi yaseStellenbosch ngomhla woku1 kwekaTshazimpuzi ka2025. Eli nyathelo liye lanika amanye amalungu ale Fakhalthi ithuba lokungena kwizikhundla ezitsha ukuze abe negalelo kwezo zikhundla. Kwesam isikhundla sobuBambela Dini, ndiza kusebenza noNjing Theo Broodryk njengoSekela Ntloko weFakhalthi: wezoPhando noBandakanyo kwezaManye aMazwe aze yena uNjing Bradley Slade abe nguSekela Ntloko weFakhalthi: Uku-funda nokuFundisa. Kwinqaba lolawulo lweFakhalthi, uGqr Franziska Myburgh noNjing Geo Quinot nabo baye baba ngamalungu eKomiti yeFakhalthi. Eli linge lidityanelweyo liqinisekisa ukuqhubeka ngaphandle kwamagingxigongi kwazo zonke iiprojekthi zemfundo nezophando.

Lo kananjalo ibe ngunyaka wokubhiyozela impumelelo egqwesileyo yabasebenzi nabafundi ngokunjalo. UGqr Stephen van der Merwe uwongwe ngeMbasa yeFuthe kwezeNtlalo kuluhlu lomntu ngamnye, uNjing Anél du Plessis yena uye wawongwa ngeMbasa yoGqweso kuPhando kuluhlu "lwabaSetyhini kuPhando". Waza yena uGqr Bryony Fox wabonwa njengomnye ophambili kwabasixhenxe abangamahlakani obufundiswa kwizifundo ezandulelwa zezobugqirhalwazi.

Into abayiyo abasebenzi ibonakala kumgangatho wabafundi kwinqanaba labo bafundela isidanga sokuqala nabo bafundela isidanga esandulelwa sesokuqala. Le Fakhalthi iye yaba nempumelelo ikakhulu kwicandelo elimalunga noosingankundla: abafundi ababini abakwizifundo zabo zonyaka wokuqala baphumelele uKhuphiswano lwe14 loNyaka oluMalunga nooSingankundla beMithetho engaBantwana, laza lona iQela iKNASA (leFakhalti yezoMthetho leSU) kwaba lilo elona liphumeleleyo kukhuphiswano kwicandelo elimalunga naBasetyhini kwezoSonjululo loNgquzulwanongaNdlelazimbi. UGqr Hugo Uys, umfundi wezifundo ezandulelwa sisidanga sokuqala ekhankathelwa nguNjing Henk Botha noNjing Louise du Toit, uphumelele ibhaso iChristo Heyns Memorial Doctoral Thesis, baza ababini abamlandelayo baphuma kwalapho kwiFakhalthi yezoMthetho: UGqr Tanveer Jeewa (ekhankathelwa nguNjing Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel) noChristiaan van Schalkwyk (ekhankathelwa nguNjing Sandra Liebenberg). Zontathu izifundo zobugqirhalwazi ziya kuguqulwa zibe ziimonografu eziza kupapashwa yiPretoria University

Law Press. Eyona nto iqaqambileyo yeyokuba iitalente le Fakhalthi ezibizele kuyo zezo zibandakanya zonke iindidi zabafundi ukususela kwabo bafundela isidanga sokuqala ukuya kwabo benza izifundo zobugqirhalwazi.

Ngothwesozidanga obelubanjwe kweyoMnga kuthweswe izidanga ezili251, kuqukwa nee-cum laude zeLLB ezili14. Sikwanethamsanqa elikhulu lokubhiyozela iLLD honoris causa eyawongwa umfundi wangaphambili wale Fakhalthi, uGqr Chris Otto, ngenjongo yokubulela igalelo lakhe elizintlobo ngeentlobo kwicandelo lezomthetho nezoshishino.

Umsitho wokuBuyela eKhaya uqhutywe ngomhla we13 kweyoMsintsi, nto leyo yenze ukuba le Fakhalthi ikwazi ukunxibelelana kananjalo iqinise ubudlelane bethu nabafundi bethu bangaphambili. Ngelo xesha, kwahlangana amaqela ahlelwe ngokweminyaka emihlanu iqela ngalinye ngenjongo yokuzimanyanisa kutsha: ngo1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 nango2015. Olu nxibelelwano lububungqina benyaniso yokuba amaqhina athe enziwa apha ahlala ekho nangaphaya komhla wothwesozidanga.

Njengoko abasebenzi nabafundi bethu bethe gqolo ukugqwesa oku, iinkqubo esibonelela ngazo, zikunye nentsebenziswano yethu namazwe ngamazwe ndawonye nobume bethu, le Fakhalthi iyakuvuyela ukuphinda ibe yenye yeeFakhalthi zoMthetho eziphambili kwezili150 ngokweTimes Higher Education Rankings. Xa kucingwa ngohlobo lweetalente le Fakhalthi ezibizele kuyo, talente ezo zingabasebenzi nabafundi, kunye nonxibelelwano olunengqiqo oluqhutywa nabafundi bangaphambili, amathuba okuxhamla okunokwenzeka ngabafundi bangoku nabexesha elizayo, nangabo babaqeshileyo, aphezulu kakhulu.

Ngaloo mazwi abaluleke kangaka ninonke ndawonye nabo basenyongweni kuni ndininqwenetela ikhefu elinifaneleyo kakade nexesha lemibhiyozo elizel' uxolo nelivuselelayo ngokunjalo. Lo ibingunyaka onezigane-ko ezininzi – ndidlulisa umbulelo ongazenzisiyo kubo bonke abasebenzi ngeeyure ezininzi abazisebenzileyo kunye nokuzinikela kwabo emsebenzini, nangona oko maxa wambi bekungananzwa. Kubafundi, ndithi enkosini ngokusebenza kwenu nzima kangaka kwaye ndithi sibamba ngazo zozibini ngokuwugqiba kwenu ngempumelelo lo nyaka wemfundo. Ngamana sonke singabuyel' enkomeni, sihlaziyekile kwaye somelezekile, ukuze siqhubeke nolu hambo lowama2026, siyimbumba.

uNjing Juanita Pienaar
sobuBambela Dini



Message from the Acting Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching

As the Acting Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, I would like to congratulate all our students who graduated during the 2025 December graduation ceremonies. In particular, I would like to congratulate the LLB students who graduated in terms of the amended LLB curriculum, which the Faculty implemented since 2021. The Faculty invested significant time, resources, and energy in preparing the amended LLB curriculum, and in ensuring that it is delivered at the high standard for which the Faculty is known. Although there may been challenges along the way, we are satisfied that we have presented an LLB programme that is relevant to the current contexts and needs of the South African society, and which will equip our students with the necessary

knowledge, skills, and dispositions to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of South Africa. Given the challenges faced by the people of South Africa, there is a need for ethical and dedicated legal professionals to work towards a society based on the foundational values of human dignity, equality, freedom, non-sexism, and non-racism.

To all our graduates, I wish you well in your chosen careers. May you fondly remember the Law Faculty situated in the Ou Hoofgebou, and remain in contact with us!

Professor Bradley Slade

Acting Vice Dean Teaching and Learning



Research Chairs and Units Navorsingsleerstoele en Eenhede



Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual Property Short Course 2025

The Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law recently hosted its annual Intellectual Property Short Course from 16 to 18 July 2025 at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS).

This certificate programme is tailored for individuals without formal training in law or intellectual property, and this year's cohort reflected a rich diversity of backgrounds. Participants included practising attorneys, BSc students with an interest in IP law, university staff members, and representatives from various corporate sectors. Designed as an accessible introduction to IP law, the course equips attendees with a foundational understanding of the key forms of IP protection and their relevance across commercial, academic, and creative contexts. A highlight for many participants is the opportunity to engage directly with presenters about how IP law intersects with their specific fields of work.

In addition to Professors Sadulla Karjiker and Phil-

ip Sutherland, and Dr Gretchen Jansen, the programme featured guest contributions from leading IP practitioners from firms such as Adams & Adams, Spoor & Fischer, Von Seidels IP, and ENS. These industry experts offered valuable insights into how IP law is applied in practice.

A special mention must go to Ms Annette van Tonder, whose behind-the-scenes work is instrumental in ensuring the seamless running of the Short Course, from coordinating logistics to creating a warm and welcoming environment for both speakers and attendees.

The course received very positive feedback, particularly regarding the quality of the content and the smooth organisation of the event. The Chair now looks forward to presenting the next iteration of the Short Course in Namibia from 8 to 10 September 2025.



Annual Intellectual Property Law Public Lecture

The Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law hosted its annual public lecture on 23 October 2025. This year's public lecture took a new and engaging format, focusing on the topic "You make it... until we fake it! Counterfeiting". Instead of a single keynote, the Chair hosted two expert speakers, Mohamed Kader, partner at Spoor & Fisher, and Wensel Britz, partner at Von Seidels, who offered complementary perspectives on the legal, economic, and social dimensions of counterfeit goods in South Af-

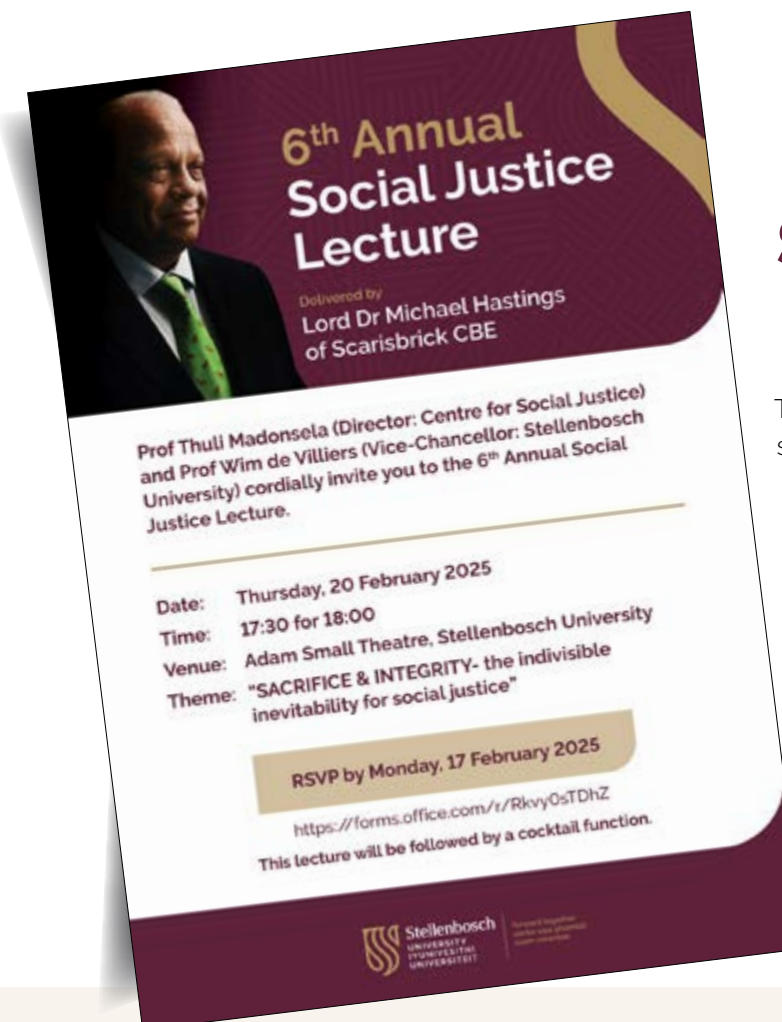
rica and continentally. Their presentations were followed by a lively panel discussion featuring industry practitioners who deal with counterfeit goods on the ground. The panellists were Joanne Clarke, business director of an FMCC business, Brigadier Kobus Lategan, the national head of the SAP Service's National Counterfeit, Contraband and Illicit Goods Unit, Sergio Fragoso Rodriguez, head of asset and brand protection at Moët Hennessy, Braam Schoeman, brand protection manager at SC Johnson & Son, and Joe van der Walt, CEO of Focus Group. The conversation provided rare, real-world insight into enforcement challenges, consumer behaviour, and emerging trends.

The event drew an excellent turnout, and attendees repeatedly commented on how dynamic and informative the session was. The evening concluded with especially well-received refreshments, and several guests remarked that this was the best public lecture hosted by the Chair to date. This would, of course, not have been possible without Ms Annette van Tonder, whose exceptional organisation made the entire evening such a success.



Centre for Social Justice

6th Annual Social Justice Lecture



The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) kick started the year with its 6th Annual Social Justice Lecture, held on 20 February, in commemoration of the United Nation's World Day of Social Justice. Delivered by Lord Michael Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE, the Lecture unpacked social justice through the theme, "Sacrifice and Integrity — the indivisible inevitability for Social Justice".

Social Justice, Fiscal Policy, and VAT

In collaboration with the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), the CSJ hosted a Think Tank Roundtable and Social Justice Café, focusing on Social Justice, Fiscal Policy, and VAT. This discussion aimed to discuss the VAT increase and its implications for the achievement of social justice in South Africa. Culminating in a Policy Statement, jointly issued by the parties, the resounding conclusion was that "[t]here is a need for courageous decision-making that ensures the 'hard trade-offs' are made without shifting the burden of disproportionate sacrifice to the disadvantaged majority, that is vulnerable to the exacerbation of hunger and poverty due to reduction of disposable income or diminished access to social services like health, education, and grants."



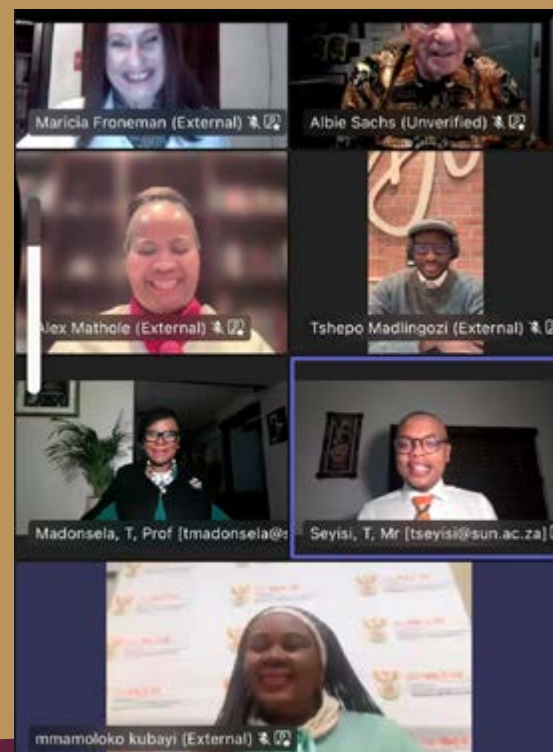
Social Justice Café on the Rape Epidemic

On 7 April, CSJ hosted a sensitive but necessary Social Justice Café to discuss South Africa's rape epidemic to reveal whether social justice can prevail in such a society. This discussion united a diverse group of voices – from Judges and NGOs that support rape victims, to student representatives

who added valuable student insights. The discussion not only discussed the causes of rape but also equipped the students with expert advice on the various mechanisms and assistance available to survivors of sexual assault.

The Constitutional Commitment to Social Justice

A Constitutional Review Roundtable was hosted on 22 May, which discussed the Constitutional Commitment to Social Justice. The Roundtable was attended by luminaries such as the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi, Justice Albie Sachs and V20 Sustainability Stream Co-Lead, Ms Alex Mathole. The purpose of the Roundtable was to discuss the adequacy of social justice progress in South Africa and to inform a policy brief regarding what to do to catalyse progress in areas where progress lags. The CSJ submitted its formal written submission to Parliament on 30 May 2025.



Hunger Policy brief

The CSJ, in collaboration with the Centre for the Advancement of Social Impact and Transformation (CASIT), convened a high-level Roundtable and launched a major new Policy Brief on Social Justice, Hunger and the Constitution, calling for urgent legal, policy, and governance reforms to address hunger as one of South Africa's most visible and persistent social justice failures. The event was expertly facilitated by Candice Egan (Fundraiser: Corporate and Individual Donor Bursaries, BEE & SETAs at SU) who

who plays a key part in mobilising donor partnerships to secure bursaries, food assistance, and support services for students – helping to break down financial barriers and create pathways for student success. The policy brief reframes hunger in South Africa as far more than a development or welfare issue – instead it is positioned as a constitutional social justice imperative that strikes at the heart of human dignity, equality, freedom, and the state's binding legal obligations.



Student accommodation, hunger, and Funding

On 30 July, the CSJ hosted a Social Justice Café on Student Accommodation, Hunger, and Funding. In collaboration with NSFAS, this Café looked into whose legal duty it is to support hungry students

and those who do not have accommodation. The participants at the Café resolved to work with the CSJ in drawing up a Charter that clearly states the duty bearers.



Panellists at the Social Justice Café on Student accommodation, hunger and funding: (from the left) Ms Success Sibeko, Dr Rudi Buys, Ms Vuyokazi Mafilika, Ms Joy Hlatshwayo and Prof Thuli Madonsela

6th International Social Justice Conference

From 15 to 16 October, the CSJ hosted its 6th International Social Justice Conference under the theme: Social Justice, Food Security, and Peace in a Turbulent World: Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience in Pursuit of Equality, Solidarity, and Sustainable Development. The Conference consisted of worldwide academics who gathered to share insights on topics suggested by the theme.



Delegates on Day 1 of the 6th International Social Justice Conference

7th Social Justice Summit

The International Social Justice Conference was followed by the 7th Social Justice Summit, on 17 October, under the theme Social Justice, Food Security and Peace: Pathways to Equality, Solidarity, Sustainability and Climate Resilience. The Summit, attended by over 500 participants, provided a vibrant close, with a Keynote Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who discussed the importance of public participation in matters of advancing Social Justice, specifically highlighting the MUSA Plan for Social Justice as an important initiative that is actively working towards social impact that advances the lives of South Africans. Flowing from the Summit, President Ramaphosa agreed to champion a Model Law on Food Security.



*Top right: President Cyril Ramaphosa, giving the keynote address at the 7th Social Justice Summit
Right: Stellenbosch University Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath, at the 7th Social Justice Summit*



Social Justice Champion Awards

On the evening of 16 October, the CSJ, in partnership with Champion South Africa, the NYDA, and Black Management Forum, honoured South Africa's unsung champions at the annual Social Justice Champion Awards. Basetsana Kumalo, the co-chair of the Council of Social Justice Champions (COSOC), highlighted the importance of the awards in honouring those who "continue to do good and make this world a better place". Dr Sheena Swemmer was named Social Justice Champion of the year for her work in challenging violence against women and

reimagining legal frameworks for consent and accountability. The Bridge Builder Award was awarded to Sonja Cilliers for her work in empowering mothers from under-resourced communities to improve numeracy skills. Lesego Louw and Chevano Frans were both named Social Justice Rising Star. Lesego was recognised for her advocacy against student homelessness. Chevano is a community leader who was celebrated for his community soup kitchen, Chev's Kitchen.



Social Justice Champion Awards Winners with guests

Prof Thuli Madonsela awarded as a Legend



Prof Thuli Madonsela at the Legends Awards

Professor Thuli Madonsela was honoured with a Humanitarian & Social Impact Legend Award at the Legend Awards in October. Accepting this award, Professor Madonsela says she sees it as honouring all those who see themselves as midwives of a just world.

CSJ receives £32.000.00 for student hunger at One Young World

From 3 to 6 November, Professor Thuli Madonsela attended the One Young World Summit in Munich, Germany. As a counsellor, she expressed that the Summit left her with a renewed belief in goodness and the power of positive thinking. The CSJ further celebrates the announcement made by the founder of OYW, Kate Robertson, to donate £32.000.00 against student hunger under CSJ's MUSA Plan for Social Justice.

Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance

EVENTS HOSTED / CO-HOSTED



New Short Course on Climate Change Law for Local Government Action

From 9 to 10 June, the Urban Law and Sustainability Governance (ULSG) Chair jointly presented a short course on "Climate Change Law for Local Government Action" with the SU School for Climate Studies, and Climate Legal. The short course covered topics on the most recent climate change science of relevance to mitigation and adaptation at the local level as well as an overview of the history and current movements in the international climate change law regime. The programme also focused on the state of local government in 2025, the existing suite

of local governance tools, and what it suggests for climate change action in municipalities across the country. Participants were issued with certificates of completion when the course ended.

The short course was presented by Professor Anél du Plessis from the ULSG Chair, Andrew Gilder and Olivia Rumble from Climate Legal, Professor Guy Midgley from the SU School for Climate Studies, and Dr Susan Knox-Mosdell, a local government and sustainability law expert.



Prof Guy Midgley presenting at the Short Course.

Colloquium on “Green(ing) Finance and Economic Development in Pursuance of Global Climate Change Law Imperatives”

The Faculty was abuzz on the morning of 28 June when the ULSG Chair, held by Professor Anél du Plessis, co-hosted a Colloquium on “Green(ing) Finance and Economic Development in Pursuance of Global Climate Change Law Imperatives” with the Gys Steyn Chair in Financial Regulation, held by Professor Johann Scholtz. Judge Dennis Davis opened the event with a gripping keynote speech on the meaning of climate change for the judiciary, the ex-

ecutive and the legislature in South Africa. The panellists did a stellar job in explaining how complex some of the legal questions are when considering how to “green” public and private financing, budgeting, procurement, investment and more. Everyone, however, agreed that business and all three branches of government must take co-responsibility for climate action and the necessary adjustments to be climate change ready.



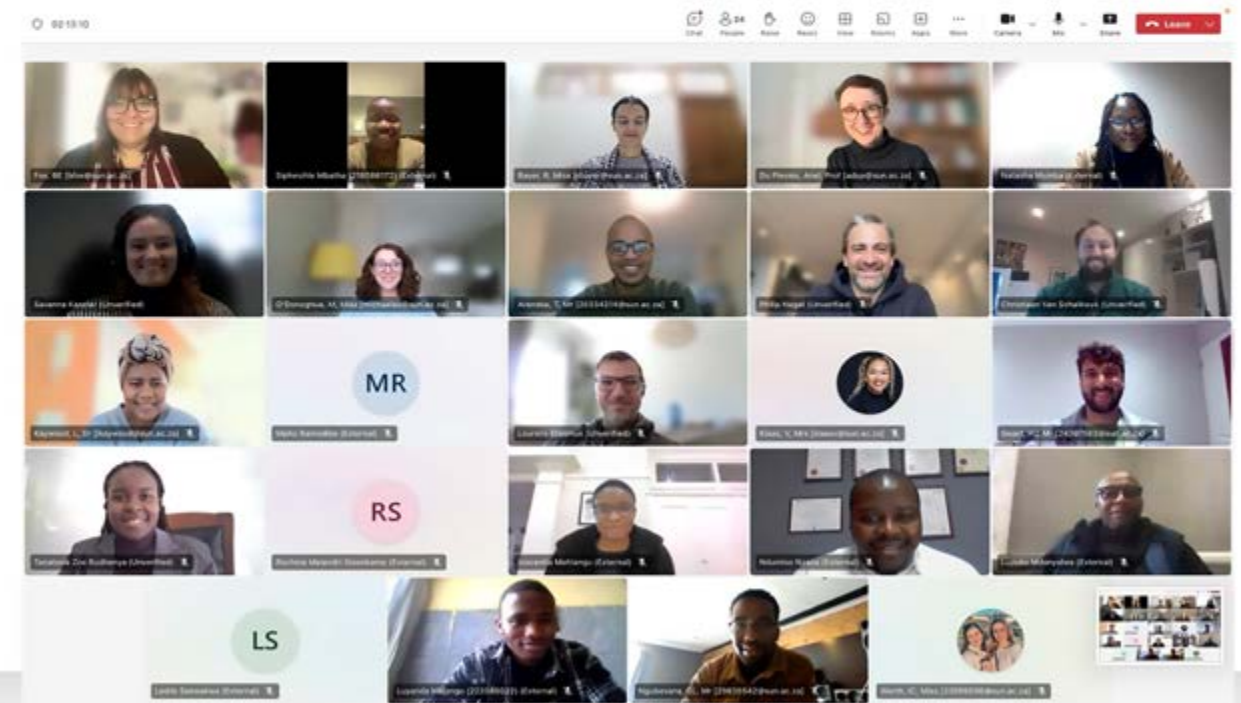
Colloquium on “Green(ing) Finance and Economic Development in Pursuance of Global Climate Change Law Imperatives” group photo.



Judge Dennis Davis giving his keynote address.



Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance
Faculty of Law



ULSG 2nd Postgraduate Student Conference Group Photo.

ULSG Chair's 2nd Annual National Multidisciplinary Postgraduate Student Conference

On 17 July, the ULSG Chair hosted its 2nd Annual National Multidisciplinary Postgraduate Student Conference with the theme of “Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Urban Development Research: Conservation in the Face of Urbanisation”. It was a virtual event marketed to postgraduate students and organised by postgraduate students – Robyn Bayer and Michaela O'Donoghue. The event attracted student researchers from 7 institutions in Southern Africa in various stages of study and was a wonderful, inclusive opportunity for peer feedback, networking and sharing of the latest research in the intersecting areas of law, governance, conservation, climate change and urbanisation.

Michaela O'Donoghue, LLM Researcher in the Chair, was awarded the Best Presenter Prize for her outstanding presentation, titled

“Environmental injustice as a consequence of urbanisation: manifestations, causes, consequences, and potential remedies”. Philipp Nagel, from the University of Cape Town, was the runner-up for his presentation on “Accommodating the Adaptation Needs of Biodiversity to Climate Change through Regulation: a South African Perspective”.

It was an exciting day with brilliant postgraduates who shared their ongoing work and contributed to a vibrant, interdisciplinary dialogue.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

The ULSG Chair's postdoctoral fellows, Dr Bryony Fox and Dr Lungelwa Kaywood, attended the Southern African Development Community's Regional Seminar on Children's Rights and Climate Change, which was hosted by the Dulla Omar Institute from 2 to 4 July at the University of the Western Cape. The seminar brought together stakeholders from across the region to explore how collection child-responsive action can be championed in the face of growing environmental challenges. Dr Fox offered insights from her ongoing research on climate displacement and children's rights in Africa, helping to inform discussions on rights-based, regionally grounded approaches to climate and child justice.

Right: Dr Kaywood at the International Conference on Public Procurement Regulation and Policy in Africa.



From 9 to 11 September, Dr Fox played a key role in the administration and organisation of the Faculty's 2nd Annual International Conference on Children's Rights. She also chaired one of the opening sessions on Artificial Intelligence, Data Protection & Children's Rights.

Left: Dr Fox at the International Conference on Children's Rights

On 11 September Dr Fox co-presented with Professor Geo Quinot at the Regional Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by the University of Cape Town. They showcased their work on the innovative new capstone module at SU Law, Integrated Legal Studies.

Right: Dr Kaywood and Dr Fox at the Southern African Development Community's Regional Seminar on Children's Rights and Climate Change.



Above: Dr Fox's presentation title at UCT.

Dr Fox presented at the University of Cape Town on 28 October, discussing "From Science to Obligation: Why the ICJ's Climate Change Opinion Matters for Researchers". She unpacked the ICJ's 2025 Climate Change Advisory Opinion, which grounds States' legal duties in climate science and human rights, marking a shift from climate impunity to accountability. She highlighted the Advisory Opinion's potential impact on domestic law, looking to the Climate Change Act 2024 and the Opinion's first use in the case of *Ho'Imggjin v Canada* (2025)..

On 13 September, Dr Kaywood delivered a presentation titled "Transforming Public Procurement through 'Public Value in South Africa'" at the 5th International Conference on Public Procurement Regulation and Policy in Africa. Dr Kaywood advocated for a paradigm shift in South Africa's public procurement system to a strategic framework that delivers measurable public value through inclusive, sustainable, and transformative investment.

On 8 October, Dr Kaywood presented "A Roadmap to Fiscal Sustainability and Service Delivery Excellence" at the 96th Conference for the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers. Dr Kaywood's presentation highlighted the importance of achieving a municipal revenue collection of over 90% as a foundation for sustainable municipal service delivery and municipal fiscal health.

From 22 to 24 October, Dr Kaywood attended and presented at the 18th edition of the International Winelands Conference hosted by the School of Public Leadership at Stellenbosch University exploring how citizen engagement and leadership are being reshaped in the face of global and domestic challenges. Dr Kaywood's presentation, titled "Courts and Public Accountability: An Analysis of Judicial Interventions in South African Local Government", analysed how South African courts are increasingly intervening in local government failures through structural interdicts to enforce constitutional compliance, uphold socio-economic rights, and promote public accountability amid systemic dysfunction.



Dr Kaywood at the 18th International Winelands Conference.

Participation in the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar

This year, two of the Chair's LLM researchers presented at the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar on aspects of their work. Michaela O'Donoghue's presentation was entitled "Environmental Injustice as a Human Rights Concern in Urban South Africa", with Robyn Bayer presenting on "A Human Rights Perspective on Ecological Restoration management in South African Protected Areas". Both presenters enjoyed the productive day of engagement and received constructive feedback on their research. The ULSG Chair extends its thanks to the HF Oppenheimer Chair for hosting another enjoyable Postgraduate Seminar.



Michaela and Robyn at the Human Rights Postgraduate Seminar.

Environmental Law Association of South Africa (ELA) Student Conference

On 8 October, the Environmental Law Association (ELA) hosted their Annual Student Conference. Two of the Chair's Master's students participated, with Robyn Bayer travelling to the University of Venda in Limpopo and Michaela O'Donoghue presenting online. Robyn stayed for the week to also attend the ELA's three-day Annual Conference from 9 to 11 October, which included a visit to the Kruger National Park (which Robyn is using as a case study in her research). The theme was "The Environment and Jus-

tifiable Limits on Development". Michaela presented from a portion of her research on "Development and Urbanisation as Drivers of Environmental Justice". Robyn's presentation offered a South African legal perspective on "Balancing Biodiversity Conservation, Ecological Restoration and Development in Protected Areas". Both students did the Chair proud in their presentations, and we congratulate Robyn on representing the Chair so well in Limpopo.



Robyn at the ELA Conference

Joachim Herz Doctoral School of Law at Leuphana University in Lüneberg, Germany

From 8 to 10 July, Professor Du Plessis was a guest lecturer at the Joachim Herz Doctoral School of Law at Leuphana University in Lüneberg, Germany. There, she facilitated a workshop on legal research methods, as well as on conducting legal research on transformative law and governance with the "Global South". For the participating research cohort, this involved reflecting on their methodological approaches, as well as the perspectives adopted in their doctoral research projects. By transforming the class into a hybrid space, she fa-

cilitated the participation of SU Law postgraduate researchers as well as researchers from the South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability at the North-West University. The programme also featured interactive discussion sessions with Professor Dr Jelena Bäumler (Leuphana University) and Professor Louis Kotzé (Wageningen University).

Below: Prof Anél du Plessis with students at the Joachim Herz Doctoral School of Law at Leuphana University in Lüneberg, Germany.



2025 ESIL Annual Conference

From 10 to 13 September, Professor Anél du Plessis attended the 20th Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law at Freie Universität, Berlin. The theme this year was "Reconstructing International Law".

Professor Du Plessis was invited as a panel member based on her work in recent years on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 11 and 13. She presented her views on the substance and process of a post-2030 international development agenda. She enjoyed contributing to this year's programme in what she calls her favourite city and to be joined by 600 international law academics and practitioners from all over the world. The conference further created an opportunity for Professor Du Plessis to meet with the Chairpersons and Co-Rapporteur of the International Law Associ-

ation Committee on Urbanisation and International Law, on which she also serves as a co-rapporteur.



Prof Du Plessis with the Chairpersons and Co-Rapporteur of the ILA Committee on Urbanisation and International Law (Prof Helmut Aust, Prof Janne Nijman, and Prof Mirko Sossai).

2025 SU Research and Innovation Excellence Awards

On 30 October some of Stellenbosch's University brightest minds gathered for the 2025 Research and Innovation Excellence Awards.

Dr Bryony Fox was selected as one the DVC's Top 7 Postdoctoral Research Fellows. This award recognises postdoctoral research fellows who have contributed to research, scholarship and community through publications, grants awarded, participation in supervision and teaching, and engagement with

community, government and industry.

Professor Anél du Plessis received an award in the "Women in Research Category" where she was identified as a female researcher who has demonstrated significant growth in publications, postgraduate supervision, and mentoring of others.

Below: Dr Fox and Prof Du Plessis at the Research Awards.



Prof Du Plessis at KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology Global Week 2025

From 17 to 21 November, Professor Anél du Plessis was invited to participate in the Annual Global Week of KU Leuven, Belgium. She was specifically hosted by Profs Dorothy Gruyart and Vincent Sagaert.

The Global Week commenced with a conference on the future of law and criminology. Professor Du Plessis presented a paper in the sustainability law stream, focussing on the legally relevant implications of urban informality for a future (post-2030) development agenda.

For the remainder of the week, Professor Du Plessis presented a course on "Climate Law and Urban Sustainability: Global South Perspectives". The course was well attended by students from various countries.

During her visit, Professors Dorothy Gruyaert and Vincent Saegart served as hosts



Top: Prof Du Plessis at KU Leuven with the Annual Global Week Cohort.

Right: Leuven

Hannes Swart on LLM exchange at Utrecht University

Hannes Swart is an LLM researcher in the ULSG Chair and is completing the second semester of his degree (August 2025 to January 2026) on exchange at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. His coursework at Utrecht focuses on International Environmental Law, aligning closely with his interest in sustainable urban development. He recently completed his LLM research paper on the topic of "Recharging South African Law Regulating Battery Waste for Sustainable Urban Development". This study was conducted under the supervision of Professor Anél du Plessis.

Right: Hannes at Utrecht University.



Prof Helen Keller pays SU Law a three-month research visit

From September to December, the ULSG Chair was delighted to welcome Professor Helen Keller as a visiting researcher. She is professor of law at the University of Zurich and was a judge at the European Court of Human Rights from 2011 until 2020. From 2008 to 2011, she was also a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Since December 2020, she serves as a judge at the Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During her visit in Stellenbosch, Professor Keller gave an excellent and thought-provoking presentation on the *KlimaSeniorinnen v Switzerland* case, decided in 2024 by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to the students of the LLM elective module Climate Change Law and Sustainability Governance. She also gave a presentation on 14 October on her experiences as a judge of the ECtHR and her responsibilities there. Her presentations and guest lectures were well attended by students at all levels of study, as well as by interested colleagues.

Professor Keller further took centre stage again on 28 October when she presented at the Environmental Law Association's (ELA) Western Cape Regional Event. This event was hosted collaboratively by the ULSG Chair and the ELA. At this event, Professor Keller took the audience through some of the Court's recent judgments on climate change, including the latest judgment of *Greenpeace Nordic and Others v Norway* (ECtHR, 28 October 2025).



Top: Prof Keller

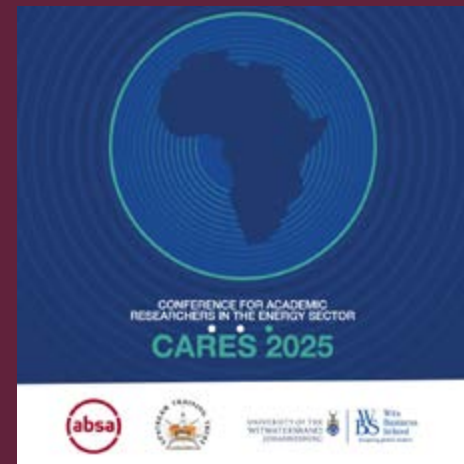
Bottom: Prof Keller and Prof Du Plessis with the LLM class in Climate Change Law and Sustainability Governance.

Conference for Academic Researchers in the Energy Sector

On Wednesday, 26 November, one of the Chair's LLD researchers, Camagu Ngubevana, participated virtually in the Conference for Academic Researchers in the Energy Sector (CARES) held at Wits Business School. Camagu's presentation, entitled "Securing South Africa's Just Energy Future: Governing the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus in Environ-

mental Law", is derived from his doctoral research and considers Mandatory WEF Nexus Scoping in Environmental Impact Assessments and a binding Strategic Environmental Assessment framework.

For his presentation, Camagu was awarded the Best Online Presentation Award.



Top: Camagu's cover slide. | Top right: CARES logo.

Gys Steyn Chair in Financial Regulation Law

On 25 September 2025, the Law Faculty was honoured to host Mr Lesetja Kganyago, Governor of the South African Reserve Bank and Chancellor of Stellenbosch University. He delivered the second Annual Lecture of the Gys Steyn Chair in Financial Regulation Law on the highly relevant topic of "More or less regulation: Responding to a changing global environment".

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, welcomed guests, "This lecture series has established itself as an important dialogue at the intersection of law, economics and society."

In his address, Mr Kganyago warned against weak-

ening financial safeguards in the face of rising risks – from AI and crypto assets to climate change and geopolitical tensions.

"We do not need deregulation. Instead, we can regulate more smartly, but the risk environment requires us to step up, not step back."

The Gys Steyn Chair in Financial Regulation Law – the first of its kind in South Africa – was established through a Steyn family endowment to advance teaching, research and debate on financial stability.



SAIPAR Workshop

Professor Johann Scholtz addressed the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) Workshop on International Trade and Commercial Transactions in Lusaka, Zambia, on 10 and 11 July 2025. He was joined by Professor Muna Ndulo of Cornell Law School and Professors Charl Hugo,

Hennie Strydom, and Cayle Lupton of the University of Johannesburg. The delegates were honoured that Dr Mumba Malila SC, the Chief Justice of Zambia, opened the conference and that he and five of his colleagues on the Bench participated.



ABLU 2025

It was an annual highlight for Professor Johann Scholtz to attend the Annual Banking Law Update

(ABLU) 2025, and to chair the session on "Financial and Credit Regulation".



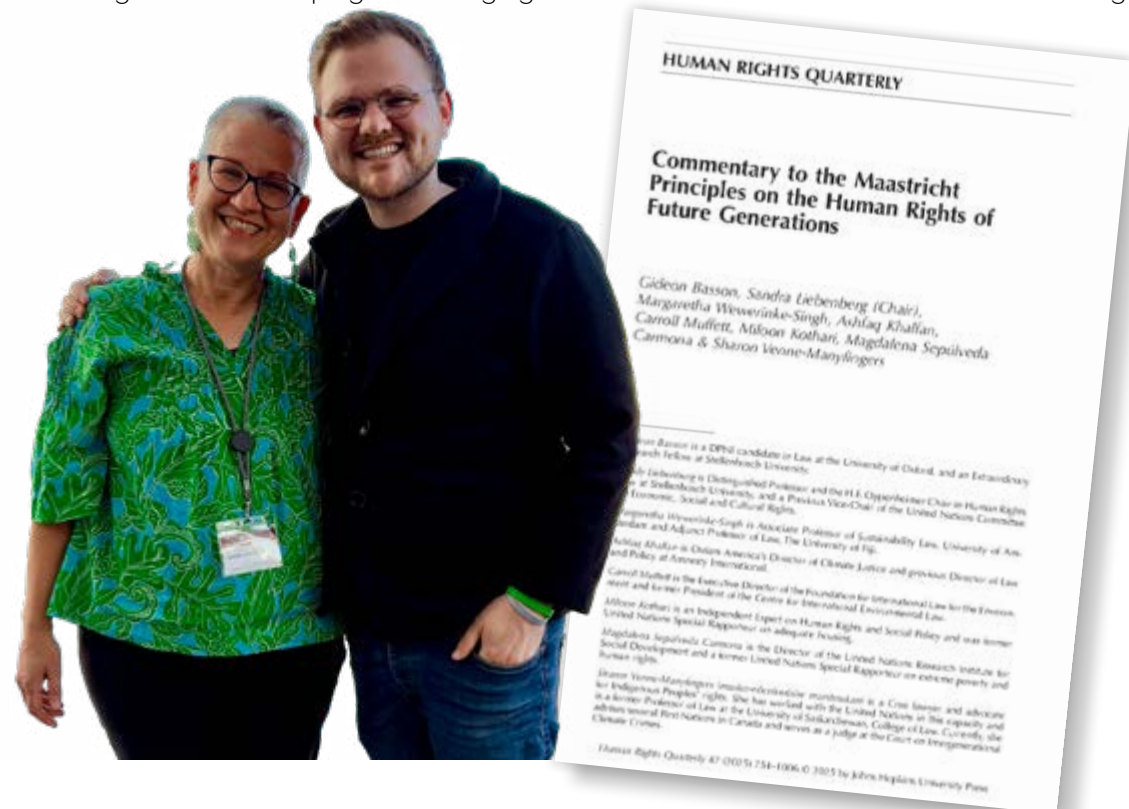
HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law

Publication of Landmark Commentary on the Human Rights of Future Generations

Professor Sandra Liebenberg and Gideon Basson (Extraordinary Research Fellow in the Department of Public Law) played central roles in the recently published "Commentary to the Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations", featured in the prestigious journal *Human Rights Quarterly* (Vol. 47, No. 4, 2025). The publication is the result of several years of close collaboration and intensive research, consultation, and drafting by a global expert group of eight international human rights law specialists, chaired by Professor Liebenberg. Gideon Basson, as a member of the drafting group, made a significant contribution to the drafting of the Commentary, leading to him being reflected as first author of the Commentary.

The Commentary offers a detailed exposition of each of the 36 Principles and the sources supporting them. Drawing on and developing the emerging

body of law on the human rights of future generations across international, regional, and domestic systems, the Commentary gives these Principles legal substance. It elaborates on the obligations of States, intergovernmental organisations, and non-State actors to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of future generations. Among its key themes are the need to redress historical injustices, including colonialism, slavery, racism, and patriarchy, and to ensure that their legacies are not transmitted to future generations. The Commentary further explores the interconnections between intra- and intergenerational human rights obligations in fulfilling the rights of present and future generations simultaneously. It also underscores the importance of upholding the rights and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local and traditional communities as vital custodians of the human rights of



future generations. Other central themes include intergenerational trusteeship, international solidarity, and innovative approaches to ensuring the participation and representation of future generations, alongside strengthened accountability mechanisms and remedial approaches for violations of the human rights of future generations.

The Principles and Commentary represent the fourth major contribution of the Maastricht Initiative, following three earlier influential developments: the *Limburg Principles on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1986), the *Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1997), and the *Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (2011).

The Principles and their Commentary arrive at a

critical juncture for strengthening and embedding intra- and intergenerational justice within human rights protection and advancement. They mark an important step towards long-term, intergenerational thinking in human rights law at a time when existential threats to humanity and the systems sustaining life are escalating. The Principles and Commentary are already influencing human rights developments, having been cited by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its *Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights*, by the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights' in its *General Comment No. 27 on the Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable Development*, and by several United Nations Special Rapporteurs of independent human rights experts in thematic reports on *climate change*, *extreme poverty*, and *development*.

Read more about the project [here](#).

Prof Danie Brand's Visit to H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law

Professor Danie Brand, Director of the University of Free State Centre for Human Rights visited the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law from 29 September to 2 October 2025. In addition to discussions on collaborative projects, Professor Brand gave a very well-received guest lecture to the Constitutional Law 451 elective students entitled, "Democratising our Law". This lecture focused on recent research by Professor Brand on the democ-

ratiation of land reform and housing law in South Africa. The Chair also hosted a staff/postgraduate seminar presented by him entitled, "Transformative Constitutionalism: Is there Still a Private Law" based on recent research. The seminar was attended by postgraduate students and staff from all the departments and gave rise to a spirited and lively engagement on the implications of the Constitution for the transformation of private law.



Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide Seminar

"South Africa acted in terms of UN prescripts and also in full awareness that international solidarity is a powerful weapon in resisting and combating oppression."

These were the words of Dr Naledi Pandor – an icon of the liberation movement in South Africa, long-standing Cabinet member, former Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, and currently Chair of the Nelson Mandela Foundation – at a seminar hosted by the H.F Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law on 10 October 2025 entitled, *Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide: South Africa and Gaza*.

In her address Dr Pandor explored various themes related to the gross violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law and genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians in Gaza and the recent ceasefire agreement and "Peace Plan". She also explored the contributions, but also weaknesses of the United Nations, arguing that principled actions in defence of international law – such as South Africa's case before the International Court of Justice to enforce the provisions of

the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) – could be a first step towards restoring the effectiveness and legitimacy of international law.

Finally, she addressed the contribution of academics and Universities at the current juncture, including solidarity actions, support for the reconstruction of Gaza, and building linkages with Palestinian academics. She also highlighted the role that academics could play in calling for "a genuine liberating plan and not a semi-colonial arrangement" and supporting the struggle of Palestinians for sovereignty through "a democratic state founded on human dignity and freedom."

The seminar was very well attended by staff, students, members of the public and civil society organisations. Assistance in the organisation of the seminar was provided by Dr Tanveer Jeewa, post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Public Law, the Gift of the Givers Foundation, and the University's Facilities Management team.



Participants and audience members from the 4th Annual Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar

H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law hosts the 4th Annual Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar at Silo and Shed

On 9 September 2025, the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Professor Sandra Liebenberg ("Chair"), hosted the 4th Annual Postgraduate Human Rights Seminar ("Seminar"), supported by Acting Vice-Deans Professors Bradley Slade and Theo Broodryk. The Seminar was well-attended by post-graduate students and post-doctoral scholars. The Chair was grateful to have Professors Christoph Garbers, Philip Sutherland and Leo Boonzaier, as well as Dr Ntando Sindane, Dr Tanveer Jeewa, Dr John-dré Barnes and Ms Coline Bruintjies at the Seminar. The participants deeply benefitted from their comments and questions.

The purpose of the Seminar is to provide post-graduate LLM and LLD students and post-doctoral scholars with an opportunity to present a selected piece of recent research in the area of human rights (broadly defined) to their peers and staff in the law faculty, and to engage with questions and comments on their presentation. The research presented on the day included, for example, research proposals, chapters of a thesis/dissertation, and journal articles. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the day and

remarked that the Seminar gave them an excellent opportunity to foster a sense of community and collegiality amongst their community of scholars.

Further, the Seminar truly facilitated an exchange of ideas and information from differently fields and perspectives. The presentations on the day included some of the following topics: the gendered impacts of climate change on South African women; new perspectives on neighbour law in contemporary South Africa; adjudicating the right against unfair discrimination on the grounds of citizenship; empowering consumers affected by algorithmic credit scoring; the potential of a constitutional right to public transport under South African law; and the pursuit of workplace equality for women in South Africa. This exchange allowed for the enrichment of the participant's research by generating new ideas and different angles not previously considered. Overall, the Seminar was a success and the Chair thanks everyone that was involved on the day, especially Dr Anisa Mahmoudi for her work in organising the Seminar.



Justice Madlanga visits the Faculty



The Stellenbosch Law Faculty was abuzz during the week of 11 to 15 August 2025 with the visit by recently retired Acting Deputy Chief Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga to the Faculty hosted by Professor Sandra Liebenberg, H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law. Justice Madlanga is an honorary Professor in the Department of Public Law at the Faculty. It was a jam-packed visit with guest lectures to LLB students in Constitutional Law 451 and Integrated Legal Studies 444; a Staff/Postgraduate Seminar on the separation of powers doctrine; and a Student Engagement with law students organised by the Juridical Society (JV/S). The engagement with the students included themes such as the record of the Constitutional Court at 30 years; decolonisation and the South African Constitution; access to justice; and how to balance a personal life and the demands of a successful career in law. In between formal lectures and engagements Emeritus Justice Madlanga gave generously of his time over meals, coffee and informal chats with staff and students. The Faculty, and Chair, is honoured and immensely grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity with which Justice Madlanga engaged with staff and students during his visit.



Dr Anisa Mahmoudi Participates in African Human Rights Implementation Forum

Dr Anisa Mahmoudi, postdoctoral fellow in the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights, attended a significant event co-organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Equality Now in early October 2025. The event sought to examine the implementation of gender-related decisions from African regional human rights mechanisms.

The forum addressed a critical challenge facing human rights in Africa: the persistent gap between progressive judicial decisions and their practical implementation. Despite landmark rulings on gender equality from institutions such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the ECOWAS Court of Justice, state-level implementation continues to lag significantly. This implementation deficit represents one of the most pressing obstacles to advancing women's rights across the continent, with groundbreaking legal victories remaining largely theoretical rather than translating into tangible improvements in women's daily lives.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, creating a unique platform for cross-sectoral dialogue. Representatives from these AU human rights institutions engaged directly with members of the Pan African Parliament and the AU Office of the Legal Counsel, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society leaders and academics. This multifaceted gathering reflected a collective commitment to transforming judicial victories into meaningful change at the grassroots level.

A particular highlight of the gathering was an evening discussion centred on Dr Mahmoudi's recent book chapter examining cultural relativism and women's rights to positive cultural contexts through resocialisation. While women's right to a positive cultural context is explicitly protected in the Maputo Protocol, this right remains misunderstood and underutilised. The dialogue that emerged was both nuanced and dynamic, exploring the complex dual nature of culture in women's rights discourse. Participants grappled with how cultural values are frequently weaponised by governments, institutions and individuals to justify the continued oppression of women and the delays in implementing women's rights, whilst acknowledging that these same cultural frameworks remain integral to women's identity, community belonging, and lived experience.

The discussions revealed how culture operates as both barrier and bridge in the advancement of gender equality. Delegates shared numerous examples of governments invoking "traditional values" or "cultural sensitivities" as justification for non-compliance with human rights obligations, even as women themselves navigate and negotiate their rights within these cultural contexts. Dr Mahmoudi's framework of resocialisation offers a pathway forward, suggesting how positive cultural contexts can be cultivated to support rather than undermine women's rights.

Participants departed with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to contributing meaningfully towards facilitating the implementation of gender-related decisions on the continent.



Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Reparations in Africa: Expert Symposium hosted by the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law and SU Transformation Committee



Participants and audience members from the Symposium on Gender Dimensions of Reparations in Africa

On 18 August 2025, the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Professor Sandra Liebenberg, hosted the Symposium on Gender Dimensions of Reparations in Africa in collaboration with the Faculty's Transformation Committee. The event was conceptualised and organised by Dr Anisa Mahmoudi, postdoctoral fellow to the Chair, and Ms Coline Bruntjies, Lecturer in the Department of Public Law.

The Symposium opened with an inspiring address by Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana, Senior Lecturer in the Public Law Department at the University of Cape Town. Dr Ramalekana reflected on the African Union's resolution on Africa's Reparations Agenda, exploring how gendered and Afro-Feminist approaches can enrich reparations frameworks. Her remarks were particularly timely, as the African Union has declared 2025 the Year of "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations". Notably, the African Union's concept note omits reference to colonialism, apartheid, and slavery and the distinct manner in which these have impacted women and girls on the African continent. Dr Ramalekana challenged participants to engage critically with the legal and other tools available to address historical gender injustices and their contemporary manifestations on the African continent.

The address set the tone for a day of thought-provoking discussions among experts, activists, and

scholars on the intersection of historical colonial harms, contemporary gender-based violence, and the need for transformative reparations that centre on African women's experiences and perspectives.

The Symposium concluded with a collective commitment to action. Participants agreed to drafting a joint letter advocating for the inclusion of gender experts on the AU Committee of Experts, and to compile a comprehensive report capturing the day's deliberations. This report will be published in due course.



Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana, a Senior Lecturer in the Public Law Department at the University of Cape Town's Law Faculty, delivering the opening address



African Procurement Law Unit (APLU)

5th International Conference on Public Procurement Regulation & Policy in Africa

APLU hosted its 5th biennial international conference focusing on public procurement law and policy in Africa from 12 to 13 September in Stellenbosch. The Conference theme was "A New Dawn for Steering Public Procurement" and addressed a range of critically important legal and policy issues relating to reform of public procurement systems in Africa. More than 150 speakers and delegates from across the world gathered in Stellenbosch over the two days to discuss ongoing reforms, including the major current public procurement law reform in South Africa under the newly enacted Public Procurement Act

28 of 2024. The conference was opened by Western Cape Minister of Finance, Deidré Baartman, who is also an alumnus of the Law Faculty and its public procurement postgraduate programme. Other topics that came under the spotlight included public procurement under the AfCFTA, OECD MAPS assessments of African procurement systems, dispute resolution mechanisms, digitalisation of procurement, public-private partnerships, preferential procurement, data and transparency in procurement and procurement sustainability and public value.



At the opening of the conference: Prof Theo Broodryk (Vice Dean: Research), Prof Sope Williams, Minister Baartman and Prof Geo Quinot.



Public Procurement Law Training for the Office of the Public Protector of South Africa

Between May and November, APLU rolled out a second round of training sessions in public procurement law for all investigators of the Office of the Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA) across the country. This second round followed on the initial training programme delivered between 2016 and 2019. The second round was supported by the Deutsche Ge-

sellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as part of the Transparency, Integrity, and Accountability Programme in South Africa (TIP). It involved a full-week intensive training programme delivered by Professors Geo Quinot and Sope Williams at the various provincial and national offices of the PPSA.



Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP)

Pan-African Parliament Adopts Historic Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management

The Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP) is proud to announce a historic milestone for environmental governance in Africa. Following a collaborative effort between DROP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the German Environment Agency (UBA), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), a Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management was designed with the aim of achieving the highest possible policy impact at the African

Union level.

In a landmark decision, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) officially adopted this model law, marking the continent's first legal framework of its kind. This crucial step is expected to significantly contribute to regional food security and climate resilience.

(Read more about this decision: [Pan-African Parliament adopts continent's first Model Law](#) | [PAP Press Release](#).)

Professor Oliver Ruppel appointed to SU School for Climate Studies Team

Congratulations to Professor Oliver Ruppel, who has been appointed as a member of the Governing Board of the Stellenbosch University School for Climate Studies. This position further solidifies DROP's

commitment to integrated, cutting-edge climate research and action. (Meet the Governing Board: [SU School for Climate Studies Team](#).)

International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2025

DROP is pleased to announce the publication of the International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2025. This critical resource is now available open access, ensuring wide accessibility for policymakers, re-

searchers, and practitioners worldwide. Access the book here: [International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2025 \(Open Access\)](#).

United Nations Climate Change Conference: COP30

Leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) held in Belém, Brazil, DROP played a key role in an international dialogue focusing on the role of law in the climate crisis.

In an address to the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, Professor Oliver Ruppel emphasised

the value of international cooperation in global climate governance. A further highlight at the COP30 included a high-level panel on soil security from the ground up (for more information, see related event: [COP30 Soil Security Panel](#)).



Faculty and students | Fakulteit en studente

**Lectures • Conferences • Seminars •
Workshops • Book Launches**

International Child and Family Conference

From 17 to 19 June 2025, Dr Bridget Machaka attended the 1st International Child and Family Conference at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, where she presented a paper on the violations of migrant children's right to basic education in South Africa, focusing on the challenges hindering inclusion and the prospects for reform. Her presentation highlighted how, despite the Constitution guaranteeing basic education to "everyone," migrant children continue to face exclusion due to rigid documentation requirements, ID-dependent digital enrolment systems, and inconsistent provincial practices. Dr Machaka emphasised that institutional gaps further compound these challenges, as key departments such as Basic Education, Home Affairs, Social Development, and Justice often operate in silos, with limited co-ordination and support for schools. She also discussed how xenophobia and discriminatory attitudes within schools undermine the inclusion of migrant learners, while many parents avoid engaging with education officials for fear of deportation. Drawing on a doctrinal analysis of legislation, case law, and international instruments, her presentation illustrated both the legal and practical dimensions of this issue. Importantly, Dr Machaka noted that the recent enactment of the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act marks a significant step forward by explicitly requiring public schools to admit migrant and undocumented children. In her conclusion, Dr Machaka argued that while the BELA Act creates a stronger legal foundation for inclusive education, its success will depend on effective implementation, policy coherence, interdepartmental collaboration, and capacity-building at all

levels of the education system. She further called for public awareness campaigns, anti-xenophobia initiatives, and rights-based teacher training to foster truly inclusive schools. The conference provided a valuable platform for sharing South Africa's experiences and engaging with global perspectives on protecting the educational rights of all children.



Administrative Law Discussion Forum

On 24 to 25 June, Professor Geo Quinot participated in the Administrative Law Discussion Forum, held at the University of Stockholm, Sweden. The Forum, convened for the 14th time in 2025, brings together a small group of prominent administrative law scholars, mostly from Europe and the USA, to discuss matters of common interest. Professor Quinot

presented research on the judiciary-executive relationship and the evolution of judicial deference in South African administrative law, bringing a comparative perspective to one of the Forum's main focus areas in 2025, namely increasingly strained relationships between supreme courts and executive government.



Prof Christoph Garbers and Dr Aisha Adam accompany labour law students to Europe

Between June and July 2025, a group of top-performing LLB labour law students from Stellenbosch University had the opportunity to first visit the International Labour Organization (ILO) headquarters in Geneva. The group consisted of Alexandra Maartens, Alexia Cawood, Catherine Bruce, Jodie Duraan, Luca Bester and Nathan Smith. The visit to the ILO was hosted by Professor Ockert Dupper, Extraordinary Professor of the Stellenbosch Law Faculty and Head of the Vision Zero Fund at the ILO. The visit offered students an invaluable first-hand understanding of the ILO's global role in shaping labour standards and promoting decent work worldwide.

Following this experience, and then joined by two LLM students (Raffaela Clegg and Kaylee Krige), the Stellenbosch



team travelled to Slovenia to attend and participate in the 12th Annual Conference of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law, held at the University of Ljubljana from 2-4 July 2025. Themed "The (R)evolution of Equality Law: Reflecting on 25 Years of Anti-Discrimination Law in Europe & Beyond," the conference brought together leading equality scholars and practitioners from around the world.

Professor Garbers and Dr Adam presented a joint paper titled "Equality in Crisis: Success and Failure in the Most Unequal Society in the World." Their presentation examined South Africa's constitutional and legislative trajectory on equality, highlighting the tension between a progressive legal framework and persistent structural inequality. Presented as part of the African panel at the conference – a panel chaired by Professor Joelle Nwabueze from Nigeria and including Professor Cathi Albertyn from Wits – the conceptual links between dignity, equality, and socio-economic justice, particularly within the South African context, were explored.

The Geneva and Ljubljana experiences offered students and staff a rare global perspective on the future of equality and labour law and reaffirmed

Stellenbosch Law's growing presence on the international stage. For the students, the conference was both intellectually and personally transformative. Alexandra Maartens, an LLB student, reflected on the conference:

"The breadth of topics covered was impressive. Some of the most memorable topics delved into the reformation of equality laws in Europe, regressive hate-speech legislation in Australia, and the significance of promoting gender equality in Cameroon's boardrooms. I also enjoyed learning about discrimination in immigration laws in Europe. And of course, a huge highlight of the conference for me was the panel discussion carried out by Dr Adam and Professor Garbers."

The Stellenbosch students also made an impression. After interacting with the students, Dr Azzi from the ILO noted:

"I must say, I have given many talks in my time, but never have I seen such an engaged and bright group of people... I hope they keep their drive and curiosity and critical thinking in life... It was a pleasure to have contributed and participated in this session."



2025 Global Scholars Academy

From 30 June to 4 July, the Faculty collaborated with Harvard Law School's IGLP to convene the Global Scholars Academy in Stellenbosch. The Faculty is grateful for the participation and support of scholars, post doctoral fellows and students from

all continents for making this third GSA hosted by the IGLP, Harvard Law School and SU Law a fantastic success. (Read more: <https://www.su.ac.za/en/node/20153> and <https://iglp.law.harvard.edu/events/2025gsa/>.)

ICON•S 2025 Annual Conference

From 28 to 30 July, Professor Geo Quinot participated in the **ICON•S 2025 Annual Conference** in Brasilia, Brazil, the annual conference of the largest international scholarly association in public law – the International Society of Public Law. The conference involved over 340 sessions over the 3 days with participants from all corners of the globe. Professor Quinot participated in a session focusing on public auditing in contemporary governance in which he reflected on the role of the South African Auditor-General as both an enforcer and subject of administrative justice.



Southern African Law Teachers Conference

The Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria hosted the 2025 edition of the Southern African Law Teachers Conference (SALTC) from 13 to 18 July under the theme: "Reflections on constitutional supremacy in Southern Africa: Reviewing the impact on law teaching, learning, and practice." The Faculty was represented by Professor Juanita Pienaar, Professor Bradley Slade, Professor Bernard Wessels, Professor Delano van der Linde, Ms Ebrezia John-

son, Ms Coline Bruintjies, Dr Ntando Sindane, Ms Zinhle Novazi, and Mr Thala Msutu.

Ms Zinhle Novazi was the third runner-up for the "first-time presenter award" for her paper was based on Technologically Facilitated GBV. During the conference, Professor Slade was re-elected as the vice-president of the Southern African Law Teachers Society.



Virtual Public Lecture

Professor Delano van der Linde was invited to present a virtual public lecture at the Wits School of Law on 5 August. The lecture focused on Image-Based Sexual Abuse, which includes the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sexual extortion (or "sextortion"). Professor van der Linde focused on the legislative landscape dealing with these crime forms and whether South Africa is equipped to deal with

these phenomena. He also focused on the modus operandi of those who commit these crimes as well as the psychological impact on victims. Professor van der Linde has published a number of articles on the topic in the past few years (see Van der Linde, DC "Some notes on non-consensual or 'revenge porn' under the Film and Publications Amendment Act (2021) *Tydskrif vir Hedendaagse Romeins-Hol-*

landse Reg; DC van der Linde "An analysis of the offences relating to malicious communications and associated court orders under the Cyber-crimes Act 19 of 2020" (2024) 37(3) *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* 363-394; DC van der Linde "Recent Cases: General principles and specific offences" (2025) 38(1) *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* 134-147)



Professor Alain-Laurent Verbeke: Inaugural Lecture

The Faculty was honoured to host Professor Alain-Laurent Verbeke's (*TPR Tijdschrift voor Privaatrecht Leerstoel*) inaugural lecture on 14 August. Professor Verbeke delivered an inspiring address titled "Study for a dialogue on foundations of inheritance law and taxation". With nearly four decades of experience bridging legal scholarship and

practice, Professor Verbeke's insights into the intersection of law, psychology, and human relationships provided our academic community with invaluable perspectives on contemporary legal challenges. Thank you to all colleagues and guests who attended this exceptional evening of legal scholarship.

