



Dear

It is always a delight to hear about our alumni taking up positions (across the globe) and bringing meaning to our LLB and our postgraduate law qualifications.

Graduation

Perhaps even more affirming is the occasion of graduation. We were thrilled to witness and celebrate the July 2021 conferral of 144 LLB degrees, 9 postgraduate diplomas in Law, 127 LLMs and MPhil degrees, and 11 PhDs. These degrees were all achieved in spite of the turmoil into which we were all thrown last year – so we are especially proud of all of those who have joined the ranks of qualified alumni of UCT Law.

While we once again had to forfeit in-person graduation - and the triumphant feeling of traversing the big hall to be capped by the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor - we ensured that our new graduates nevertheless felt celebrated. The recordings of our LLB and postgraduate celebration events are [available on the Faculty's youtube channel for posterity](#).

Faculty Highlights

It has been energising to see the profiling of our colleagues' work on the UCT News platform in the last 8 weeks or so. We have seen articles about Association Professor Fatima Khan's [work in the Refugee Rights Unit](#); Yellavame Moodley's work on [equitable access to justice through the UCT Law Clinic](#); a new MoU-based [partnership between UCT Law and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague](#), secured by Associate Prof Debbie Collier and alumnus and adjunct professor Lise Bosman; Vanja Karth's work through the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit around [judicial training](#), and a [new MoU with the UNHCR](#); Dr Karin Lehmann's work [challenging the constitutionality of the Pension Funds Act](#); Nolundi Luwaya's focus on [rural women to drive land reform](#), through the Land and Accountability Research Centre; Associate Prof Waheeda Amien's [appointment to the South African Law Reform Commission's \(SALRC\) Advisory Committee](#) on the Review of Aspects of Matrimonial Property Law; the refreshed [International Rights of the Child LLM course for 2022](#), to be taught by Nurina Ally, Salona Lutchman and Mathabo Baase; and [Jameelah Omar's work on the efficacy of our courts](#).

An additional exciting new development is the *Constitution Compass* - an app for members of the South African Parliament that allows them to browse, search and understand the Constitution and how it applies to everyone. It offers continuously updated and curated information, plain language summaries and guides interpreting the provisions of the Constitution, as well as Rules of the National Assembly. Developed by UCT staff and postgraduate students, the Constitution Compass will soon see the addition of isiZulu and isiXhosa translations of the Constitution and the guides. Our ambition is to roll out the app in other African countries, as well as and for other audiences needing access to legal content presented in plain language. [By visiting the project website, you are able to browse the site content online.](#)

A new Law scholarship

I was particularly delighted recently to be able to launch the Everard & Joan Macfarlane Family Leadership Scholarship programme, made possible through an extremely generous endowment from Roger Macfarlane (LLB Class of 1968) and his family. By 2022, we should have at least eight academically excellent students supported through this scholarship – support that goes beyond funding to include leadership development initiatives and academic mentoring. [The UCT News article about the scholarship is available online.](#)

Public events

We will be hosting both the Rabinowitz Annual Lecture and the Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture in October this year, both remotely (although we are hoping to be able to accommodate small in-person audiences). Judge Jody Kollapen will deliver the Rabinowitz lecture, on the issue of children's rights; and the Ben Beinart lecture will focus on artificial intelligence and the Law.

On 14 October, we are hosting a discussion on the South African judiciary and whether we are in a crisis or not. Keep an eye out on our social media (@UCTLaw), [the UCT Alumni Connect platform](#), and our [Faculty website](#) for details and event registration links for these three events.

In memoriam

In amongst the many causes for celebration, we have also had to bid farewell to loved ones, colleagues and friends. The Faculty has been devastated by the passing of Mrs Vanessa Stemmet, our Finance Manager. With us at the Faculty for 11 years, Vanessa was known to and loved by staff and students alike. We would also like to remember Mr Terence Matzdorff, LLB Class of 1977 (and LLM 1989), who kept in touch with the Faculty and attended many of our events. We know many of you have lost loved ones, and we hold you and your families in our thoughts and prayers – particularly as we try to find our way through the pandemic to clearer and hopefully less challenged paths.

Stay healthy and well,

Danwood

Professor Danwood Chirwa | Dean of Law

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