



Dear Alumni and Friends

The academic year has begun. Every year in January and February our Faculty staff pull together in a tremendous team effort to ensure that all our programmes are ready to deliver, that we have provided a warm welcome to our incoming first-year LLB students, that our undergraduates and postgraduates are fully registered, that our Law Library is stocked with the latest materials, and that our classrooms are ready for the year. I am delighted that although this year has started a month later than usual due to the impact of the pandemic on our academic calendar and the late finish to 2020, our (virtual) classes are now underway.

#### The future of fees?

You may have read about the challenges that South Africa's National Students Financial Assistance Scheme (NSFAS) faced in ensuring adequate funding for all of 2021's qualifying students. Although this has been partially resolved, we are deeply concerned by the withdrawal of funding support for students doing the 3-year graduate LLB degree, and we are looking into mechanisms in addition to donor-funded scholarships to ensure that we can continue to attract students to the LLB programme.

#### Prolific publication

Adapting to the new teaching and learning environment has not stopped our Law colleagues from pushing forward with their research, developing new legal knowledge, and publishing books and articles. Among our academic staff, researchers, postdoctoral research fellows and alumni, a few of the more recent publications (among many others) include Professor Caroline Neube's book *Science, Technology & Innovation and Intellectual Property: Leveraging Openness for Sustainable Development in Africa*; the new *Research Handbook on International Commercial Contracts*, co-edited by Associate Professor Andrew Hutchison; the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *South African Constitutional Law in Context*, edited by Professor Pierre de Vos; *Multi-sided Music Platforms and the Law* from Dr Chijioke Okorie, PhD alumnus and postdoctoral research fellow; *Corporate Social Responsibility and Law in Africa: Theories, Issues and Practices* by Dr Nojeem Amodu, by Dr Nojeem Amodu, a recent postdoctoral research fellow in the Faculty; and *Intellectual Property Law in Nigeria: Emerging Trends, Theories and Practice* co-authored by Dr Desmond Oriakhogba, PhD alumnus and postdoctoral research fellow.

\* Keep an eye out for the forthcoming *UCT Law Annual* which will cover five years of Faculty achievements, including publications, as well as insights into the Faculty's future.

#### Law & Technology

After 2020 put dents in our progress, we are delighted to be pushing forward with our implementation plans for the Faculty's new *iNtaka Centre for Law & Technology*. The iNtaka Centre will provide the intellectual space for exploration of the multiple questions at the intersection of law and technology. New office space has been allocated to the Faculty in the Kramer building, and we will now be able to establish a physical presence for the Centre, to be the home of our Law & Technology initiatives under the direction of Associate Professor Tobias Schonwetter. With the enormous potential opened up through the Centre, the Faculty will work to become the preferred destination in Africa for multi-disciplinary research on the interplay between technology, regulation, innovation and human rights.

#### Alumni news

I would like warmly to congratulate Mr Ezra Davids (LLB Class of 1992) who has been appointed as Deputy Chairman at Bowmans. I would be so pleased to hear of your news and achievements, so do let us know where you are and what you are busy with – and we encourage you to join *UCT Alumni Connect* at the link below, where you can be in touch directly with classmates, friends and other UCT graduates.

Yours in Law,

**Danwood**

**Professor Danwood Chirwa | Dean of Law**

Excellence in Law

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