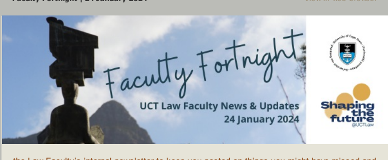


the Law Faculty's internal newsletter to keep you posted on things you might have missed and events, publications and initiatives to look out for.

In this issue

* Staff News * Staff Development * Lectures, Conferences & Seminars * Events * Publications * Faculty Research * Engaged Scholarship * Announcements & Notes *

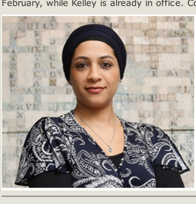
FACULTY VISION

A key area of work in achieving our Faculty Vision is **building a system that stimulates and sustains specialised, integrated research clusters and expertise, networks and partnerships.**

The Faculty's Vision 2030 statement is available on our website as a pdf for easy download.

STAFF NEWS

The Dean announced today that we now have both Deputy Deans formally appointed. They are (left, below) **Associate Professor Jameelah Omar** (Undergraduate Studies) and (right, below) **Associate Professor Kelley Moult** (Postgraduate Studies), both appointed for five years. Jameelah starts on 1 February, while Kelley is already in office. Congratulations to both colleagues!



NEW STAFF AT KRAMER

The Faculty a cohort of new staff this year, and we will continue to welcome new colleagues as the year unfolds. We have a number of new colleagues starting in Public Law, and Commercial Law currently has four posts under advertisement.

We welcome **Dr Denning Metuge** to our Public Law Department. Denning is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Marine and environmental Law (IMEL), who specialises in the Law of the Sea and Marine Spatial Planning Law. He teaches and convenes IMEL's post-graduate course on the Law of the Sea and co-teaches IMEL's International Environmental Law course. He also co-teaches the LLB module, Environmental Law. Before joining the team at IMEL, he lectured on the Law of the Sea and Marine Spatial Planning Law at Nelson Mandela University and co-developed a short learning programme on Africa and Marine Law at the University of South Africa. He also consults in South Africa and within various African States on ocean governance-related issues, including the legal frameworks for marine spatial planning.

Denning holds an LLB From the University of Buea (Cameroon), an LLM (Mercantile Law) from Nelson Mandela University, and an LLD (Public Law) from Nelson Mandela University. Besides work, Denning is an avid fan of basketball and soccer, and enjoys the arts.

We welcome **Mr Ludwe Makhabeni** to the Faculty. Ludwe has joined us in the Faculty Finance Department as finance administrator. Many of you may recognise Ludwe from his time spent in the first part of 2023 assisting in the Faculty Office.

Ludwe holds a degree in Finance and Economics from the University of Cape Town(UCT), and excels at working with numbers. You may notice Ludwe by his outfits – he says that his style has earned him the title of "Best stylish man at UCT" from 2017 to 2020.

We also welcome **Ms Barnadette Vorster,** Kramer's new Properties & Services Supervisor. Barnadette, although new to the formal role of Supervisor, has served as a team leader for about 10 years. Starting out as a cleaner in Leslie Commerce in 2005, Barnadette became a teamleader within a few year, working also as an administrator at Beattie before transferring to Hiddingh Campus. Having assisted with administrative responsibilities in the Campus Cleaning Office for about four years, and completing her NQF 4 Business Administrator course in 2022, Barnadette works well with all levels of UCT staff and lives by the belief that "*we all need to respect each other, and to know why we are here*".

CONGRATULATIONS

The Faculty congratulates **Reema Nunlall-Hiralal** who has passed her PhD in Criminology from the University of Pretoria. Her dissertation focused on sexual harassment policy at tertiary institutions in South Africa, including how students experience these policies. We hope to celebrate this achievement at our first Faculty Friday for 2024.

STAFF WITH MATRICULANTS

The Dean this morning was pleased to share the great news that several of our colleagues have sons and daughters who have just passed their matric and are now making decisions about their post-matric education. The Dean noted "*It is not an easy job to raise a child up to this stage. It takes a lot of hard work and patience and more. Congratulations to all these colleagues and to the matriculants themselves.*"

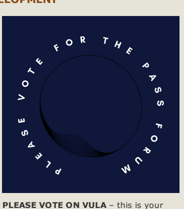
These matriculants include:

- Hanri Mostert's daughter, Annika, who is still deciding where she will study;
- Nondwe de Caires' son, Zinati, also still deciding, but is already thinking about fashion, sculpture or becoming a stylist;
- Sybil Mbambo's son, Bayanda, who is waiting for an offer from CPUT and is likely to do modelling;
- Faiza Mohamed's daughter, Yusrah, who has received an offer to study law at Varsity College, but has decided to take a gap year to volunteer at the Refugee Rights Clinic;
- Caroline Ncube's son, Wandile, who has been admitted to the faculty of commerce at UCT;
- Lionel Soupen's daughter, Nickaela, currently considering several offers to pursue a B Com Law; and
- Francois du Toit's daughter, Anika, has been accepted into the Faculty of Humanities at UCT.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

NEW PASS FORUM

Staff will recall the establishment late in 2023 of the **Law Faculty PASS Forum** that constitutes part of the Faculty's governance structure. This Forum will provide the Faculty's administrative staff in particular (but all those appointed on PASS conditions) to consider Faculty matters, trouble-shoot challenges, propose solutions, and attend and/or participate in the Faculty's main governance forums. There is currently a call out for nominations for PASS Forum Chair, PASS Forum Deputy Chair, and PASS Forum Secretary – PASS staff will have received the notice in December and again this week – with nominations closing 31 January.



PLEASE VOTE ON VULA – this is your chance to get involved in improving how we contribute to achieving the Faculty's vison, mission and goals.

STAFF TRAINING FOR ADMIN AND ACADEMIC STAFF

Human Resources Development, based at the Staff Learning Centre (Cambria House, Middle Campus - see UCT maps), offers an annual programme of learning and development, the Staff Learning Programme. The Staff Learning Programme provides an on-site programme of position-related, non-formal, short skills courses for PASS staff and Academic staff (for that part of the Academic role that deals with administration and management).The programme has been designed to build competencies, capabilities, skills and knowledge to address the most common position-related learning and development needs. The programme is informed by feedback from and participation in previous years, as well as the development needs as identified during the PASS Development Dialogue process.

Please have a look at the most recent course list and details.

ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A second call has been issued for the 2024 intake for the **Established and Seasoned Academic Practitioners Programme (ESAPP)**. This programme is tailored for mid-career academics seeking to refine their postgraduate teaching and supervision pedagogy. There are only a few more places left and applications close on **Friday 26 January 2024**. Click here to register! Key Features of ESAPP:

- *Tailored Development:* Expert-led sessions focusing on contemporary decolonial teaching frameworks and curriculum models.
- *Peer Networking:* Opportunities to engage and collaborate with colleagues from various faculties, fostering a dynamic learning environment.
- *Practical Insights:* Strategies and tools designed to address the evolving challenges of postgraduate teaching in today's academic landscape.
- Should you have any queries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the ESAPP Administrator, Avrill Dawson (avrill.dawson@uct.ac.za)

LECTURES, CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

AI & LAW CONFERENCE

Registrations are open for the Faculty's international, interdisciplinary conference - being held from 3 - 5 July 2024. A UCT staff/ student discount will be announced shortly.

Please share the link widely
REGISTER **HERE**

Administrative Justice Conference: Breakwater Revisited

This conference is taking place at the Faculty this Friday, Saturday and Sunday (26 - 28 January), to review the goals set out in the 1993 Breakwater Declaration. Access the programme and more details here.

Teaching in Louisiana

Prof Francois du Toit, HoD of Private Law, recently visited the *Centre of Civil Law Studies* at the *Paul M Hebert Law School at Louisiana State University* in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Francois was invited by the Director of the Centre of Civil Law Studies, Prof Olivier Moreteau *(pictured right, with Prof du Toit)*, to present a one-credit-hour upper class short course on public policy in the law of gifts and trusts to the LSU Law School's Juris Doctor students from 8-19 January. The short course explored the impact of public policy and constitutionalism on the restriction of freedom of disposition by way of testamentary gifts and trusts.

Francois also presented a seminar to the Law School's faculty on South Africa as a mixed legal system, drawing parallels with and highlighting differences between South Africa's and Louisiana's respective hybrid jurisdictions.

EVENTS

MEET OUR INCOMING POSTGRADS (COURSEWORK)

As the academic year kicks off the School for Advanced Legal Studies invites you to join for lunch in the Pius Langa Quad on Monday 5 February to meet the new cohort of coursework-based Master's students.

MEET OUR INCOMING POSTGRADS (RESEARCH)

Colleagues are also warmly encouraged to join the Faculty Social with the new research postgraduates (Master's & PhD) in the Faculty Common Room on Thurs 1 Feb @ 13h30

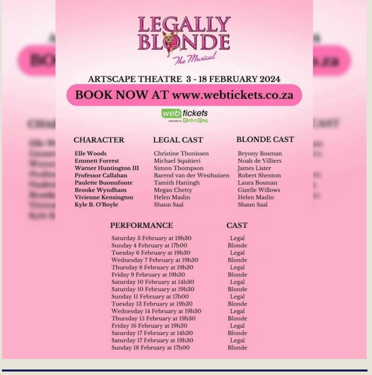
BOOK LAUNCH

Colleagues are warmly invited to join the launch of **Professor Jaco Barnard-Naude**'s new book, Spectres of Reparation in South Africa. Prof Barnard-Naude is a Professor in Private Law and Deputy Director of the Faculty's Centre for Rhetoric Studies. The discussion will be hosted by **Prof Pierre de Vos** (Public Law).

Please see below for time, date, venue and where to RSVP.

Activities outside the Faculty

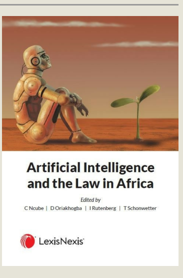
Many colleagues have skills and talents beyond their legal and administrative expertise. If you would like to watch Private Law lecturer, Simon Thompson, perform in **Legally Blonde**, you can book on Webtickets. If you'd like to make a Law night of it, feel free to arrange this amongst each other. Check the schedule below for the particular dates on which Simon is performing – the performances are cast-specific, and Simon performs with the Legal cast.



PUBLICATIONS

Artifical Intelligence and the Law in Africa

"The rapid rise in the deployment of artificial intelligence in multiple settings raises interesting legal questions, primarily relating to regulation and mitigation of harm, be it real or merely feared. Artificial Intelligence and the Law in Africa brings together several thought leaders who bring different subject field lenses to these questions.
Collectively they examine national, sub-regional and regional frameworks regulating artificial intelligence". So reads the synopsis of a new title, co-edited by **Prof Caroline Ncube** and **A/Prof Tobias Schonwetter,** along with Dr D Oriakhogba and I Rutenberg.
Find out more.



In a new book, *Research Handbook on law and Technology*, **Prof Caroline Ncube** has contributed a co-authored chapter on *Afro-centric law and technology discourse.*

"In this chapter," write the authors, "we canvass Afro-centric anglophone discourse on law and technology to ascertain whether there are any distinct patterns that can be discerned in terms of key themes and their impact, if any, on law and policymaking."
Read more about this book and Prof Ncube's co-authored chapter.

JOURNAL ON DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE

The DGRU is pleased to announce the release of its second volume of 'The Journal on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights in Zimbabwe'. This volume focuses on civic spaces in Zimbabwe: legal dynamics and suppression tactics, and is now available on the DGRU website.

FACULTY RESEARCH

NRF RATINGS

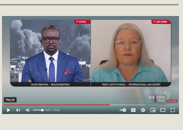
For academic staff looking at applying for NRF rating, or a new rating, the NRF system closing date: 29 February 2024, 16h30. Previous rating seminars and workshops that can be accessed here.

Please view this document for support available from the UCT Libraries, in which the Bibliometrics Working Group outline the relevant evidence required in the narrative section of the rating application. Bibliometrics support for applications is offered by UCT Libraries and requests for assistance can be submitted via the link**.**

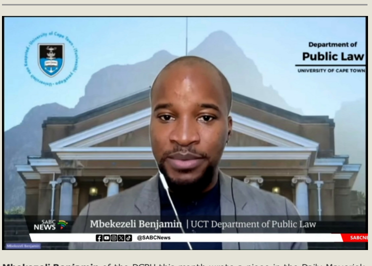
Visit the UCT Research Office website for more information, or contact Lamize.Viljoen@uct.ac.za in the Faculty Research Office for assistance.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Prof Cathy Powell, HoD of Public Law, has interviewed extensively on radio and television over the last few weeks for her opinion into and expertise on international law, with specific reference to South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Some of these interviews can be accessed here.



- IOL: https://www.iol.co.za/sunday-tribune/news/sa-israel-icj-legal-battle-delicately-balanced-c6cd2afa-4f7b-4c2e-a5b1-285232f9b83f
- Daily Maverick: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-01-12-nothing-will-stop-this-suffering-except-an-order-from-this-court-sa-sets-out-the-evidence-against-israel/
- Daily Maverick: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-01-17-icj-likely-to-grant-some-of-sas-requested-provisional-measures-in-gaza-experts/
- Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2024/1/14/what-will-be-the-outcome-of-the-icj-genocide-case-against-israel
- DW: https://www.dw.com/en/south-african-legal-expert-preliminary-icj-case-against-israel-extremely-strong/video-67959202
- NewzRoom Afrika: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQyGBKc8V9g
- TRT News: https://youtu.be/UWaI02KHcxM?si=uJBGQOuj27LZ-u5T
- Al Jazeera: https://youtu.be/WFy-D2j6Ifk?si=fvHjXiVu-DL8yCCx



Mbekezeli Benjamin of the DGRU this month wrote a piece in the Daily Maverick analysing the major events affecting the judiciary in 2024, including a leadership transition with the Chief Justice, the impact of the elections on the courts, and the historical impeachment of two judges. The piece is available here.

Mbekezeli also spoke to several media houses about the issues outlined in the Daily Maverick article, including

- SAfm: https://omny.fm/shows/the-talking-point/issues-facing-the-judiciary-in-2024
- eNCA: https://youtu.be/db5bEMJKDtU?si=OBS4oz0AXC_CmoCz
- Cape Talk: https://www.capetalk.co.za/podcasts/144/afternoon-drive-with-john-maytham/766608/the-judicial-bench-2024-a-leadership-transition

Mbekezeli also spoke to media houses about the possibility of former president Jacob Zuma returning as president, arguing that this can't happen because Zuma has reached the two-term limit - but also because his 15-month prison sentence for contempt of court prevents him from become a member of Parliament, which is a necessary condition to become president. Interviews can be accessed below:

- SABC: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=kwCpLru2KUQ
- Kaya FM: https://iono.fm/e/1396018

African Network of Judicial Trainers

Vanja Karth, Director of DGRU and JIFA (Judicial Institute for Africa), has spent this week in Zanzibar at the African Network of Judicial Trainers AGM. This network includes representatives of 19 countries on the continent.

ANNOUNCEMENT & NOTES

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
Please alert your Master's students of this Universy of Leiden opportunity:
1-year **Master in Law & Society** at Leiden University in the Netherlands, apply before 1 February! The purpose of the International Peace and Justice Master Fund is to provide scholarships for Master's students in the area of peace, international law or security. FIND OUT MORE.

FACULTY GOVERNANCE
The Faculty's Committee memberships were sent out to everybody on email last week. Please check the excel spreadsheet for your membershipsa, and the committees document for the Terms of Reference, Chair, Servicing Officer and other members of each committee. There are still gaps that need to be resolved, and the Nominations Committee will be tackling this in due course.

Shaping the future @UCTLaw

Got something to share? Have thoughts on what we should include in Faculty Fortnight?

Please send your news & ideas to gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za – we'd really like to hear from you.