

Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy

University of Cape Town

1 – 4 July 2026



Wednesday 1 July 2026

15:00 - 16:30 – Registration and Opening Refreshments

17:00 - 18:30:

Chair: Justice Steven Majiedt (Constitutional Court of South Africa)

Opening remarks by the Chair

Welcome remarks from UCT Vice Chancellor Professor Mosa Moshabela

Opening Keynote - Theme: 'Judicial Leadership in a Constitutional Democracy'

Delivered by **Chief Justice of South Africa Mandisa Maya (Constitutional Court)**

Vote of thanks delivered by **Justice Albie Sachs (Constitutional Court, South Africa)**

Thursday 2 July 2026

9:00 - 10:30 – Session 1

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 – Session 2

12:30 - 13:15 – Lunch

13:15 – 14:45 - Keynote Plenary: 'Judicial Independence and Accountability'

Chair: Prof Hugh Corder (University of Cape Town)

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

Chief Justice of Kenya Martha Koome

Prof Paul Daly (University of Ottawa)

14:45 to 15h05 – Coffee Break

15:05 – 16h30 – Session 3

16h30 to 17h30 – Transfer to Dinner venue

17:30 – 22:00 Gala Dinner at the Norval Foundation Art Gallery

Dinner speaker: **Judge President/Professor Dennis Davis (University of Cape Town, Competition Appeal Court of South Africa)**

Proposed topic: “Building constitutional jurisprudence from nothing; 30 years of the Constitutional Court”.

Friday 3 July 2026

9:00 - 10:30 – Session 4

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 – Keynote Plenary: ‘Reconceiving Public International Law’

Chair: Dr Nicola Palmer (University of Cape Town)

Justice Phoebe Okowa (International Court of Justice and Queen Mary University of London)

Justice Richard Goldstone (Constitutional Court of South Africa)

Prof Antony Anghie (National University of Singapore)

Adila Hassim SC (Johannesburg Bar)

12:30 - 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 – Session 5

15:00 - 15:20 – Coffee Break

15:20 – 16:50 – Session 6

17:00 - 18:30 - Keynote Plenary: ‘30 Years of South African Constitutionalism’

Chair: Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana (University of Cape Town)

Prof Joel Modiri (University of Pretoria)

Mr Dan Mafora (University of Cape Town)

Prof Cathi Alberyn (University of the Witwatersrand)

Ms Prelisha Singh (Webber Wentzel Attorneys)

Saturday 4 July 2026

9:00 - 10:30 – Keynote Plenary: ‘Comparative Influences in National Jurisdictions’

Chair: TBC

Chief Justice of Australia Stephen Gageler

Prof Charles Fombad (University of Pretoria)

Prof Jason Varuhas (University of Melbourne)

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 – Session 7

12:30 - 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 - Closing Plenary Keynote: ‘Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy’

Chair: Prof Cora Hoexter (University of the Witwatersrand)

Justice Andromache Karakatsanis (Supreme Court of Canada)

Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa Dunstan Mlambo (Constitutional Court)

Prof Mark Elliott (University of Cambridge) (TBC)

Closing remarks TBC

