



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.

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FACULTY NEWS

NEW HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC LAW

Prof Danwood Chirwa, Dean of the Faculty, was pleased to announce that the Vice Chancellor has approved the appointment of **Prof Alexander Paterson** as the new Head of the Department of Public Law for a term of three years (1 May 2025 to 30 April 2028). The Dean wrote: *Let me thank Sandy Paterson and members of the department for their patience and cooperation. Sandy brings considerable experience to the position and I am confident that he will serve the department and faculty with distinction.*



The Dean further commented: *Let me also thank A/Prof Kinnes who was so generous in putting aside his other commitments to act at a critical time of the year on short notice. He's been such a wonderful person to work with.*

FACULTY CALENDAR

12 – 15 May | AfricanLII hosting a 4-day workshop at the Faculty on *Open Access to Law and Sustainability*, with delegates from Ivory Coast, Senegal and Ghana, and with support from GIZ
13 – 14 May | *Law Expo* – two days of law firms chatting to students about articles and life in law firms, in the Plus Langa Quad
26 May | Start of consolidation and mid-year exams
29 – 30 May | *Race, Refuge and Repair: Rethinking migration from the Global South* – two-day international colloquium
29 June - 5 July | *Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition* – the most important gathering of students, scholars and judges on human rights in Africa

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

Race, Refuge and Repair: Rethinking Migration from the Global South

Registration is now open!
Register [HERE](#)

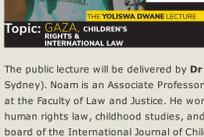
The colloquium is hybrid and free of charge. In-person and online registration is open, but places are limited, so register now.

The keynote address, titled 'Corporate Border Imperialism', will be delivered by Professor E. Tendayi Achlume, Professor of Law, Stanford University with discussant comments from South African Human Rights Commissioner Tshepo Madlingozi and chaired by Dr Lufuno Sadiki.

The colloquium is co-hosted by the Centre for Criminology and the Refugee Rights Unit at UCT Law, the Refugee Studies Centre (ODID), and Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford in collaboration with the Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution at King's College London. The event has been supported by the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust and the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London.

Further information is available on the Oxford site.

Gaza, Children's Rights and International Law



Equal Education and the Centre for Law and Society (CLS) are pleased to invite you to the **third annual Yoliswa Dwane memorial lecture** at the University of Cape Town on **Tuesday, 6 May 2025** on the topic '**Gaza, Children's Rights and International Law**'.

Time: 17h00

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Second Floor, Kramer Law School, Middle campus, University of Cape Town

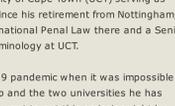
Refreshments will be available after the lecture.

The public lecture will be delivered by **Dr Noam Peleg** (University of New South Wales Sydney). Noam is an Associate Professor and Director – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the Faculty of Law and Justice. He works in international children's rights law, human rights law, childhood studies, and family law. He is a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Children's Rights* and is the *Journal's* Book Review Editor. Noam is Visiting Professor at Columbia Law School and Leiden Law School. He is also a board member and a trainer at the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), an NGO committed to advancing human rights and empowering civil society in the Asia-Pacific region. Before moving to academia, Noam practiced law in several human rights NGOs.

The lecture is held in memory of EE's co-founder, Yoliswa Dwane. Yoliswa sadly passed away on 21 October 2022. She was born in the Eastern Cape, in Dimbaza, and went to school there, later moving to Khayelitsha in the Western Cape. She graduated from the University of Cape Town in 2007 with a degree in film and media studies and a postgraduate LLB. She dedicated her life to advancing social justice as a community activist.

CELEBRATING DIRK VAN ZYL SMIT

You're all invited to join the celebration of the career of **Emeritus Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit**. Dirk retired from his position as Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law in the School of



Law at the University of Nottingham (UoN) in 2020. Until 2005, he was Professor of Criminology in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT) serving as Dean of the Faculty between 1990 and 1995. Since his retirement from Nottingham, he is Emeritus Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law there and a Senior Research Scholar and Emeritus Professor of Criminology at UCT.

His retirement came at the height of the Covid19 pandemic when it was impossible to mark his outstanding contribution to scholarship and the two universities he has served in his long and distinguished career. We want to put this omission right by celebrating his career at a 'hybrid' event to be held in person in Nottingham and Cape Town, and online for colleagues around the world. The event will take place on **12 June 2025 between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm in the UK and 11.00 am and 3.00 pm in South Africa**.

Contributions to the celebration will be organised into a number of themes related to different aspects of Dirk's work and career. They include his contribution to criminology, sentencing and prison reform in South Africa, the development of prison law and rules in Europe and beyond as well as his work as an academic leader, supervisor and teacher. A diverse and eminent cast has already signed up to contribute to the event from South Africa, the UK and the rest of Europe. Members of Dirk's family will be there too.

Please let Elrena.vanderspuy@uct.ac.za know if you are able to join the celebration in person and, if so, where, so that we can make arrangements for light refreshments.

INTERNATIONALISATION



Dr Justice Mavedzenge has recently returned from a trip to New York, USA where the highlight of his trip was the lecture he delivered at the New York School of Law. Hosted by Prof Margaret Satterthwaite (also UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers), Dr Mavedzenge spoke about *competitive authoritarianism & judicial independence in Africa*.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

uMhlaba Talks

A groundbreaking new podcast series from LARC

On 21 May 2025, the Land and Accountability Research Centre (LARC) will introduce *uMhlaba Talks*, a groundbreaking podcast series aimed at advancing rural democracy through discussions on land administration, traditional governance, and the rights of mining-affected communities. As part of LARC's commitment to expand advocacy tools and connect with younger audiences, the podcast serves as a vital platform to inform and empower listeners in the rural land sector.

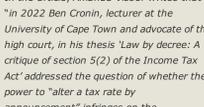
Across its seven episodes, *uMhlaba Talks* explores land-related issues from unique perspectives, weaving together spirituality, politics, and law to uncover overlooked dimensions of South Africa's land debates. Each episode engages with renowned academics, activists, and traditional health practitioners to shed light on the complex impacts of land dispossession – from the struggles of farm labourers and mining-affected communities to the historical trauma endured by Khoi and San communities. Key themes include:

- the spiritual significance of land
- the socio-political impacts of mining and dispossession, and
- the resilience of communities in reclaiming their land rights.

Featured guests include prominent voices like Reverend Mavuso, Nonhle Mbuthuma, LARC Director Nolundi Luwaya, and Professor Nomboniso Gasa, who advocate for bold, often-neglected solutions to the land question.

Available on Youtube (@LARCUCT), Apple Podcast and Spotify (uMhlaba Talks), *uMhlaba Talks* is set to be a compelling series, inviting listeners to explore the profound connections between land, identity and justice in South Africa.

Visit one of these platforms for a sneak-peek trailer, and follow along for the launch on 21 May 2025.



The VAT Court Challenge

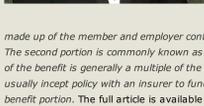
Mr Ben Cronin, lecturer in the Faculty's Commercial Law Department, has had his Master's thesis referenced in a recent Moneyweb article on the implications of the DA's VAT case before the Western Cape High Court. Cronin's thesis was also quoted in the DAs legal argument.

In the article, Amanda Visser writes that "In 2022 Ben Cronin, lecturer at the University of Cape Town and advocate of the high court, in his thesis 'Law by decree: A critique of section 5(2) of the Income Tax Act' addressed the question of whether the power to 'alter a tax rate by announcement' infringes on the separation-of-powers doctrine and the Constitution".

The full article can be read on the Moneyweb platform



Death Benefits – the Risk/Insured Portion



Mr Naleen Jeram, Adjunct Professor in the Faculty's Commercial Law Department, recently penned an article for the May 2025 edition of *De Rebus*, the popular publication for the Law profession. Titled "Risk/insured portion of death benefits payable by retirement funds – is it subject to s 37C and to be distributed by fund trustees?", Jeram writes about retirement fund death benefits as follows: *The lump sum death benefit payable by a pension or provident fund normally consists of two portions. The first portion represents the pension savings*

made up of the member and employer contributions (less costs) plus investment returns. The second portion is commonly known as the 'insured or risk' portion. The insured portion of the benefit is generally a multiple of the member's salary. The retirement fund will usually incept policy with an insurer to fund its liability to the member for the insured benefit. The full article is available on the De Rebus platform.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SHORT COURSES

UCT staff and students get 50% discount off Law@work course fees (excluding 2-hour webinar courses and mediation courses). Review courses at <https://law.uct.ac.za/law-at-work/courses/course-overview>.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A SYMPOSIUM OR CONFERENCE IN THE FACULTY
As the Faculty gets progressively busier, our resources are likely to become strained. Please bear in mind that although we are able to hold conferences and gatherings in the Faculty, we are nevertheless not a conference centre and can be constrained by some practical limits. Conference hosts must ensure that they have sufficient staff support for events to run smoothly. For those hoping to use the **Level 4 staff kitchen** please come and consult with the Dean's PA and the Marketing Office about what facilities are actually available (eg. overnight storage etc) as we need to ensure that staff are able to access the kitchen regardless of conference-related catering activities, while also ensuring that your catering is well-accommodated and provided without a hitch. If you need a Faculty-specific checklist of key logistics items that should be on your planning schedule for your conference, please ask **Law Marketing** as this can provide a useful guide for those less familiar with UCT systems and processes. Let's work together to ensure that we are always able to put our best Faculty foot forward!



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

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