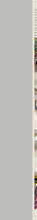

Faculty Fortnight | 3 October 2025 View in web browser

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
* Faculty News * Staff News * Student News *
* Faculty Calendar * Lectures, Seminars, Conferences & Events *
* Publications * Research * Internationalisation *
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FACULTY NEWS

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS!

This year’s Heritage Day was celebrated
in style by the Faculty. With all the other
UCT units on Middle Campus, the Pius
Langa Quad saw two hours of spirited
music, fantastic outfits, lots of posing and,
of course, boerewors rolls for everybody.
Thanks to Faiza Mohamed for all the
organising – and thank you to the Dean
for making the event possible. It was a
fantastic way to share our vibrant cultural
diversity!

STAFF NEWS

UCT COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

A very hearty congratulations to Professor Barnard-Naudé, Professor in Private Law and co-Director of the Centre for Rhetoric Studies, on his induction into the UCT Colleage of Fellows - as one of three new members. The induction dinner was held on 17 September. Professor Barnard-Naude's citation describes him as "an embodiment of a scholar of great distinction, an academic whose uniqueness in pursuit of exacting knowledge and singular South African trajectory is at the heart of the ethos of the College... Over the last 21 years, his scholarship has been characterised by a highly interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary synthesis underpinned by hybridisation of the British / Continental and Anglo-American approaches to critical legal theory, whilst contributing to the development of a distinctly South African post-apartheid jurisprudence". The full citation is available on the UCT News website.

Left: Profes sor Barnard-Naude
Above: Three former Law Deans at the CoF dinner - Profs
Hugh Corder, Dirk van Zyl and Danie Vis s er.

UCT Law Librarian Elected Chair of OSALL

We are delighted to share that Anthea Paulsen, Senior Librarian at the Brand van Zyl Law Library, has been elected as the new Chairperson of the Organisation of South African Law Libraries (OSALL). OSALL is the professional body that brings together law librarians across South Africa, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy for the role of law libraries in legal research and education.

Anthea’s election to this leadership role
reflects her commitment to the profession,
her strong record of service, and her
vision for advancing the work of law
librarians in a rapidly evolving information
landscape. Her appointment not only
highlights her personal achievements but
also places UCT's Brand van Zyl Law
Library and the Faculty of Law at the
forefront of national conversations about
legal information, access to justice, and
the impact of technology on research.

Congratulations to Anthea on this well-
deserved recognition!

Student News

At the recent UP Child Law Moot, which
took place on 19 & 20 September, the UCT
team came 3rd overall, with Lizwi Majola
winning "Best Speaker".

The team comprised Lizwi Majola and
Mugisha Hakizimana, with Jordan
Murray serving as coach assisted by
Luyanda Mtembu and Hlumani Ndlovu.
Congratulations to all of you!

FACULTY CALENDAR

8 October | ADRU's inaugural Annual Arbitration Lecture, with OluFunke Adekoya
16 October | Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture, with Professor Geraint Howells, Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, University of Galway
16 October | Commercial Law Seminar – Professor Yves Jorens, University of Ghent

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

JOIN ONLINE

THE ANNUAL BEN BEINART MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Department of Private Law is very pleased to invite everyone to the 2025 Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture with Professor Geraint Howells (University of Galway, Ireland) talking on AI & Product Liability (see Prof Howells' bio below).

Prof Howells’ paper on AI and product liability should be insightful, including its implications for South African product liability law, as AI is starting to become integrated into goods and services in many sectors, raising important questions regarding liability for harm caused by AI.

Date: Thursday 16 October
Time: 18h00
Venue: Moot Court, Level 5
Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Gaby Ritchie.

Professor Geraint Howells is Established Professor of Law at the University of Galway, Ireland, where he was previously Executive Dean for Business, Public Policy and Law. Prior to that he was Professor of Commercial Law and Associate Dean in Humanities for Internationalisation at Manchester University, where he remains a visiting professor. He has been Dean of Law at the City University of Hong Kong and Head of the Law Schools in Manchester and Lancaster. He was called to the bar in 2002 through a special route for distinguished academics and was awarded an LLD in 2014. He has published extensively on consumer law, product liability and European private law and was a member of the Acquis group developing common principles of European contract law and tort law (delict). A former President of the International Association of Consumer Law, he edited the Consumer Law Journal for many years, is on the editorial board of the Journal of Consumer Policy and European Review of Private Law and is Series Editor for Routledge’s Markets and Law series. He has undertaken extensive consultancy for government, the EU and NGOs. His extensive publications include many articles, chapters and some monographs on product liability, including comparative product liability and product liability relating to digital goods. He is highly regarded as a foremost scholar internationally on product liability.

Commercial Law Seminar
Professor Yves Jorens
The Commercial Law Department is pleased to invite you to a seminar with Professor Yves Jorens, University of Ghent. Please see invite below, and RSVP to cecile.devilliers@uct.ac.za for catering purposes.

UCT Law's ADRU Arbitration Day 2025

The Faculty's Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Unit (ADRU) is hosting the 2nd UCT Arbitration Day on 8 October 2025. This year’s programme will include the launch of the new Annual Arbitration Lecture series, with the first lecture delivered by West African Arbitrator, Funke Adekoya SAN, one of the most prominent and highly respected figures in the field of commercial and investment arbitration across Africa and the world.
All Faculty members and students are invited to attend, especially the inaugural lecture in the evening of 8 October 2025 on the topic “Representation and Reality: the Role of African Practitioners in Shaping the Future of Arbitration”.

If you'd like to join the day and/ or the lecture, please use the QR code in the flyer below, or THIS LINK. We look forward to seeing you there!

PAST CONFERENCES, LECTURES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

ADR Conference 2025
Hosted by UCT Law on 10 & 11
September 2025, this hybrid conference
was a collaboration between UCT, Faculty
of Law, Department of Commercial Law
and the Social Justice Association of ADR
Practitioners. Under the conference
banner "Integrated Approaches to ADR",
the keynote address was delivered
by Judge Norman Davis from the Gauteng
High Court on the topic Mandatory Court
Annexed Mediation: Restorative justice or
case management? The Gauteng
experience. With about 100 in-person
delegates and 30
online delegates, the conference offered
good insights and great discussion on key
alternative dispute resolution topics.
Monique Carels presented a paper
on Mediation skills and techniques: From
theory to practice. Other speakers included
representatives from the South African
Law Reform Commission (SALRC), a
magistrate, academics, mediators,
lawyers, and social workers.

Beyond Division: Navigating Conflict in a Polarised World

On Wednesday, 17 September 2025, Ms Monique Carels and Ms Julie Hassman hosted a negotiation and conflict resolution skills workshop in conjunction with the Institute for Global Negotiation (IGN). The theme for the workshop was: ‘Beyond Division: Navigating Conflict in a Polarised World’. This workshop was part of IGN’s global peace-building project, which involves a series of interactive workshops held at universities in more than seventeen countries, focusing on the role of negotiation and mediation in addressing complex global challenges. We had 12 participants join us from the law faculty and the engineering faculty. These participants will join the global online event hosted by the Institute for Global Negotiation on UN Peace Day.

About the facilitators: Monique Carels is a lecturer at UCT Law Faculty and Julie Hassman is a part-time lecturer with the Mineral Law in Africa Research Chair and the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.

African Responses
to Global Vulnerabilities

From 24 to 27 September, Dr Sebastian
Krafzik, postdoctoral researcher in
Commercial Law, participated in the 6th
Biennale Conference of the African Studies
Association of Africa (ASAA), held at the
Universidade de Cabo Verde. This year’s
theme was “African Responses to Global
Vulnerabilities: Building Hope for the
Future.” Sebatian's paper was selected
for the panel discussion on "Race,
Solidarity, and the Struggle Against
Oppression."

Dr Krazik's presentation was titled "Economic Efforts to Address Colonial and Apartheid Inequities: The Role of Black Economic Empowerment in South Africa".

PUBLICATIONS

The Structural Exclusion of Rape
Complainants in South Africa’s Criminal
Justice System: Justice through
Participation

A/Prof Jameelah Omar has published a book with Routledge, titled The Structural Exclusion of Rape Complainants in South Africa’s Criminal Justice System: Justice through Participation, which follows from her PhD work. The book is focused on understanding the role and status of a rape complainant in the criminal process, within the confines of South Africa's adversarial criminal justice system. The book will be available from early October, and is open for pre-orders.

The Routledge description of the book, from their site, is as follows:
Exploring the intricate dynamics surrounding rape complainants within the South African criminal justice system, this book proposes reforms in the approach to participation of victims with the aim of mitigating the structural barriers imposed by the adversarial process. Broadening the concept of participation, the book takes a comprehensive view of meaningful participation at every stage of the legal process and argues that participation can further justice for rape victims. In doing so, it highlights that justice as an outcome of the criminal process should not solely be focused on convicting perpetrators, but about restoring the dignity of and empowering victims. Through the practical proposals included in the book to integrate complainants into the criminal process, readers will gain an understanding of what is possible even within the structures of the adversarial system, and activists both within and outside the system will be better equipped to advocate for systemic change. The Structural Exclusion of Rape Complainants in South Africa’s Criminal Justice System will be of value to students and scholars of socio-legal studies, criminal law, and criminology, particularly those focused on sexual offences, victimology, and the criminal justice system. It will also be of interest to those working with victims, such as NGOs providing legal representation, victim support and therapeutic counselling.

Dr Faadhil Adams has recently had a
paper published in the Tydskrif vir die
Suid-Afrikaanse Reg, titled The application
of non-state rules of law to the arbitration
agreement.

The full paper is available on the journal
site.

Dr Charlene Musiza, postdoctoral fellow
with Prof Caroline Ncube, is part of a trio
of editors of a book titled Intellectual
Property Rights and Sustainable
Development Goals. Based on
contributions pre- and post- the 5th All
Africa IP Summit that was held in Kigali,
Rwanda in November 2024, the book
draws from the multidisciplinary
perspectives of a great line-up of African
experts, academics, practitioners, policy
makers and industry players. The book is
available for preorder here.

Dr Charlene Musiza has also had a
journal article published recently. The
paper titled ‘Form and substance: the
developmental promises of geographical
indications in Africa’ examines whether
geographical indications (GIs), labels that
connect products to their place of origin,
can deliver on their claims to foster
sustainable development in Africa.

It analyses both the legal frameworks and real-world practices, arguing that while GIs hold potential for enhancing value, preserving cultural heritage, and boosting rural livelihoods, their success depends heavily on ensuring substantive protections, inclusive governance, and robust implementation, not just formal recognition. The paper is available open access here.

RESEARCH

From 3-5 September, Nate Gotora, an NRF-funded doctoral researcher at the Faculty's IP Chair, attended the Next Generation and Emerging Researchers Symposium 2025 held in Durban, KwaZulu Natal. The 2

nd annual NGER Symposium gathered early-career
researchers, senior academics, and industry partners under the theme of Bridging Futures Through Science, Research, And Innovation. For Nate, the symposium served as an invaluable platform to engage with the broader research community and reflect on the ways in which doctoral work in the social sciences contributes to solving complex societal challenges.

From 17-18 September 2025, two postdocs from the IP Chair, Dr Charlene Musiza and Dr Elfas Torerai participated in the inaugural SDG+10: A Global Legal Stocktake of Achievements, Opportunities and Challenges Conference hosted by the University of Southampton. Dr Musiza, attending in person, presented on reconciling farmers’ rights with plant breeders’ rights under the ITPGRFA, arguing for legal reforms that protect agricultural biodiversity and strengthen SDG 15. Dr Torerai, joining virtually, examined the rise of AI-driven fintech in South Africa, highlighting both its potential for financial inclusion and the risks it poses to regulatory stability.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The Call for Nominations for the position of Director of Internationalisation in the Faculty has closed. The successful candidate will replace Prof Fatima Khan whose second term ends this December. Prof Danwood Chirwa, Dean of Law, commented: "Prof Khan has done a phenomenal job as Director of Internationalisation, including helping the faculty to strike collaborations with some of the leading universities in the world".

The successful candidate is expected to build on this work. The Director is resposible for promoting the faculty's internationalization agenda. This includes chairing the internationalization committee, negotiating collaboration agreements with other universities, facilitating the mobility of staff and students with our partner institutions, attending international meetings, advising the Dean and FMC on internationalization polices and practices, and related functions.

The nominee(s) will be invited to make a presentation at the forthcoming Faculty Board at which members will be asked to vote to indicate their level of confidence in the nominee(s).

Stockholm University calls for summer teaching proposals

Call for summer teaching at Stockholm University has gone out. Several of our colleagues have participated in this programme and done very well - hence an unreserved invitation from SU again.

Please apply directly to SU. Details are available at the SU site. A draft of your proposed course must be submitted by Sunday 12 October at the latest. The proposals should be sent to: summer@juridicum.su.se (further information in email sent by Prof Fatima Khan 18 Sept).

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

AfCFTA Advisory Council Meeting

From 14-15 September, Prof Caroline Ncube attended the AfCFTA Advisory Council Meeting in Cairo, Egypt as part of her role on the AfCFTA’s Trade and Industrial Development Advisory Council. The meeting was part of the larger 17th Meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers.

Sharing expertise for a matter at the Consitutional Court

A/Prof Jameelah Omar attended the Constitutional Court hearing as expert for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) in the matter of CALS v Embrace NPO. These were confirmation proceedings, following from the initial application where the High Court declared several sections of SORMA (the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007) unconstitutional. The CALS application and Prof Omar's expert testimony focused on the continued inclusion of "consent" as a definitional element of Rape and other sexual offences.

Further information about the case and A/Prof Omar's report can be found on the CALS site.

Em Professor Rashida Manjoo has been appointed to the People’s Tribunal for Women of Afghanistan, convened under the auspices of the Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal (PPT). This distinguished panel of judges will preside over the Tribunal's hearings in Madrid from October 8–10, 2025. The Tribunal will hear the prosecutors’ statement, together with testimonies from Afghan women survivors and expert evidence, to examine the Taliban’s system of gender persecution and assess it under international law.

The panel brings together eminent jurists, academics, and advocates from across the world. Among them are constitutional lawyers, international law professors, human rights experts, Islamic scholars and journalists who have dedicated their careers to advancing gender justice, defending human rights, and giving voice to those silenced by conflict and repression. Their combined expertise covers transitional justice, international criminal law, minority rights, freedom of the press, and women’s rights at national and global levels.

The confirmed judges are:
Araceli (Arancha) García del Soto (Spain) – Psychologist and human rights expert in psychosocial and trauma-informed approaches.
Elisenda Calvet-Martínez (Spain) – International law scholar specializing in transitional justice and genocide studies.
Emilio Ramírez Matos (Spain) – Lawyer and academic with expertise in civil law, heritage law, and human rights.
Ghizaal Haress (Afghanistan) – Constitutional lawyer and former Ombudsperson of Afghanistan.
Mai El-Sadany (Egypt/United States) – Human rights lawyer and Executive Director of the Tahrir Institute fo rMiddle East Policy.
Marina Forti (Italy) – Journalist and writer focusing on environment, rights, and international affairs.
Rashida Manjoo (South Africa) – Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Cape Town; former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.
Kalpana Sharma (India) – Journalist and author recognised for her work on gender, development, and media accountability.

UCT Law Clinic supporting Clinic development on the continent

The UCT Law Clinic was this week involved in the launch of the University of Dar es Salaam's Legal Aid Clinic. Since UCT Law Clinic is now more than 50 years old, contributions such as this are a great way to share the decades of accumulated experience with other Law Schools on the continent - some of the how-to's, insights, practices, challenges, cautionary tales, and incredible impact in terms of ensuring access to justice. Michelle Le Roux, University of Cape Town (South Africa) showcased UCT’s legal aid clinic model, inspiring elements of UDSM’s own approach. This foundation underscores the value of exchange between law schools on the African continent, where collaboration accelerates innovation and strengthens the role of clinics in advancing justice. The University of Cape Town (UCT) has since played a key role in supporting the set-up of the clinic and contributing to strategy development, demonstrating how cross-border collaboration can generate practical impact (text partly from GIZ Tanzania and EAC)

DGRU's Mariya Bright, Director of
AFLii, attended the recent 15th InforMEA
Steering Committee Meeting. The
gathering held a strong emphasis on
enhancing the exchange of information
and cooperation among Multilateral
Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The
discussions focused on the future
direction of the initiative, particularly in
advancing the interoperability of MEA
information systems and enhancing
collaboration. Participants delved into the
latest advancements in information
sharing, the implications of digital
transformation, and strategic approaches
to foster collaboration for achieving
collective environmental objectives.
Mariya commented: "I joined the InforMEA
Steering Committee Meeting for the first
time since Laws.Africa started supporting
UNEP in their legislation digitisation efforts.
The biggest takeaway - admiration for the
wonderful, collegial, collaborative spirit in
this community of experts. Hats off to your
great work serving environmental
information to the world!"

Information-sharing

Dr Mathiba, Senior Lecturer in Private Law, spoke to Newzroom Afrika about the legalities of exproriation without compensation on a particular matter. In 2019, the City of Ekurhuleni expropriated a 33-hectare Driefontein farm in Boksburg and offered the landowner R0 compensation. The private valuation of this property is at R30-64 million. Of course, there are mixed reactions to this case. While the city argues, among others, that there has never been any market transaction, active use and occupation on this land for over 100 years; the landowner argues that they were actually in the process of obtaining township rights on the plot to develop it. On this matter, Dr Mathiba shared his insights into the merits and demerits of this much-anticipated case which is expected to go on trial before the Johannesburg High Court in February 2026.

Full interview accessible ONLINE.

Mbekezeli Benjamin, researcher at DGRU's Judges Matter, joined journalists at a lunchtime panel on 30 September, with News24 South Africa - for an initial discussion on the Madlanga Commission so far, including the background and some of the testimony heard so far. Mbekezeli commented in a recent post: "The commission is a pivotal moment for our criminal justice system, as it implicates so many parts of it, including police, prosecutors, parliament, the judiciary, and correctional services. It’s a watershed moment for the rule of law in South Africa".

The recorded discussion can be accessed on youtube.

GRADUATE IMPACT

LLM Air Law candidate and practising Advocate Anne-Lizé Lourens (supervised by Dist Prof Ph-J Salazar) made headlines in aviation media, following her appearance in the Gauteng Division of the High Court in September. Together with two other advocates, she defended the case brought by a formidable consortium of the five major aviation representative bodies against the South African Civil Aviation Authority. The High Court in Pretoria was asked to set aside a “wasteful and unsafe” 12-year engine overhaul rule recently imposed by SACAA. Lourens and her partners argued that the current provisions have been proven to work internationally with reasonably acceptable low risk and in South Africa for the past 19 years. Some 1372 aircraft are being threatened as a result – with a cascading effect on aviation industries, suppliers, and flight training organisations. Supporters of the case brought against SACAA hailed Adv Lourens’ pugnacity as “better than (fictional lawyer) Ally
McBeal”! Further information is available HERE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGIAL COURTESIES

EVENT INFORMATION
If you're holding any kind of event in the Faculty, please take the time to inform the staff at the Security Desk on Level 4. They are the front line for visitors at Kramer, but have are often without with the information required to play an informed and welcoming role. It helps enormously to put something onto an A4 sheet, indicating event name, date, time, venue and anticipated number of participants, and give this to security perhaps with prestik or tape so that it is visible for security staff.

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.