Faculty Fortnight
UCT Law Faculty News & Updates
21 October 2025

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Big congratulations to two of our colleagues on their recent Excellence Awards. The level of expected performance for academic staff is linked to and defined in terms of the ad hominem promotion criteria for the Law Faculty. At the rank of Professor, there is a two-tier system of excellence awards: the first tier rewards "excellent performance", while the second tier recognises "truly outstanding performance".
Prof Carolie Ncube has received the Excellence II Award, which recognises '*truly outstanding performance*' at the level of professor; and **Prof Michelle Louw** has received the Excellence I Award, which recognises '*excellent performance*' at the level of professor.
These awards are great achievements, and reflect the enormous amount of work done by these colleagues. Well done on receiving this recognition!

STAFF NEWS

WELCOME!

The Faculty extends a warm welcome to **Khalid Nico Wyngaard**, incoming Undergraduate Manager in the Faculty Office. Khalid (also known as Nico) comes to the Law Faculty after a number of years of research lab experience in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE), and then moving into academic administration in EBE, followed by two years in the Humanities Faculty Office. Khalid has a National Diploma in Chemical Engineering (CPUT), which might explain his analytical mind and structured approach to the academic administration project. With a growing interest in strategic thinking, Khalid is a born-and-raised Capetonian. Khalid shares his motto-of-the-moment: *Food is a passion, sushi is a must*

STUDENT NEWS

SOCIETIES RECOGNITION EVENT

The Faculty held a warm and celebratory Recognition Event for all committee members of the Law student societies, which are such an integral – yet under-recognised - part of Faculty life. The student initiatives recognised at this certificate ceremony included: *Altum Sonatur, Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter – UCT, Chamber of Legal Students, Legal Discovery Society, Shawco Law, Students for Law and Social Justice, UCT Moot Society, Women in Law* and, of course, the *Law Students Council 2024 -2025*.

The Faculty also used this event to present formally the academic achievement awards for 2024, for students who were in Prelim A, B and Intermediate Year last year.

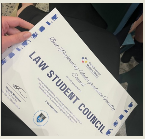
ABOVE: The Dean and Deputy Dean Undergraduate presenting the Ben Beinart Memorial Prize to Matthew Suter, for achievement as the best student in the FSAL and Syscon courses - a prize shared with Chiamaka Ifemedebe.

ABOVE: The Dean and Deputy Dean Undergraduate presenting certificates of recognition and thanks to the SHAWCO Law Executive 2024 - 2025.

STUDENT AWARD FOR THE LSC

In addition to being recognised at the Faculty's event, the outgoing Law Students Council received the Department for Student Affairs award for '*Best Performing Undergraduate Faculty Council 2025*'. Congratulations, LSC!

Below L: LSC 24 - 25 at the awards
Below R: the award certificate



Best Performing Undergraduate Faculty Council
proudly presented to
LAW STUDENT COUNCIL

Department of Student Affairs

UCT Law students participate at 30th Anniversary of the Public Protector South Africa

The *Public Protector South Africa* recently convened an international conference to commemorate 30 years of its existence under the theme "*30 years of strengthening Constitutional democracy – a transformative journey*". One of the primary objectives of this conference was to affirm the strength, resolve and resilience of South Africa's Constitutional institutions. This gathering sought to reflect on, amongst other things: accountability, transformation and the importance of public participation. UCT Law students who attended included **Pako Motheogane (LSC), Chloë Rose Kyle (LSC), Lilitha Dandala and Ofentje Motubatse.**

PUBLIC PROTECTOR SOUTH AFRICA
30 years
Sponsored by:
METROPOLITA

FACULTY CALENDAR

17 – 31 October | *Certain Circles – an exhibition of photographs and text from UCT Law students* – Pius Langa Quad
29 – 31 October | *Commercial Law* co-hosts a conference with NWU in the Faculty
3 November | *HUGS for Law* – grant writing for Law researchers
6 November | *Intersection between Law and Identity* – Honorary Prof Patrick Hanafin Criminology Conference in the Faculty
12 November | *Race, Racism and International Law* with Professor Justin Deystone (U of Colorado)
11 – 13 December | *Criminology Conference* - hosted in the Faculty

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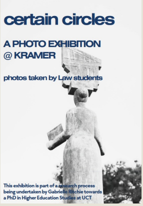
FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

CERTAIN CIRCLES



certain circles

A PHOTO EXHIBITION
@ KRAMER

photos taken by Law students

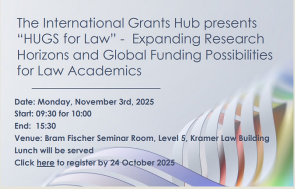
This exhibition is part of a research process being undertaken by Gabrielle Ritchie towards a PhD in Higher Education Studies at UCT

Take a moment to head down to the Quad to view **certain circles**, an exhibition of photographs taken by Law students. These photos are part of a research process being undertaken by Gaby Ritchie, and reflect student experience in and thoughts around the Faculty and UCT more broadly.

The photos are the result of using *photovoice* as a research method, whereby research participants are asked to take images in response to specific prompts, and to write accompanying explanatory text for their images.

Any comments or thoughts that you may have and would like to share would be received with appreciation. You can either email gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za, or use the QR code on the posters in the Quad.

HUGS for Law



The International Grants Hub presents "HUGS for Law" - Expanding Research Horizons and Global Funding Possibilities for Law Academics

Date: Monday, November 3rd, 2025
Start: 09:30 for 10:00
End: 15:30
Venue: Bram Fischer Seminar Room, Level 5, Kramer Law Building
Lunch will be served
Click here to register by 24 October 2025

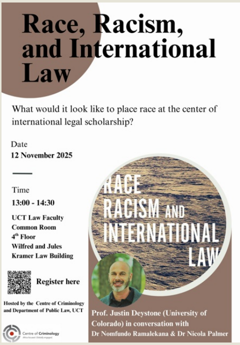
To participate in this HUGS for LAW workshop, please register by 24 October at **the registration link.**

Postcolonial Law Between Speech and Violence: Inoperativity in Samuel Beckett's Molloy

The Department of Private Law is very pleased to invite everyone to a seminar with **Professor Patrick Hanafin** of Birkbeck Law School, University of London. See the abstract below for a brief insight into the seminar topic.

Date: Thursday, 6 November 2025
Time: 11:00-11:45
Venue: Staff Common Room
Format: Hybrid (Please refer to the calendar link in an earlier email sent by Ms Sameya Esterhuizen)

Abstract
Samuel Beckett's Molloy is a resolutely postcolonial novel. In the first half of the novel Beckett evokes the arid landscape of postcolonial Ireland. Molloy himself is a typical postcolonial Irish subject, constantly at odds with the law. His only defence is his inability to follow the law. In Beckett's Molloy the eponymous character is incapable of forming a response to the forces of law who ask him to provide an account of himself and, in so doing, to define himself. His co-character Moran is more amenable to doing what the law wants of him. It appears that Moran is Molloy in an earlier period of his life, an ordered bourgeois who then becomes the vagrant Molloy ending up in a ditch. The law wants to make of Molloy an "avowing subject". However, Molloy does not co-operate or cannot co-operate. He was always saying less than what was expected, always saying something other than what would allow the machine to function properly. He is inoperative in Agamben, Nancy and Blanchot's term. He is pure excess and workless and opposes this to the ordering biopolitical demand to name and form him. Like most of Beckett's characters Molloy is errant. He escapes the letter of the law. This destituent nature of Molloy and the later Moran points to a refusal to do the work allocated to them. This leads to a situation in which Beckett's characters are living in the unconscious and the underside of the law and in the process resisting postcolonial Irish law.



Race, Racism, and International Law

What would it look like to place race at the center of international legal scholarship?

Date
12 November 2025

Time
13:00 - 14:30

UCT Law Faculty
Common Room
4th Floor
Wilfred and Jules
Kramer Law Building

Register here

Hosted by the Centre of Criminology and Department of Public Law, UCT

Centre of Criminology

Prof. Justin Deystone (University of Colorado) in conversation with
Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana & Dr Nicola Palmer

Race, Racism and International Law
On 12 November, the Centre for Criminology and the Department of Public Law will be hosting **Prof Justin Deystone** (University of Colorado) discussing his recent edited collection '*Race, Racism, and International Law*'.

Please register **here** and join us from 13:00-14:30 in the Faculty Common Room, 4th Floor, Wilfred & Jules Kramer Law Building.

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HASSO PLATTNER
d-school
AFRIKA

Free Design Thinking programme offered for Higher Ed practitioners

The Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika has opened applications for the *Fast-Forward for the Higher Education Professionals Programme* – and it's entirely free for all higher education staff members across South African universities.

Fast-Forward aims to empower professionals, individuals and faculty with human-centred approaches to real-world problem-solving through interactive, expert-guided workshops. Participants can choose to take this one-day course on either 11 or 13 November 2025, with workshops to be held at the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika at the University of Cape Town's middle campus.

The programme will highlight how a human-centred design approach to education means integrating tools and innovative methods. The outcomes result in educators becoming better at facilitating group work, creativity and sparking greater engagement.
Participants can expect an introduction to design thinking mindsets and an exploration of design thinking approaches through practical, team-based exercises – such as building an ideal university of the future or structuring more impactful learning classes

online.
Applications due 28 October 2025.

Further info and application form available HERE.

PAST CONFERENCES, LECTURES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture with Prof Geraint Howells

Prof Geraint Howells, Established Professor of Law at the University of Galway, Ireland, delivered the *Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture* on the topic *AI & product liability* on Thursday 16 October 2025. With approximately 60 guests in the room, and 25 participants online, Prof Howells addressed the audience swiftly and in detail regarding the key issues on the topic. He looked at the tensions between product safety and product liability, and presented a comparative round-up of different jurisdictions and the legislative and policy frameworks in place in the EU, the USA and in South Africa.

Professor Geraint Howells, previously Executive Dean for Business, Public Policy and Law at University of Galway, has also variously served as 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).

It is the opportunity to host such visiting experts for which the Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture was established in the early 2000s. Since 2003 the Faculty has hosted numerous visitors, generously supported by an annual sponsorship from Webber Wentzel. For more information on which other visitors have delivered this prestigious annual lecture, have a look at the Faculty website.

WEBBER WENTZEL
GRADUAT
PROGRAMMES

Top L: Prof du Toit and Prof Howells chat before the lecture
Top R: Prof Howells addresses the topic AI & Product Liability
Above: Prof Francois du Toit, Prof Geraint Howells, Prof Tjakie Naude, Prof Danwood Chirwa, and Giles White (Webber Wentzel)

OPEN ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A major step towards open access to justice was taken a few weeks ago with the launch of the *Lesotho Grey Book Collection*. The initiative makes 110 pieces of Lesotho's primary and subsidiary legislation freely available online, bringing the law, updated and in an interactive format, out of locked printed volumes and into the hands of the people.

The project is the result of a collaboration between the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC), **UCT Law's AfricanLII**, and *Laws.Africa*, with support from the UK-based Indigo Trust and the Sigrid Rausing Trust – funders and stakeholders committed to strengthening governance through transparency.The Grey Book, hosted on www.lesothoLII.org, is more than a digital archive. The initiative builds on regional experience, with Laws.Africa and AfricanLII leading similar projects in 17 African countries, including South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Namibia, Eswatini and Kenya. The launch in Lesotho marks a significant expansion of this movement across the continent.

LARC joins the UCT Law Alternative Career Day

LARC was excited to participate in the University of Cape Town Law Faculty's first-ever "Alternative Career Day," on 1 October 2025. Organised by the **2024 - 2025 Law Students' Council**, the event was designed to expose law students to diverse and meaningful career pathways beyond "traditional" options offered by law firms. LARC's participation aligned perfectly with this vision, offering students insight into careers in public interest law, social justice advocacy, and community-based legal research. Our researchers engaged with students throughout the day, sharing experiences of working at the intersection of law, land rights, and community empowerment, and highlighting how legal skills can be used to advance equality and justice in society. Through interactive discussions and resource materials, LARC showcased the practical and intellectual benefits of working in grassroots and research-oriented spaces. Many students expressed enthusiasm about the possibility of pursuing impactful and different legal careers.

NDIFUNA UKWAZI
LAND FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR PROFIT
OUR FOCUS AREAS

Fees Office
STANDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
OUR FOCUS AREAS

The Alternative Career Day provided an excellent platform for LARC to connect with the next generation of socially conscious lawyers, inspire new interest in land and rural justice work, and build relationships with future collaborators who share our commitment to transforming the legal landscape in South Africa.

UPICLC 2025 PROGRAMME

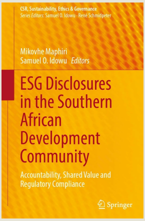
6th University of Pretoria International Consumer Law Conference

The 6th University of Pretoria International Consumer Law Conference took place at Skukuza Safari Lodge from 1 - 3 October. The conference focused on the theme "*The Consumer at the Centre of Law.*" **Prof Tjakie Naude** (Private Law) presented a paper on "*Cases that Overlooked the Standards of Unfairness in the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008*."

Dr Sebastian Krafzik, postdoctoral research fellow in Commercial Law, presented on "*Basel III Capital Standards and Consumer Protection: Balancing Financial Stability and Credit Accessibility in South Africa*." The conference provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas on contemporary issues in consumer protection.

PUBLICATIONS

ESG Disclosures in the Southern African Development Community Accountability, Shared Value and Regulatory Compliance



CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance
Series Editors: Samuel O. Idowu · René Schmidpeter

Mikovhe Maphiri
Samuel O. Idowu *Editors*

ESG Disclosures in the Southern African Development Community

Accountability, Shared Value and Regulatory Compliance

Springer

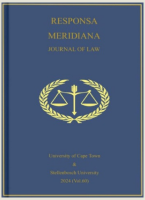
This new book, co-edited by **Dr Mikovhe Williams** (formerly Maphiri) and **Samuel O Idowu**, critically examines the legal and regulatory framework for environmental social governance (ESG) regulation in the South African sphere. It focuses on the compliance of local and international companies with ESG requirements in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in promoting shared values through good governance practices. The book discusses the above in a legal context, with particular attention to Southern African corporate laws and the legal and regulatory frameworks related to human rights and environmental law in SADC. This publication is part of the Springer book series CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance (CSEG).

RESPONSA MERIDIANA 60

The 60th edition of the *Response Meridiana* is now available for purchase at R210 each. Comprising a collection of articles written by Law students from Stellenbosch University and UCT, copies can be ordered by emailing responsa@uct.ac.za, following which you will receive an invoice. Deliveries will be arranged on receipt of payment.

Only hard copies are available for purchase.

For those not familiar with this journal, *Responsa Meridiana* is the annual law journal published since 1964 through the collaborative efforts of the law students of the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch.



RESPONSA
MERIDIANA
JOURNAL OF LAW

University of Cape Town
&
Stellenbosch University
2024 (Vol.60)

The journal welcomes submissions by all law students from both Universities, as well as the University of Western Cape, providing undergraduate law students with an opportunity to sharpen their skills in academic research and writing - with a tangible result in the form of a peer-reviewed journal. Two editorial committees, one at each of the two universities and each assisted by their respective faculty advisors, painstakingly select and edit the articles to be published. From the first edition, Responsa Meridiana established itself as a journal of exceptional standard, and has proven to be a valuable research tool, with articles being referenced in several court decisions over the years. *Responsa Meridiana* prides itself on being a journal of exceptional standard, with judges, advocates, attorneys, academics and students amongst subscribers.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The **University of Notre Dame's Law School** is looking forward to hosting another Faculty member from UCT Law in the 2026-2027 academic year. The exchange includes airfare, accommodation and a generous stipend for the period at NDLS. The period can be from as short as two weeks or as long as three months. Colleagues are encouraged to apply as long as it does not interfere with their teaching.

To apply for this opportunity, provide a brief motivation to Fatima.Khan@uct.ac.za, to be considered internally by the Internationalisation Committee and externally by NDLS. To meet key deadlines, both internal and external, Notre Dame has requested that UCT Law provide our nominee for exchange to Notre Dame by **31 October 2025**.

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.

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.