Faculty Fortnight
UCT Law Faculty News & Updates
18 December 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.

!! FINAL ISSUE FOR 2025 - NEXT ISSUE 17 FEBRUARY 2026 !!

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FACULTY NEWS

STAFF NEWS | FAREWELLS

On Tuesday 9 December, the Faculty gathered to say a huge thank you and a warm farewell (but see you soon!) to a number of members of staff. **Professor PJ Schwikkard**, Dean of Law from 2009 - 2015 and Professor of Criminal Law in the Public Law Department, is retiring from full-time Faculty life but will continue to supervise her PhD students. Warm words were shared by the Dean, **Prof Chirwa**, and by **Prof Sandy Paterson** (HoD, Public Law). **Professor Fatima Khan**, also due to retire end-2025, has been retained for a further three years due to her highly specialised knowledge in the area of refugee rights and immigration law. Prof Chirwa spoke highly of Prof Khan's time in the Faculty, her journey from being a school teacher to becoming a full Professor, and the contribution she has made to building the Faculty's Refugee Rights Unit. With the Dean coming to the end of his term as Dean of UCT Law, Prof Khan then spoke of **Prof Chirwa**'s term as Dean and thanked him on behalf of the Faculty for his contribution to the Faculty during his seven years at the helm. The Faculty had also hoped to be able to bid a warm farewell to **Distinguished Professor Philippe Salazar**, who retires end-December, marking a long and very distinguished academic career at UCT, but he was not able to join us in person. Distinguished Professor Salazar, at one time Dean of the UCT Faculty of Arts, journeyed to Law as Director of the Centre for Rhetoric Studies when the Centre found a new home at the Faculty. The Centre will continue with Professor Jaco Barnard-Naude moving from Centre Co-Director to Director.

We wish all of our colleagues very well as they embark on their next adventures, both within and outside the Faculty.

LAW FACULTY ANNUAL for 2024

Some things really are better late than never! The 2024 Law Annual is now online, reflecting a rich period of events, conferences, workshops, seminars, public lectures, awards and recognitions, and research publication. It's all available in the full-colour 60-page report!

If you spot any errors or omissions, please send these to gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
FACULTY OF LAW
LAW
ANNUAL
2024

FACULTY CALENDAR

19 December | Final marks released
16 January 2026 | All firm offers made for LLB, based on matric results
19 - 31 January 2026 |UCT Summer School @ Kramer
4 February 2026 | Law Staff portrait photo session
9 - 13 February 2026 | LLB Orientation
16 February 2026 | Start of Term 1
1 - 4 July 2026 | Public Law Conference @ Kramer

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

Inaugural Corporate Securities Conference
7 - 8 April 2026

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Faculty's Department of Commercial Law will be hosting the inaugural Corporate Securities Conference from 7 - 8 April 2026. Under the theme '*The Materialisation of Embedded Value of Companies' Securities: The Future of Dematerialisation in Private and Unlisted Companies'*, the conference promises a focus on a wide range of related topics.

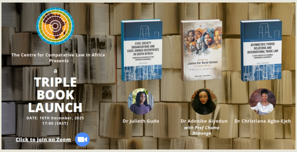
Applicants should submit an abstract of up to 350 words, together with a short CV in the same document. Submissions should be sent to corpsecuritiesconference@uct.ac.za by 30 January 2026 - with the email subject clearly marked *Abstract for UCT Corporate Securities Conference.*

For further information, refer to the email sent to all staff 1 December 2025, or contact Professor Tong-Mongalo directly.

PAST LECTURES, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

The CCLA hosts a TRIPLE book launch

In line with reflecting on the deeper and broader meanings of *reconciliation*, the CCLA invited colleagues to a triple book launch on Tuesday 16 December that attemtped a reconciliation of three themes in law and development, in South Africa and Africa more broadly. With three new books forming the focus of this event (and in light of the Day of Reconciliation being a South African public holiday), the event was held online.


The Centre for Comparative Law in Africa
Presents
a
TRIPLE BOOK LAUNCH
DATE: 16TH December, 2025
17:00 (SAST)
Click to join on Zoom
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH AFRICA
Access to Justice for Rural Women in South Africa
ASYMMETRIC POWER RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
Dr Julieth Gudo
Dr Adenike Aiyedun
with Prof Chuma Himonga
Dr Christiana Agbo-Ejeh

5th International Conference on Punishment in the Global Peripheries
11 - 13 December 2025

The Faculty's Centre of Criminology has just hosted the *5th International Conference on Punishment in the Global Peripheries*, from 11 – 13 December 2025. With more than 100 participants, the conference focused on themes such as policing mobility in the global peripheries; the past and present in criminal justice; colonialism, criminal justice and the limits of reform in Africa; and punishing the poor in colonial criminal justice systems. Also focused on issues such as parole, rehabilitation and alternatives to imprisonment; and governance, racism and death in criminal justice, the conference was co-organised with Universidad Nacional de Litoral; Universidade da Coruna's Research Group on Criminology, Legal Psychology and criminal justice in the 21st Century; and University of Oxford's Centre for Criminology.

Securing Africa's trade and development future at MC14

On 5 December 2025, **Associate Prof Regis Simo** participated in the online gathering titled *Nairobi to Yaoundé: securing Africa's trade and development future at MC14*, organised by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). A/Prof Simo spoke at the session themed *Trade, climate and sustainable development: seizing opportunities, overcoming obstacles.*

ODI explains that this 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) will be a pivotal moment for shaping the future of global trade – and Africa's place within it.

Key expected outcomes include the accession of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) such as Ethiopia and the launch of the third phase of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, a critical Aid for Trade programme supporting LDCs.

MC14 is the 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, taking place in 2026 in Yaoundé.

Advancing Ethiopia's Digital Payment Ecosystem
4 -5 November 2025

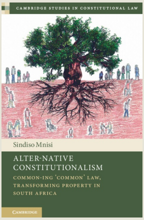
Professor Michelle Louw recently participated as a panellist at a Digital Payment Workshop, titled *Advancing Ethiopia's Digital Payment Ecosystem*, organised by the British Embassy in Ethiopia and held in Addis Ababa on 4–5 November 2025.
This event brought together key policymakers, regulators and experts from across Africa and the UK to discuss avenues for strengthening digital payment systems and fostering financial inclusion on the continent. Professor Louw shared the stage with a number of other panellists including Sam Watasa (Uganda), George Lipimile (Zambia), and Michael Adenew (Ethiopia). The panel explored the distinctive journeys of South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Ethiopia in opening and regulating digital payment markets, with particular emphasis on the evolving role of telecommunications companies and mobile payment platforms.

The workshop featured a keynote address by Tim Cowen, who provided insights into the UK's digital payment evolution and its historical trajectory - offering valuable lessons for African markets. Kondwani Kaonga of COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) shared perspectives on regional cooperation and cross-border payment integration, highlighting the opportunities and challenges of more integrated digital financial ecosystems across Africa. A highlight of this workshop was the National Bank of Ethiopia's presentation on the country's current digital payment landscape, underscoring Ethiopia's acceleration toward a more inclusive and interconnected financial ecosystem.

Overall, the workshop was a great platform for sharing knowledge and expertise, with leaders in the field sharing their experiences, expertise, best practices and policy insights. Prof Louw was pleased to be able to reinforce, through her contribution, the importance of collaborative regulation and innovation in building financial inclusion through digital payment mechanisms across Africa.

BOOK LAUNCH

Alter-Native Constitutionalism: Common-ing 'common law', transforming property in South Africa


CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
Sindiso Mnisi
ALTER-NATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM
COMMON-ING 'COMMON' LAW, TRANSFORMING PROPERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA
CAMBRIDGE

On 3 December, LARC, CLS and the Centre of Criminology co-hosted **A/Professor Sindiso Mnisi** introducing her forthcoming book *Alter-Native Constitutionalism: Common-ing 'common law', transforming property in South Africa*. **Dr Aninka Claassens**, Emeritus Chief Researcher and Founding Director of LARC, discussed the book with the author.

This book takes seriously increasing sociopolitical challenges to the legitimacy of South Africa's post-apartheid legal order and scathing critiques of the constitutional settlement. It argues that jurists' belief that the worst that could happen to the Rule of Law of (un)common Law is for liberal constitutionalism to be abandoned is perplexing.

It contends that the real 'worst-case scenario' is that South African constitutionalism could continue its unresponsiveness to its own precarity born of ordinary people's alienation from the so-called 'common law', ultimately leading to the 'anarchy' jurists fear. Alter-Native Constitutionalism is oered instead. Read more about this book on the Cambridge University Press website.

International Conference
30 November 2025
Ecocide, Human Rights & Environmental Justice

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ECOCIDE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
31 OCTOBER 2025
WOBURN SUITE, GROUND FLOOR, SENATE HOUSE

LLM student **Daniel Odonkor** recently presented a paper at the *International Conference on Ecocide, Human Rights and Environmental Justice*. Hosted by the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, the one-day conference took place on 30 November.

Planning to register for his PhD in 2026, Daniel presented his paper as part of the panel on *Human Rights and Environmental Stewardship,* arguing that the current definitions of ecocide risk perpetuating injustice against countries in the Global South. Daniel proposed an alternative definition that reflects the lived realities of these countries. The presentation drew on his co-authored article in the *International Journal of Human Rights*.

In his paper, Daniel examined Ghana's experience with small-scale mining to illustrate how marginalised communities, displaced from sustainable livelihoods and operating under economic pressure, can be unfairly criminalised, and he emphasised that frameworks are required to protect the environment without reproducing global inequities - and ecocide must not become another instrument that punishes the vulnerable while powerful actors escape scrutiny.

PUBLICATIONS

THE ANNUAL FACULTY PUBLICATION COUNT

The annual publication count always provides room for feeling rather proud of all the work undertaken by academics and researchers in the Faculty in the previous period. The final list is a quick spotlight on what has been achieved!

As much as the count is an opportunity to reflect on this snapshot of what colleagues are focused on, it's also a university requirement So the **absolutely final deadline for submission of qualifying research publications** for the University's annual publication count is **4 February 2026**.

Please refer to emails sent by Lamize.Viljoen@uct.ac.za, Faculty Research Office, to whom you should direct all enquiries. And remember that submitting chapters in books requires a written motivation (max 500 words) from the editor. Lamize has a guide for such motivations should you need one.

THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
LAW
JOURNAL

VOL 142 PART 4 2025 FOUNDED 1884

Of the nine articles included in the most recent SALJ, three were contributed by Faculty academics, as follows:

- Reflections on Wallage v Williams-Ashman & others: Gender discrimination, the optimism bias, freedom of testation, property rights and vesting | **Mohamed Paleker**
- The distinction between the governing law and the incorporation by reference of contractual terms in international contracts | **Faadhil Adams**
- The rise of judicial review of South Africa's treaty-making powers | **Hannah Woolaver**

FACULTY RESEARCH

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD 2025 | DEADLINE EXTENDED

The submission deadline for the *Law Faculty Research Award for 2025* has been extended until **Monday 5 January 2026**. Please send in your already published article (2023-2024) with a short covering motivation.

This award comes with a prize amount of between R5 000 and R10 000. **Submit now!**

For any enquiries or submissions, please email Lamize Viljoen.

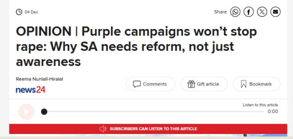
INTERNATIONALISATION

Visit from Xiangtan University

The Dean recenlty hosted a visit from Xiangtan University, to discuss possible partnerships and collaborations. The visiting delegation included five members of the University:

- Professor Liao Yong'an – President, Xiangtan University & Dean, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)
- Professor Wang Weiyan – Director, International Exchange Center (XTU)
- Professor Li Shichun – Principal, Law School (XTU)
- Professor Zhang Xiaohu – Executive Vice Dean, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)
- Dr Wang Weifeng – Lecturer & Full-time Research Fellow, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP



04 Dec

OPINION | Purple campaigns won't stop rape: Why SA needs reform, not just awareness

Reema Nunlall-Hiralal

news24

On 4 December, **Dr Reema Nunlall-Hiralal** contributed an opionion piece on the News24 platform, titled *Purple campaigns won't stop rape: Why SA needs reform, not just awareness*. The article is at this link ()

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Two of our alums have just won the *SA Law Reform Commission*'s 2024 Essay Competition's LLM prizes. This essay competition is held in honour of the late Chief Justice Pius Nkonzo Langa. The competition aims to promote critical legal writing by students while generating new ideas for law reform which are aligned with South Africa's priorities.

Congratulations to Mihle Mleni and Sandiso Sifumba for receiving these prestigious prizes!

Winner: **Mihle Mleni**, University of Cape Town — Essay Title: "Traditional healing as an offence of witchcraft: A decolonial analysis on the use of religion as a tool by the Apartheid legislative arm to demystify the belief of witchcraft and the resultant effects on the drafting of the Witchcraft Suppression Act."

Runner-up: **Sandiso Sifumba**, University of Cape Town — Essay Title: "The Right to Watt."

The assessment panel comprised esteemed academics and practitioners, including:
• Professor Wesahl Domingo
• Professor Debbie Collier-Reed
• Professor Karthy Govender
• Dr Keneilwe Radebe
• Mr Enerst Nemusimbori (Attorney and Director, Enerst Nemusimbori Attorneys Inc)

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL
the doj & cd

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | LAW@WORK

UCT Law @ work
Professional Development Project

Law@work, the Faculty's professional development short courses unit, offers a wide variety of courses on legal and law-related topics - for those in professional legal practice, those in law-adjacent professions, and those needing short sharp insights into specialist or niche areas of law and its application.

And so Law@work is ALWAYS looking for facilitators, academics and seasoned professionals to present courses. Currently, the unit is looking for presenters on the following topics:

- Venture capital financing
- GenAI for Lawyers
- CISCA & hedge funds
- Rule of law (webinar)
- Indemnification in contract (webinar)
- Representations and warranties in contracts (webinar)
- Interpretation of contracts and the parol evidence rule (webinar)
- Contract formation: essentials and pitfalls (webinar)
- Contract interpretation: decoding the fine print (webinar)
- Contract termination: getting out of a bad deal (webinar)
- Sports law and governance: regulatory compliance
- Player contracts: negotiating the best deal
- Navigating athlete-agent contracts: drafting and dispute resolution
- Dispute resolution in sports: arbitration and litigation
- Shipping law: Charterparties and Bills of Lading
- Maritime claims and arrest of vessels
- Admiralty jurisdiction and procedure
- Environmental law and marine pollution

If you're interested in presenting, or know somebody who might be, contact Donaleen Coue, Head of Law@work.

UCT SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School
19–31 JANUARY 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

Centre for Extra-Mural Studies
Open learning for all

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.