

#LegalPrimaFacie

Faculty Newsletter

December 2024

Setting the standard for legal education in Africa, our Faculty of Law is **#LegalPrimaFacie**, showcasing undeniable evidence of being the top-ranked choice in Africa. Establishing us as the leading choice for aspiring legal minds.



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Law

Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid
Lefapha la Molao

Make today matter

Message from the **DEAN**

Dear Colleagues

As we conclude another successful year, I thank each one of you for the unique contribution that you have made throughout the year to the academic project and to our Faculty. In our quest to be a human-centered Faculty, you have often gone the extra mile to support a student or a colleague because we know that we can only thrive when everybody thrives. As we move into 2025, our focus on the wellbeing of staff and students will remain a priority – it underpins all our academic activities and we will continue to explore ways and means to promote wellbeing.

I wish everyone a restful festive season. May you spend quality time with your loved ones and return with renewed energy for 2025. Please take care and be safe.

Prof Elsabe Schoeman

Dean, Faculty of Law



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Welcome Day

The welcome event is a significant event on the faculty calendar, promoting fellowship and connections among all staff members. Additionally, it fosters collaborations between departments. This year's **Law Faculty Welcome**, as is typical, recognised several achievements by personnel ranging from long-term service to promotions and nominations to serve on advisory committees locally, regionally, and internationally.



Women In Law Event

On Friday, October 25, 2024, the Plant Sciences Auditorium at the University of Pretoria was filled with lively debates and intelligent interactions as the Faculty of Law sponsored its second annual Women in Law Forum. This year's event, titled *Voices of Change: Inspiring Women for a Brighter Future*, brought together aspiring professionals, students, academics, and legal practitioners who are committed to expanding women's roles in law. The seminar, led by programme director **Ms Bosele Teke**, covered a wide range of subjects important to women in the legal industry, including career development and leadership, diversity, inclusion, and social justice.



Embassies event

UP Law is no stranger to global collaborations, whether through the UP Internationalisation office, the Faculty, or embassy-sponsored initiatives. For this reason, on 12 March, the Dean, **Prof Elsabe Schoeman**, and her executive team hosted representatives from various embassies, consulates, and foreign missions for a unique engagement to strengthen relationships with existing collaborators while also establishing new relationships with partners who share similar interests in advancing legal education and contributing to the broader global legal agenda of ensuring justice for all.



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UP Law wins bid to host SALT Conference 2025

The Faculty of Law won the bid to host the **2025 Southern African Law Teachers Conference**. After a 20-year absence, SALT will return to the City of Tshwane, under the leadership of **Prof Charles Maimela**, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, who delivered a compelling bid this year and was chosen to host the 2025 SALT conference, which will take place in July next year.



Annual Recognition of Achievement (ROA) Function

The Faculty collaborates with law firms, legal associations and law societies, and corporations to award LLB students' academic achievements during the previous year. This distinguished event honoured students' outstanding academic achievements across the faculty and at all levels of study. The ceremony demonstrating the University and the Faculty's dedication to honouring student success in order to maintain high academic standards and promote excellence in their future legal careers.



Dean's Merit List

The Dean of the Faculty, **Prof Elsabe Schoeman**, and the Deputy Dean, **Prof Charles Maimela**, celebrated students who laboured diligently to achieve academic excellence obtaining a minimum average of 75%. Students who achieve the requirements for inclusion on the Dean's Merit List are awarded for their outstanding academic performance. The Faculty is committed to supporting students academically and rewards their achievements during their studies. The Deans Merit event is traditionally held before each graduation ceremony.



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Matric Achievers

The Faculty of Law held a lunch to commemorate the top 10 matriculants who will attend the best law school in Africa and South Africa in 2024. The matriculant class of 2023 worked hard to achieve great results, with an average pass rate ranging from **88 to 93 percent, putting them at level 7**, the highest grade for the South African senior certificate. UP Law continues to attract students from all over South Africa. This year's unique collection of top performers hails from Gauteng, North West, Free State, Western Cape, and Mpumalanga, highlighting the Faculty's commitment to diversity.



UP Moot claims Jessup National Rounds

The University of Pretoria moot team emerged victorious in the national rounds of the Jessup competition. **Mr Nyasha Jawa** (coach), **Ms Mamkhabela Tamara Mthembu**, **Ms Oreneile Diphofa**, **M. Shanley Webb**, and **M. Gracie Sargood** represented UP Law with pride. They qualified to represent the University and South Africa at the Jessup International Law competition, which was scheduled to take place from March 30 to April 6 2024 in Washington, D.C., United States of America.

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GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

Our academic staff participates in conferences, exchanges, guest lectures, consultancy, and other academic initiatives to prepare graduates to tackle global challenges.

Our academics contribute to global academics by adopting teaching and research techniques to effect real-world impact in the legal field and society.



Prof Anne Skelton

*Committee on the Rights of the Child:
Review of Israel.*



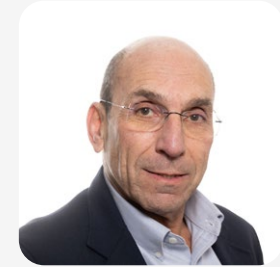
Prof Frans Viljoen

*Reappointment to the Advisory Committee of
United Nations Human Rights Council.*



Prof Joel Modiri

*Appointed as a member of the Group of
Independent Eminent Experts on the
Implementation of the Durban Declaration
and Programme of Action.*



Prof Daniel D Bradlow

*Co-Chair of Task Force 3 on Sovereign Debt
of the T20 on Reforming the International
Financial Architecture.*



Prof Rashri Baboolal-Frank

*Member of London Court of International
Arbitration/a member of the Chartered
Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb).*



Prof Elvis Fokala and Ms Liesl Muller

*Appointed to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and
Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).*



Miss Dunga Mashilo and Mr Wayne Dlodlo

*Academic associates recipients of the Mandela Rhodes
Scholarship 2024 cohort.*

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FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof Elmi du Plessis

Appointed Judge for Gauteng Division of the High Court



Mrs Samantha Getsos

Our Children's Trust ("OCT") legal research fellowship



Dr Daniel Bradlow

Wins The Conversation Africa Award for the most publications published

NRF Rated Researchers



Prof Andre Boraie



Dr Keneilwe Radebe

Commissioner for Law Reform Commission



Dr Ashley Nyaude

Elected treasurer of the Southern African Law Teachers Society



Prof Anton Kok



Prof Christiaan Swart



Prof Daniel Bradlow



Prof Kamalesh Newaj



Mrs Karabo Ozah

Associate Fellow of the Academy IAFL: International Academy of Family Lawyers.



Dr Llewelyn Curlewis

Deputy Chair Legal Practice Council



Prof Ntombizozo Dyani-Mhango



Prof Rashri Baboolal-Frank



Prof Stephanus van Zyl



Dr Chijioke Okorie

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Staff Graduations



Dr Carolina Meyer



Dr Rudy Kabwe



Dr Tebello Matsela



Miss Amanda Shoba



Ms Diatile Prinsloo



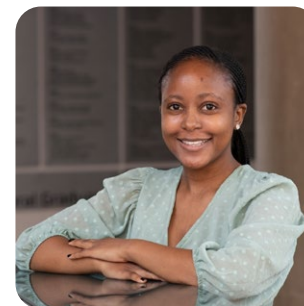
Mr Frederik Grobler



Mrs Mmopiemang Sesing-Letsike



Miss Rutendo Mugabe



Miss Seipati Lepele



Miss Victoria Amaechi



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Faculty Strategic Appointments

The Faculty has appointed three new Chairs to lead relevant committees that align with the University's strategic plan. These Chairs will help the Faculty achieve its objectives through meaningful and strategic engagements.



Prof Joel Modiri
Chair of Postgraduate Studies



Prof Gustav Muller
Chair of Research



**Prof Ntombizozo
Dyani-Mhango**
Chair of Internationalisation



ALUMNI FOCUS



Double Success: UP Law Alumni couple excel in Tech and Finance

We're delighted to shine the spotlight on UP Law alumni couple **Aniel and Shaun Putter**, who are making waves in their respective careers! Aniel, a Client Success Manager at Provenance, is delivering exceptional service to clients and driving business growth, while Shaun has been appointed as a Senior Revenue Operations Specialist at nCino Inc., a global leader in Cloud Banking services.

Shaun Putter graduated his LLB *cum laude*, transitioning into Security Markets and Securities while Aniel ventured into International Air, Space and Telecommunications Law.

Together, this dynamic duo is a testament to the versatility and value of a UP Law degree, demonstrating that with hard work and determination, graduates can excel in a wide range of industries and roles. We're thrilled to celebrate their individual and joint successes and look forward to seeing the impact they'll continue to make in their careers.

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Mathelela makes her Mark: UP Law Alumna turns journalist with The South African

We're thrilled to announce that UP Law alumna **Dee-Dee Mathelela** has joined The South African as a journalist. She obtained her LLB at the University of Pretoria with distinction and was awarded the Attorney Fidelity Fund PG Bursary for her LLM in Intellectual Property Law.



Shaping the Continent's Future: UP Law Alumna Christian Bisrat makes her mark at the Pan African Parliament

We're proud to shine the spotlight on UP Law alumna **Christian Bisrat**, who has been making a significant impact as a Legal Consultant at the Pan African Parliament since 2022. As a key player in shaping the continent's legislative agenda, Christian is dedicated to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across Africa. Her expertise and passion for the law are an inspiration to us all, and we're thrilled to recognise her achievements in this year's newsletter.



Pan-African
Parliament



Centre for Human Rights Graduate becomes Lesotho High Court Judge

His Majesty the King, Letsie III, has appointed **Dr Itumeleng Mamokhali Shale** as a Puisne Judge of the High Court of the Lesotho Kingdom. She was sworn in as such on Thursday 10 October 2024, at the Royal Palace Grounds. She graduated with an LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA) in 2008, from the University of Pretoria, Centre for Human Rights.



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FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

Each year, the faculty of law is fortunate to receive donations from various external stakeholders such as law firms, business individuals, alumni, and international partners, who provide financial, in-kind, and resource support to enable the continuation of key and strategic faculty projects. The assistance we receive enables academics to negotiate the complex financial context in which the higher education sector functions, particularly in South Africa. Universities are increasingly encouraged to investigate third-stream income production opportunities in order to address the increased need for assistance from students who are experiencing financial difficulties on a daily basis. UP Law Dean, **Prof Elsabe Schoeman**, and Deputy Dean, **Prof Charles Maimela**, expressed gratitude and appreciation to the faculty benefactors for enabling them to pursue the agenda of legal teaching and research.



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SOCIETIES



BLASC



Law House



Legal Shebeen



NADL



SLSJ



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EVENTS

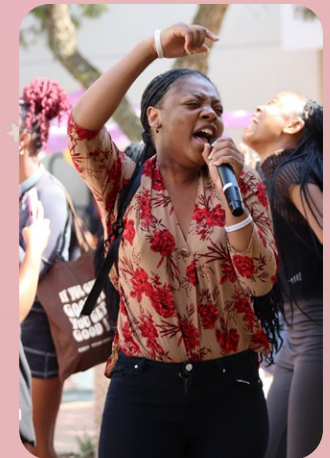
Child Moot Competition



Christof Heyns Africa Moot



Faculty Festival



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Faculty Social (Soup & Wine)



Graduations



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Law Firms on Campus



Orientation Week



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Law Societies in Action



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National Schools Moot



Mandela Rhodes Moot



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Law House Dinner



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