

## Dear First-year Law Students

We extend our heartiest welcome to all UP law students and simultaneously congratulate you on your acceptance to study law at UP, and wish you the very best with your studies.

Make today matter



Faculty of Law  
Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid  
Lefapha la Molao



Our students remain our priority as we grasp that you are the reason for our existence. **Your success is our success** – and vice versa. For the fourth consecutive year UP Law has ranked the best law faculty in Africa, an achievement unparalleled in Africa. This gives clout to your law degrees and creates an expectation that UP Law needs to continue to up the ante to give our students a competitive advantage in the legal arena.

It is our mission to create and sustain a teaching, learning and research environment that is grounded in the **pursuit of social justice, equality and excellence**. **Every student counts**. Every student's involvement in UP Law activities counts. Work towards joining one of our student bodies to contribute to UP and the community at large, and enhance your CV. Strive to acquire the required skills to make a success of your studies and life from the onset.

At the undergraduate level, the Faculty offers a four-year LLB degree. However, the majority of our students first enrol for BCom (Law) or BA (Law) degrees. We aim to produce LLB graduates with the **knowledge, critical thinking abilities, awareness of social and ethical responsibilities, legal skills and work readiness that are required to follow any of the established career paths in law**. With this aim in mind, UP Law is progressively placing greater emphasis on an inquiry-led approach to teaching and learning to improve the research and problem-solving skills of our students.

We currently employ approximately 70 dedicated full-time academics, of whom more than two-thirds have doctoral degrees in various fields of the law. Our highly motivated professional staff supports them, and together they serve and prepare our student community for the various law-related career opportunities. **The high quality of teaching, learning and support we provide ensures that employers are keen to hire our graduates.**

The legal profession is a demanding one, but the skills you will learn at UP Law will prepare you to take your place among the best in the field. Regardless of whether you are enrolled for an LLB, a BCom (Law) (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences) or a BA (Law) (Faculty of Humanities) degree, you will **have access to support from UP Law** and some of our tailored programmes that will help you to land your first job or start your own business.

As a UP Law graduate, you will have received the high quality of teaching and learning that is part of THE UP WAY of life and will be fully equipped to adjust to the workplace. This means that you will be able to **use your skills to play a positive role in South Africa and the world, use your critical thinking skills to innovate and be a well-rounded, ethical individual who is an asset to the workplace and society.**

Many of our alumni have reached the apex of their careers in law, some serving as judges in the high courts, the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court, where they play a significant role in the execution of justice. Several graduates have also taken up important positions in government. The current South African Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola, and the Namibian Minister of Justice, Ms Yvonne Dausab, are UP Law alumni! **Work hard right from the onset to follow in their footsteps or create your own illustrious future.**

As a UP Law community, we are deeply committed to promoting **fairness and justice in our society, our country and the world.**

**We look forward to your contributions to UP Law over the next few years, and your future contributions in the national and international legal arena.**

You are welcome to write to the deanery on [lawdean@up.ac.za](mailto:lawdean@up.ac.za) **only.** Regrettably our administrative workload is such that we are unable to attend to emails from students randomly forwarding mails to our UP email addresses. **Also ensure that you know what the prescribed escalation process is, which must be strictly adhered to.**

We are hopeful that a significant decrease in the Covid-pandemic infections will allow us to meet with you in person soon. Until then, be safe, take care, shala gabotse, mooi bly.

Sincerely

**Dean Professor Elsabe Schoeman and Deputy Dean Professor Charles Maimela**

Faculty of Law

12 February 2022



UP Law  
leaves  
NO ONE  
behind