



Law Clinic
kwiKliniki yezomThetho
Regskliniek

ANNUAL **REPORT** 2020



 Universiteit Stellenbosch
Stellenbosch University
iYunivesithi yaseStellenbosch

Entrance to Law Clinic →

Ingang na Regskliniek →

Ukungena kwiKliniki
yezomThetho →



2020

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Law Clinic
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Regskliniek



UNIVERSITEIT
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STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

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1918 · 2018

Letter from

PROF BROODRYK

Associate Professor and Managing Attorney of the SU Law Clinic

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic during the year in the 2020 Annual Report.

2020 has probably been one of the most challenging years in the Clinic's history since it was formally established in the late 1980s. The Clinic was forced to close its doors due to COVID-19 from 26 March until 22 June. During this time, we could only serve existing clients; we could not take on new clients. Fortunately, following the design of a reintegration strategy and the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive reintegration plan, the Clinic was one of the first, if not *the* first, university law clinic to reopen its doors to the public. We were extremely pleased to resume our services to the public as we were, and remain, acutely aware of the impact COVID-19 has had especially on the poor, vulnerable and marginalised members of our community.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Clinic had a pleasing and productive year. We provided access to legal services to almost 1 000 individuals in various fields of law, including eviction, family, and general civil law. Our impact initiatives have been well-publicised and include, for example, a class action certification application filed with the Western Cape High Court in which the Clinic and 8 of our clients seek recourse on behalf of thousands of defrauded consumers. The Clinic conducted various training initiatives, including financial literacy and rights-based training at farms and schools in the Cape Winelands District. Staff at the Clinic have conducted important research resulting in numerous accredited academic publications. We successfully digitalised our final-year Practical Legal Training module because of the impact of the pandemic. The list goes on. These, and other activities and achievements, resulted in the Law Clinic again being recognised as the South African social justice and specialist law firm of the year.

We are hopeful that, in 2021, we will continue to realise our vision: a community that is legally empowered and that possesses a strengthened capacity to exercise their rights; law graduates who are professionally trained and are at the highest echelons insofar as their employability is concerned; and a broader South African community that is sensitised to their social justice responsibilities.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Law Faculty, to all our funders and to our stakeholders for their continued support. Moreover, I am grateful for a wonderful team of employees. I appreciate that access to justice is best achieved not through individual effort, but through the concerted efforts of a committed team.

Yours sincerely,

T Broodryk
Prof Theo Broodryk



WHO WE ARE

The Law Clinic's Vision is:

a community that is legally empowered and that possesses a strengthened capacity to exercise their rights, either as individuals or as members of the community;

law graduates who are professionally trained and are at the highest echelons insofar as their employability is concerned; and

&

a broader South African community that is sensitised to their social justice responsibilities.

To bring our vision into reality the Law Clinic, through collaboration initiatives or otherwise, provides professional legal advice and representation in civil matters to members of the community who qualify for legal aid in Stellenbosch and surrounding areas and we offer legal education, including clinical legal education, to candidate attorneys, final-year law students and to members of the community, including the poor and marginalised.

The Law Clinic expects each employee to uphold the organisation's core values in its dealings with clients, colleagues and other stakeholders:

Diligence and Passion

Conviction, diligence and passion are expected and are essential employee characteristics that the Clinic expects in order to achieve its objectives.

Transparency, Honesty and Integrity

The Clinic's reputation is largely dependent upon its employees conducting themselves with integrity and in an honest and transparent manner. It constitutes the fundamental cornerstone upon which the Clinic operates, without which no relationship of value and trust can exist.

Respect

The Clinic respects, values and encourages differences among all people where such differences are embraced within the workplace to promote and achieve the Clinic's objectives.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Stellenbosch University has identified the following three overarching strategic priorities that encompass its mission and the vision:

**Broaden
Access**

**Sustain
Excellence**



**Enhance
Societal Impact**

As a higher education institution, SU considers its responsibility to the country and continent as key in the quest to demonstrate corporate citizenship. This is demonstrated by aspiring to incur systemic transformative social impact as the ultimate goal, through institutional collaborative activities with internal and external role players, while upholding the values of shared responsibility, empathy and leadership in service of others. Societal impact is ingrained in the culture of the university where societal well-being is a core goal and social justice is a commitment.

The Law Clinic has incorporated these overarching systemic and organisational strategic priorities into its key objectives, which are as follows:

- To inform and empower qualifying persons through fair and equal access to quality and cost-effective legal services and support;
- To inform and empower the appropriate persons through the dissemination and provision of relevant, quality legal information and training;
- To enable the professional and personal development of candidate attorneys and other Law Clinic staff, through mentoring, training, supervision and exposure to the practice of law;
- To provide education, including Clinical Legal Education, to law students through teaching and exposure to the practice of law (in cooperation with the SU Law Faculty);
- To promote strong governance and management structures; and
- To sustain the Law Clinic's existence and its ability to offer relevant, cost-effective services.

Through the fulfilment of these objectives, the Law Clinic contributes towards the University's overarching strategic imperatives by ensuring that it, firstly, remains committed to the broadening of access by being responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries, particularly those in vulnerable communities; by increasing and accelerating the diversity profile of Law Clinic staff through proactive recruitment; developing and retaining Law Clinic staff members from the designated groups; and creating an inclusive Law Clinic culture and climate that embraces diversity and the values of the University; secondly, delivers work of an excellent standard in every facet of its operation by implementing appropriate accountability mechanisms and reporting structures within the organisation; and lastly, strives to achieve maximum societal impact within its sphere of influence by responsibly and thoughtfully conducting operational and strategic processes; reviewing progress regularly; and being responsive to the ever-changing context in which it operates.

How we are **MANAGED AND GOVERNED**

The Law Clinic is governed by its Advisory Board and the elected SU Council. The Law Clinic's strategy is influenced by decisions taken by the governing structure of SU and is shaped by the Manager, the Dean and Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty, with the input of the Law Clinic attorney employees and the Faculty Committee, subject to the overall SU strategy, policies, procedures and rules. The Manager is a member of the Law Faculty's executive decision-making body, the Faculty Committee. Certain decisions are also subject to approval by the Faculty Board, which mostly comprises all permanent academic faculty appointments. The Faculty's decisions are subject to the governing structures policies, procedures and rules and such decisions would accordingly need to be made with due reference to such governance instruments. The governing structure's approval regarding certain decisions affecting the Law Clinic's strategy may be required and it may also be approached on an *ad hoc* basis for input and advice. Financial reports are generated throughout the year and reviewed by internal SU mechanisms. The Law Clinic's annual budget is prepared by the Manager with input from Law Clinic practitioners and the Faculty Committee, subject to and within the framework of allocated SU organisational funding. The budget is approved by the Dean of the Faculty.

An in-house financial management system is used by SU through which the funds of the Law Clinic are channelled and managed. SU practices effective, efficient and transparent financial management in terms of financial accountability. All financial transactions are subject to the University's Financial Policy. The signatory authority and mandate for approval resides with the Manager. Supporting documentation is required for auditing purposes.

STAFF

The Law Clinic comprises the following staff:

Prof T Broodryk	Associate Professor and Managing Attorney
S van der Merwe	Senior Attorney, Notary Public and Lecturer
N Roode	Attorney
M Posthumus-Meyjes	Attorney
O Nweba	Attorney
S Smith	Administrative Manager
P Khoeaene	Receptionist
M Esau	Administrative Assistant
S Mayekiso	Candidate legal practitioner
L Steyn	Candidate legal practitioner
V Foster	Candidate legal practitioner
M Mjuda	Candidate legal practitioner
B Vlok	Candidate legal practitioner
S Louw	Writing Project Coordinator
T Raath	Paralegal
N Kubheka	Postgraduate consultant
L Faroo	Postgraduate consultant

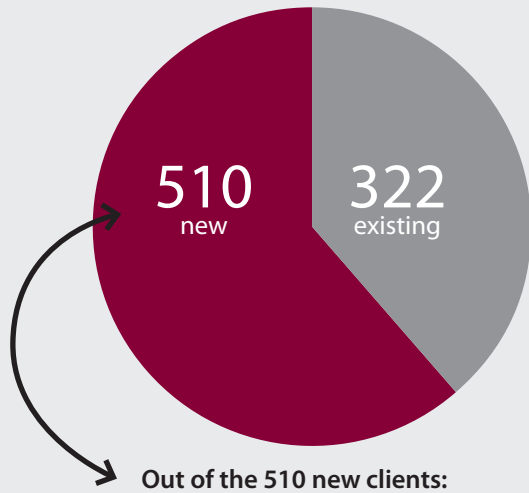


Left to right: M Esau, N Roode, O Nweba, Prof T Broodryk, S Smith, M Posthumus-Meyjes, S van der Merwe and P Khoeaene

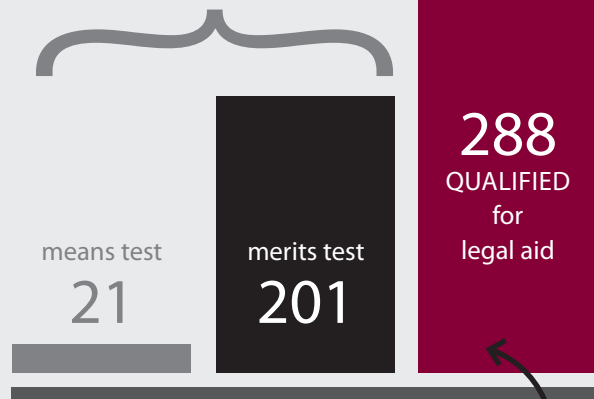
2020 STATISTICS

{ From the beginning of January 2020 until 30 November 2020 }

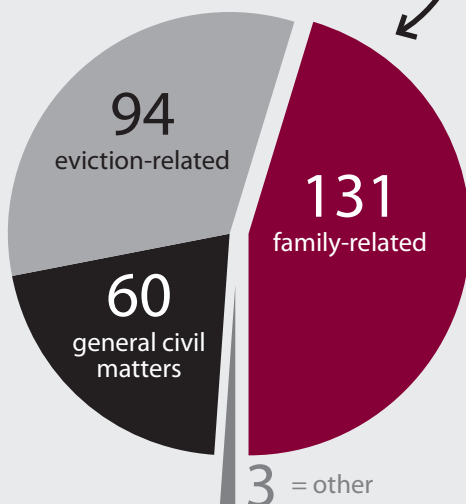
832 individuals visited the Law Clinic



DID NOT QUALIFY
because they did not pass the:

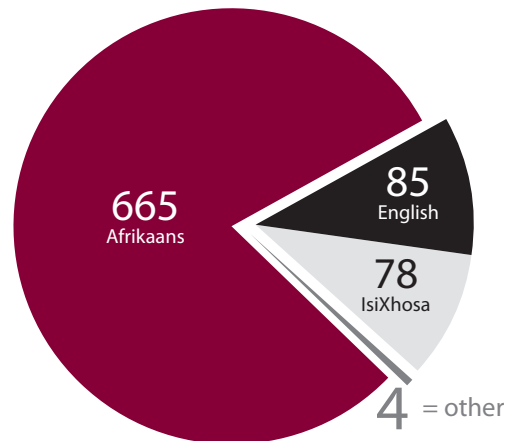


Of the 288 individuals who
qualified for legal aid:

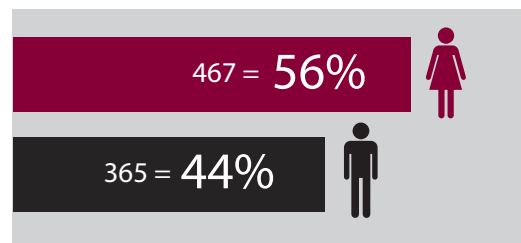


Of the 832 individuals
who visited the Law Clinic:

Language spoken

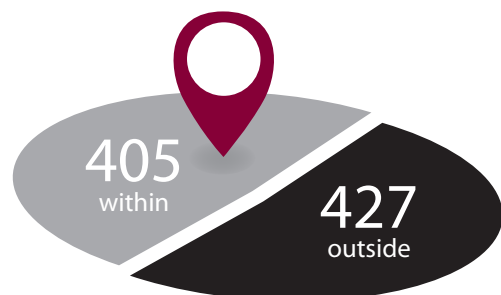


Female VS Male



Geographical spread

regarding Stellenbosch Municipal Area



The majority of individuals thus came from
outside the Stellenbosch Municipal Area.

AWARDS

- **2020:** South African Social Justice Law Firm of the Year and South African Specialist Law Firm of the Year: Corporate INTL Global Awards
- **2019:** South African Social Justice Law Firm of the Year: Global 100 ACQ Global Awards | 10th Annual Global Law Experts Awards
- **2019:** South African Specialist Law Firm of the Year: Global 100 10th Annual Global Law Experts Awards
- **2019:** South African Niche Law Firm of the Year: ACQ Global Awards
- **2019:** 2 Silver awards at the Mace Excellence Awards
- **2019:** Gender Mainstreaming Awards: finalist in the category 'Empowerment of Women in the Community'
- **2018:** CCASA Achievement Award

Georg Forster Award



Professor Broodryk was awarded the Georg Forster Fellowship Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. The Georg Forster Research Award is granted to academics of all disciplines in recognition of a researcher's achievements to date, including material findings, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond and who are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges developing countries. Award winners are invited to conduct a research project of their own choosing in Germany in close collaboration with a specialist colleague. Prof Broodryk will conduct his research in cooperation with specialist colleagues at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

Teaching Excellence Award

The Clinic's Stephan van der Merwe shared some of his teaching experiences as a recent recipient of the Stellenbosch University Teaching Excellence Award with attendees of the Predac program from the Law Faculty. Predac is the Stellenbosch University short course for the Professional Educational Development of Academics in their teaching role. The Predac program is presented annually to newly appointed academics at Stellenbosch University.



RESEARCH AND TEACHING

During the past year, staff at the Clinic delivered numerous outputs, including a number of accredited outputs:

- O Nweba and N Roode "Practical tips for practitioners working from home" (May 2020) *De Rebus*.
- S Van der Merwe "Towards Designing a Validated Framework for Improved Clinical Legal Education: Empirical Research on Student and Alumni Feedback" *PELJ* 2020 (23).
- S van der Merwe 'Debt as Immiseration' in 'Progressive International Debt Justice Blueprint document' (Debt Justice Working Group).
- T Broodryk "Mediation as a tool to manage and resolve class actions" (2020) 31 *Stellenbosch Law Review* 226.
- T Broodryk "Class action certification and constitutional claims: the South African case" (2020) *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law* 1.
- T Broodryk "An empirical analysis of class actions in South Africa" (2020) *Law, Democracy and Development* 54-85.

De Rebus → Issues → Archive 2020 → [Practical tips for legal practitioners working from home](#)

Practical tips for legal practitioners working from home

June 1st, 2020



By Odwa Nweba and Nikita Roode

In his address to the nation on 23 March, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that South Africa (SA) would be placed under lockdown in an attempt to stop the further spread of COVID-19 in SA.

During the lockdown period, most legal practitioners have been forced to work from home. Working from home undoubtedly



Clinic employees are also involved in coordinating and lecturing various modules, including Writing Skills 171 (Susann Louw), Civil Procedure 371 (Prof Broodryk and Stephan van der Merwe), Practical Legal Training 471 (Stephan van der Merwe, Tsavo Raath) and Legal Skills 411 (Prof Broodryk, Susann Louw and Stephan van der Merwe).

MEDIA COVERAGE

During 2020, the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic enjoyed widespread media coverage. Based on the combined reach of the aforementioned coverage, the total AVE of the Law Clinic's media exposure was **over R4 million***.

Row Labels	Count of Headline	Sum of AVE	Sum of Reach
Broadcast	3	715 811	5 166 834
Online	30	1 461 178	3 880 989
Print	37	2 079 021	1 313 760
Grand Total	70	4 256 009	10 361 583

*AVE (advertising value equivalency) calculates what it would have cost if an organisation paid for the media exposure it received. Source: PEAR Africa.

Another Appearance on Carte Blanche



The Clinic featured on Carte Blanche on 2 August. Stephan van der Merwe was consulted to highlight some of the benefits and possible pitfalls of the South African debt counselling mechanism. Carte Blanche also requested the Clinic to prepare a document setting out advice to public on how to manage their finances, which appears on the website.

During 2020, Stephan and other Clinic staff also conducted interviews on various other platforms, including eNCA and RSG.

IMPACT MATTERS

Submission Regarding Proposed Rule Amendments

The Law Clinic made extensive submissions in relation to proposed amendments to Magistrates' Courts Rule 5 which deals with the summons. The submissions related to a reconsideration of the function and requirements of the simple and combined summons in terms of the rules regarding matters where the National Credit Act 34 of 2005 applies. We are pleased that the Rules Board recently published amendments to the rules in accordance with these suggestions, to come into operation on 1 December 2020. We view this development as another important step in the efforts to increase consumer protection and debt justice.

Update: US Law Clinic & Others / National Credit Regulator & Others

On 13 December 2019, the Western Cape High Court issued its landmark 'statutory in duplum' judgment in favour of the applicants, the effect being that all amounts (including legal fees) that accrue under the National Credit Act against the debtor during the time that they are in default, are limited to the arrears debt at the time of default. The judgment has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeal by the Legal Practice Council and Bayport, effectively suspending its immediate impact. We remain positive that the Court of Appeal's judgment will confirm and strengthen the decision of the High Court. The Clinic has allocated many of its resources to the institution of the pending class action to give effect to the terms of the judgment.

Update: SU Law Clinic / Lifestyle Legal

After two unfortunate postponements, we are pleased to report that a new hearing date for the application for certification to pursue class action against Lifestyle Legal and their websites, has been arranged for 27 and 28 January 2021. The application for the interventions from LegalWise and PASA will be heard along with the certification application.

As a reminder: LegalWise South Africa has filed an intervention application to be joined as applicants in the pending certification application. According to papers filed at court, LegalWise has received "numerous complaints from its members describing the same harassment and threats and consequences as described by the applicants in the main application". In addition, PASA (the Payment Association of South Africa) has applied to intervene as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) to assist the court in the matter. In its papers, PASA explains that the respondent websites, companies and directors have been exited from the National Payment System after due diligence investigations. The respondents are opposing both the LegalWise and PASA applications.

Class action lawsuit aims to shut down 'scam' lenders

Thousands of loan applicants deceived into signing monthly debit orders for unrelated services.

By [Ciaran Ryan](#) 2 Oct 2019 00:22



WORKSHOPS, TRAINING, CONFERENCES AND OTHER INITIATIVES



Webinar by Chris Marnewick SC

The Clinic's Practical Legal Training students had the privilege of attending two synchronous webinars with Advocate Chris Marnewick, SC (author of *Litigation skills for South African Lawyers*). Addressing the students through an online platform, Marnewick offered his personal take on fact analysis, pursuing the theory of a case, and practical cross-examination techniques. Marnewick used witness statements from the infamous Oscar Pistorius trial to highlight the importance of understanding the legal basis upon which examiners build their cases, as well as using those statements to extract the one relevant detail that could sway the court's opinion in favour of their client. It was a privilege listening to an expert of his calibre speak, and we appreciate him taking the time to offer his experience and wisdom.

University of Pretoria International Consumer Law Conference

Stephan van der Merwe delivered a presentation on the Clinic's ground-breaking work to improve the legal position of abused South African consumers to an international online audience, during the University of Pretoria International Consumer Law Conference, on 22 September 2020.

Career Fair

The Clinic participated in the Law Maties / Maties Regs-geleerdheid career fair. Nompumelelo, one of our postgraduate consultants, represented the Clinic at the fair.

Progressive International's Debt Justice Working Group

Stephan van der Merwe was invited to join Progressive International's (PI) Debt Justice Working Group. PI Blueprint Working Groups convene diverse groups of academics, advocates, activists, community organisers, and other progressives from across the world. Together, they develop comprehensive frameworks for progressive approaches to international issues that can inform and empower movements around the world.

Recognition of 'in duplum' work

In its May 2020 newsletter, the International Association of Consumer Law (IACLaw) reported on the significant SU Law Clinic & others 'in duplum' judgment.

Stellenbosch University Law Clinic Spearheading Eviction Work

Nettie Welcome, an ESTA occupier and former client of the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic, which forms part of the Faculty of Law, approached the Clinic for legal assistance in an eviction-related matter.

The Clinic was her last resort: *"We sat in the dark and without water for three months. If the Clinic did not help us, we would have been put out on the street. We are extremely grateful for your service. Very grateful!"* Similarly, Nicolas Simen Grobbelaar, a PIE occupier and former client of the Clinic, was also desperate for legal assistance in his PIE-related matter: *"Once again, I thank you for all your assistance and compassion regarding this matter... It's seldom to find someone with your empathy combined with a sense of justice... What would I do without you? Thank you for taking the weight off my shoulders."*

The Law Clinic is the organisation that assists the greatest number of clients in eviction matters in the Western Cape. Over the past year (from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020), notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic and the Law Clinic being closed to the public from 26 March 2020 to 21 June 2020, the attorney and candidate legal practitioners in the Law Clinic's eviction department, opened files for 95 clients with eviction-related problems. These issues range from eviction applications; negotiations on behalf of farm occupier clients, relating to the clients' potential relocation from the farms they occupy; assistance with settlement negotiations on behalf of clients, before or during the court process; threatening evictions; and issues with the disturbance of the clients' services on, or access to, the properties on which they reside. The Law Clinic further finalised 121 matters of clients with eviction related problems over the past year. The Law Clinic's eviction department is currently working on 198 pending files for clients with eviction related matters. From 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, the Law Clinic successfully finalised 26 eviction applications, either by reaching mutually acceptable settlement agreements that were made orders of court, or by successfully opposing the eviction applications in court.



The daily legal services of the Law Clinic include giving advice; appearing in court; engaging in meaningful engagement meetings with local and provincial government representatives; negotiating with legal representatives of property owners, on behalf of occupiers, to reach mutually acceptable settlement agreements; and presenting educational workshops or training sessions to rural communities and community leaders.

Over the past year, the Law Clinic has also successfully assisted 36 families from farms in Stellenbosch, Paarl, Simondium and Wellington, respectively, with their relocations from the farms on which they resided. These families have all been relocated to properties that have, or will soon be, registered in the clients' names, following the Law Clinic's negotiations on their behalf. In these matters, financial assistance is offered to the farm occupiers by the farm owners, with the aim to enable the occupiers to relocate from the farms, and the Law Clinic would then be requested to assist the occupiers with advice on their rights, as well as with assistance in the negotiations with the farm owners or their attorneys. These negotiations most often result in farm occupiers receiving ownership of homes, which ultimately results in permanent security of tenure.

The Law Clinic therefore not only assists clients with opposing eviction applications, providing legal advice on the PIE and ESTA Act, threatening evictions, and applications to restore their possession of the properties on which they reside, but also with negotiations before or after court applications have been instituted.

Empowering Embattled Consumers

In a Moneyweb article by Ciaran Ryan published on 28 April 2020 titled 'You don't qualify for bank assistance? Good, you've dodged a bullet', the Clinic was recognised as a serious role-player in empowering embattled consumers: "This time it's going to be a lot tougher for the banks, if only because consumers are better informed and there are more legal resources on their side, such as Stellenbosch University's Law Clinic..."

Recognition of EAO Work

It was pleasing to see that the Clinic's 2016 Constitutional Court emolument attachment order decision is still referenced with approval in order to argue for expanded judicial oversight in cases regarding the attachment of assets. See par 46 and further in the recent judgment of *Booyesen v ABSA Bank* (Case number: 25718/2018).

Admissions Examinations

Two of our Candidate Legal Practitioners, Veruschka Foster and Mvuyisi Mjuda, passed their admissions examinations. Congratulations Veruschka and Mvuyisi!



Admission to LLM (by research)

We are pleased that attorney and evictions expert, Nikita Roode, has been formally admitted by the Law Faculty as an LLM (by research) candidate with an approved research proposal, the title of which is "Developing a framework for mediating farm evictions and related security of tenure disputes in South Africa". We are excited about the research which Nikita will conduct as part of her LLM. We are hopeful that her research will contribute to the development of legal theory on this issue and that it will assist in the resolution of farm evictions and related security of tenure disputes in future.

Global Day of Action



The Clinic was invited to attend a webinar, entitled "Learning to be legally active", on 17 September 2020. This international clinical legal workshop was organised by the University of York, with the aim of creating a manifesto to support curriculum change that facilitates the reversal of climate change. It considered the current challenges in law curricular that are inhibiting the emergence of reversal of climate change, and what a future envisioned law curriculum in support thereof would look like.

The webinar was conducted as a precursor to the Second Student Law Clinic Global Day of Action for Climate Justice initiative advocates for "a coordinated global day of action by student law clinics around the world to promote greater awareness of climate change and climate justice issues". This year's focus is the rights of nature. The Stellenbosch University Law Clinic joined the endeavour by welcoming two new trees to our garden.

Human Rights Council

During 2019, the Clinic delivered input to the United Nation's Independent Expert, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, for his thematic report to the Human Rights Council on private debt and human rights. We are proud that the Clinic's submission was quoted in the 'Report on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights' that was presented to the Human Rights Council on 2 March 2020.

2nd Annual Social Justice Summit



Prof. Thuli Madonsela
(Social Justice Chair, Stellenbosch University)
cordially invites you to the

SECOND ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT:
All hands on deck to leave no one behind

Save the Date



4 NOVEMBER 2020

The aim of the summit is to launch the M-Fund which is a crowdfunding initiative to accelerate the advancement of equality and the elimination of poverty in pursuit of SDG 10.

Enquiries:

socialjustice@sun.ac.za, +27 (21) 808 3186

Social Justice Chair @CFSJ_MPlan

Social Justice M-Plan



The 2nd Annual Social Justice Summit was conducted virtually on 4 November 2020. Prof Broodryk participated in a session on access to justice and the rule of law with Judge President Dunstan Mlambo, Judge Dennis Davis and Dr Mary Nel.

ESTA Training Session

On Thursday, 3 December 2020, attorney Nikita Roode presented an ESTA training session to members of the Witzenberg Water for Justice Coalition in Bella Vista. The session was attended by 25 members of the coalition, and focused on farm occupiers' right of security of tenure in terms of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 62 of 1997. Ms Roode was accompanied by candidate legal practitioner Betsie Vlok.



Nikita assisting eviction clients at the Clinic.

Collaboration with Black Sash

Towards the latter part of 2020, the Clinic entered into talks to collaborate on a potentially high impact matter with one of South Africa's foremost human rights organisations. The Black Sash Trust is a 65-year-old veteran human rights organisation advocating for social justice in South Africa. Its mission is to work towards the realisation of socio-economic rights, as outlined in the South African Constitution, with emphasis on social security and social protection for the most vulnerable, to reduce poverty and inequality. During September 2020, Black Sash released a research report entitled: "SOCIAL GRANTS: Challenging Reckless Lending in South Africa". This report demonstrates how South Africa's extensive social grant system, that was

meant to provide resources to the poor, had been abused to serve as collateral for debt granted on exploitative terms and conditions. The report ultimately advocates for urgent remedial actions, including legislative alignment, stricter enforcement of existing restrictions on predatory lending, and improved financial education. In their efforts to give effect to the findings and recommendations of the report, Black Sash has identified the Clinic as an organisation with the necessary legal expertise in debt justice to assist in this important project. The Clinic is excited about collaborating with organisations like Black Sash to further our mutual goals in the interest of the communities we serve.

German-South African Lawyers Association supports Stellenbosch University Law Clinic



The German-South African Lawyers Association (GSLA) (*Deutsch-Südafrikanische Juristenvereinigung*) has made a substantial donation to the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic. The GSLA's donation will cover the cost of new furniture for the Clinic's client waiting area, a television monitor that will be used to train and empower the Clinic's clients and law students, two laptops, an uninterruptible power supply, and various other items.

The GSLA is a bilateral association open to all lawyers who are specifically interested in South African and German law. It is intended particularly for persons who are concerned with South African law through their studies or professional occupation.

The Clinic expresses its sincerest gratitude to Raphael van de Sand (LL.M. (Stellenbosch)) and the GSLA for their contribution to, and support of the Clinic. It will no doubt assist the Clinic to continue deliver free, quality services to the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

For more information on the GSLA, please visit their website at www.dsja.org.

WIETA Ethical Webinar Series: Landowners and Occupiers Rights and Responsibilities

During October 2020, attorney Nikita Roode was invited by the Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trade Association (WIETA) to participate in a Zoom-based WIETA ESTA Webinar as panel member. The Webinar was presented to members of WIETA on Tuesday, 8 December 2020, and focused on the rights and responsibilities of producers (landowners), occupiers with consent (typically farm workers) and occupiers without consent. Ms Roode's presentation focused on the rights and responsibilities of occupiers without consent.

Financial Literacy Project



Since COVID-19 and the start of lockdown in March, we asked the students to change their in-person presentations to a digital PowerPoint presentation, video and/or podcast. We divided the theme of financial literacy in 6 subthemes: Wants and needs, National Credit Act, Consumer Protection Act, Budgeting, Financial planning, and General spending tips. Their presentations were translated and both Afrikaans and English videos were sent to 11 schools and 21 farms in the surrounding area. Accordingly, the students shared their knowledge, and the project reached its objective.

Susann Louw coordinates the financial literacy project and the writing strategy.

LLM Degree Obtained



Candidate Legal Practitioner Liline Steyn recently obtained her LLM (by coursework) degree. The topic of her mini-thesis, completed under the supervision of Vice Dean prof Richard Stevens, is titled "The legal nature of shareholder loan accounts in small private companies in South Africa".

Liline also recently completed an online course on children's human rights.

Well done, Liline!

WRITING STRATEGY

In 2011, the Law Faculty implemented a 'writing across the curriculum' - strategy with the aim of establishing a coordinated approach to the development of research and writing skills within the LLB programme as an integral part of legal education within the Faculty. The Faculty's Teaching and Learning Committee conceived the Strategy, and it was approved by the Faculty Board. The Strategy is operated under the auspices of the Law Clinic.

The Strategy is a comprehensive one that extends across the entire course of the undergraduate LLB programme and consists of a number of different and mutually complementary components. The point of departure is that the writing skills of students cannot be developed meaningfully by way of *ad hoc*, uncoordinated writing exercises in the course of LLB training. The Strategy is intended to enhance the writing and research skills of LLB students through a number of interrelated interventions implemented across the entire LLB program. A principal aim is to inculcate both generic and specific writing skills in LLB graduates in a manner that is integrated into the curriculum. Apart from basic academic writing skills, regard must also be had to forms of written communication specific to various branches of the legal profession and the commercial sphere. The Strategy also envisages that the focus on the development of writing skills be used as a vehicle for the improvement of legal research skills and the ability to disseminate the results of such activities.

The Strategy Comprises:

- A first-year compulsory writing skills development module ("Writing Skills 171").
- The introduction of "writing-intensive" modules into the curriculum, in terms of which writing and research assignments will be integrated into substantive courses.
- The assessment of the writing skills of students with reference to a standard writing framework of the Faculty.
- The appointment of Writing Consultants tasked with the responsibility to conduct one-on-one consultations with the Faculty's students on various aspects of their writing.
- An open-access legal writing website, administered by a Faculty Writing Consultant: <http://blogs.sun.ac.za/legalwriting>.
- The continuous evaluation of results achieved with a view to the refinement and further development of the Strategy.

During 2020:

In line with the precautionary measures taken by SU's Law Faculty in response to COVID-19, all in-person writing consultations with the writing consultants are being discontinued and available online via Skype/Zoom or MS Teams for 2020. Although the consultants had to overcome many obstacles this year, we were encouraged and inspired by the support of our colleagues, as well as our students' commitment and enthusiasm in relation to their academic responsibilities. To assist students during unprecedented and difficult times has been a challenge, but also a privilege.

We are also very proud to announce that our Legal writing development online short course will be launched in 2021. Please keep the course in mind for any legal practitioners that require a refresher course for their legal writing or need to improve their writing.



ON A MORE **PERSONAL** NOTE



Clinic Improvements

Through the assistance of the Law Faculty, a video conferencing facility was installed at the Clinic earlier this year. It has proven to be extremely helpful in assisting us in navigating our work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To enable the Clinic to continue to conduct in-person client consultations, various spaces within the Clinic were converted so that it could be used to safely consult clients.



The Clinic: quiet during COVID-19.



Dressed in Black

Our staff showed their support for the initiative by the Juridical Society in collaboration with the Theology Student Committee to show solidarity with those who are affected by Gender Based Violence (GBV), by wearing black.

Liline Admitted to PHD Studies

Liline Steyn successfully applied to the Graduate Institute of International and Developmental Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, to commence her PhD studies in International law from September 2021. Her PhD thesis is dedicated to the principles of best interests of the child and child participation in the Convention of the Rights of the Child in the context of migration. Her research has the potential to fill an important gap in the current state of literature and research.

Married Life

Our Writing Project Coordinator and the Coordinator of the Financial Literacy Project, Susann Louw, married Kobus Louw on 14 Desember 2019 at Nightjar on de Uijlenes, close to Gansbaai. We are extremely pleased that a year later Susann and Kobus remain happily married!



Meet Sharon Smith!



Sharon was recently appointed as the Clinic's Office Manager. She is a skilled administrative professional with comprehensive experience in managing office operations and coordinating detailed administrative support functions. Sharon possesses a diploma in Business Management and a national certificate in Banking Principles and Practice. We are extremely pleased to welcome Sharon to our team.

Year-end Function



The Clinic's year-end function on 4 December at Lourensford Wine Estate. It was a memorable occasion!

FUNDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

We would like to thank the following funders and stakeholders for their continued support, without which none of the achievements detailed in this report would have been possible:

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ANNUAL **REPORT** 2020

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