

# Friends of Community Law Centre

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# Debut Issue!

# Old friends, New directions



**Community  
Law Centre**

University of the Western Cape  
Respect. Prosper.



# Old Friends, new directions

## Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

Over the years the Community Law Centre has developed a wide network of friends and contacts that have in the past contributed tremendously to its work since its establishment in 1990. The Centre has hosted many doctoral candidates, LLM students, interns and research associates over the years, many of whom have gone on to establish themselves as recognised professionals in their respective fields. The Centre, through its work, has also developed professional contact with many academics and practitioners inside and outside South Africa. What is lacking is a network or a forum that keeps these professionals in close contact with each other and the Centre.

The Centre has decided to establish a forum called the “Friends of the Community Law Centre” to. The purpose of this new venture is to establish a support group for the activities of the Centre by ensuring extensive net-working and developing a wide resource pool from which the Centre would like to draw for its activities. The Centre would like to capitalize on its rich history and association with people of influence to ensure that its current activities continue to make meaningful contributions in South Africa and Africa as a whole.



Prof. Nico Steytler

We are commencing the activity of this network through a quarterly newsletter that provides you with news and events about the Centre and its friends. The letter will bring you news of both professional and social events as well as highlights in the careers of our friends.

As part of this project, we will also dedicate a page in our website. This will contain pictures and friends' database. We would thus appreciate if you can e-mail your abbreviated CV to [jclaassen@uwc.ac.za](mailto:jclaassen@uwc.ac.za). We would also be glad to dispatch information you would like to share, such as papers you have presented or published, workshops you have attended or organised. That will help us to keep ourselves abreast of the achievements and contributions that our friends are making wherever they find themselves.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. J. Claassen', written in a cursive style.

# News and events

## Publications

Dr Lillian Chenwi, a researcher with the Socio-Economic Rights Project, has written a manual entitled “**Accessing housing in the Western Cape**”. This is a guide for women vulnerable to gender – based violence and HIV/AIDS, and for organizations providing services to them.

The Children’s Rights Project published a series on the use of children in the commission of crime, a worst form of child labour in terms of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of the International Labour Organisation. The initial series includes the following publications:

- Situation Analysis and Pilot Design
- Prevention Programme Manual
- Children’s Perceptions of their Use by Adults in the Commission of Offences
- Diversion Programme Manual
- Guidelines for Role-players in the Criminal Justice System

All publications mentioned here are available on our website:

[www.communitylawcentre.org.za](http://www.communitylawcentre.org.za)

Mr Christopher Mbazira, a researcher with the Socio-Economic Rights Project, has written a manual entitled, **Realising socio-economic rights in the South African Constitution: the obligations of local government**. This guide is aimed primarily at municipal officials, councillors and members of the public interested in an overview of the socio-economic rights obligations of municipalities.

Dr Jaap de Visser (Local Government Project senior researcher) and Mr Christopher Mbazira has edited a compilation of papers dealing with access to water entitled **Water Delivery: Public or Private?**

The recent issues of 2006’s **Article 40**, **Article 19**, **CSPRI Online Newsletter**, **ESR Review** and **Local Government Bulletin** are now available on the CLC’s website.

## People

- The Local Government Project welcomes two Canadian interns from the Forum of Federations, Omo Akintan and Megan McDermott. They will be working with the Project for the next six months.
- Godfrey Odongo, a doctoral intern with the Children’s Rights project from 2003 – 2005, has taken up a job with Amnesty International UK as senior researcher for East Africa.

## Events

The Local Government Project organised a one-day seminar on “**The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act— A year in the provinces and districts**” on the 3 November. The papers presented were:

- Provincial Intergovernmental Forums: a post-Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act compliance assessment
- A preliminary assessment of institutional compliance with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act

## Events (cont.)

The Socio-Economic Rights Project held a seminar on **Socio-Economic Rights** (in conjunction with other KwaZulu Natal local partners) in Durban on 24 August. The papers presented were:

- 'An Introduction to a discussion on strategies for promoting socio-economic rights';
- 'Key issues on the implementation of socio-economic rights'; and
- Socio-economic rights obligations of local government: Introducing a guide to municipalities'

The Children's Rights Project (in conjunction with the Open Society Foundation) hosted a workshop entitled **Child Justice in South African: Children's rights under construction** at Irene, Pretoria on 1 & 2 August 2006. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Showcase a range of new research finding in relation to child justice
- Review policy and legal precedents
- Provide an opportunity to further the debate on child justice in South Africa

## Upcoming Events

The Fourth Dullah Omar Memorial Lecture will be held in March 2007. Specific details will be forthcoming. Please contact **Ms Trudi Fortuin** for more details.

The Local Government Project will be hosting a Roundtable on Local Government in South Africa in January 2007. Please contact **Dr Jaap de Visser** for more details.

## Closure for 2006

The Centre will be closed from 15 December 2006 and will re-open on 15 January 2007.

## Contact Details

Community Law Centre  
University of the Western Cape  
Private Bag X17  
Bellville  
7535  
+27 21 959 2950 (tel)  
+27 21 959 2411 (fax)