

# Friends of Community Law Centre

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## Note from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Wow, it is December already! 2007 is practically over. As you look back on this year, I hope you have had a fruitful year, brimming with events, both professionally and personally.

Community Law Centre has ended the year with a bang, with a number of workshops, conferences and publications. To crown all these achievements and outstanding events, the long-awaited **Local Government Law of South Africa** has been published. We finally have in tangible form (the binder is the baby blue colour of CLC) the years of hard work, research & expertise by the authors.



Prof Steytler & Dr de Visser

Congratulations must also go to Dr Jaap de Visser who has been promoted to Associate Professor.

The five students from the **Human Rights & Democratisation in Africa Programme** left Cape Town last week and graduated at the University of Pretoria on Monday, 10th December (International Human Rights Day). We would like to congratulate Akin, Douglas, Tiki, Rino and Mizanie for passing their LLM. A special congratulations goes to Rino, who received the second prize for the best dissertation this year. Well done on a very successful 2007! We are sure you have learnt many lessons in this exciting year and wish you every success in your careers in 2008.

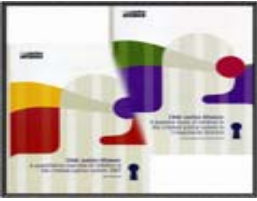
Best wishes and please stay in touch.

Jill Claassen

## Project News

Daksha Kassin and Jacqui Gallinetti have been on sabbatical for the second semester. They have been writing up their PhDs on corporal punishment and child labour respectively. They were visiting scholars at UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, during September and October.

## Project News (cont.)



Cabinet finally approved the Child Justice Bill in November. The *Cape Argus* quotes Don Pinnock – a criminologist and specialist on youth gangs – as saying it would be one of the most important pieces of legislation Parliament would pass since the advent of democracy. The Child Justice Alliance have published two reports in 2007, which is available on the Alliance's [website](#).

The Sexual Offences Bill has finally been passed on 22 November after being in the parliamentary process for over three years! The **Gender Project** has been working tirelessly, with various partner NGOs, in making submissions (orally & written) to the two houses of Parliament so that the legislation reflects the interests of victims of sexual assault. The legislation broadens the definition of rape and addresses a number of evidential and procedural shortcomings. Click [here](#) for the final version of the Bill: Criminal Law (Sexual Offences And Related Matters) Amendment Bill [B50D-2003].

**Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative (CSPRI)** is now in the 2nd year of monitoring the implementation of the Correctional Services Act, in partnership with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). A training workshop for six DCS officials was held on 18-19 October 2007 at UWC. Fieldwork for the project had been scheduled for the last two weeks of November 2007. Research on sentencing and the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court will take place in 2008.

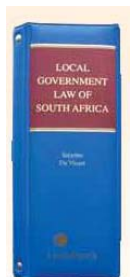
The **Local Government Project** has been actively involved in various capacities in the review process, which was initiated by the Department of Provincial and Local Government earlier this year. The review interrogates the current structure of the state, particularly the role of provinces and the extent to which local government has fulfilled its developmental mandate. The Project will have a roundtable in March 2008 on the future of provinces and local government.

The first reading of the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was done during the fourth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on optional protocol to the ICESCR in July 2007. The **Socio-Economic Rights Project** participated in this Session and has also participated in an informal roundtable discussion on the subject at the national level (South Africa). The Project will be participating in a regional consultation meeting on the optional protocol to be held in Egypt in January next year.

On 15 November the Project had a seminar on “*Judicial Remedies for Socio-Economic Rights Violations*”, which was presented by Dr Christopher Mbazira, who had completed his PhD thesis on the subject. Other speakers at the seminar were Dr. David Bilchitz, Senior Researcher at SAIFAC and Prof. Pierre de Vos, Law Faculty (UWC) who was the promoter of his thesis.

## New Publications

A five-year research project has culminated in the completion of a loose-leaf publication entitled, *Local Government Law in South Africa* by Prof Nico Steytler & Dr Jaap de Visser. “With the completion of the transition of local government, this volume had been compiled to assist those involved in local government to get to grips with the complex new laws, including the Municipal Electoral Act, the Municipal Structures Act, the Municipal Systems Act, the Municipal Finance Management Act, the Property Rates Act and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (and the regulations issued in terms of these Act)” [excerpt taken from the flyer of the publication]. Visit [LexisNexis](#)’ website to order this publication.



Daksha Kassan, Jaqui Gallinetti and Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen wrote contributing chapters in the loose-leaf publication, *Commentary on the Children’s Act*, edited by CJ Davel & AM Skelton (Juta, 2007). Daksha Kassan wrote a chapter on Trafficking in Children, Jacqui Gallinetti wrote on The Children’s Court and Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen wrote on the Protection of Children. There are still sections & whole chapters of the Act (No. 38 of 2005) outstanding, which has been dealt with in the Children’s Amendment Bill (B19b of 2006)

## New Publications (cont.)

The joint Housing Project between the **Gender** and **Socio-Economic Rights Projects** published *The [Role of Informal Community Structures in Ensuring Women's Rights to have Access to Adequate Housing in Langa, Manenberg & Mfuleni](#)*. This report is an investigation in the role of informal community structures in determining access to housing for women at risk of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in three communities in Cape Town. It has been written by Helene Combrinck & Lilian Chenwi, with contributions by Sibonile Khoza.



## Request for Articles

- The **Malawi Law Journal** has launched a website: [www.lawjournal.mw](http://www.lawjournal.mw). The Malawi Law Journal publishes articles that explore the interface, tension and congruence between law, human rights, democracy, and development in Malawi and other developing countries, especially those from Africa. For further information on submissions and subscriptions, see the website
- Articles with an African focus are needed for the Centre's publications (**Article 40, Article 19, Iminyango, CSPRI Newsletter, Local Government Bulletin** and **ESR Review**.) Contact the various editors for more details.



## News about Friends

**Christopher Mbazira ('03)** has left CLC and South Africa to resume his teaching and research duties in the Faculty of Law and the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC) at Makerere University, Uganda in early 2008. Even though he will be a great loss to the Socio-Economic Rights Project and the Centre, he has left us with some great news: his PhD thesis will be published into a book by PULP.

**Danwood Chirwa ('01)** has been awarded Associate Professor of Law at the University of Cape Town. Congratulations Prof. Chirwa!



Godfrey &amp; Anne

**Godfrey Odongo ('02)** got married in November to Anne Omondi. Best wishes to you both for the future. As you know, Dr Odongo is a Researcher (for East Africa) with Amnesty International, based in the Africa Regional Office in Kampala, Uganda.

**Maurice K. Ndri ('06)** has become the proud father of a baby girl in October. He decided to name his daughter, Jill (after Jill Claassen!).



Scott Palmer

**Scott Palmer ('06)** graduated from Queen's University with a LL.B. in June 2007. He is currently working in Sydney, Australia, in the contracts department at the IT company Oracle. He has also started studying towards admission as a solicitor in New South Wales.

## Closure of CLC

The Community Law Centre will be closed from 14 December 2007 to 13 January 2008. Whether you're experiencing winter or enjoying the sunshine, we would like to wish everyone a good rest during the break.



Photo taken by Coel Kirkby

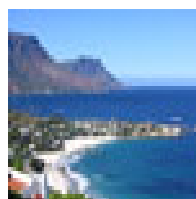


Photo taken off the 'Net