

# Righting Wrongs

The LLM in Human Rights &  
Democratisation in Africa  
Alumni Association Newsletter  
Issue No 4 - May 2012

DEFENDING  
with Excellence,  
ADVOCATING  
with Ubuntu



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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA  
Faculty of Law



Alumni  
Association  
LLM (Human Rights & Democratisation in Africa)



Centre for  
Human Rights  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



## Editorial

### Mourning a democracy advocate

*Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)*  
Alumni Coordinator

That this first issue of the year is partly devoted to the late Dr. Steve Odero Ouma should certainly be no surprise to all of us. The 'athlete dying young' has lived so fast to reach pinnacles of success that tributes paid by his closest friends and colleagues concurred of 'a loss for the whole continent'. This issue of the Alumni Newsletter therefore avails exclusive headings to celebrate the memory of a young promising scholar whose expertise and contribution to constitutionalism and democratisation in Africa are beyond dispute.

Steve's legacy and undisputed commitment to achieving peoples' rights through democratisation must be taken over by individual alumni and our Association as constitutional democracy is being overthrown in Mali, a two-decade heaven of political and social stability in Africa. As we discuss the feasibility of transforming the Alumni Association into a continental non-governmental think-tank and task force, we ought to envisage instrumentalising the proposed thematic and regional groups to act as early warning and acting forces in such situations as the Mali coup. While the Senegalese presidential election has finally had a happy end, it also offered an illustration of circumstances in which our future Organisation should demonstrate its commitment and avail its expertise in tackling African problems. Some of you have rightly pointed to the issue of increased terrorism in many countries in the continent, the most preoccupying situation being Nigeria. Our prospective Organisation equally has the potential of stepping in as an independent mediation and advocacy movement to respond to such issues.

Much has happened over the past quarterly, namely since last year's 10 December LLM graduation ceremony. Although we are now in touch with the large majority of our fellows, many are still out of reach. These are classmates, colleagues and friends, which I call on us once again to help trace. I request you to encourage them to remain in touch by uploading their profile online. The

launching of thematic and country groups is also of utmost importance. I invite you to participate in these once the mechanisms are put in place for nominations, elections, and operation of the said clusters. As of now, there is also still very little alumni direct contribution to the LLM HRDA and other courses of the Centre through lecturing, supporting applications, or initiating alumni projects. I am highly encouraging all of you to make inputs and participate in any way possible.

I thank those who contributed articles in our Newsletter, as they provide us with news from the heart of Africa and keep the wider group informed of their involvement in the Gambia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. I send my warmest wishes also to those working for Africa from Australia, Switzerland and the USA. Finally, our gratitude goes to those who have spontaneously and wholeheartedly sent contributions for Steve's closest family, from Nairobi to Geneva. Surely, we all wish that any future contributions are rather made in different circumstances such as professional or personal achievements, graduation, wedding, and publication.

*Defending with excellence, advocating with Ubuntu*



*Graduation of the 2011 class*



## The Centre's Word

### Ten years: Looking back

Magnus Killander  
Head of Research, Centre for Human Rights

Ten years ago I was in Vienna writing my dissertation after having completed the first semester of the European master's programme in human rights and democratisation in Venice. I wanted to broaden my horizons after obtaining my master's degree. Luckily I saw an advert for a six-month internship as a research assistant and tutor at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, sponsored by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of human rights and humanitarian law at Lund University, my alma mater. My knowledge of South Africa and the wider African continent was very limited. A few years earlier I had taken the boat from southern Spain to Morocco and spent a week there. It was the extent of my experience of Africa.

Ten years later I have attended ten LLM HRDA graduations here in Pretoria and welcomed ten new groups of LLM students to start their studies on what must be one of the most intensive programmes of its kind in the world. Almost everyone that started the programme has graduated despite the visible despair among many of you at one or other stage of the first semester. It is always a pleasure to read about the important work that you are doing in Africa and beyond. It has also been a pleasure enjoying your hospitality when I have travelled and to see many of you back here in Pretoria when your work has brought you here.

I take this occasion to invite you all to contribute to and participate in the discussions on a new blog on the rule and role of law in Africa recently launched by the Centre and the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, [www.africlaw.com](http://www.africlaw.com)

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## The African Union Commission on International Law and the Proposed African Institute of International Law: Where do we go from here?

Posted: 21 May, 2012 | Author: [AfricLaw](#) | Filed under: [Olabisi Delebayo Akinkugbe](#) | Tags: [African Union](#), [African Union Commission on International Law](#), [Literature on international law](#), [Proposed African Institute of International Law](#),

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### Contributors

- Anél Ferreira-Snyman
- Ayalew Getachew Assefa
- Babatunde Fagbayibo



## In Memoriam

### Deserved Tribute to Alumnus Dr Steve Odera Ouma

To honour the memory of our dearest and esteemed brother and colleague, Steve, tens of alumni have expressed their sympathy through messages and tributes dropped on the special page opened on the Centre's website: <http://www.chr.up.ac.za/index.php/centre-news-2012/951-centre-llm-alumnus-steve-odero-ouma-passes-away.html>

Here, we publish a bouquet of tributes paid by alumni from various African countries and classes. We then publish in full a poem that appeared to be as most touching as it is inspiring.

#### **Martin Nsibirwa (Uganda, 2000):**

I will always remember Steve with fond memories. He was always almost shy but a very intelligent fellow. I last met Steve last year in about March and as usual he was very pleasant, humble, kind, calm and respectful to everyone he interacted with. My condolences go to his family and friends. What a loss.

#### **Oladejo Olowu (Nigeria, 2001):**

Although I cannot remember ever meeting Steve Odera Ouma in person, my online interactions with him in the course of our collaborative research commend him as a diligent promising scholar. He was unfailingly polite. His departure is a huge loss indeed.

#### **Godfrey Odongo (Kenya, 2002):**

I remember my last meeting with Steve in Nairobi some two years ago and his jolly, witty and thoughtful self even when he would never let go of his banter and hearty laughter. His contributions and passion for Africa will inspire us.

#### **Lesirela Letsebe (South Africa, 2003):**

May the family's knowledge of his determination to the cause of human rights during his life time, encourage them to overcome grief and triumph over whatever challenges they may encounter moving forward.

#### **Liliana Trillo Diaz (Spain, 2005):**

Steve was not only an intelligent, witty person but also a good fellow LLM alumnus, who stood by others when needed. It was an honour to meet him.

#### **Jamil Mujuzi (Uganda, 2005):**

Africa has lost one of its great minds of this generation.

#### **Michel Ndayikengurukiye (Burundi, 2005):**

Steve was brilliant, eloquent, humble and social.

#### **Mwiza Nkatha (Malawi, 2005):**

Steve was an ardent Liverpool fan and I remember watching the Champion's league games for that year with him. I particularly remember watching the Chelsea vs. Liverpool semi-final in his room and there we were sharing some idle banter as we nervously watched proceedings on television. Liverpool triumphed that night - courtesy of a goal that Mourinho refused to acknowledge! We debated the goal long after the game and agreed to differ and I grudgingly congratulated Steve for the Liverpool win. It is a gross understatement to say Steve has passed too early - so much promise, so much potential!!!...may he rest in peace!

#### **Christian Nsabimana (Rwanda, 2005):**

I remember one such instance during the European Champions League in a match featuring Liverpool and AC Milan. On that day Steve wore a Liverpool jersey and at half time he was being taunted to remove his jersey as his team was losing 3-0. Steve withstood a lot of teasing from his friends who even said that the Liverpool motto "You will never walk alone" could actually mean that he was "You will never cry alone" as his team was destined for defeat. Surprisingly, during the second half Liverpool equalised and then won on penalties. Steve went to Christian and said that "NDUGU Christian (brother in Kiswahili) - always be optimistic, despite the challenges you are facing, never give up!"

#### **Clement P. Mavungu (DRC, 2006):**

I will always remember Steve as a very articulate person and able to leave his footprints where ever he found himself. As famous Senegalese writer BiragoDiop rightly put: "Les morts ne sont pas morts".

#### **Patricia Achan Okiri (Uganda, 2007):**

The legacy you left behind is a land mark contribution in the promotion and protection of human rights through constitutional democracy.

#### **Azubike Onuora-Oguno (Nigeria, 2008):**

May the quest for peace Steve left unfinished spur us left behind to greater works to achieve the peace Steve craved for.

**Fleur Norton (South Africa, 2009):**

This is a tragic loss for us all. It is clear that Steve's optimism and belief in Africa will live on through the many people he inspired.

**Rumbidzai Dube (Zimbabwe, 2010):**

I met Steve for the first time in 2010 when he came to the Centre in Pretoria to input into the Alumni publication on the ICC's engagement with Africa. Such a brilliant fellow! It is a sad loss for us as the Alumni, for Africa and the world at large. Steve was set to bring change for the peoples of this world.

**Gift Mileji (Zambia, LLM Student lectured by Steve, 2011):**

Without your help my dissertation would not have been something I would have been proud of. You guided me greatly from inception to the end and you said "together we can change the way Africa is governed politically". Now that you are gone, African has been robbed of a great son of the soil.

**Franck Maxime Yankam (Cameroon, LLM Student 2012):**

Steve, as a 2012 student, I did not have the chance to know you personally; but I am so impressed by your achievements.

**Frans Viljoen (Director, Centre for Human Rights):**

I got to know Steve as a member of the Class of 2005. In my memory, Steve stood out not only because of his physique (his lanky figure), but also because of his mind (his inquisitive ponderings and relentless pursuit of an idea or train of thought). In that year, I was fortunate to accompany the field trip group, of which Steve was part, to Sierra Leone. On this trip, I got to know Steve as someone who could be playful and mischievous, but also extremely serious about issues affecting our continent. He was a determined and dedicated student. Some five years later – after he completed his PhD at the Luiss University in Rome, Italy – we invited Steve back to lecture at the Centre, to the Class of 2011. The outrageously favourable student assessment (a score of 98% from the class) is evidence of his knowledge of the field, and his outstanding qualities as a teacher. It is extremely sad that Steve left us at a time when he was realising his full potential as a scholar and teacher.

The Pretoria University Law Press (PULP) will publish a collection of essays in his honour later in 2012. It is gratifying that a number of LLM (HRDA) alumni have contributed to this publication. This publication will, we hope, be a small acknowledgement of the great strides Steve has made to bring prominence to issues pertaining to democratisation in Africa, and will be a concrete manifestation of the fondness with which so many of us remember him.

**Special tribute by Patrick Eba (Cote d'Ivoire, 2004)**

*To an athlete dying young*

The time you won your town the race  
We chaired you through the market-place;  
Man and boy stood cheering by,  
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

To-day, the road all runners come,  
Shoulder-high we bring you home,  
And set you at your threshold down,  
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away  
From fields where glory does not stay  
And early though the laurel grows  
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut  
Cannot see the record cut,  
And silence sounds no worse than cheers  
After earth has stopped the ears:

Now you will not swell the rout  
Of lads that wore their honours out,  
Runners whom renown outran  
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,  
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,  
And hold to the low lintel up  
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head  
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,  
And find unwithered on its curls  
The garland briefer than a girl's.

**AE Housman (1859-1936)**



## From the heart of Africa

### Alumna Contributes to Strengthening the Justice Sector in Darfur

*Leda Hasila Limann (Ghana, 2003)  
Judicial Affairs Officer, United Nations  
African Union Mission in Darfur, Sudan*

Upon leaving the Centre for Human Rights, I have been fortunate to apply the knowledge and skills I gathered from there in different job situations. Prominent among these was my stints at as Associate Legal Officer in the International Criminal Court (ICC) and subsequently as a Legal Expert in the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights during the crucial stage of their formation and operationalisation. I am currently working as a Judicial Affairs Officer in the Rule of Law Section in the UN-AU Hybrid Mission for Darfur (UNAMID).

The Rule of Law Section comprises two units – Judicial Advisory and Prisons Advisory. As their names imply, whereas the former is made up of lawyers, the latter consists of persons who have a Corrections or Prisons background. Accordingly, as Judicial Affairs Officer, I am part of a team of national and international lawyers and prisons advisers/officers who have the responsibility of assisting with the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law by enhancing the capacities of the local rule of law institutions.

Our main local/national counterparts include the Courts (comprising formal and traditional courts), Prosecution Offices, Ministry of Justice, Prisons (Ministry of Interior), Faculties of Law of the Universities, Bar Associations and civil society groups.

Due to our interventions, the justice sector is being strengthened and impunity is being curbed in Darfur thereby boosting the confidence of the population in the judicial system in the country. Some of the activities I have participated in to achieve this result include court monitoring activities whereby we monitor court trials with a view to preparing thematic reports which would inform legislative reform. We all provide advisory, mentoring and capacity building programmes for justice sector institutions

including the judiciary, prosecutions, the state legislatures, the Bar Association, faculties of law of universities in Darfur, prisons and the relevant institutions envisaged by the Peace Documents signed by the Parties to the conflict in Darfur. These programmes comprising mainly meetings, training courses, workshops, exchange programmes and the rendering of advice upon request also incorporate juvenile and gender justice perspectives.

In recent months, a new wind of hope for sustained peace in Darfur has been blowing in Sudan. This has arisen because after two and a half years of negotiations and consultations with many stakeholders including the major parties to the conflict, on 14 July 2011 the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) was signed. The parties that signed the DDPD are the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement. This document which is being hailed as the framework for comprehensive peace process in Darfur was drafted with extensive technical assistance rendered by UNAMID. I supported the Director of Rule of Law in providing technical assistance to the justice, human rights and legal aspects of the said document in Doha, Qatar. I am now assisting in the dissemination

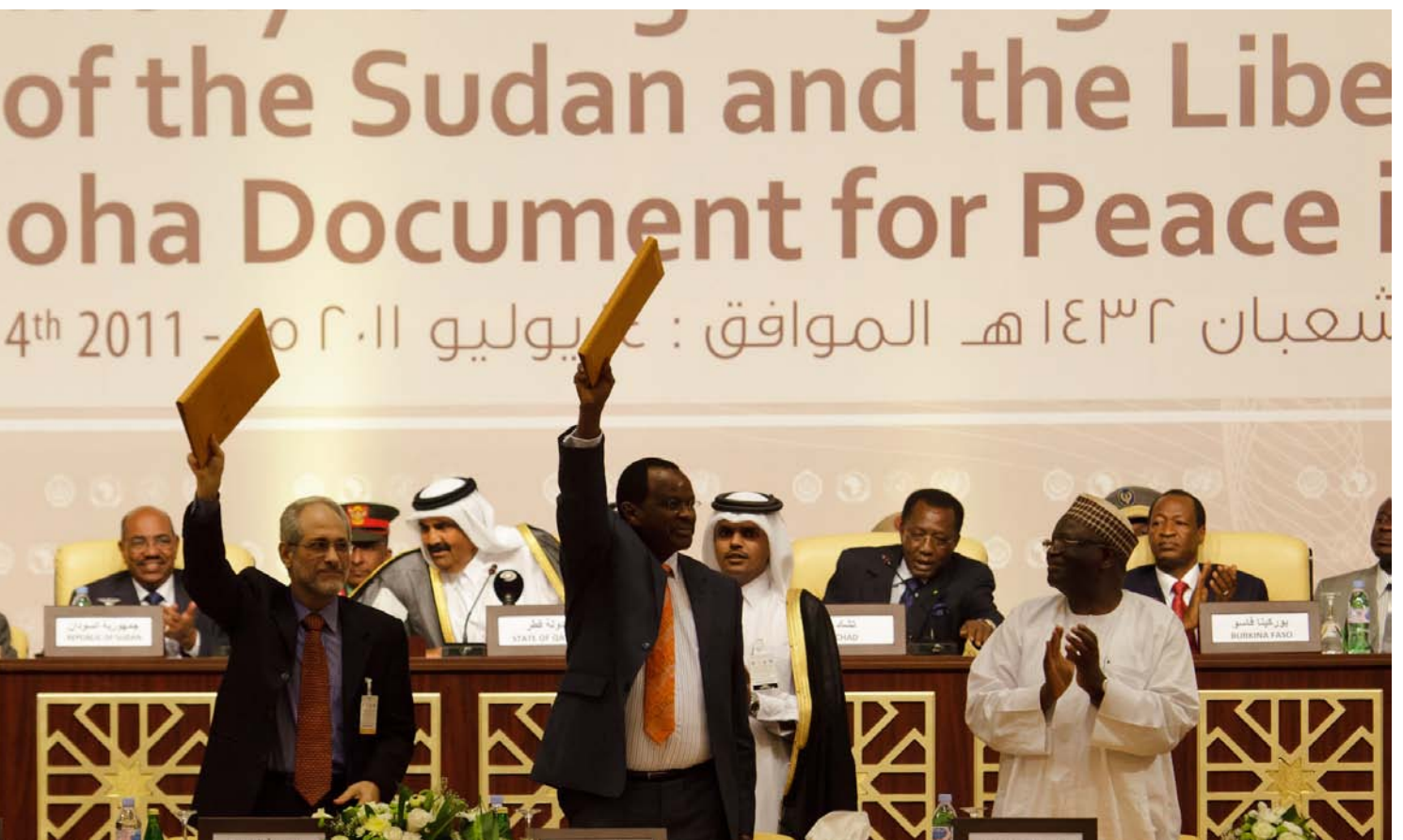


of the DDPD through advocacy on the document among relevant stakeholders. My Section also stands ready to provide technical assistance to the Parties of the Agreement on the legal aspects of the creation and functioning of Justice and Reconciliation mechanisms provided for in the Agreement including the Special Court for Darfur and the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC).

Although I do not work directly in the Prison Advisory Unit, my being stationed in the Head Quarters of the Rule of Law Section has placed me in a unique position to support the work of both Units. This is attributable to the fact, that in that position, I have assisted in the preparation of legal research and analysis, drafting of the Sections reports and assessments, policy documents and guidelines, and participating in legislative reviews and drafting of commentaries as they pertain to both units. In this capacity, I realized that though the Section facilitates humanitarian support for prisons including health delivery, agriculture, basic prisons supplies paying special attention to vulnerable groups, women and children accompanying their mothers to prison and infant and juvenile welfare programmes, the needs in the prisons are always

so great and overwhelming. This has therefore given me the opportunity to impact the life of Darfurians in another capacity. The UNAMID Christian Fellowship, under my leadership as the Senior Pastor, donated items worth about 66,000 dollars to enable the prisoners live a dignified life last Easter - UNAMID magazine, Darfur Voices, reports this event. The Fellowship intends to take on similar life changing projects, not necessarily restricted to the justice sector, every year.

When I initially arrived in Darfur in April 2009, living conditions were quite bad and the security situation volatile. Almost three years down the line, the living conditions have improved considerably however the security situation has remained unpredictable. I can however see a considerable improvement in all walks of life of the local population including in the justice sector. It is gratifying to note being a staff member of UNAMID has granted me this privilege of contributing my quota in this massive effort. My gratitude goes to the Centre for Human Rights for giving me the training and qualifications for making this possible.





## Alumni in the Field

### Alumnus Teaches Human Rights at the University of The Gambia

*Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2011)  
Lecturer, University of the Gambia*

Following my successful completion of the LLB (2009) and the LLM in Human Rights at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, I was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to serve as the Centre for Human Rights' visiting lecturer to the University of the Gambia (UTG). This initiative is part of the growing collaboration and partnership between the Centre for Human Rights and the UTG. The faculty of law of the UTG was established in 2007 and in February this year it graduated its first batch of LLB students. This short note highlights my experience as an alumnus teaching at the UTG.

I arrived in the Gambia on 16 of January 2012 and immediately assumed the position of a lecturer. I teach Public International law and Private International law. In addition, I teach in conjunction with another lecturer Mrs Hannah Edmonds (a visiting lecturer from the University of Bristol, UK) the course on Legal Aid. This project is part of the ambition of the UTG and the faculty of law to establish a Law Clinic. Following the UTG's first and successful participation in the All African Moot Court Competition last year, I have been tasked with preparing this year's team.

Gazing around my classroom this morning, I realised how much I am enjoying teaching. It is true! There is nothing more rewarding than guiding "young" people in their learning and witnessing the process of transformation from students into legal scholars. Being a young lecturer, and not much older than the majority of my students, I have developed a platonic and yet a professional relationship with my students. Working at the UTG, is an experience like no other. The warm and friendly environment within which students and staff interact has made my experience at the UTG the more pleasurable so far.

A key area which is of great concern to me is that of access to justice by the general population. In this respect the efforts of the government of the Gambia is commendable.

The government has provided several mechanisms through which access to justice can be realised by all. These mechanisms include a National Agency for Legal Aid, an Alternative Dispute Resolution body and an Ombudsman. The challenge however, remains that of lack of awareness by the general population of their basic human rights. I am therefore grateful that I have the opportunity to contribute to the establishment of the Gambia's first law clinic and the development of a legal culture in the Gambia. This will amongst other things help sensitize the community about human rights and access to justice.

The Gambia is truly a beautiful country in every sense. Nowhere on the continent of Africa is the spirit of Ubuntu more felt than in the Gambia. Living and working far from family and closest friends is a difficult challenge but the warmth of people in the Gambia makes it less so. At the core of my social life experience so far in the Gambia is the LLM alumni community in the Gambia (generally referred to as the Pretoria Mafia). The Mafia have been my pillar in the Gambia and continues to provide incredible support and a sense of family in the Gambia. In addition, the Mafia has formed a very strong bond with the faculty of law and continues to participate in various activities of the UTG.

I will like to extend my undying gratitude to Prof Frans-Viljoen and the Centre for Human Rights for this once in a lifetime opportunity.







## Current year

### First trimester experience on a unique LLM Programme

*Tabitha Sandra*  
(LLM Student 2012, Kenya)

You can only equate the joy that you have when you receive the phone call from Martin Nsibirwa telling you that you have been successfully enrolled into the LLM programme at University of Pretoria, to the joy of a mother who has been told that she is expectant with twins. Our twins: on one hand, an academic degree awarded to you in December and on the other, exposure in a country, different from our own, for a year.

From the moment you sign your acceptance on the dotted line, to the moment that you land at the Oliver Tambo Airport, your tummy is full of butterflies. You are filled with anxiety of the unknown, excitement and thrill at the expected and curiosity of what lies ahead. You are afraid of flying alone, you doubt whether the airlines will not lose your baggage, you are not too sure whether the school received your arrival details correctly, you are anxious to see if there is a cab driver holding a little placard with your name on it, but you put on a brave face. You have to, if not for any other reason but because you are going to do your Legum Magister (LLM) and the person sitting next to you on the plane is a tiny twelve year old who is travelling alone and connecting a flight to England to meet her grandfather.

We must admit that, at some point before arriving at South Street, all of us had read one thing or the other about South Africa, whether it was about the current vibrant president, about its good roads, its high levels of development or whether it was simply about Julius Malema!! We were not clueless as to the Country. What we did not know was the amazingly small size of the beds that literally wake you up and chase you to school, the academic intensity of the coursework and that within three months we would be French-speaking.

Seith Wekesa from Kenya and Franck Yankam from Cameroon both agree that so far, the course has been

extremely intensive and that they have had to adjust their sleeping hours to cope with this new and unique experience. There are assignments to be handed in, there are moot court debates to be prepared for and presented every Friday, there is clinical group work to be updated and revised each week and there are numerous books and reading lists that you have to go through before the next class begins.

School occupies Monday through Friday. On a good day, classes will end at 13:00, on a normal day, 17:00. We may not be too keen on the assignments and the deadlines but coupled with this intensity, has been amazing exposure that we have so far received through excursions, braais, social trips to the Apartheid Museum, academic trips to the Constitutional Court and most recently, field trips to other countries.

We consider ourselves privileged because the quality of the scholars that we have so far encountered in our daily lectures is impressive. From doctors and professors flying in from the most prestigious universities in the world to Special Rapporteurs from the United Nations and Commissioners from the African Commission bringing to us their vast experience and in-depth knowledge. In a span of two months, we have conversed with professional mediators involved in conflict resolution in Sudan, we have debated with professors from Cambridge University, we have learnt from political scientists and judges from different African countries and we have sat keenly listening to experienced non-judicial Rapporteurs give us an insight to the functioning of the European Court of Human Rights.



Aside from the book work, we cannot forget the cultural exchange that we have had so far had. I am honored to be in a class with twenty nine other students from eighteen different countries. I now know more about Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Botswana than I did about a year ago, I can easily locate the position of these countries on the map of Africa and their capital cities. I no longer ask where Sao Tome and Cape Verde are located or what local language is spoken in Mozambique.

Satang Nabaneh from The Gambia and Ashwanee Boodoo from Mauritius both speaking on their experience so far concur that the academic and cultural exchange is bound to make us better people and better lawyers. Satang adds that the program embodies staying true to yourself while trying to reach your full potential. Hopefully, by the end of the year, you become well rounded, your patience and resilience are put to the test, you adopt new words to ask for the price at the market and you humble yourself enough to ask for directions when lost.

Our differences are what make us diverse, whether it is in the way we pronounce words, how we cook our meals or simply the colour of our skin, we have so far learnt to tolerate and live with each other. Ashwanee says: 'I still cannot make pap but I can eat it!' now that's what you call a good cultural exchange!



## Professional Prospects

### My experiences with the African Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD

*Revai Makanje Aalbaek (Zimbabwe, 2003)  
Gender and Development Consultant,  
Pretoria, South Africa*

I remember vividly those days in 2003 when we were assigned our clinical group assignments as part of the work that we had to do as LLM students. I was paired up with the very capable Rose Karugonjo from Uganda to develop the human rights indicators that would potentially be used by NEPAD for the African Peer Review Mechanism which at the time was still being set up. Our work throughout those first six months of the LLM programme was supervised by Evarist Baimu who so ably advised us. I also remember vividly that day at Robin Island when we made a presentation of our indicators to the class and examiners on Flip Charts splashed with all sorts of colour (we were the only ones who did not make use of power point- we used a lot of colour to cover up our technological failures). As we worked on this clinical group project, I developed a deeper interest in the African Peer Review Mechanism and the opportunities that it presented for human rights monitoring in Africa. From this my dissertation emerged where I analysed the political governance aspect of the African Peer Review Mechanism and interrogated the broader question of what this mechanism could potentially provide for human rights monitoring for the countries that would accede to the process and what it meant for those that did not.

At the time of the my research, procedures that would govern the actual carrying out of the peer review processes were being drafted and negotiated by the various member states that had committed themselves to the process. The panel of Eminent Persons, a critical part of the structure of the APRM was only appointed just when I was about to conclude my research. So in some ways, one could argue that this was a premature research but at the same time, it was an exciting research to conduct as everything was new, fresh and exciting. After my LLM, I went back to my country Zimbabwe with excitement and enthusiasm about NEPAD and APRM but the debate and



discussion on these processes never took root in Zimbabwe for political reasons. I did not pursue much research on the APRM thereafter but still followed its developments and processes as it evolved.

Seven years later, in June 2011, I was offered the opportunity to be among the team of consultants that would carry out the second country review of Kenya on behalf of the APRM. This was for me another demonstration of how the LLM programme prepares you for real human rights work in the field. As part of the team, I was responsible mainly for assessing issues of women's rights and gender equality in Kenya. The excitement for me was on being able to get the practical experiences of how the APRM processes worked on the ground, beyond the theory that I had researched and written on those many years back, I was curious to see how the indicators Rose and myself had developed were applied in practice. I wanted to know and meet the eminent persons and of course to meet the Kenyan President and Prime Minister (an event which was quite prominent in the two week schedule of the APRM review mission). Of course more importantly, I looked forward to the experience of meeting and interacting with Kenyans.

Without fail, my experience of seeing how APRM missions are carried on the ground was full of surprises, many positive experiences and lots of learning. Our team was under the able leadership of Professor Amos Sawyer, the former President of Liberia. We travelled around the country and meet with Kenyans who have so much hope and expectations for good leadership and governance of their country especially after the adoption of the new constitution in August 2010. Every person even in the most remote of villages talked about their constitutional rights, a demonstration of how processes like constitution making can instil certain ethos in people.

I was so privileged to be part of this process and I truly hope that there will be positive lasting impact to this work despite the many challenges that human rights monitoring systems such as this one face on the continent.



## Alumni News

### Alumna Appointed as Commissioner

Following her designation with the majority of votes from civil society, alumna Farida Mamad (Mozambique, 2009) has been appointed as member of the National Human Rights Commission of Mozambique.

One of Commissioner Mamad's class mates from Nigeria, Chinedu Nwagu, commented that "it is news of how passion, persistence and hard work can bring you into enviable heights".

Farida Mamadis one of two women on the 11-member Commission and will serve a five-year term on a mission she has already considered as a great one, thus calling for the support of all alumni and the Centre. Her position comes with many privileges and is in many respects comparable to being a Minister.

### LLM Student Wins Prize in Gender Advocacy Competition

Ms Satang Nabanech (Gambia), a student in this year's LLM class, won the Advocacy Competition on Gender and Political Participation in Africa. Satang is a Child Rights activist and women's rights advocate. She has in-depth knowledge of the rights and empowerment of women which she has translated into capacity building, programme development, research and practical engagement with grassroots, national, regional and international organizations and platforms she is part of and has worked with. She possesses strong advocacy, presentation and communications skills as well as good research and networking skills necessary to advance the leadership development for young women that she ardently believes in and passionate about.





## Alumni News

### Alumnus Awarded Yale Fox Fellowship

Benson Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003) was awarded a Fox Fellowship by Yale University to continue research on his doctoral thesis, which he is completing at the Public Law Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Benson will be based at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Centre for International and Area Studies at the University of Yale in the USA.

### Alumni Attend Steve's Requiem Mass

*Japheth Biegon (Kenya, 2009)*

I did attend the requiem mass for the late Dr. Steve Odero Ouma on Wednesday 7 March 2012 where I read the Centre's statement.

The Centre and Alumni Association were presented by a total of six alumni: Monica Mbaru (2005), Victor Lando (2007), Evelyne Asaala (2009), Julie Soweto Aullo (2002) and I. Steve's charming personality, research and scholarly works were highlighted, cherished both by family members and other speakers during the mass. Speakers included the Chancellor of Africa Nazarene University, the Principal of Karen Campus of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Science & Technology, and the Chief Registrar of the High Court of Kenya.

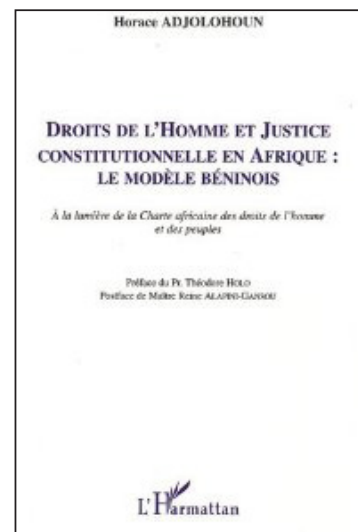
The family of Steve specifically mentioned and appreciated the phone calls they had received from the Centre's alumni from across the African continent and beyond. Steve was laid to rest on Friday 9 March.

### Alumnus Publishes Book on Constitutional Protection of Human Rights

In November 2011, a book project came to completion under the authorship of Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007). *In Droits de l'homme et justice constitutionnelle en Afrique: le modèle béninois à la lumière de la Charte africaine*, the author discusses the constitutional protection of human rights by the Constitutional Court of Benin in the light of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the work of the African Commission over the past two decades.

The book was prefaced by Professor Theodore Holo, a renowned Public and Constitutional Law Expert, one of the drafters of the 1990 Constitution of Benin, judge of the Constitutional Court and President of the High Court of Justice. The post-face was written by Advocate Reine-Alapini-Gansou, former Chairperson and current member and Special Rapporteur of the African Commission.

The book was published by one of the most famous French publishers, L'Harmattan, and was launched in Cotonou on 6 January 2012 with the presence and support of Advocate Robert Dossou, current president of the Constitutional Court of Benin.





## Alumni Association Coordinator Meets the Gambia Country Group

*Samuel Tilahun Tessema (Ethiopia, 2008)  
Legal Officer, African Commission, Banjul*

From 25 to 28 January 2012, the HRDA Alumni Association Coordinator, Mr Horace Adjolohoun, was on a mission to Banjul, The Gambia, and was warmly welcomed by members of the 'Banjul Mafia'. The name 'the Banjul Mafia' was derived from 'the Pretoria Mafia', a name given to alumni of the Centre who meet on the sidelines of the Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission. The meeting is an informal one, usually over dinner, convened by 'the God Father', Professor Frans Viljoen, with the view to share contacts, experiences, and solidify efforts in the struggle to move the continent from human wrongs to human rights. In the past three to four years, the number and influence of the 'Pretoria Mafia' in Banjul has considerably increased, and hence the name 'the Banjul Mafia' was given to them.

During his visit, the members assisted Horace in booking his accommodation, arranging meetings with the administration of the Secretariat of the African Commission, the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, some judges and lawyers, and state authorities. He was able to meet almost all the people he wanted to meet and get the much needed information from them, proving how indispensable and helpful the alumni network could be.

In between and after his official meetings, Horace used the opportunity to meet all members of the Gambia Alumni

Country Group, who were within the country at the time. Since many of the members are based at the Secretariat of the African Commission, he had the chance to visit and had a chat with them in their offices, and over lunch and dinner.

Over a dinner organized by the most senior member of the Group, Ms Irene Eleke (2006), they discussed various issues, among which were the work done by the Alumni Association and its members and future plans, and also appointed Ms Eleke as the Coordinator of the Gambia Alumni Country Group. Horace encouraged members to be active members of the Alumni Association, and to contribute articles to the Alumni Newsletter and Human Rights Journals of the Centre but also consider lecturing in the LLM HRDA Programme and other courses organised by the Centre.

At the end of the dinner and before the traditional 'Jubrew' baptism ceremony, members took a family photo with Horace.

Currently, there are seven members of the Banjul Mafia, five working at the African Commission (Ms Irene Eleke, Cameroon, 2006; Mr Samuel Tilahun, Ethiopia, 2008; Mr Lassana Kone, Cote d'Ivoire, 2009; Mr Tem Fuh Mbuh, Cameroon, 2010 and Mr Dieu-Donne Wedi, DRC, 2010), one at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (Mr Neldjingaye Kameldy, Chad, 2007) and one at the Faculty of Law, University of The Gambia (Mr Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo, Ghana, 2011).





## Alumni News

### Alumnus Awarded Harold Luntz Best PhD Thesis Prize

On 27 March 2012, Takele Soboka Bulto (Ethiopia, 2003) won the Harold Luntz Graduate Research Thesis Prize for 2011 for his PhD thesis submitted last year at the Melbourne Law School, Australia.

Takele says he is proud to say that he owes so much to the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, and its ever supportive Professors, for what he has achieved since 2003.

Dr Takele Soboka Bulto is currently Assistant Professor of International Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra.

## Contact Details

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#### Editorial Team:

Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007), Benson Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003), Ismene Zarifis (USA, 2009), Christopher Mbazira (Uganda, 2003) and Revai Makanje (Zimbabwe, 2003).

#### Advisory and Review Team:

Prof Frans Viljoen, Norman Taku, Martin Nsibirwa, Magnus Killander, Yolanda Booyzen.

**Is your profile online? Submit your profile here:**

<http://www.chr.up.ac.za/index.php/alumni.html>



The late Steve Odera Ouma (left) at a farewell braai for the class of 2005, held at the home of former Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Professor Christof Heyns.