



# UCT LAW CLINIC

## University of Cape Town

### The Law Clinic

#### WHO?

The Law Clinic is first and foremost a law firm registered with the Cape Law Society. It employs admitted attorneys and administrative staff that are committed to ensuring clients receive an efficient, professional and quality service. It serves the community, promotes access to justice for those who would otherwise not have the means and believes that law is a means to effect social change.

#### WHAT?

The **Legal Practice Course (DOL 4500F/S)** affords students the opportunity of receiving a full credit of 60 hours community service, in fulfilment of the current LLB curriculum requirement.

A fundamental function of the UCT Law Clinic is the excellent practical training it offers to senior law students who undertake to do the Legal Practice Course (DOL 4500F/S). **Students are the vital lifeblood of the Clinic** who while doing the course attend morning/evening Clinics (off campus) at least once a month, where they meet, consult and take instruction from their clients whilst receiving supervision from a supervising attorney.

The Clinic's purpose is two-fold, ensuring clinical legal education of students whilst promoting access to justice.

The course is a two point half year elective course, where students attend a weekly double lecture period, learn practical skills essential to successful lawyering and have the opportunity to participate in a mock trial.

Students handle a range of matters that include family law; eviction and housing cases; contractual and delictual matters amongst others.

\*\*\*It has been noted that many law firms recruiting for prospective Candidate Attorneys tend to show particular interest in those students who have completed the Legal Practice course.

\*\*\*Past students have reported the course greatly assisted and empowered them during the challenging early days of their articles.

#### COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

*"This course has provided me with practical experience that no other course has taught me during my time at UCT. No one should underestimate the skill that is needed to deal with clients in person and their expectations – this is a skill that is very necessary in the legal profession. Additionally, I have learnt to work with a supervising attorney and had to meet deadlines that affect people's lives – the course provides a much needed human face to the cold letter of the law."*

**Ryan Prithraj**

*"This course is absolutely amazing. It taught me so much about real life practice that you do not learn at University. We are constantly taught theory which is important but so is learning the practical of the field. I would sincerely recommend this course to all Law Students as I have walked away with invaluable learning experiences."*

**Tasneem Jacobs**

*"In evaluating my experience at the clinic, it will be an understatement to say that the experience has been amazing. It has helped me grow; both in my personal and professional life and will forever remain one of the biggest things to have impacted me."*

**Richa Khataw**

*"Overall the experience I've had doing Legal Practice has been very enlightening and rewarding... There is so much to learn that cannot be conveyed in a classroom, and now I can definitely start my articles with my eyes wide open."*

**Layla Adams**

## MORE STUDENT COMMENTS

The Legal Practice course has been an enriching and enlightening experience. I highly recommend that this course be compulsory for all students as it gives students a real practical perspective of the law.

Working at the Law Clinic makes the law appear a lot more dynamic than it seems in lectures or the library.

Legal Practice gives you an understanding of the law that you won't get in lectures. Doing the course gives you a glimpse of what it would be like to be a lawyer; you don't really get this opportunity in many other courses.

I found the Legal Practice course extremely enriching. I loved the experience of interacting with real clients' and learning about everyday legal issues. I obtained invaluable practical skills essential for a career in Law.

The practical experience is invaluable and will really stand you in good stead. You get to engage with real life issues and it provides you with an opportunity to 'test' your legal knowledge.

Worthwhile experience for integration of academic degree. Excellent for filling gaps between procedure, problems and realities of an indigent population. Humbling experience. Highlights areas where your knowledge is lacking and reaches improvement.

Legal Practice is the best way to get real legal experience while completing your community services hours:

1. Irreplaceable practical experience
2. Eye opener about the real legal world

Let's be real, if you want to be prepared you need to draft and meet clients who can't afford and need legal services. Give back.

Practically I have learned so much, I have learnt all about drafting various papers required in different cases viz. true letter of demand, plea, application for eviction, practice which I don't think I would have gotten at UCT without this course

I enjoyed having the opportunity to practically apply the theoretical knowledge that I have acquired during my LLB, helping those that are financially unable to acquire legal assistance was also extremely rewarding.