

Fundraising Report 2020



**EXCELLENCE
IN LAW**



In 2020 the Law Faculty renewed its drive to raise funding to support students registered for both undergraduate and postgraduate law degrees at UCT.

For two decades the Law Faculty has raised support for students. The Law Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in 2001, was originally conceived to ensure that students who came from families and communities unable to support them financially could take up a place at UCT. The idea was that with scholarship support for excellent students who come from historical disadvantage, the Faculty and its donors could contribute strategically to the transformation of the Faculty's student profile and, ultimately, to the transformation of the legal profession in South Africa.

The fund has been very successful, serving hundreds of undergraduate and postgraduate students, ensuring that they graduate and that they have the best possible experience of studying for their degrees.

Over the past decade fundraising focused almost exclusively on supporting the central costs of tuition and books. Scholarships were awarded either as full- or partial-cost and also to bridge the gaps between NSFAS¹ funding and the full cost of annual tuition.

But in 2020 the world changed.

And the ways in which we would be called upon to assist our students changed markedly.

¹ National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

The changed face of student support

Firstly, the economic and social fallout of the pandemic, lockdown and its aftermath affected everyone. Students and their families able to afford fees in 2019 were no longer able to do so as income dropped dramatically and job loss numbers soared. The number of students requiring some form of assistance expanded and is unlikely to drop in the next two to three years.

Secondly, the way in which learning had to be offered, accessed and experienced caught everyone by surprise. Although virtual teaching and learning has been an integral part of the Faculty's long-term planning and integration strategy, the rate at which it had to be rolled out during 2020 proved to be a massive learning for all of us. The shift to online teaching was not a simple one as teaching material, formats and delivery changed to fit the medium.

In addition, although the Faculty was able to rollout an impressive programme for 2020, our students needed assistance in unforeseen ways. No longer on campus or in residence with consistent access to electricity, the internet, quiet places to study, computers, regular meals and study groups, our students and staff experienced a sharp learning curve. We have had to think and innovate on our feet.

Thirdly, the rumblings from NSFAS that support would be terminated for the graduate LLB programmes started becoming reality as increasing numbers of graduate LLB students were unsuccessful in securing funding support from this national scheme. Despite several deputations and attempted interventions from Deans of Law and Vice Chancellors across the country, NSFAS funding for all graduate LLB students effectively ended in early 2021. With little prior warning, or any plan to phase out the programme so that students could seek alternative support, graduate LLB students were informed that they were no longer eligible for NSFAS funding.

Excellence in Law Campaign

In April of 2020 we renewed our focus on the *Excellence in Law* campaign, by implementing the first year of a five-year drive to raise R10million to support law students at UCT.

Given the unprecedented constraints of 2020, and the massively different teaching and learning landscape, we embarked on a mailing campaign to all alumni and friends with a view to raising R1 million for student needs in 2020/2021.

The *Excellence in Law* campaign broadened the traditional funding mandate to include a *Student Crisis Fund* and an *Equipped for Law Fund* with a focus on technology and the resources required to participate in the increasingly (and at the moment, exclusively) online learning environment. These funds are designed to help students who experience unforeseen critical difficulties that requires funding e.g. medical or family emergencies, and assistance with equipment failure and access to data and internet connectivity - all of which have become indispensable tools for online and virtual learning.

In 2020 the campaign raised, from across the globe, R503 000 from alumni and friends and R464 000 from trusts and foundations reaching a total of R967 000. We are immensely honoured by the generosity of all our donors and supporters.

2020 Excellence In Law Campaign	ZAR
Alumni and Friends	503 000
Foundations and Trusts	464 000
TOTAL	967 000

This combined sum - for scholarships, student crisis support and technology support - will be used during 2021 to achieve our stated goals. The *Excellence in Law* campaign will continue in 2021, to attract funding to continue this work in 2022.

Below follows a report of how funds were used during the 2020 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate Scholarships for LLB students

In 2020 the Faculty awarded undergraduate scholarships to the value of R1 052 500.

On average a law scholarship is worth R60 000 per student per annum. Twenty undergraduate scholarships were awarded in 2020. This included two named scholarships, namely the CDH LEAF Fund Scholarships supported by Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in 2019 and 2020, and the Giles & Debra White Scholarship. This also included the Linklaters African International Scholarship for a final-year LLB student from elsewhere on the continent.

Scholarship awards are made with the key criteria being academic excellence, financial need, and historical disadvantage. Outlined below are some insights into the profile of students who were awarded 2020 scholarships.

Programme of Study

The LLB degree can be pursued through a number of different routes or programmes. These include the 4-year undergraduate LLB; the 2-year graduate LLB as part of a combined undergraduate/ graduate Law stream; the 3-year graduate LLB for students who did not take Law courses in their undergraduate degree; the 5-year extended curriculum programme (now phased out).

The scholarship breakdown for 2020 was:

- i. Two students (10%) on the Combined Stream LLB, having completed an undergraduate degree with Law subjects, and then moved into the 2-year graduate LLB
- ii. Seven students (35%) undertaking the graduate 3-year LLB where students will have completed an undergraduate degree with no law subjects, and then come to the Law Faculty to pursue a 3-year graduate LLB degree
- iii. 10 students (50%) on the 4-year LLB, where first-year students come directly into the Faculty of Law and start their LLB courses from first year.
- iv. One student (5%) on the Faculty's 5-year extended curriculum LLB programme

Transformation profile

- i. 1x open (international student) (5%)
- ii. 3 x Coloured students (15%)
- iii. 16 x black African students (80%)

Gender Profile

- i. 12 x women (60%)
- ii. 8 x men (40%).

Graduation Profile

- i. Six students qualified in 2020 and will graduate in July 2021
- ii. 14 are mid-degree, and all completed the academic year successfully.

Postgraduate Scholarships for LLM and PhD students

Thirteen postgraduate scholarships were awarded in 2020 from the *Excellence in Law* Fund in the value of R1 000 000. Included in this amount was the R100 000 *Alexander Burman Memorial Grant*, supported by a legacy gift for this purpose from Professor Sandra Burman, and the *Linklaters African International Scholarship*.

In addition, the first Dikgang Moseneke Postgraduate Fellowships were awarded from the Dikgang Moseneke Fellowship fund, and we were able to award the first Beric Croome Postgraduate Tax Scholarship. These awards have an additional combined value of R240 000. The Faculty is fortunate to receive, addition to the above, ongoing contributions to existing scholarship funds – such as the Basil and Con Corder Scholarship - from alumni, staff members and Faculty friends.

Programme of Study

- i. 7 x Masters-level scholarships (63%)
- ii. 4 x PhD scholarships (36%)

Gender Profile

- i. 7 x women (63%)
- ii. 4 x men (36%)

Scholarship Selection Process

The Faculty's donor-funded scholarship funding and awards process is managed by Faculty committees which report regularly to the Faculty Board and to the Faculty's Endowment Fund Advisory Board.

For undergraduate scholarships, a call for applications is sent out in November/December each year with a closing date in January/February. The Faculty's Undergraduate Scholarship Committee meet to review the applications, and rank them on both academic and financial criteria. The Scholarships are then managed from the Development & Marketing desk in the Faculty.

For postgraduate scholarships, a similar process is followed although two calls for applications are usually made each year – the first in December for the following year and one in May of the current year. The Scholarships committee meet to review applications and assess these against stringent scholarships criteria.

STUDENT CRISIS FUND

Typically this funding is used for medical and travel emergencies for students who find themselves in unforeseeable difficulty with no place to turn. Most often students who are assisted are those who are away from their families and communities to whom they would have had recourse. Students may make application to the fund at any time and need is assessed and appropriately supported, within 24 hours where possible to minimise student stress as far as possible.

As a result of students not being on campus and also not in residence for most of the 2020 academic year, there was a marked drop in requests for emergency funding in 2020.

In 2020 the Student Emergency Fund assisted students to the value of R7 500.

From our students

*When your scholarship came into my life, it was almost as if someone had waved a magic wand. Not only did this significantly lift the strain off my parents to make their payments, but it had somewhat of a domino effect on our lives as a whole. **Ammaarah Roshan**.*

*Your contributions thus far have moulded me into a zealous young adult who still believes they have a bright future ahead of them. I appreciate all your efforts and thank you for your continued support. **Aviwe Vilane***

*Although you are sometimes referred to as a “donor”, I see people such as yourselves more as “investors”. Investors in people like myself and, importantly, investors in South Africa and its future. As such, your investment is not merely paying for my studies, but is actively removing certain barriers preventing me from realising my full potential. **Mikaeel Waja***

*Your endorsement not only served to alleviate financial concerns but also felt incredibly validating. There were some concerns about my change in career path and having received your financial support was immensely encouraging. **Cindi Janari***

*This scholarship means I get a renewed opportunity to be invested in my passions without having to be held back by financial limitations. My lifelong dream of attending UCT and gaining the skills, the opportunity to learn from outstanding faculty, the exposure to talented administrators and to create friendships with individuals that share the same interests me, is only possible thanks to generous donors. **Sisanda Lupondwana***

*The scholarship allowed me to start studying law – I was looking at a possible deregistration mid-year without the funding. Moreover, the scholarship served as a ‘signal’ (for lack of a better word) that I had taken the correct risk by deciding to pursue law. Funding for this qualification continues to grow in scarcity and to receive even a portion is a vote of confidence. **Confi Moerane***

*Being re-awarded this scholarship is significant because it lifts the financial burden that comes with being in tertiary education ... With the turmoil that has been caused by the recent fee problems around the country, this scholarship provides me with the peace of mind I need to excel in my legal studies. **Nkumbuzo Langa***

*Thanks to your benevolence, my lifelong dream of becoming a legal practitioner is within reach. The award serves as a vote of confidence in my abilities and potential to become a legal practitioner that is at the forefront of pivotal matters that impact our communities. **Stanley Malindi***

*The scholarship has not only eased my financial stresses but pushed me to remain positive and still pursue my goals of self-development and learning despite the uncertainty and troubles facing the country and world. In what would have been a horrible year, the scholarship has allowed me the freedom to pursue other opportunities outside of academics. **Kholeka Mhlungu***

THANK YOU

The generosity of our donors, alumni and friends in ensuring that we are able to attract and retain the best minds and talent to the Faculty of Law cannot be overstated. On behalf of all our staff and students we would like to express our sincere appreciation of your support.

Together we are part of student support initiatives of which we can be proud.

Thank you.

Gabrielle Ritchie
Development & Marketing
Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town
gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za
www.law.uct.ac.za

