

“Shaping the Law Clinics of Tomorrow”
-lessons learnt and stories told-

AULAI Conference

28 June – 1 July 2011

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town



“Learn the past, watch the present, create the future”

— Jesse Conrad

The recent (unpublished) report by the CHE on the LLB degree and various statements by LEAD, have again underlined the importance of the role of clinical legal education, the imparting of practical legal skills and the inculcation of ethical, professional and human rights values.

AULAI has since 2004 organised a number of skills-based workshops aimed at empowering clinicians in various skills and also resulting in the production of a variety of manuals. It is now appropriate to create the opportunity and space for clinicians to share their ideas and insights in clinics at a conference for and by South African law clinicians.

With the growing pressure from law Faculties to undertake research, it has become imperative for Law Clinicians to engage in research and publish their work. The conference will be an opportunity for clinicians to share ideas, explore new methodologies and acquire new knowledge of clinical practice through the presentation of conference papers in a range of plenary and parallel sessions. In order to encourage the participation of all clinicians, papers will be presented in a friendly and non threatening environment amongst familiar colleagues.

CONFERENCE FOCUS

The Conference will focus on the following main pillars of a law clinic's operations:

1. Clinical legal education;
2. The clinic's law practice used as a vehicle to provide practical legal training to law students;
3. Community outreach programmes enabling clinics to address 'access to justice' issues; and
4. The role of law clinics in general.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Applications are invited from clinicians interested in presenting a paper including but not limited to the following areas:

1. Clinical legal education

- Dealing with diversity in CLE
- Assessment strategies and teaching methods in CLE
- CLE from the perspective of a student
- Pursuing a CLE learning agenda in Faculties: Experiences and Lessons

- Aligning the clinic's programme with other skills-based courses offered in the faculty and at the practical legal Training Schools

2. Law Practice

- Success without victory: lessons learnt from case law
- Organising a clinic's legal practice around cle and access to justice objectives
- The type of cases handled by clinics: do the law societies' restrictions still make sense today? Does a clinic have the necessary capacity and resources to take on other types of matters? Should clinics be allowed to do offer conveyancing and notarial services?
- Criminal vs civil work

3. Community outreach programmes enabling clinics to address 'access to justice' issues

- Law Clinic's role in organising community
- Social Justice lawyering and initiatives
- Research in action at a Law Clinic
- Law Clinics and collective mobilization
- Law Clinics and accessing socio-economic rights
- Justice Education initiatives in Law Clinics

4. The role of law clinics in general

- Research in action at a Law Clinic
- The future of funding for law clinics in South Africa
- Profiling the law clinician in South Africa
- The institutional and legal framework of law clinics in South Africa
- The role of South African law clinics towards regional or international integration
- Integrating candidate attorneys into the operations of a law clinic.

CONFERENCE FUNDING

The AULAI Executive Committee is seeking funding for two delegates per law clinic to attend the Conference subject to the condition that only clinicians presenting papers at the conference will receive funding. Funding includes travel, accommodation and catered meals. However, AULAI encourages delegates to seek funding from their own university institutions. All other delegates will be responsible for their own costs.

REGISTRATION

In order to attend the conference all delegates, whether funded by AULAI or otherwise, must complete the attached Conference Registration Form and return it by email or fax to the following address:

Mutsa Mangezi
Rhodes University Legal Aid Clinic
41 New Street
Grahamstown
6140
Tel: (046) 622 9301
Fax: (046) 622 9312
Email: m.mangezi@ru.ac.za

Registration forms must reach Ms Mangezi by 12:00pm on 31 March 2011. We look forward to welcoming you at the Conference.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In order to encourage the full participation of all AULAI members, the AULAI Executive Committee has compiled a document containing guidelines for first time presenters. These guidelines include information on choosing a topic, preparing an abstracts, writing a paper and how to convert a paper into an article. The document is available on request from the above address, or interested clinicians can visit the AULAI website at www.aulai.co.za.

