
SLSJ Official Report for 2008/2009

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- **Introduction**

The first Student Seminar for Law and Social Justice held in 2007 successfully brought together 130 students from the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape providing a platform for critical engagement on issues of the law and social justice, and laying the foundation for what has become a national movement of students dedicated to the use of the law as a tool for promoting social justice in South Africa. Soon after the seminar a committee representing both institutions, was elected. Following the commitments expressed at the first seminar, smaller events were held at both UCT and UWC throughout the course of the year. Students of the SLSJ also volunteered to aid in preparations for two cases in which the Legal Resources Centre litigated on behalf residents of the Joe Slovo informal settlement (facing eviction) and people seeking refugee status in South Africa.

The seminar, the primary focus of the society, was facilitated and hosted by the SLSJ again in 2008, re-creating the spirit of student activism and growing to include 240 students from eight universities across the country and representing a diverse gender, racial and cultural group.

At the end of the four day seminar a National Executive Committee representing all associated universities was elected and number of principles and an interim constitution were adopted by the organisation.

This document is intended to provide a report-back to funders on the activities of 2008, and to describe the plans and strategy of the society in 2009.

The name of the organization has recently changed from the Student Society for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ) to the Students for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ).



- **SLSJ: Committee 2007/08**

Emma Holtmann (UCT) Chairperson

Dmitri Hess (UWC) Sustainable growth at UWC

Janice Bleazard (UCT) Programming Co-ordinator for the seminar

Gabi Richards (UCT) Logistical Co-ordinator

Siphokazi Kayana (UWC) Logistical Co-ordinator

Doron Isaacs (ex-UCT) Ex Officio member from previous committee (previous chair)

Yana Jeftha (UWC) Logistical Co-ordinator

Emma Webber (UCT) Sustainable growth at UCT

- **Activity funded by your organization:**

2008 Seminar (Onrus):

The *Student Seminar for Law and Social Justice* was the focal point of the year for the society and involved just over 240 students from eight universities around the country bringing together a diversity of students from different social and economic backgrounds. Attendance at the seminar comprised of 114 male and 126 female students. The majority of students came from UWC and UCT while four students of each of five universities around the country (the University of the North-West, Fort Hare, the University of Kwazulu Natal, the University of the Free State and Witwatersrand University) were flown in to take part in the seminar and learn about the activities of the society.

In order to ensure the seminar was accessible to students the ticket prices were kept low, R200 for most or R80 for students in financial need. This price included transport, accommodation, food, basic stationery and an SLSJ t-shirt. The desire to keep the seminar financially accessible resulted in the need to raise extensive funds.

The Seminar took place during Eid and Muslim students and presenters were provided with the necessary facilities so that they were able to properly respect their religious observances.



The students, along with over 30 presenters (active in the legal practice, academia and civil activism) spent four days at the Habonim Campsite in Onrus. The location and structure of the seminar allowed for constant interaction and engagement between the students and presenters in and between the organised sessions.

The programme revolved around four themes, namely;

- i) Protecting rights in a hostile environment;
- ii) Current concerns in criminal justice;
- iii) Environmental justice and
- iv) Legal and Social strategies for realising socio-economic rights

The themes were informed by feedback received from students following last year's seminar (with requests particularly for a greater focus on environmental and criminal justice issues), as well as by suggestions and inputs canvassed from speakers and other participants.

The structure of the programme itself sought to provide greater opportunity for interaction between the students and presenters by ensuring that students were involved in chairing particular discussions, as well as ensuring that it included smaller workshop sessions - where students were able to choose one of a few different sessions offered. A more informal fireside debate – which has become a traditional seminar event - was held, as well as entertainment being provided by a local band (also students). Combining beautiful scenery, engaging topics, a range of reputable and experienced presenters, as well as evening entertainment ensured that those in participation (including both speakers and students) had fun while also having an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of critical social issues.

The entire event was recorded and a short film documenting the highlights of the seminar has since been produced. (A copy of this video is accompanies this report).

On the last day of the Seminar the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation was held, where a constitution (attached) was adopted and a National Executive Committee, comprised of five executive positions (Chairperson, General Secretary, National Treasurer, Seminar Chairperson, Ex Officio Member) and the Chairpersons of the Local Campus branches was elected.



▪ **Aims of the Seminar:**

1. Critically engage with the role of law in realising a more free, equal and just society.
2. Consider the interaction of politics and law; the place of each in social change.
3. Discover the potential of the Constitution for the poor and the marginalised in South Africa.
4. Consider the achievements and failures of democratic South Africa and how law has featured in this process.
5. Involve students in dialogue and debate, thereby challenging each person to consider their role and responsibility towards the greater society.

▪ **Objectives Achieved:**

- Students were provided with an opportunity to engage with other students from different backgrounds with a common interest in engaging with issues of social transformation, law and justice.
- Through interaction with well known, experienced and inspirational practitioners, activists and academics, students were exposed to actual accounts, perspectives and strategies on combating injustices which continue to plague our society.
- Students were motivated to reconsider their roles in society and to begin considering ways in which the skills acquired during their studies can be effectively used to promote and achieve social justice.
- Though the majority of students in attendance were law students, there were a number of students from other disciplines present who were able to participate fully in the programme and often diversified conversations between the students.
- The meeting held by the students on the final day produced a commitment to upholding the values of the Society and to ensuring that it progressively seeks to achieve its aim of stimulating social and political consciousness in students with the view of reviving the spirit of student activism in South Africa.



▪ **Things to improve:**

- Following lessons learned from the seminar of 2007, as mentioned above, the 2008 seminar sought to encourage more student involvement in the discussions with the speakers, however, this area can be improved on in order to foster more dialogue and to stimulate more strategic creativity and initiative on the part of the students.
- The programme was too concentrated at times, with too many sessions in the day.
- More students from the Universities outside of the Western Cape need to be budgeted for in order to secure better representation of the various campuses.
- It is suggested that greater emphasis be placed on workshop components which should preferably be included in each session.
- In order to facilitate a greater workshop component reading materials focused on issues to be dealt with at the seminar should be made available to students beforehand. This will ensure that students are better prepared for sessions which will allow for greater discussion focused on strategies and solutions.
- To further student participation during discussions as well as encourage active student involvement in issues of social justice, it is suggested that student leaders and young activists be included as speakers at the seminar.
- All Law faculty staff members from UWC and UCT were invited; however, their response was poor.
- Opportunity to attend the seminar was open to all Law students at Stellenbosch University, but only one student attended. More should be done to ensure that students from that campus have better attendance at future SLSJ activities.



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- **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - **SEMINAR:**
 - Transport (presenters, students from outside of the Western Cape and students from within the Western Cape): R106 924.00
 - Accommodation (students): R45 936.75
 - Accommodation (presenters): R36 290.00
 - Food: R60 177.60
 - Advertising: R9 450.00
 - Conference packs for attendees: R18 246.11
 - T-shirts for attendees: R6250.00
 - Gifts for presenters: R1 075.00
 - Subsidising Certain Students: R 4800,00
 - **TOTAL: R 289 149.46**

<u>Budget Item (from your application budget)</u>	<u>What amount was budgeted? (from your application budget)</u>	<u>What amount was actually spent?</u>	<u>What was the difference?(budgeted amount – Spent Amount)</u>
Student accommodation (including beds, kitchen use, shelter use and additional cleaning)	R 38 556.75	R 45 936.75	R 7380.00
Speaker's accommodation	R 34 300.00	R 36 290.00	R 1 990.00

<p><u>Comments:</u> There were more students in attendance than initially expected and budgeted for. Many of the extra students had made early applications to attend the seminar, but had indicated that they were unable to afford even the discounted cost. These students were then subsidised completely. Naturally this increased the accommodation costs. With regards to the speakers, the initial budget catered for only 20 speakers, however this was later altered with 33 speakers, some of whom were accommodated at the campsite, while others were houses in bed-and-breakfasts in the area.</p>			
<p>Transport: Including; flight costs for speakers and 20 students from outside W.C, transporting students from UCT and UWC using 4 buses, transporting students and speakers to and from the airport, and the hiring of vehicles to transport speakers to and from campsite to B&B</p>	R 112 260.00	R106 924.00	-R5 336.00
<p><u>Comments:</u> As part of UWC's funding granted to us, was to use vendors already associated with the campus, which came at discounted prices. Some cancellations by speakers from the Western Cape, and additions of ones from outside of the Western Cape also meant that costs of flights increased more than initially budgeted.</p>			
Food	R 54 000.00	R 60 177.60	R 6177.60



Comments: Again, increases in the amount of people attending the seminar had an impact on the difference between the amount initially budgeted for and the actual amount spent.			
Printed material (including; reading materials, posters, the banner, ballot papers for the elections, folders to hold the above items),	R 12 650.43	R 18 246.11	R5 595.68
Advertising (including the website, design, and recording of the event)	R 9 450.00	R 9 450.00	R 00.00
Comments: More folders and printing material was required to accommodate for the extra students. Unforeseen changes had to be made to the programme making it necessary to have the set re-printed. T-shirts were not included in the initial budget.			
Sound equipment	R 3000.00	R 00.00	-R3 000.00
Subsidies for certain students	R 3000.00	R 4 800.00	R 1800.00
<u>SSLSJ t-shirts (x20)</u>	R00.00	R6 250.00	R6 250.00
<u>SSLSJ Badges as gifts for presenters</u>	R00.00	R1 075.00	R1 075.00
Comments: UWC sponsored the sound and audio vision equipment.			



Total:	R 267 217.18	R 289 149.46	R21 932.28
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Overall Comments: The initial budget did not include SLSJ t-shirts which were printed for participants in the seminar, nor did it include the beaded badges (gifts). Through various funders, listed below, we were able to raise a total of R328 000.00 some of which was given by the Wallace Global Fund, for the seminar itself, as well as for the development of the organisation. These funds have been used for the first SLSJ NEC meeting held in November in Cape Town.

Funds Recieved in 2008:

Both UWC and UCT law faculties contributed funds (R22 000 and R40 000 respectively) as did the Aids Law Project (R60 000), the Wallace Global Fund (\$10 000), the Claude Leon Foundation (R50 000) and Atlantic Philanthropies (R75 000). During the year R290 000 was spent and this left a surplus of R50 000 which is being used to fund the first face-to-face meeting of the national executive, as well as start-up events for each of the universities to launch the society.

NEC Meeting November 2008:

Transport Costs:	Plane tickets	R 12869,00
	Transport to and from airport:	R 540,00
Food, Stationery, Accommodation:	2 nights	R 5000,00
TOTAL:		R 18 409.00



Comments: The first face to face NEC meeting (in terms of our constitution at least three of these must be held to be during the committee's the term of office) was held in Cape Town over two days. Two branch members each from three of the branches outside the Western Cape were flown down for the meeting. The current surplus is, just above R20 000, a portion of which has been earmarked for distribution amongst the branches to facilitate the establishment of their structures, and another portion to be used to provide for the administration of the SLSJ until further funding is received.

▪ **National Executive Committee 2009:**

- Dmitri Hess (UWC) National Chairperson
- Mpho Matheolane (UCT) General Secretary
- Emma Webber (UCT) Seminar Chairperson
- Marethe Herfurth (UCT) National Treasurer
- Yana Jeftha (UWC) Ex Officio member of previous committee

• University Chairs:

- Portia Adonis (UWC Chairperson)
- Calli Ferreira (UCT Chairperson)
- Nils Gerber (UFS Chairperson)
- Tamsanqa Sithole (WITS Chairperson)
- Tumelo Mogopudi (North-West Chairperson)
- Leandi Eserhuizen (Stellenbosch Chairperson)
- Shumba Tapiwa (Fort Hare Chairperson)
- Lucky Mkhize (UKZN Chairperson)

▪ **OTHER ACTIVITIES BY THE SLSJ in 2008:**

During the course of the year eight events in total were hosted by the SLSJ, which varied in size and publicity and covered a range of issues.

- 23 May 2008: Public Panel Discussion: *Housing, Evictions and Social Justice:* (UWC)



The first event, *Housing, Evictions and Social Justice* was a natural consequence of volunteer work by UCT and UWC students that was facilitated by the society. Steve Kahanovitz of the Legal Resources Centre represented the Joe Slovo Task Team in the application for eviction of residents of Joe Slovo, to make way for the N2 Gateway Housing Project. He made contact with the SLSJ in November 2007 requesting volunteers to take statements from residents about their history, living conditions, and feelings and responses to the housing project and the eviction. Approximately 25 students spent two weeks at Joe Slovo taking statements which were then settled into affidavits that formed part of the Task Team's papers for resisting the eviction. The public discussion brought Mr. Kahanovitz, housing expert Professor Dave Dewar (UCT), Mr. Mzwanele Zulu of the Joe Slovo Task Team, Professor Sandra Liebenberg (University of Stellenbosch) as chair and Mr. Mbulelo Tshangana (Deputy Director General of the Department of Local Government and Housing) together to discuss the housing policy and the effects of its implementation at Joe Slovo.

Transportation was provided for more than 30 students from UCT and the debate was attended by the students, members of the press, some faculty staff as well as members of civil society and civil society organizations. The debate centered on the requirement of public participation, which had left the residents of Joe Slovo informal settlement uninformed of the policy and its implementation. The decision to move the residents to Delft was the central reason for the resistance of the eviction and it became clear that better and more open communication between the Department and the Joe Slovo residents might have resulted in better decision-making. The students were enriched by the experience of working with the residents and hearing their concerns about policy and public participation.

- May 2008: Volunteering during xenophobic violence in Cape Town:

SLSJ students assisted the *Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)* in providing humanitarian aid to displaced foreign nationals during the xenophobic violence which erupted in Cape Town. Students were involved in packing and transporting relief packages for displaced refugees being housed at various police stations, churches and community halls, and also provided ground support in collecting information regarding the status of particular sites for the command center (for humanitarian aid) established at the TAC offices.

- 15 July 2008: Study Group: *The History of Legal Activism in South Africa*: (UCT)

For the second event, *The History of Legal Activism in South Africa* Advocate Gilbert Marcus (SC)



was flown down from Johannesburg and joined by Advocate Geoff Budlender for a discussion of the Komani case and the litigation that contributed to the downfall of the pass laws under apartheid, with a comparative discussion of the Treatment Action Campaign Nevirapine case. What emerged from this discussion was the importance of social mobilisation around strategic litigation. The law is not a tool that can function effectively on its own without political and social action. This has become central to the society's view of its activities - connected to the social reality it seeks to transform and engaged with the people whose rights under the Constitution it seeks to advance. It also alerted students to the need for social sensitivity and careful planning before taking action on a given issue.

- 1 August 2008: Pubic Panel Discussion: *Legal Education and Transformative Constitutionalism*: (UCT)

Legal Education and Transformative Constitutionalism was the topic for the second large public event, held this time at UCT. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is a progressive and powerful document; it mandates radical transformation of a society still to a large extent marked by the iniquity and indignity of apartheid. This debate focused on the transformation of legal practice and of legal education that is required to create a legal profession responsive to the needs of South African people and the mandate of the Constitution. Justice Yvonne Mokgoro spoke suggestively of the need for student activism and engagement in the spirit of ubuntu, while Advocate Geoff Budlender argued for an increase in clinical work and Professor Anton Fagan made an argument for social sensitivity and responsiveness aside even from the transformative mandate (which he suggests places a constraint on legal reform) of the Constitution. This debate gave students an opportunity to think critically about their LLB degree and to take seriously the possibility of holding their faculties accountable to the Constitutional mandate. The event was well attended by students (including students from UWC) staff and academics.

- 15 August 2008: Workshop: *Muslim Personal Law*: (UWC)

This workshop, co-hosted by the *UWC Law Clinic*, dealt with the effects of *Fatima Hassan Gabie v The Master of the High Court* - in which it was held that spouses to polygenous Muslim marriages can inherit under the Intestate Succession Act and have a claim under the Maintenance of Surviving Spouses Act. Igshaan Higgens, who acted for Ms Gabie, and Enver



Daniels, Chief State Law Advisor, spoke on the implications of the ruling on the law of persons and on the extent of the scope of the application of the judgment. Students were given an opportunity to think about the social and legal implications of a judgment independently of prior academic analysis, and creatively about how they might consider lessons learned in achieving that particular judgment and how these may be used to protect the interests of future clients.

- 23 - 24 August 2008: Volunteering: *Justice Week*: Advice Days (various sites)

The *Access to Justice Week* was a project initiated and run by the *UWC Legal Aid Clinic* and supported by SLSJ volunteers. Students, accompanied and assisted by qualified attorneys, went to clinics in Tulbach (mobile clinic), Athlone and Mitchell's Plain to inform people of their legal rights and provide advice and information on various issues. Interacting with people for whom there is little or no access to justice through the legal system provided a practical experience which in itself highlighted how prevalent the problem of inaccessibility of the law is for many poor people.

- 9 October 2008: Public Panel Discussion: *The role of students in our evolving democracy*: (UWC)

Activist Zackie Achmat and Dr. Allan Boesak were guest speakers at the University of the Western Cape's Students for Law and Social Justice's first event since the seminar. Speaking of the recent developments in the ANC, Boesak noted that the ANC was in total disarray and that there was indeed a crisis also commenting on the fact that today there are few organisations working to ensure that certain aspects don't "disappear into the quagmire we've made of it."

Criticising the youth organisations, Achmat told students it was their duty to reclaim the organization (the ANC). He lashed out at the inactivity of student groups on sustained campaigns which would improve education expressing his concern over the fact that many of the historical student organizations still present today have settled for mediocre achievements in their action. Speaking about Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's recent uttering of not voting at the next election, Achmat also urged everyone to vote so as to ensure they participate in the direction of the countries politics.

Both Achmat and Boesak urged students to take a more active role in changing politics. Key focuses, both agreed, should be education, protection of the constitution and the revival of civil societies at community level. Boesak expressed the need for students to now take up the new



struggle for non-racialism, and for communities to organise themselves to put pressure on government. Achmat felt the most important way to revive student activism was for young people to start entering public service to ensure the state served the people. The debate was lively, and saw great participation from the crowd of students in attendance. (Adapted from article published on pg.5 of the Cape Argus on October 10, 2008 by Esther Lewis)

- 1 - 5 December 2008: Volunteering:

A small group of UWC and UCT SLSJ students conducted interviews with refugees, outside Refugee Reception Center (Home Affairs) Nyanga, on behalf of the Legal Resources Center to facilitate an assessment of the situation there. These interviews were to assist in preparation for the action instituted by the LRC on behalf of asylum seekers who were not being registered by Home Affairs within a reasonable period – as is required by the Refugee Act.

- **DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE SEMINAR AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Since the initial seminar in 2007, from which the current Organisation developed, both the seminar and society have shown consistent growth in reach and content. The SLSJ has firmly established itself at both UWC and UCT and, since the seminar of 2008, has adopted measures to facilitate the firm establishment of branches on the other associated campuses (SUN, UKZN, UFS, UFH, UNW and WITS). In the interests of constant improvement, the outgoing committee ensured that SLSJ events and activities were followed-up by debrief sessions in which shortfalls and possible improvements were noted and discussed.

A number of changes have been made to the structure of the committee elected for the 2008/2009 term. This was necessitated, not only by the fact that the SLSJ has expanded its membership nationally, but also by virtue the organisation's intent on shifting its primary focus from the organising of the seminar (now constituting a separate portfolio) to the adoption of more programmes to provide platforms for student involvement, thus furthering our objective of stimulating a culture of student activism based on a progressive understanding of the conditions affecting society and the Constitution. In conformity with the principles of the SLSJ the NEC continues to be a representative body in terms of race and gender, and in accordance with the respective campus membership.

The SLSJ is currently in the process of registering as a Non-Profit Organisation and we are



considering the establishment of an advisory board consisting of experienced practitioners, scholars and activists.

The SLSJ website is currently being developed from what was initially merely a source of information pertaining to the Society into a more interactive space, for members and others associated with the society to engage with one another. www.slsj.org.za (website to be changed soon to reflect the new name.)

The UWC Legal Aid Clinic has kindly provided us with office space, at no cost, to be used as the administrative centre for the National Executive Committee, which will aid in the NEC's administrative effectiveness (which proved to be somewhat laborious for the previous committee). A memorandum of understanding between the Clinic and the SLSJ has been entered into with regards to the use of the office and other facilities (telephones and printers/fax machines etc). It will also be necessary to employ an administrator, on a part time basis at least, in order to properly carry out the administrative functions of the organisation (given the recent growth of the organisation on a national level).

Notwithstanding the fact that the annual seminar is an integral function of the society, and will remain as such, it is our view that debate and critical understanding of particular issues relating to social justice is but the first step towards motivating students to critically and creatively participate in finding and implementing strategies seeking to address those issues.

At the NEC meeting held in November in Cape Town, a number of preliminary plans were formulated to ensure the continuity and further growth of the Society. In light of our strategy to; firstly promote and facilitate discussion and debate around critical issues affecting the achievement of social justice, and secondly to steer debate towards action the SLSJ intends to organise, *inter alia*:

- SLSJ Seminar 2009
- Regular *public debates* around topical issues of social justice
- *Think Tanks*: These study group sessions are intended to be smaller, less formal and will occur on a more regular basis. It is intended that these sessions encourage regular and critical analysis and initiate creative ideas for more activities to be conducted by the Organisation. These will be co-ordinated at a branch level, with the development of curricula for the sessions already underway.



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- The SLSJ, in association with the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) is currently running a Civil Participation Drive in the run-up to this year's General Elections. This campaign is aimed at fostering an educated electorate through facilitating workshops and debates on issues such as electoral systems, how parliament is constituted and brief and neutral discussions on the manifestos of the major political parties in the Western Cape. On the 21 March 2009 (Human Rights Day) the SLSJ will be running a 'Use *Your* Voice, Make *Your* choice' drive, where students will be touring popular destinations around the peninsular encouraging citizens to exercise their rights to vote. Application has also been made to the IEC to allow for our members to participate as Election Observers.
 - Members of the SLSJ at UCT and UWC are currently involved in the establishment of **LAWCO** and **Street Law** projects – both programmes being aimed at providing basic rights education, particularly to the youth, in historically disadvantaged communities and which will draw on SLSJ membership.
 - SLSJ is a member of **Cape Town T.V** (community television), which will allow for the broadcasting of recorded activities of the Organisation, allowing us to reach a wider audience.
 - We also intend to maintain our relations with the **LRC** (Legal Resources Centre) in providing a volunteer support base.
 - Social Justice Careers day is an event designed to counter the commercially focused 'career days' hosted at the law faculties on our campuses, and will be aimed at allowing organisations involved in public interest work and offering post-graduate employment the opportunity to canvas themselves on our campuses.

The incoming committee of 2009 is confident that the third year will see further growth in the organisation as we continue to promote a culture of social responsibility and a commitment towards social transformation through student leadership and activism.

- **THANK YOU:**

The society is indebted to its funders without whom it could not function, to the speakers who attended the seminar, and also to various professionals who provided guidance and assistance in the sustainable growth of the society and the planning of the seminar. While membership of the society is restricted (in terms of its constitution) to students and associate membership to



people who have graduated in the last five years, for the society to continue to grow sustainably and productively it is imperative that these relationships with friends of the SLSJ remain firm and productive.

Advocate Geoff Budlender has provided unfailing support and encouragement throughout the growth of the society.

Fatima Hassan worked with the programme coordinators to create a dynamic and relevant programme of events and her help was invaluable.

Zackie Achmat's support has been instrumental in the foundation and the growth of the society and without his inspiration and guidance it would not exist.

Former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson has been a vocal supporter of the society since he attended its inaugural seminar in September 2007 and his affiliation with the society has lent it credibility and strength.

The team of caretakers at the Habonim Camp worked tirelessly on the weekend to ensure that the students were all comfortable and cared for, and their efforts contributed towards a seamless and well-organised weekend.

Chairperson :

Signature:

Treasurer :

Signature:



APPENDIX

- **Seminar Programme:**

SLSJ Programme 4th – 7th Sept 2008

	SATURDAY 6th September
08h30 – 09h45	BREAKFAST
09h45 – 11h00	Cormac Cullinan “INTRODUCING WILD LAW” Respondent: Jan Glazewski VENUE B
11h00 – 11h30	TEA



11h30 – 12h45	<p>Roger Chennells</p> <p>“THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC LAW IN THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE”</p> <p>VENUE A</p>	<p>Wim Trengove</p> <p>“CHALLENGING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE PRE-PAID WATER METER SYSTEM IN SA”</p> <p>VENUE B</p>	<p>Richard Spoor</p> <p>“DUNE MINING ON THE WILD COAST: CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ARISING”</p> <p>VENUE C</p>	<p>Angela Andrews</p> <p>“REFLECTIONS ON THE PEBBLE-BED NUCLEAR REACTOR CASE”</p> <p>EIAs & BEE</p> <p>VENUE D</p>
12h45 – 14h00	LUNCH			
14h00 – 15h15	<p>Proudly Manenberg</p> <p>“SOCIAL JUSTICE & THE CONSTITUTION: A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE”</p> <p>VENUE A</p>	<p>Imraan Ismail-Mukkadam & Rob Petersen</p> <p>“REALISING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS THROUGH COMPETITION LAW?: THE BREAD PRICE-FIXING SAGA”</p> <p>VENUE B</p>	<p>TAC Khayelitsha</p> <p>“STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY MOBILISATION”</p> <p>VENUE C</p>	<p>Joe Slovo Task Team & Steve Kahanovitz</p> <p>“PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY & ‘meaningful consultation’ in the context of evictions”</p> <p>VENUE D</p>
15h15 – 15h45	TEA			

15h45 – 17h00	Albie Sachs PLENARY ADDRESS (SSLSJ farewell & thank you) VENUE B
17h00 – 19h00	BREAK (Guest participants' departure)
19h00 – 20h00	DINNER
21h00	entertainment



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- SLSJ Interim Constitution

INTERIM CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Students for Law & Social Justice

AMENDED ON7 Sept 2008.....
24 Nov 2008.....
11 Feb 2009.....

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- 1.1 “MEMBER” means a member of the ORGANISATION who has not been excluded or suspended from the ORGANISATION;
 “ORGANISATION” means the Students for Law & Social Justice duly constituted in terms of this Constitution;
- 1.2 “STUDENT” means a person registered as a student of a University or other tertiary education institution during the current academic year in any course;
- 1.3 Words in the singular number include the plural, and words in the plural number include the singular.
- 1.4 “Constitution” means the Constitution of the Students for Law and Social Justice.



2. NAME

- 2.1 The name of the ORGANISATION is: Students for Law & Social Justice.
- 2.2 The abbreviation is SLSJ.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1 Principles

The Students for Law & Social Justice is founded upon the following principles:

- 3.1.1 Advancing the constitutional values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.
- 3.1.2 A commitment to non-racialism and non-sexism as well as the supremacy of the Constitution of South Africa and the rule of law.
- 3.1.3 The need for a progressive and united student voice – across universities, faculties and disciplines – to address the challenges of our society.

3.2 Conditions of Organisation

Our commitment to justice is founded upon an understanding of the material conditions of our organisation, including the following:

- 3.2.1 South Africa has a history of injustice and dispossession, in which law was used as a tool in the hands of the oppressive state.
- 3.2.2 Lawyers, often in conjunction with mass movements, used law to resist injustice and to open spaces for political and social progress.
- 3.2.3 There remains great inequality between rich and poor in South Africa. Responding to this must be a priority in order to make freedom meaningful for the majority of our people.
- 3.2.4 Divisions of race, national and ethnic origin, language, sex, gender, class, sexual orientation, health, religion, economic position, culture, age, belief, opinion must be confronted so that we can unite around a common progressive political vision for our society.

3.3 Aims



Students for Law & Social Justice aims to:

- 3.3.1** Learn about the challenges facing our world, continent and country, and about how a progressive rule of law can underpin development and social transformation.
- 3.3.2** Lead students across South Africa to engage in legal and organising work to build social justice.
- 3.3.3** Provide opportunities for Students to engage in public interest work before and after graduation.
- 3.3.4** Work for the transformation of our law schools and universities into socially engaged institutions that recognise the challenges of our society and dedicate themselves to those challenges, whilst working to improve standards and accessibility.

3.4 Activities

Students for Law & Social Justice will engage in the following activities to further its Aims:

- 3.4.1** Organise seminars, camps, discussions, meetings, lectures, study groups, debates, discussion panels and mass meetings to educate its MEMBERS and the broader university and wider community about the challenges facing society and about ways to respond.
- 3.4.2** Express itself respectfully and firmly in the public domain, such that it becomes a voice on matters affecting its society.
- 3.4.3** Engage in activism and mobilisation together with communities, individuals and other student and civil society bodies, drawing upon the legal, practical and intellectual resources of the MEMBERS.
- 3.4.4** Engage in legal action as a litigant or amicus curiae.

4. MEMBERS

4.1 MEMBERS of the ORGANISATION are STUDENTS.

4.2 No formal membership of the ORGANISATION is required, and membership is by association: attendance of the meetings of the ORGANISATION or



registration as a MEMBER on the ORGANISATION'S website.

- 4.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP of the ORGANISATION is available to those who have been registered students over the past five years. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are not eligible to hold office (other than in terms of 9.1.6) and cannot vote in elections of the organizations.

5. VOTING

- 5.1 Any MEMBERS of the ORGANISATION may vote at any meeting;
- 5.2 Voting shall can be for any of the following purposes:
- 5.2.1 Amending this Constitution (see S 17).
 - 5.2.2 Passing organisational or ideological resolutions which do not amend this Constitution. Such resolutions will bind the NEC to the extent that they do not conflict with this Constitution.
 - 5.2.3 Election of office-bearers.
 - 5.2.4 Any other purpose that the Chairperson determines necessary.
- 5.3 Voting shall be by show of hands, or, if the meeting so decides, by ballot;
- 5.4 No voting may be effected by proxy;
- 5.5 Except where otherwise provided in this Constitution all matters determined by a vote shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting;
- 5.6 The presiding officer at any meeting shall have a casting vote;
- 5.7 Quorum shall be 50% of the MEMBERS. The total membership shall be determined by the General Secretary, in consultation with the NEC.
- 5.8 The provisions of this section shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to meetings of the NEC of the ORGANISATION, and to meetings of campus-based committees of the ORGANISATION.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the ORGANISATION shall be held over a weekend during each year;
- 6.2 This may or may not be at the annual Seminar;
- 6.3 The National Executive Committee (NEC) for the ensuing year shall be elected



at the Annual General Meeting.

7. TERM OF OFFICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) MEMBERS

7.1 The NEC shall serve for one year, or until the election of a new NEC, whichever period is the shorter;

7.2 A “year” shall be defined as the period between AGMs, which shall be held annually.

7.3 Any person shall cease to be an NEC member if:

7.3.1 he/she is excluded or suspended from the ORGANISATION;

7.3.2 he/she tenders his/her resignation in writing and such resignation is accepted by the Committee.

8. FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

8.1 The functions of the NEC shall be:

8.1.1 To convene meetings of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.2 To deal with matters of urgency;

8.1.3 To co-opt any member of the ORGANISATION to the NEC either generally or for a special purpose;

8.1.4 To conduct, generally, the affairs of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.5 To speak on behalf of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.6 To arrange the annual seminar and annual general meeting of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.7 To monitor and support the creation and work of regional sub-committees at all the universities undertaking the work of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.8 To open such accounts with a bank as are necessary for the better conducting of the affairs of the ORGANISATION and to nominate the MEMBERS who are permitted to draw upon such accounts;

8.1.9 To raise funds for the running of the annual seminar, the expansion of the ORGANISATION and to contribute to the expenses of the regional



university-based committees and their sub-committees;

8.1.10 To make, amend and suspend the rules of the ORGANISATION in terms of Section 15.

8.1.11 To recommend the annual subscription, if any, payable by the MEMBERS of the ORGANISATION;

8.1.12 To exclude or suspend any member, for good cause, including;

8.1.12.1 Abusive, negligent, or harmful conduct.

8.1.12.2 Bringing the ORGANISATION into disrepute.

8.1.12.3 Wasteful or unaccountable conduct in regard to finances.

9. MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

9.1 The NEC shall consist of at least the following MEMBERS:

9.1.1 Chairperson;

9.1.2 Treasurer;

9.1.3 General Secretary;

9.1.4 Seminar Chairperson;

9.1.5 One member of the past NEC who will remain as an *Ex Officio* member. This person will be nominated by the outgoing NEC, and confirmed by the incoming NEC

9.1.6 The Chairperson of each regional campus-based SLSJ committee;

9.2 No person can hold more than one position on the NEC.

9.3 The positions from 9.1.1 to 9.1.5 cannot all be held by MEMBERS from one University.

9.4 In the event of a vacancy on the NEC, the NEC may transfer the functions entrusted to the absent member to one or more of the remaining MEMBERS of the NEC or to a co-opted MEMBER or to a MEMBER of the ORGANISATION elected at a meeting of the ORGANISATION.

9.5 A person co-opted to the NEC in terms of s.9.4 shall have all the rights, including the right to vote, of a Committee MEMBER excepting that:



9.5.1 co-opted persons may not exceed more than one-third of MEMBERS of the NEC in number;

9.5.2 the term of office of a co-opted person shall not exceed that of the NEC.

9.6 The Chairperson, Treasurer, General Secretary and Seminar Chairperson and *Ex Officio* member will form an ExCo which can take decisions on behalf of the society when it is not practical for the whole NEC to convene. This ExCo will also be tasked with practical coordination of the NEC and the Organisation.

10. THE CHAIRPERSON

10.1 The Chairperson of the ORGANISATION shall preside at meetings of the NEC.

10.2 In the absence of the Chairperson, all his/her powers and duties shall devolve upon a MEMBER of the NEC nominated by the Chairperson.

11. TREASURER & FINANCIAL CONTROLS

11.1 The Treasurer of the ORGANISATION shall be responsible to the NEC and the ORGANISATION for all the income and expenditure of the ORGANISATION during his/her term of office.

11.2 The Treasurer shall be entitled to draw upon the accounts of the ORGANISATION, subject to;

11.2.1 Two signatories for all expenditure;

11.2.2 All expenditure being based on a budget approved by the NEC.

11.2.3 Equity, such that disadvantaged universities and the needs of poorer students, irrespective of race, are taken into account.

11.3 The Treasurer shall provide the AGM with an annual statement of income and expenditure.

11.4 The Treasurer shall provide the NEC with a statement of income and expenditure at the request of the Chairperson.

11.5 The income, expenditure and financial status of the ORGANISATION shall be



subject to an annual external audit.

12. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

- 12.1** The General Secretary is tasked with; the general administration of the NEC.
- 12.1** To make the amendments to the CONSTITUTION upon the direction of the NEC.
- 12.2** To accept and communicate recommendations for the Co-option of members onto the NEC.
- 12.3** To oversee the administrative functions of the regional committees
- 12.4** To speak on behalf of the ORGANISATION.
- 12.5** To convene meetings after consultation with the Chairperson.

13 THE SEMINAR CHAIRPERSON

- 13.1** The Seminar Chairperson shall be responsible for overseeing the organising of the annual seminar.
- 13.2** The Seminar Chairperson will select a Seminar Committee comprised of MEMBERS.
- 13.3** No one university can fill all the positions on the Seminar Committee.
- 13.4** The Seminar Committee must be selected in consultation with the NEC.

14 THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

- 14.1** The Ex-Officio member serves a function necessary to maintain continuity within the ORGANISATION.
- 14.2** The functions of the Ex-Officio member include providing guidance and perspective on the objectives and conditions of the society.

15. ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 15.1** The NEC MEMBERS shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting;
- 15.2** Any MEMBER of the ORGANISATION may be nominated for membership of the NEC.
- 15.3** Committees at each campus, and the subcommittees of these committees, can be elected at the AGM, or at special meetings called at the campuses.



16 MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 16.1 Meetings of the NEC shall be held regularly, but no less than three times during any NEC's normal term of office;
 - 16.1.1 At least one of these meetings must be face-to-face in the same city;
 - 16.1.2 Other meetings can be held via phone or other form of electronic communication if required.
- 16.2 Dates of NEC meetings shall be determined at the previous meeting.
- 16.3 The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be two-thirds of the Committee.
- 16.4 Every decision of the Committee shall require consensus or a majority vote of those present in its favor.
- 16.5 A meeting of the Committee shall also be convened at the request of the Chairperson or two of its MEMBERS.

17 AFFILIATION

- 17.1 The ORGANISATION may be affiliated for a period not exceeding one year at any time to any body whose values and practices coincide with those of the ORGANISATION if such affiliation could assist it in pursuing and attaining the ORGANISATION'S objectives. The affiliation can be renewed at the AGM each year.
- 17.2 Only a MEMBER of the ORGANISATION may be its delegate to any body to which it is affiliated.

18. ORGANISATION RULES

- 18.1 The NEC may make such rules for the ORGANISATION as it deems to be in the interest of the better conduct of the affairs and management of the ORGANISATION.
- 18.2 Such rules are subject to amendment by the MEMBERS at the AGM.
- 18.3 The Committee may, in the interest of the ORGANISATION, amend or suspend the rules.
- 18.4 Any rules made by the Committee shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.



19. CONSTITUTION

19.1 A copy of the ORGANISATION approved Constitution shall be kept by the General Secretary.

20. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

20.1 Any amendment to this Constitution shall be considered only at the AGM.

20.2 Two thirds of the MEMBERS present must vote in favour of an amendment.

20.3 After the amendment has been approved it shall be entered in the copy of the Constitution held by the General Secretary under the signature of the Chairperson of the ORGANISATION.

20.4 Until the 2009 AGM this shall be regarded as an interim Constitution, and as such the NEC will have the power to make amendments to be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the MEMBERS present at the AGM. That period will cease at the 2009 AGM at which a final Constitution will be adopted.

Signed _____

CHAIRPERSON 2009

DMITRI HESS



SLSJ Seminar Speakers List:

1. Geoff Budlender
2. Zackie Achmat
3. Roger Chennells
4. Wim Trengove
5. Julie Berg
6. Max Du Plessis
7. Jan Glazewski
8. Fatima Hassan
9. Richard Spoor
10. Albie Sachs
11. Cormac Cullinan
12. Angela Andrews
13. Beatrice Mtetwa
14. Barbara Hogan
15. Lukas Muntingh
16. Elaine Salo
17. Eric Pelser
18. Ann Skelton
19. Steffi Roehrs
20. Helene Combrinck
21. PJ Schwikkard
22. Sean Tait
23. Richard Griggs
24. TAC Khayelitsha (Gilad Isaacs)
25. Arthur Chaskalson
26. Elinor Sisulu
27. Limor Yehuda
28. Mondli Makhanya
29. Proudly Manenberg (Mario Wanza)
30. Steve Kahanovitz
31. Imraan Mukkadam
32. Rob Petersen
33. Vuyiseka Dubula





