

# **SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LAW CLINICS ASSOCIATION**



# VISION

- SAULCA's vision is to be a professional and efficient organisation committed to the values of the South African Constitution and dedicated to promoting excellence in clinical legal education and access to justice.

# MISSION

- Financial and program support to its members;
- Promote quality Clinical Legal Education programs at Universities in South Africa;
- Encourage and assist member law clinics to promote social justice;
- Provide legal services to the indigent, and
- Foster and encourage values of integrity, professionalism and dedication to human rights within the legal profession.

# OBJECTIVES

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- Foster and encourage values of integrity, professionalism and dedication to human rights within the legal profession.

# LEGAL STATUS

Non-Profit Organisation (Registered)

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

19 University Law Clinics

(Open for law clinics at other Public or Private Higher Education Institutions as well.)

## **GOVERNANCE:**

Executive Committee (Used to be 11, presently 8) – Unpaid volunteers

**Office Bearers:** President & Deputy President; General Secretary; Treasurer & four additional members.

Elected at an AGM to be held every 2 years

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICIANS

## AULAI Trust:

Funding workshops/conferences every 18 mths- 2 years

## Manuals produced by clinicians:

**2013-19 SAULCA/ JUTA Project: Law Clinics and the Clinical Law Movement**

Comprehensive handbook

Coordinator & editor **Prof Jobst Bodenstein**

Contributors, all SA law clinicians,

## Contents:

Administration & management of clinics

Course Contents of CLE

CLE Teaching methodology

CLE Assessment

# FUNDING OF ULCs AND CLE MODULES

## Present Funders:

Core funding from international donors ending.

A number of clinics dependant solely on erstwhile Attorneys Fidelity Fund (AFF) & Faculties.

AFF replaced in 2018: Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund (LPFF).

## Funding to ULCs abruptly ended without notice.

**SAULCA Executive applied for funding from Legal Practice Council during 2020 – granted in 2021.**

**R300 000 per ULC x 19 member ULCs = R 5,7 million.**

**LPC requires quarterly reports and ULCs must reapply individually for 2022.**

# FUNDING OF ULCs AND CLE MODULES

## SAULCA

Assistance to Clinics in lobbying their universities & motivating for greater financial contributions.

**Covid had a very detrimental effect on university funding to ULC's.**

- At the UP law Clinic our budget was cut 3 times already.

**Legal Aid South Africa tender process for 3-year Cooperation Agreement based funding for 8 x ULCs faltered –**

- Tenders submitted in November 2020 “not awarded”.
- New Tender process started in September 2021 – too late to continue pro bono legal services in certain rural areas.

# THE STATE OF THE 19 MEMBER ULCs

Majority of clinics seem well-functioning.  
A few are however struggling.

## Challenges:

Difficulty in assessing.

Lack of financial resources of SAULCA to assist struggling clinics  
and new directors of clinics  
(but sufficient expertise available).

Possible attitude problems of one or two faculties.



# SAULCA Executive achievements

## **Urgent representations made to the Minister of Justice:**

- Allowed to render urgent and essential services during the higher levels of the hard lockdown, Directors of law clinics authorized to issue permits to staff during lockdown.
- Convinced the Minister to allow candidate attorneys to be issued with permits.

## **New Funding from the LPC**

- Drafted an application for funding from the Legal Practice Council. ULC's have received no funding from the LPFF or the LPC for the years 2019 to 2020. R5,7 Million awarded to 19 members for 2021, with a promise of consideration of new applications at end of 2021.

# SAULCA Executive achievements

## **The Legal Sector Code (LSC)**

- The LPC invited comments on the LSC - met with stakeholders.
- Some SAULCA executive members attended.
- Commented on the impracticality of including Faculties of Law and University Law Clinics.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft was debated.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft now excludes Faculties of Law and University Law Clinics.

## **Continuation of the Statistics project**

- Attempt to catch up on 2018, 2019 & 2020 statistics.

# SAULCA Executive achievements

## **IT working group**

- An IT Working group was convened chaired by Jonathan Campbell.
- Identify priority IT innovations:

that they think should be prioritised for law clinics;

that they think all law clinics (or the majority) could benefit from; and

that they would personally be able to introduce to all members.

## ***IT innovations selected***

- A SAULCA intranet platform accessible only to SAULCA members: a repository of members' knowledge; a "knowledge management system"; a "living document of practice" (e.g. shared precedents of court documents).
- Internal, clinic-specific intranet platform that serves as a knowledge management system.

# SAULCA Executive achievements

- Shared electronic calendars (Google Calendar).
- SMS sending from web interface.
- Document automation (fillable PDFs).
- Document management and storage.
- Electronic file management system.
- The results of this work are at this link:
- SAULCA website at <https://www.saulca.co.za/intranet> (click the 'Intranet' tab and use the password '2021Sintranet').

# SAULCA Executive achievements

## ***SAULCA intranet site***

- This site effectively constitutes the first draft of a SAULCA intranet site (which is the first IT innovation listed above).
- It currently deals only with the above IT innovations, but is a “living document” that could be developed into much more than that.
- The intention is to provide a repository of resources which clinics are invited to use, and in no way to be prescriptive to clinics.
- Each of the six IT innovations is dealt with at the site by way of a very short written overview and a teaching video.

# SAULCA Executive achievements

## **SAULCA Constitution working group**

- Constitution needs to be reworked and updated. Draft amended Constitution to be tabled for amendment at the November AGM.

## **USAF & SASSETA funding for candidate attorneys**

- After negotiations with SAULCA, the SASSETA has allocated a grant of up to 50 learnerships for candidate attorneys to USAF, to be allocated to University-based Law Clinics.

## **LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation and African Ancestry Network**

- Facilitated a partnership with them in order to develop information videos and leaflets that would inform the poor and vulnerable in communities of their rights.

## **Lawyers for Human Rights: join the National Network on Statelessness?**

- Exploring with Lawyers for Human Rights in order to consider becoming part of the National Network on Statelessness.

# SAULCA Executive achievements

**First ever Virtual Workshop and General Meeting –  
8 & 9 November 2021**

“What lessons have been learned by law clinics in the Covid era, and how can these be usefully applied to the ‘new normal’ in the post-Covid era?”

***Guest Speaker:***

**Prof Wesahl Domingo**

Dean UJ Faculty of Law

President: South African Law Dean’s Association

Address: "What is the role of University Law Clinics in the Covid era within the context of Law Faculty Blended Teaching and Learning."