

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CLEA)
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LAW CLINICS ASSOCIATION (SAULCA)
AND UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (UKZN) SCHOOL OF LAW**

INVITES YOU TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME

**CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF STREET LAW AND OVER
50 YEARS OF CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION: TRANSFORMATIVE
TOOLS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

August 2025 is the 40th Anniversary of the first International Street Law Workshop, and the 52nd Anniversary of the Legal Aid Conference that led to the expansion of Clinical Legal Education in South Africa, both of which were organized by the then University of Natal, Durban. The Street Law workshop went on to inspire the adoption of Street Law programmes in over 45 countries. The first law clinic in South Africa was established by University of Cape Town Law students in 1972. The second was established at the University of the Witwatersrand in April 1973 and the third, inspired by the Legal Aid Conference, at the University of Natal, Durban, in August 1973.

Since this time, Clinical Legal Education has spread throughout Southern Africa and beyond, and the South African experience has been shared in more than 60 countries. This is the basis of the pedagogy used to equip final year Law students with appropriate and necessary skills for legal practice, as well as provide access to justice to the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society.

This conference will provide an opportunity to academics, clinicians and practitioners to reflect on the strides made in engaging Law students and diverse communities on contemporary challenges in access to justice and the attainment of equality. Conference delegates will also innovatively consider collaborative methods in traversing the current clinical challenges facing university-based law clinics in South Africa.

THIS ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE HAS BEEN STRUCTURED IN THREE PARTS:

Thursday, 25th – Friday, 26th September 2025: CLEA International Conference

The CLEA International Conference is convened in partnership with SAULCA and the UKZN School of Law. It will provide a platform for international and regional participants to present papers and showcase their approaches to Street Law and Clinical Legal Education, in addressing social injustices in their contexts. Participants will be encouraged to share strategies for community engagement and policy advocacy, and insights into how they have integrated Street Law, Clinical Legal Education and community engagement in their legal education interventions.

Saturday, 27th – Sunday, 28th September 2025: Street Law/Clinical Legal Education training workshop

This platform is open to all interested stakeholders seeking to adopt Street Law and Clinical Legal Education programmes and integrate these in their legal education and community advocacy work. Expert facilitators from CLEA, SAULCA and Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) networks will run workshops demonstrating Street Law and Clinical Legal Education methodology, showcasing the design of curricula and lesson plans, teaching methodologies and evaluation mechanisms.

Saturday, 27th – Sunday, 28th September 2025: Partner stakeholder engagements

- **Indo-South African Legal Forum**
This will run parallel to the Street Law and Clinical Legal Education training workshop, for Indian and South African CLEA stakeholders to engage.
- **SAULCA AGM**
This will run parallel to the Street Law and Clinical Legal Education training workshop, to permit SAULCA members to engage with the professional affairs of their association, in terms of their Constitution.

Additional conference highlights:

- **Virtual stream:** A digital stream will be curated in a dedicated venue, to enable additional international and national delegates unable to attend in person, to participate in the international conference deliberations. Please see registration and programme for details.
- **Gala dinner:** A gala dinner will be hosted on the opening evening of the international conference, Thursday 25th September 2025.
- **Book launches and exhibitions:** Legal publishers will host exhibitions of Clinical Legal Education publications, Street Law manuals and other relevant materials. Partner organisations will also host book launches during the conference. Delegates are welcome to bring and display materials they wish to share with colleagues. Conference organisers are particularly delighted to showcase the following publications:
 - Juta & Co. Law Clinics and the Clinical Law Movement in South Africa (2020)
 - LexisNexis launch of the 4th edition of Clinical Law in South Africa (2025)
 - Routledge Global Clinical Legal Education (2025)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Interactive sessions and paper presentations are welcome on the proposed themes outlined below. Abstracts for suggested interactive sessions and envisaged papers should be uploaded to the conference website [here](#) by 31 May 2025. Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words.

We encourage early submissions to assist the organising committee in structuring the conference to accommodate the nature and number of workshops and presentations, and design an engaging programme.

WE INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS THAT SPEAK TO THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED THEMES AND TOPICS:

- Teaching human rights in a hostile environment – challenges and mitigating strategies
- Teaching human rights in established democracies – responding to democratic deficits, threats to democracy and persistent inequality and injustice
- Embedding social justice and community engagement in legal education through Street Law and Clinical Legal Education – teaching, learning and assessment approaches
- Access to justice and justice delivery – the role of Law schools and university Law clinics in ensuring accessing to justice
- Addressing marginalisation and exclusion through Street Law and Clinical Legal Education – connecting students and universities with marginalised communities, social justice and legal advocacy
- The Value of using AI – digital platforms and tools available to enhance Clinical Legal Education and advocacy
- Professional identity formation of Law students through Street Law and Clinical Legal Education
- Pedagogy and theoretical underpinnings informing and embedding community engagement in Clinical Legal Education
- Student session – Student presentations on how Street Law and Clinical Legal Education help students to better understand the concept of social justice
- Best practices in Clinical Legal Education from different jurisdictions, and the formulation of a Model Module for Commonwealth Law Schools
- Embedding Clinical Legal Education as a methodology in substantive and procedural law courses across law school curricula

The organising committee is arranging with a local publisher to publish a special edition of selected papers presented at the conference. Authors of articles not selected for publication in the Conference Papers publication may consider submitting them to relevant law journals for publication.

IMPORTANT DATES:

31 MAY 2025	Deadline for submission of Conference Paper Abstracts
25 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2025	CLEA International Conference
25 SEPTEMBER 2025	Conference Gala Dinner
27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2025	Street Law/Clinical Legal Education Training Workshop
27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2025	Partner Stakeholder Engagements: Indo-South African Legal Forum and SAULCA AGM

REGISTRATION, FEES AND COMMUNICATION

Registration fee for conference participants is structured as follows:

- US\$100 for participants from developed countries
- US\$50 for participants from developing countries
- Free attendance for student presenters
- Bursary - the organising committee is sourcing funds to make bursaries available for a limited number of participants

To register for the conference, indicating your category of registration fee, please [click here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to Durban, South Africa, to share our Clinical and Street Law education insights, strategies and learnings from local, national and international colleagues!

CONTACT US

To reach the organising committee, please email us at clea.conference2025@ukzn.ac.za

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS:

The Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)

The Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) was established in December 1971 as a Commonwealth-wide body with the aim of fostering and promoting high standards of legal education across the Commonwealth. The Association operates through regional chapters and committees in Asia, Southern Africa, West Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe.

The Association is dedicated to achieving the following objectives:

1. Socially Relevant and Professionally Useful Legal Education: Developing law curricula and clinical teaching methodologies to make legal education both socially relevant and professionally applicable.
2. Supporting Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and Distance Learning: Encouraging lifelong learning for Law students and legal professionals through innovative programmes.
3. Equipping Law Schools: Assisting law schools to meet the demands of the legal profession by incorporating modern advancements in technology and addressing global challenges.

The Constitution of CLEA envisions the establishment and functioning of country-based chapters to implement its objectives through activities such as conferences, moots, newsletters, lecture series, curriculum development, and student engagement programmes. To meet the evolving demands of legal education and research, CLEA is committed to developing new curricula reflecting emerging trends in the legal field. The Association also promotes in-depth dialogues on legal education and related subjects.

The South African University Law Clinic Association (SAULCA)

SAULCA is a voluntary association of all South African University Law Clinics, established in approximately 1986, to promote and protect the interests, values and goals of its members. SAULCA's vision is to be a professional and efficient organization, committed to democratic values and human rights, and dedicated to promoting excellence in clinical legal education and access to justice.

In the pursuit of its vision, SAULCA's mission is to: promote clinical legal education of Law students by members of the association; promote and support access to justice in the context of clinical legal education; and to foster, maintain and extend public confidence in the law and the administration of justice.

University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) School of Law

The UKZN School of Law falls within the College of Law and Management Studies and operates on both the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg Campuses. The School offers the LLB and LLM programmes to both full-time and part-time students. In addition, the School offers several postgraduate programmes to national and international candidates and provides supervision to PhD students. The programmes offered by the School are aimed at developing graduates who are socially responsive and well prepared for effective participation in civic and professional life.

Conference Organising Committee

- Professor S Sivakumar, President, CLEA
- Professor David McQuoid-Mason, CLEA President Emeritus, Acting Chairperson, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS), UKZN
- Professor Franaaz Khan, CLEA Chairperson, Southern Africa
- Professor Meera Furtado, General Secretary, CLEA
- Professor John Hatchard, Vice President, CLEA
- Mr Daven Dass, SAULCA President
- Ms Chrisna Nicholson, SAULCA General Secretary
- Ms Lindi Coetzee, National Street Law Coordinator, South Africa
- Ms Phumzile Xulu, Street Law Provincial Coordinator, KwaZulu-Natal
- Dr Eben van der Merwe, CSLS Ad Hoc community organiser
- Dr Janine Hicks, Academic Leader: Community Engagement; Street Law Coordinator, UKZN; Coordinator: Conference Organising Committee