

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **Applications open for the inaugural Pius Langa Memorial Fellowship at UCL**

*Johannesburg, 26 August 2021 – For immediate release*

The Constitutional Court Trust (CCT) is delighted to announce the establishment of a new fellowship programme to benefit young lawyers in South Africa committed to forwarding constitutional and human rights law in South Africa and / or Africa. This new fellowship will afford one early career lawyer per year the opportunity to study towards a LLM at University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom, one of the top ranked universities in the world<sup>1</sup>.

The new fellowship is named in memory of Chief Justice Pius Langa, a decision that, according to CCT chairperson Justice Sisi Khampepe, is most fitting:

*“Justice Langa was not only central to the establishment of the Constitutional Court Trust but, more importantly, his dedication, humility and commitment to the notion that service must be at the heart of leadership are rare qualities we believe young lawyers should be aspiring to emulate in contemporary South Africa.”*

Chief Justice Langa’s family has welcomed the establishment of this fellowship:

*“We are humbled that the Constitutional Court Trust has seen it fitting to honour the legacy of Justice Langa in this way. We think it’s a fitting tribute to the contribution that he made towards the development of constitutional and human rights law. We look forward to seeing a new generation of lawyers committed to justice and transformation in Africa being developed through this fellowship programme.”*

Starting in 2022, the Pius Langa Memorial Fellowship is an exciting new step for the CCT. Other fellowships administered by the CCT have been limited to selected former clerks of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court. In the case of this new fellowship, however, the decision has been taken to extend this opportunity beyond former clerks to include exceptional young South African and African lawyers who have worked for a South African NGO in a legal programme focused on constitutional and human rights law.

Professor David Bilchitz, a trustee of the Constitutional Court Trust and Professor at both the University of Johannesburg and the University of Reading, said:

*“One of the exciting features of this scholarship is that it is open not only to Constitutional Court Clerks but legal innovators in civil society who are utilising the Constitution to advance social justice. We thus hope that the opportunity to study for an LLM degree will further contribute to strengthening civil society and its contribution to the advancement of constitutional democracy in our country.”*

The fellowship award will be for £20,000 to cover travel and living expenses for the fellow, funded by the CCT’s kindred organisation, the UK-based charity the South African Constitutional Court Trust - United Kingdom (SACCT-UK)<sup>2</sup>. UCL Faculty of Laws will generously be providing a full tuition waiver (2021 value: £28,500) to the Pius Langa Memorial fellows selected by the CCT.

For more information about this fellowship programme and the call for applications for the 2022 – 2023 academic year, please visit [www.concourttrust.org.za](http://www.concourttrust.org.za)

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1 <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2021/jun/ucl-ranked-8th-best-university-world>

2 <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/3995044>



## Constitutional Court Trust

### BACKGROUND

#### About the Constitutional Court Trust – [www.concourtrust.org.za](http://www.concourtrust.org.za)

The Constitutional Court Trust (CCT) is a South African non-profit organisation first established in 1995 to manage funds donated in support of the new Constitutional Court. These monies were initially used to employ law clerks for judges of the Court and to establish the Court Library. The CCT has since gone on to run various projects closely aligned with the Constitutional Court of South Africa, to promote the rule of law, constitutionalism and judicial independence in the country and in the African region - including clerkship exchanges with other apex courts in Africa, fellowship programmes for young lawyers, information and library initiatives, and the Constitutional Court Art Collection. Justice Arthur Chaskalson and Justice Pius Langa, along with Bongani Majola, Basil Wunsh, Brigalia Bam and Vusi Pikoli, were the founding trustees of the CCT, and the current board of trustees is headed by Justice Sisi Khampepe.

#### About the CCT's fellowship programmes

Since 1998, the CCT has been administering fellowships for selected former clerks of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court to study towards postgraduate law degrees abroad. To date, 43 fellows have completed degrees at well-respected law schools at Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Notre Dame, Oxford, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, University of St Louis, and Virginia University. Many of the CCT fellows have gone on to take up legal leadership positions in academic, public interest, corporate and government contexts, with many contributing to the foundation or governance of key civil society organisations, including Section 27, Corruption Watch, Equal Education, Women's Legal Centre, and Lawyers Against Abuse. Those few CCT fellows working overseas have generally continued to work in international human rights law, in organisations such as the International Court of Justice and the International Commission of Jurists.

#### About University College London (UCL) – [www.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ucl.ac.uk)

UCL is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary universities with an international reputation for high quality research and teaching. It is consistently ranked in the top ten universities in the world (QS world University Rankings 2022) and home to 30 Nobel Prize laureates amongst UCL's alumni and current and former staff to date. Located in the heart of central London, UCL attracts talented students and staff from over 150 countries.

#### About UCL Laws – [www.ucl.ac.uk/laws](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws)

For almost 200 years, UCL Laws has been a pioneer in legal academia reflecting a commitment to equalities and diversity. Our research has real-world impact, shaping legal and judicial policy here in the UK and across the globe. Students benefit from learning from leading lawyers and judges and our London location gives our students and staff a unique opportunity to draw on the resources of the centre of the UK's government, legal and financial communities.

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Trustees: Justice SS Khampepe (Chairperson), Professor DI Bilchitz, Justice E Cameron, Justice C Jafta, Mr SP Kana, Professor MM Katz, Dr PO Mokoena, Justice NZ Mhlantla, Justice ZLL Tshiqi, Justice JV van der Westhuizen, Ms L Xaso