

## EDITORS' NOTE

Legal writing is an essential element to the study of law, a concept the Board of 2011 understood. Nicole, Thandi, Serena, Jared, Clare, Chastin, Kenneth, Natasha and Mark committed to ensuring that this young legal journal produced passionate and professional articles. The Board never wavered from their task of guaranteeing that the authors flourished in their individuality. Topics vary from Osama bin Laden to environmental law, from a desperate plea for legal inspiration and passion to stellar philosophical arguments diffusing complex situations. The essence of legal writing has been laid out for the reader/researcher in this journal – the fifth (2011) edition of the *Pretoria Student Law Review (PSLR)*.

The *PSLR* is for legal scholars, not just from the University of Pretoria, who are able to see that a one-dimensional approach to the study of law cannot stand. To simply float through studies, barely ever fully conscious, only suffocates the integrity of the legal profession and hampers the progression of law in South Africa. In the dynamic and challenging field we as legal academics and lawyers have *chosen* to embrace, there needs to be a humility that enables us to see how little we know and how unjust we are despite the supreme Constitution, in order that we may be driven forward in search of solutions. GK Chesterton states that the definition of humility has altered and may be the very reason passion has flown out the window:

The truth is that there is a real humility typical of our time; but it so happens that it is practically a more poisonous humility than the wildest prostrations of the ascetic. The old humility was a spur that prevented a man from stopping; not a nail in his boot that prevented him from going on. For the old humility made a man doubtful about his efforts, which might make him work harder. But the new humility makes a man doubtful about his aims, which will make him stop working altogether.<sup>1</sup>

This unique journal is there for those students who understand the 'old humility' and are willing to digest current events, laws and rules.

The *PSLR* acquired an office in 2011. This has been a great help in the Board's pursuit of professionalism and efficiency. To have 'a space to call our own' has not only allowed for creativity, but also for ensuring that the creative ideas materialise into the desired realities. 2011 has seen the Board continue to include a note from the opposite side of the spectrum – the lecturer's point of view; Professor Pieter Carstens has kindly written this year's note. A special thanks to Professor Carstens for this valuable contribution.

A short story from the Faculty of Law's (University of Pretoria) Faculty Festival is included in this edition. The theme of the Festival

<sup>1</sup> Chesterton, GK. *Orthodoxy*. (2009) Moody Publishers: Chicago 52.

was heritage and the story, although not strictly speaking legal, does display the importance of creativity in the study of law.

Unfortunately there are always those hard workers who are not credited for the valuable work they do. With this in mind, I would like to specially mention Elzet Hurter for her constant assistance; Professor Anton Kok for his mentorship in the development of the journal; Serena Kalbskopf and Mark Nichol for tackling the hard job of making sure the journal is ready for print; Dominic Vertue, Mark Nichol and Clare Smith for the front cover; Grant Stephens for the photograph on the back.

In reading this journal I hope you are able to doubt yourself and the law, so that you in turn may discover your niche in this profession, forever testing the *status quo*.

**Ulrich Fobian**  
(Editor-in-Chief 2011)