

EDITORS' NOTE

You hold in your hands the very first edition of the *Pretoria Student Law Journal*. It has been a tremendous journey in completing the first edition, due largely to the process of finding our feet in everything from footnote styles to page sizing to the task of editing the articles (which in truth was made simple by the exceptional quality in contributions and contributors). The spirit with which the many who made this possible have worked has enabled the creation of a fantastic opportunity for us, as students, to publish our own concepts and ideas.

Academic legal writing in South Africa has, with a few exceptions, traditionally been the domain of lecturers and practitioners. One result of this is that, as students, we tend to forget that law applies to the whole society. As citizens (and especially as legally trained citizens) we have a right - even a duty - to think critically about the laws which govern our society. We need to question and to analyse deeply whether the positive law as it stands necessarily meets its objectives. Where it doesn't, we must highlight its shortfalls precisely because we are part of a broader society. With our Constitutional dispensation and the prominence it gives to the rule of law, we must further determine whether our current law meets the demands that we, as society, set for it in 1993 and 1996.

The *PSLR* represents a forum to students for at least a small portion of this debate. It has been started with two main aims - to stimulate critical legal thought amongst law students and to develop students' writing and research skills. As a student-run journal for publication by students it is entirely dependant on student support. We appeal for, request, encourage - even demand - criticism, submissions, assistance and any other form of participation, because without it, this project will lack the richness it may otherwise have had it. The *PSLR* represents a student voice in a previously exclusive domain - it's up to you to use it and make it strong.

There should be no misconception that the law student merely ambles from classroom to classroom. Throughout the years law students have sat on everything from the University Council and the Senate Appeals Committee through the SRC to Disciplinary Hearings in the form of the Student Court (now the Constitutional Tribunal). We are an integral part of the governance of the University as a whole but we are also academics, leading minds in the legal sciences/arts.

A Law Faculty is an exciting place to be with opportunities for students to be involved in every possible way. It is clichéd but you truly get out more than what you put in and it is for the individual student to reach out and take these opportunities. Write an article, become a member of a student body, participate in moots and

debating. Take this opportunity to leave a legacy at the University. It will make your time at varsity so much richer.

February 2008

Note on Contributions

Although the bio's would indicate otherwise, all bar one of the articles in this edition of the *PSLR* were written by students. The students whose contributions were accepted ranged from first years to doctoral students at the University so this is neither a forum for only the highly experienced nor one for only 'young' students. All articles are welcome. Further, while only journal articles were published in this edition, submissions are not limited to this style. We welcome case notes, responses to articles, current affairs updates or anything which comes to mind.

To submit articles to the *PSLR* do so electronically to pslr@up.ac.za or physically through the Dean of Law's office:

Dean's Office
Faculty of Law
4th Floor
Law Building
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0002