



Let's celebrate schooling...

SCHOOLS ACT @ 20: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD

Symposium Chair: Elda de Waal [Professor: Education Law]

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND INVITATION TO REGISTER

15 CPD points

Submission for abstracts close on
15 August 2016

Registration closes on
19 August 2016

OPTENTIA



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
VAAL TRIANGLE CAMPUS

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND INVITATION TO REGISTER

Optentia Research Focus Area at the North-West University (NWU) Vaal Triangle Campus is pleased to announce that it will be hosting an Education Law Symposium – Schools Act @ 20: Charting the way forward – on 14-15 September 2016 in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng, South Africa.

AIM

Prompted by Creating Successful Public Schooling within a Legal Milieu (<http://eldadewaal.co.za>), the symposium aims at celebrating the 20th birthday of the South African Schools Act 84/1996 by directing attention to its journey and pit stops along the way, and by considering practical alternatives to address contentious matters. Significant role-players and members of the judicial bench have already indicated their eagerness to play a part in this symposium.

THEMES

Themes will include addressing the following aspects:

- The background to the Schools Act
- The impact of links between education White Papers and/or other official documents, and the Schools Act
- Salient features embedded in the Schools Act, such as the unique cooperative governance model; schools regarded as juristic persons, and the Act being a product of compromise
- Comments on Amendments to the Schools Act and speculating about the road ahead
- Thoughts and opinions on necessary future amendments to the Schools Act
- Impact discussion on vital aspects, which would

include, but not be limited to, (i) the part of parents and learners; (ii) the stature of school finances; (iii) the requirements on school discipline; (iv) the degree of partner accountability; (v) aspects concerning inclusiveness; and (vi) the stature of guidelines and regulations.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Department of Basic Education officials; principals, teachers, parents, Governing Bodies; Education Law scholars/students; legal scholars; education leadership scholars; education scholars and anyone with education at heart.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The keynote speakers who will address the participants include:

International Keynote

- Professor Jan De Groof



(Professor of international and comparative education law and policy, College of Europe (Belgium) and Tilburg University (the Netherlands). *Holder of the UNESCO Chair for the Right to Education and a former UNESCO Chargé de Mission on the Right to Education* (2007-2010). Founder and Chairman of the European Association for Education Law and Policy and of the Inter-university Centre for Education Law, and co-founder of the South African Association for Education Law and Policy (SAELA))

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National Keynotes

- Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann



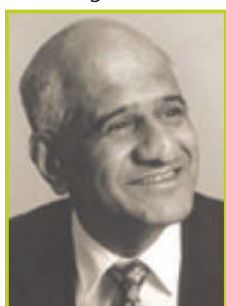
(Judge, North Gauteng High Court. Judge Bertelsmann's profound legal mind is evident, among others, in his sentence on language rights at schools in *Primary School Middelburg v Head of Department: Mpumalanga Department of Education*)

- Professor Trynie Boezaart (Davel)



(Professor of Private Law, University of Pretoria. Her research in education law includes matters concerning the rights of learners - focussing on learners with disabilities, school safety, bullying and the standard of care applicable in the education context.)

- Judge Zak Yacoob



(Retired Justice, Constitutional Court; teaches constitutional law, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria, University of KwaZulu-Natal. Justice Yacoob sat on some of South Africa's ground-breaking cases, including *Government of the Republic of*

South Africa and Others v Grootboom and Others, which enforced the State's obligation to respect socioeconomic rights)

- Elijah Mhlanga



(Chief Director: Media Liaison Officer – National and Provincial Communication, Department of Basic Education. He is a Spokesperson for the Department of Basic Education, is an Advisor to the Minister of Basic Education, and supports education department communicators in all the provinces)

Registration cost: R2 500 p.p

Special Tariffs available:

www.optentia.co.za/symposium.php?id=Ng%3D%3D

More information and registration:

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