



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

7 July 2021

UCT legal expert appointed to national matrimonial property law committee



Associate Professor Waheeda Amien

Photo: Lerato Maduna

[Download photo](#)

Associate Professor Waheeda Amien, an academic in the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Faculty of Law, has been appointed to serve as a member of the South African Law Reform Commission's (SALRC) Advisory Committee on the Review of Aspects of Matrimonial Property Law.

The committee is in the process of investigating how to achieve legislative fairness and justice in regard to interpersonal relationships between spouses. Amien's role involves reviewing the current law on matrimonial property and recommending necessary changes to ensure that it meets societal needs.

Amien is an expert in family law and human rights, particularly religious and customary family laws, and her research places special focus on Muslim family law. As a committee member, she will provide assistance, advice and constructive criticism on how to develop and formulate proposals for matrimonial property law in South Africa.

"I am very excited about my appointment. I am looking forward to making a positive impact on the lives of many who are marginalised by the current laws on matrimonial property," said Amien.

At the advent of democracy, and in line with the Constitution, Amien said, law experts reviewed and reformed many laws that afforded black South Africans rights they did not have before. However, prior to establishing the SALRC Advisory Committee on the Review of Aspects of Matrimonial Property Law, the necessary matrimonial property law reforms were given little consideration.

"This is an incredibly important area of law, since it impacts directly on the socio-economic conditions of spouses," said Amien.

"When a marriage terminates through divorce or death, women in religious marriages, especially, are left financially bereft. Now we have an opportunity to assist the SALRC to consider how best to protect and advance women and others' rights."

The role will allow Amien to apply her research findings in a practical context. She hopes that her contribution will assist with improving the socio-economic circumstances of marginalised spouses, such as women in religious marriages.

"This appointment is public recognition of my expertise in the area of family law and human rights. It's also an opportunity to apply my work to effect positive law reform in a significant aspect of marriage laws," said Amien.

Story by Niémah Davids, UCT News.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Ridovhona Mbulaheni

Media Liaison Assistant
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 2333
Cell: (064) 905 3807
Email: ridovhona.mbulaheni@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za