



Dr Gaopalelwe Mathiba

Senior Lecturer, Department of Private Law

Dr Gaopalelwe Mathiba was appointed as a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2022. He obtained an LLB degree from the North-West University, an LLM degree with distinction from University of the Western Cape; and a PhD from UCT in 2023. When he graduated with his PhD at 26, Dr Mathiba became the law faculty's youngest doctoral graduate. Mathiba's research interests include property law; land policy and governance; mining and human rights; meaningful stakeholder engagement and company-community conflicts in the extractive industries.

His body of work on these topics and others has culminated in over 20 publications in peer-reviewed and refereed journals. His commitment to impactful and socially responsive scholarship is most evident in his significant contributions towards the development of sector-specific regulations and policy guidelines for various government departments including the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, as well as Public Works.

Mathiba is also known for his regular commentary on television and radio about various issues at the forefront of legal developments in the country, such as the implications of the much-anticipated law on expropriation and the mining company-community disputes over resettlement packages and mineral resource beneficiation. Recently, he was appointed as a member of the South African Human Rights Commission's Joint Committee on Business and Human Rights. He has also seen some non-governmental and non-profit organisations such as Corruption Watch show keen interest in his work.

His international research collaborations span the globe, as he has forged strong ties with colleagues working on projects of mutual interests across the world. Some of these projects are funded by institutions and organisations like the European Research Council; European Science Foundation; Carlsberg Foundation and Australia Africa Universities Network. Honoured by this recognition, he hopes to continue sharing insights and shaping the discourse in his limited area of focus.