
Beyond the Bar: Exploring Alternative Legal Careers in Public Service

-  Date: 12 September 2025
-  Venue: Building 15, UNISA Sunnyside Campus
-  Time: 09:00 – 14:00

Hosted by: Society of Legal Excellence (317-788 NPO | NPC 2024/713124/08)

In collaboration with: UNISA Counselling and Career Development Services

Programme Overview

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Segment

- Welcome & Context – UNISA Counselling and Career Development Services (10 min)
- Convenors – Society of Legal Excellence (10 min)
- Wellness Input – Tumagole Trading Enterprise (10 min)

(Sets the stage: student challenges, career opportunities, and the importance of wellness in professional readiness.)

09:30 – 10:30 | PANEL 1: Law in Service of the Public

Theme: “*Serving Society While Building Your Career*”

Participating Organizations:

- Legal Aid South Africa – Access to justice and public defender pathways.
- National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) – Prosecution as a public service career.
- Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) – Tackling corruption, financial crimes, and organized crime.
- Companies Tribunal – Corporate governance and dispute resolution.
- UNISA Law Clinic – Clinical legal education, pro bono, and community impact.

10:30 – 11:30 | PANEL 2: Regulation, Compliance & Professional Readiness

Theme: “*The Rules of the Game: Articles, Exams & Emerging Careers*”

Participating Organizations:

- Legal Practice Council (LPC) – Admission to practice, new fifth board exam, fit & proper requirements.
- Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) – Training (LEAD), readiness, and avoiding common student mistakes in applications for articles.
- Compliance Institute of Southern Africa (CISA) – Careers in compliance, governance, and risk management.
- Department of Employment and Labour – Workplace rights, employment regulation, and career pathways in labour law.

11:30 – 12:15 | PANEL 3: Funding, Further Study & Global Exposure

Theme: “*Investing in Your Future: Scholarships, State Support & Global Opportunities*”

Participating Organizations:

- Department of Higher Education & Training (DHET) – Bursaries, scholarships, and state support.
- British High Commission (Chevening Scholarships) – International study opportunities and contributing back to South Africa.
- Flying Jurist – Aviation law and niche global legal careers.

12:15 – 12:30 | Transition to Booths

- Moderator guides students to booths.
- Map distribution and announcements.
- Reflection question posed to guide booth engagement.

12:30 Onwards | Booths & Inclusive Participation

All participating organizations will be showcased through:

1. **Interactive Booths** – Direct engagement, mentorship, and resources.
 2. **Multimedia Spotlight Interviews** – 10-minute recorded overview per organization.
 - o Shared online for extended student access.
 - o Ensures visibility of every organization's mandate, even if not in panels.
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Organizations Scheduled for Multimedia Spotlight Coverage (Non-Panel)

- Department of Justice & Constitutional Development
 - Department of Public Service and Administration
 - Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
 - Lawyers for Human Rights
 - ProBono.org
 - Grawie le Roux Institute of Law
 - Absa
 - Public Protector South Africa
 - National Consumer Commission (NCC)
 - Legal Ombudsman
 - Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA)
 - South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)
 - Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)
 - Competition Commission
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