

# The College of Law

Department of Public, Constitutional and International Law (PCIL) invites you to a seminar under the theme:

*“Advancing women’s rights through public infrastructure procurement”*

Date: 31 August 2022

Time: 2 - 4 pm SAST

8 - 10 am Eastern Time

Platform: MS Teams ([JOIN HERE](#))

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Despite vast progress in the field of women’s rights, women still experience extreme discrimination in the form of gender pay gaps in workplaces, gender-based violence and harassment and time poverty due to unpaid domestic work. Women in rural areas travel long distances to access fuel and water, they suffer from air pollution caused by heating for the purpose of cooking and cleaning and are in danger based on a lack of lighting at public transport areas and outside public bathrooms. The latter indicates that infrastructure in South Africa does not adequately provide for the needs for women.

Public infrastructure is acquired by way of public procurement, which constitutes approximately 22% of a country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With infrastructure being the bedrock of any country, the procurement of infrastructure holds tremendous economic significance. For the last two to three decades, procurement has been leveraged to advance many social objectives, including the advancement of women-owned businesses. However, this topic in particular has seen slow development the world over. This seminar will be based on an upcoming collaborative paper between the academy and practice in the form of UNISA, George Washington University International and Comparative Law Studies and International Budget Partnership South Africa where solutions to advancing women’s rights in infrastructure procurement will be considered. Sanitation access in South Africa’s informal settlements will be explored as a case for gender-inclusive procurement.



Dean Rosa Celorio is the Burnett Family Associate Dean and Distinguished Professorial Lecturer in International and Comparative Law and Policy at George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she directs the International and Comparative Law Program at GW Law School, and teaches the courses International Human Rights of Women, Regional Protection of Human Rights, and Fundamental Issues in US Law. Previously, she worked at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (currently UN Women) and as a Senior Attorney for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), one of the main organs of the regional human rights protection system for the Americas, where she held several leadership positions, including the supervision of all the legal work performed by the specialized Rapporteurships on women, LGBTI persons, indigenous peoples, racial discrimination, and children. Rosa Celorio is the author of the book *Women and International Human Rights in Modern Times: A Contemporary Casebook*, published by Edward Elgar Publishing on 2022. She is from Puerto Rico.



Tracy Jooste is Head of Special Programs at International Budget Partnership South Africa, where she supports grassroots organizations to advocate for dignified access to water, sanitation and health care in informal settlements. This work further promotes transparency and accountability in government budget processes. She previously served as Director of Policy and Research in the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. Tracy is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity at the London School of Economics. She is an inaugural Leader in Residence for Policy Change at the Atlantic Institute, where she explored the influences and factors that lead to policy change. She has a Master’s in Public Policy from the University of Cape Town.



Dr Allison Anthony from the PCIL. This paper is based on research conducted by Dr Anthony at the George Washington University Law School as a visiting scholar. The research is sponsored by UNISA through the Visions Keepers Program Scholarship. Dr Anthony specializes in public procurement law research and is the deputy director of the African Procurement Law Unit. She is also the author of the first book on infrastructure procurement in South Africa titled *“Construction Procurement Law in South Africa”* published by Juta (Pty) Ltd.