



**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF SOUTH AFRICA  
**PRESS RELEASE**

***30 January 2017: For immediate release***

**LAW SOCIETY CONGRATULATES THULI MADONSELA ON COMMONWEALTH  
RULE OF LAW AWARD**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) congratulates former Public Protector Adv Thuli Madonsela on being selected as the recipient of the 3rd Commonwealth Law Conference Rule of Law Award. Ms Madonsela will accept the award at the closing ceremony of the 20th Commonwealth Law Conference in Melbourne, Australia, being held from 20 to 24 March 2017.

‘The LSSA, which is a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, nominated Ms Madonsela for the award. We are delighted and proud that this worthy South African lawyer will receive international recognition from her peers across the Commonwealth for her work in protecting our Constitution and promoting the concept of the Rule of Law – that all are equal before the law – to all South Africans,’ say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Jan van Rensburg and Mvuzo Notyesi.

The LSSA aligns itself with the views expressed by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (press release attached): ‘In her seven years as Public Protector, Advocate Madonsela demonstrated to ordinary South Africans that there is merit in pursuing the truth, regardless of the obstacles, and that justice can and will prevail. ... Advocate Madonsela created a beacon of hope for all South Africans in ensuring that the public was not only aware of the public abuse of power, but also that they had recourse against it.’

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) partners with LexisNexis in presenting the biennial Commonwealth Law Conference Rule of Law Award which recognises an individual, institution or firm or lawyers who have made an outstanding contribution to the rule of law which has an impact both within their own country and to the broader Commonwealth. The CLA says its judging panel found Ms Madonsela to be a very worthy winner who demonstrates the attributes this award seeks to foster within the Commonwealth.

The two previous winners of the Commonwealth Law Conference Rule of Law Award have been Ms Robin Sully from Canada and Mr Upul Jayasuriya from Sri Lanka.

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) exists to maintain and promote the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession serves the people of the Commonwealth. More about the CLA:  
<http://www.commonwealthlawyers.com/>

More about the Commonwealth Law Conference Rule of Law Award:  
<http://commonwealthlawconference.org/rule-of-law-award/>

The CLA holds a biennial conference, the last being held in Glasgow, Scotland in April, 2015 and before that in Cape Town in 2013. The conference upholds the tradition of bringing together judges, lawyers and legal professionals from throughout the Commonwealth. More about the 20<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 20 to 24 March 2017: <http://commonwealthlawconference.org/>

***ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, JAN VAN RENSBURG AND MVUZO NOTYESI***

by the Law Society of South Africa Communication Department

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Editor's note:

The Law Society of South Africa brings together its six constituent members – the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces, the Black Lawyers Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers – in representing South Africa's 24 330 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.



## Press Release

### CLA CONGRATULATES 3<sup>RD</sup> COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE RULE OF LAW AWARD WINNER THULI MADONSELA

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association in conjunction with Lexis Nexis is pleased to announce that the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference, Rule of Law Award is Ms Thuli Madonsela.

In 2013 CLA partnered with LexisNexis to establish a biennial award recognising an individual, institution or firm or lawyers who had made an outstanding contribution to the rule of law which had impact both within their own country and to the broader Commonwealth. LexisNexis has a strong commitment to advancing the rule of law that unifies the Company across the globe, and is passionately supported by its people.

In her seven years as Public Protector, Advocate Madonsela demonstrated to ordinary South Africans that there is merit in pursuing the truth, regardless of the obstacles, and that justice can and will prevail.

She made the nebulous concepts of the Rule of Law – that everyone is equal before the law -- and access to justice, a reality for ordinary South Africans. Advocate Madonsela created a beacon of hope for all South Africans in ensuring that the public was not only aware of the public abuse of power, but also that they had recourse against it.

In her quest for justice she fought obstacles to ensure the successful completion of investigations, right until her last week in office in mid-October 2016 when she finalised the 'State of Capture' investigation into alleged unethical and improper conduct by the President and other high-level State functionaries.

She is described by the Law Society of South Africa as showing no prejudice and objectively dealing with all cases, even those involving high-profile politicians. During her career she endured controversy and criticism, was continuously undermined and accused of false and misleading political agendas. She was personally threatened and insulted, and subjected to severe public scrutiny -but she remained steadfast and true to her mandate.

The judging panel found Ms Madonsela to be a very worthy winner who demonstrates the attributes this award seeks to foster within the Commonwealth. Ms Madonsela will accept her award at the closing ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference in Melbourne, Australia, 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

The CLA are grateful to Lexis Nexis for their continued support of the CLC Rule of Law Award.

COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
26<sup>TH</sup> January, 2017

#### ***Notes to the Editor***

*The CLA is a pan-Commonwealth organisation which seeks to uphold the rule of law in the Commonwealth by encouraging exchange of ideas between legal professionals, academics and students, through projects and by driving improvements in legal education and standards.*