



UCLA LAW
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship

Funded by the Ford Foundation and UCLA School of Law

About Sonke Gender Justice and UCLA School of Law

Sonke Gender Justice

Founded in 2006, Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke) works across Africa to strengthen government, civil society and citizen capacity to support women, men, and children in taking action to promote gender equality, prevent domestic and sexual violence, and reduce the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS. Sonke recognizes that effecting sustained change to gender roles and relations requires addressing the forces that shape individual attitudes and community norms and practices – traditions and cultures, government policies, laws and institutions, civil society organizations, the media and the family – as well as underlying economic, political and social pressures.

Sonke's Policy Development and Advocacy (PDA) unit uses community education, policy analysis, the media, and at times litigation, to advocate for law and policy reform around sex work, gender-based violence, and transformation of prisons.

UCLA School of Law

Since 1949, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law has been recognized as one of the top law schools in the nation and the world. UCLA Law has been in the vanguard of establishing impactful programs and centers, and launching initiatives that are the first of their kind. It has pioneered innovative specializations and cutting-edge research centers, and has long been committed to skills training courses that offer students hands-on lawyering experience as they master legal doctrine. UCLA Law's values are expressed through the highest level of individual and institutional excellence, a belief in the promise of people from all walks of life, and a commitment to serving the greater good.

What is the UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship?

The UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship was launched in 2011, and provides specialised training at the University of California, Los Angeles, to top graduates of South African law schools, towards careers as public interest lawyers. The fellowship builds the capacity of lawyers through coursework emphasizing human rights, global health, gender, sexuality and public interest lawyering and advocacy for social change. Fellows may earn a specialization in Public Interest Law and Policy, Law and Sexuality, or related fields. Upon completing the Masters of Laws (LL.M.) program at UCLA Law, fellows have the opportunity to apply for a one-year fellowship with the Sonke PDA unit at Sonke's offices in Cape Town or Johannesburg, where they will assist with research, policy analysis and community education and apply the skills they acquire through their LL.M.

What does the fellowship offer?

UCLA Law – Sonke Fellows receive a full-tuition grant to enroll in UCLA Law's Masters of Laws (LL.M.) program, valued in 2016 at **USD 58,813** or **ZAR 808,752**. While living expenses are not guaranteed, Sonke assists fellows with identifying funds for their studies, often securing most living, studying, and travel expenses for their academic year, valued at around **ZAR 320,000**.

Who is eligible to apply?

The fellowship is open to African legal professionals and law graduates holding an LL.B. degree classified second class (division one) or higher from a South African law school. Strong applicants will also demonstrate a commitment to health, human rights, gender equality or related issues, evidenced by past work or volunteer experience. Note that non-South Africans must also hold a South African work permit. Previously disadvantaged and South African candidates will be given preference.

Past UCLA-Sonke Fellows



Cherith Sanger

*LL.B. University of the Western Cape '04
LL.M. UCLA Law '12*



Nomonde Nyembe

*LL.B. University of Witwatersrand '10
LL.M. UCLA Law '12*



Amy Kate Hindle

*LL.B. University of Cape Town '09
LL.M. UCLA Law '13*



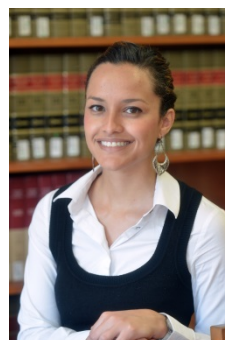
Godfrey Kangaude

*LL.B. University of Malawi '05
LL.M. University of Free State '07
LL.M. UCLA Law '13*



Shadrack Sekgame

*LL.B. University of Limpopo '12
LL.M. UCLA Law '14*



Mateenah Hunter

*LL.B. University of Witwatersrand '09
LL.M. UCLA Law '14*



Ariane Nevin

*LL.B. University of Cape Town '12
LL.M. UCLA Law '15*



Portia Karegeya

*LL.B. University of Cape Town '11
LL.M. McGill University '13
LL.M. UCLA Law '15*



Thabang Pooe

*LL.B. North West University '11
LL.M. UCLA Law '16*



Nabeelah Mia

*LL.B. University of Cape Town '12
LL.M. UCLA Law '17 (Expected)*



Nobukhosi Zulu

*LL.B. University of KwaZulu-Natal '13
LL.M. UCLA Law '17 (Expected)*

SPOTLIGHT: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In a welcome twist, the UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship contributes to reverse brain drain in South Africa. Top legal talent like these fellows could easily find jobs at high paying American law firms, but all UCLA – Sonke Fellows are committed to returning to South Africa and the wider continent to continue their public interest law careers. UCLA – Sonke Fellows have graduated at the top of their class and moved on to leadership positions in the local public interest law sector.

CHERITH SANGER, 2011-2012 Fellow

*"The fellowship really assisted me in **strengthening** my knowledge and experience in relation to gender and law. Through this fellowship, I engaged in **critical debates** with legal scholars from around the world with similar passions as me, and learned about public interest law and advocacy in various countries, which is **informing my work** in South Africa."*

Cherith Sanger

Cherith obtained her LL.B. from University of the Western Cape in 2004. She completed her Articles and remained an associate attorney at Deneys Reitz Attorneys (now known as Norton Rose), a top South African law firm, for a further one and a half years. She was then an attorney at Women's Legal Centre for three years, focusing on strategic litigation on gender-based violence, labour, and land law for women for three years. In 2010, Cherith was recognized by the Mail & Guardian as one of 200 Young South Africans. Cherith served on the Board of Directors at Sonke, before being awarded the UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship in its inaugural year in 2011. While at UCLA, Cherith specialized her studies in Public Interest Law and Policy, and graduated at the top of her class.

After graduating from UCLA, Cherith worked at Sonke for two years, rising to become the manager of the Policy Development & Advocacy Unit. In 2014, Cherith starting consulting for a few months before starting to work at Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) where she managed the Human Rights Defense and Advocacy unit. She is now working as an independent legal consultant specialising in gender, health and human rights.

NOMONDE NYEMBE, 2011-2012 Fellow

*"When coupling the Masters programme with a fellowship at an NGO, it allowed me to live what I learnt. The fellowship has allowed me to view a career in **social justice** as a method of **capacity building**. I now know that my career is not limited only to law, but engages and uses law as it exists and relates to **people's realities**."*

Nomonde Nyembe

Nomonde Nyembe studied law at the University of Witwatersrand, obtaining her LL.B. in 2008, whereafter she articulated at Edward Nathan and Sonenberg until the end of 2009. She spent a year at the Constitutional Court as a law clerk to then Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng in 2010. She was then a Research and Teaching Associate at the Law School of University of Witwatersrand for 6 months, before being awarded the UCLA Law – Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship in 2011. She worked as a fellow then associate in Sonke's Policy Development & Advocacy Unit for two years until 2014.

Nomonde now works as an attorney at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies' at Witwatersrand University in the business and human rights programme. She works on ensuring that corporate entities comply with their international responsibility to respect human rights and South African responsibility to protect, promote and fulfill human rights. She does this, as much as possible, through a gendered lens.

KATY HINDLE, 2012-2013 Fellow

*"The fellowship helped me build and develop a **skill set** relevant to health and gender related advocacy and public interest work and has shaped and **accelerated my career** in unalterable ways. The LLM component strengthened my knowledge of gender, health and human rights issues and the practical fellowship at Sonke Gender Justice afterwards provided a supportive and encouraging space in which to gain **relevant and necessary experience**."*

Katy Hindle

Katy Hindle studied law at the University of Cape Town, obtaining her LL.B in 2009. Thereafter she articulated at Edward Nathan and Sonnenberg in 2010 and stayed on as an associate until June 2012. She was admitted as an attorney in 2012 and was awarded the UCLA Law-Sonke Health and Human Rights Fellowship in 2012.

On completing the Fellowship, Katy joined Sonke's Policy Development and Advocacy Unit for one and a half years until January 2015. During this time she worked on numerous projects, including Gender Transformation in the Judiciary, Decriminalization of Sex Work, and the Popularization of the Thuthuzela Care Centres, to name a few.

Katy now works as a programme manager at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The Centre is involved in a variety of regional projects. They include, but are not limited to, strengthening the Maputo Protocol, working on a report on child marriage, and creating a tool for lawyers in Africa on harmful traditional practices. These projects are conducted with a strong focus on incorporating gender as widely as possible.

ARIANE NEVIN, 2014-2015 Fellow

*"The fellowship has given me the opportunity to think **critically and strategically** about the practice of public interest law, and about my role as a public interest advocate. The LL.M provided me with an important **gender and race perspective** that will continue to frame my work at Sonke and beyond; and the work we do in the PDA unit for the transformation of prisons is both challenging and rewarding, providing me with **a space to apply the lessons learnt** in the course of my LL.M, and to **grow and hone my research and advocacy skills** and experience."*

Ariane Nevin

Ariane Nevin obtained a B.A. and an LL.B from the University of Cape Town, graduating in 2012. At UCT, she was an active member of Students for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ), a national student movement seeking to improve access to justice in South Africa by campaigning for the transformation of legal education and compulsory community service for law graduates. As a result of her involvement with SLSJ, in 2013 she was appointed as one of two SLSJ fellows at SECTION27, a public interest law clinic in Johannesburg, where she worked on issues relating to the right to basic education. She stayed on at SECTION27 as a legal researcher, and was awarded the UCLA-Sonke Health and Human Rights Fellowship in 2014.

After graduating from UCLA Law, she joined Sonke's Policy Development and Advocacy Unit as a fellow to work on the transformation of prisons in South Africa. In June 2016, Ariane was appointed as the National Prisons Specialist at Sonke, where she now manages the prisons transformation project.

THABANG POOE, 2015-2016 Fellow

"The fellowship gave me an opportunity to reflect critically on the work I had done in the public interest law centre and to think about innovative ways of approaching my work in future. The exposure to Critical Race Studies has given me the ability to name and explain the genesis of some of the injustices that continue to haunt South Africa. The multidisciplinary approach promoted by the programme has given me knowledge and skills in areas I would not have considered in the past. It was truly an opportunity of a lifetime."

Thabang Pooe

Thabang Pooe was a 2015-2016 UCLA-Sonke Health and Human Rights Fellow. Prior to earning her LL.M. degree from UCLA Law, Thabang earned an LL.B. from North West University in 2011 and served as clerk for Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga on South Africa's highest court, the Constitutional Court of

South Africa. She also served as fellow and legal researcher for SECTION27, a public interest law center in South Africa. Thabang also serves as a liaison for Out in Africa Ride, an organization that supports African NGOs working on LGBT rights.

She is currently working as a fellow at Sonke Gender Justice in the Policy Development and Advocacy unit. Her areas of interest concern the right to education and the right to health, with specific focus on access to health services, sanitation and school infrastructure, sexual victimization in schools, HIV, and medical scheme regulation.

How to Apply

Applications for the fellowship are open from October – February each year. Details on how to apply can be found on the Sonke and UCLA Law websites. Interested applicants must complete the application for UCLA Law's Master of Laws program, as well as supplementary documentation for the fellowship.

Questions can be directed to hhrfellowship@genderjustice.org.za.

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