

Prof. Joanna Botha is a Professor of Public Law in the Faculty of Law, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, where she teaches and supervises students in human rights law at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her research focuses on the development of a regulatory framework for hate crimes and hate speech which aligns inter-group hostility to social hierarchies and the power dynamics between marginalised communities and those with 'in-group' status. She explores these issues using a contextually sensitive approach and with reference to South Africa's constitutional ethos. Joanna's latest research addresses the meaning of hate and the reasons why we hate, with the aim of promoting inter-disciplinary work in the field of hate studies. This approach is intended to enhance law's capacity to construct meaningful change and development in an inclusive South Africa.

Joanna matriculated from Collegiate High School in 1987 and then moved to Rhodes University where she studied a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Law and Philosophy, followed by an LLB at the same university. She received the award for the Best Law student in her final year, 1992, and then commenced articles at Solomons and Knuth, a local attorneys' firm. She was admitted as an attorney in February 1995 and became a partner in the firm, specialising in civil litigation.

Joanna's academic career commenced in 2002, when she was employed as a lecturer at the then Port Elizabeth Technikon. After the merger of the Technikon, VISTA University and the erstwhile University of Port Elizabeth in 2005 to form Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (now Nelson Mandela University), Joanna became a lecturer in the Faculty of Law of the merged institution. Her focus in the first ten years of her career was on learning and teaching, but following the award of her LLD in 2016 from NMMU, Joanna soon became actively involved in research, research supervision, faculty management and learning and teaching. She served as Head of Department of the Public Law for seven years, was a member of the Faculty's Management Committee for the same period and also served as the Chairperson of the Faculty's Post-Graduate Studies Committee and the Faculty's Research Committee. She has won the Emerging Teacher and Faculty Teacher of the Year awards and has been the recipient of the Faculty's Researcher of the Year Award for five consecutive years from 2018 to 2022. She has

also been the recipient of Research Grants from South Africa's National Research Foundation (the NRF), which enabled her doctoral studies and her post-doctoral work.

Joanna has published both nationally and internationally in the field of hate speech, hate crimes and human rights law more generally. Her work has been referred to with approval by the Constitutional Court in its seminal hate speech judgment, *Qwelane v South African Human Rights Commission*. Joanna has also presented numerous conference papers, served as co-editor for a book focusing on public law and governance, published entries for international encyclopaedia's and authored various chapters in academic textbooks. She has applied for Rating with the NRF and is currently awaiting this outcome.

Regularly acting as a reviewer of conference papers, journal articles, book chapters and NRF applications, Joanna has also served as external examiner for under-graduate modules and post-graduate studies at other universities, both in South Africa and abroad. She has successfully supervised numerous LLB treatises, seven Masters' studies (four with *cum laude*) and three doctoral studies. She is currently supervising three doctoral studies and six masters' studies and is the co-facilitator of the Faculty's Research Hub, which provides active guidance to post-graduate students.

From 2020 to 2023 Joanna was appointed as one of five legal experts advising the Ad Hoc Committee aligned to the UN's Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination regarding the possible scope, terms, elements and structure of the proposed additional protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This work includes assisting States parties to clarify the scope of their international responsibilities in relation to the regulation of hate speech and hate crimes. Joanna is also a member of two international research networks - the International Network of Hate Studies and the Law and Development Research Unit (the LDRN). She is a member of the steering committee of the LDRN, organised its Fifth Annual Conference (the first to be held in Africa) and will serve as the LDRN's Chairperson from September 2024. For many years, Joanna has also been involved in human rights training and education and the furnishing of advice to State institutions, government departments and inter-governmental organisations. In 2023 she served as

an Acting Judge in the Eastern Cape High Courts, with some of her judgments having been reported.

Joanna is married to MC and has two adult children, Lauren and James. All three are students at Nelson Mandela University. In her personal time, Joanna enjoys reading, gardening, cycling, and spending time exploring Africa and the rest of the world. She is learning how to play golf and is also experimenting with South Africa's new ball-sport craze, padel.