George Tizirai-Chapwanya

Doctoral researcher

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About

Title of thesis: **A critical review of Roman-Dutch law as a source of law in Zimbabwe with special focus on its interplay with customary law.**

Supervisors: **Professor Gordon Woodman (/staff/profiles/law/woodman-gordon.aspx)** and **Professor Nelson Enonchong (/staff/profiles/law/enonchong-nelson.aspx)**

Qualifications

- BL (Hons)
- LLB
- LLM

Biography

I was admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Zimbabwe in August 1991 following graduation from the University of Zimbabwe with a BL (Hons) and LLB degrees in 1989 and 1990 respectively. I worked briefly as a Legal Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Zimbabwe. Whilst there I completed the Diplomatic Training Course. I later went into private legal practice in January 1992 and worked as a Legal Assistant, Partner and Sole Principal in Zimbabwe. I continued to be interested in academia and was engaged on a part-time basis by the Faculty of Law of the University of Zimbabwe where I taught undergraduate students. I was later appointed a staff development fellow at the University of Zimbabwe. This exposure led me to the University of Birmingham where I completed the Master of Laws in Commercial law in 2006. I was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales in March 2008 and following admission I briefly worked for RBM Solicitors based in Coventry and later joined Bake & Co Solicitors in Birmingham before setting up GTC Legal Solicitors in March 2013. I hope one day to be back in academia and contributing to the rebuilding of Zimbabwe as a member of the University community.

Doctoral research

PhD title A critical review of Roman-Dutch law as a source of law in Zimbabwe with special focus on its interplay with customary law.

Supervisors Professor Gordon Woodman (/staff/profiles/law/woodman-gordon.aspx) and Professor Nelson Enonchong (/staff/profiles/law/enonchong-nelson.aspx)
Course Law PhD / PhD by Distance Learning / MPhil / MJur (/postgraduate/courses/research/law/law.aspx)

Research

The law to be administered by the Supreme Court, the High Court and any courts in Zimbabwe is provided for in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This provides for the application of both the law received at colonization and also customary law (mainly applicable to indigenous Zimbabweans.) As a result Zimbabwe is considered a plural legal jurisdiction. Although the constitution of Zimbabwe does not specifically mention Roman-Dutch as the law that was received at colonization it is generally accepted that it is the law that was in force in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope on 10 June 1891, with some graftings of English law. The aim of the study is to review the current status of Roman-Dutch law as a source of law in Zimbabwe and to assess its application and continued relevance as a source. Given that Roman-Dutch law is part of the general law of Zimbabwe special focus will also be given to its relationship with customary law, often noted to be problematic due to conflict of law problems inherent in legal pluralistic jurisdictions.

Other activities

I am registered as a Legal Practitioner in Zimbabwe and I am a member of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. I am also registered as a Solicitor in England & Wales and I am a member of the Law Society of England & Wales. I remain entitled to practice both in Zimbabwe and in England & Wales.

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