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**Professor Johan Henning,
Dean of the Faculty of Law,
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PO Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300,
Republic of South Africa.**

22nd October 2009

Dear Johan,

I cannot let your celebrations for a 'Century of Jurisprudence' at the University of the Free State pass without adding to the many expressions of admiration and support that you have received, my own humble and sincere congratulations. The reputation for excellence in the teaching of law and in its scholarly research that your Faculty has attained both in the Republic and internationally is a testament to the outstanding efforts and commitment of so many generations of scholars in Bloemfontein.

I have been extraordinarily privileged to be associated with your Faculty in a number of ways in recent years and the honour that you and your distinguished colleagues have accorded me, on several occasions, is most dear to me. I deeply regret that the opportunities that I have had to reciprocate and support the excellent academic work of you, your colleagues and students have been limited. We have always been delighted and honoured to receive academic visitors from the Free State at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and in Cambridge. Indeed, the commitment of your Faculty to the international symposium that we have run in the University of Cambridge for the last twenty eight years has contributed so much to its success. The contribution that you and many of your colleagues and students have made to our own research and writing, particularly in the areas of commercial, corporate and partnership law is second to none.

The achievements of your Faculty are truly impressive and it is a matter of personal regret that my family circumstances have rendered it impossible to accept your generous invitation to be with you in a couple of weeks time. I am sure that whatever celebrations you have in mind you will be hard put to truly reflect the enormous contribution to scholarship that the Faculty has made over the last 100 years and perhaps more importantly continues to make. I can merely, at this distance, express my sincere admiration and commitment to do everything within my power to support you in the future.

With the kindest regards,
Yours ever,

Barry Rider

Cc Professor Jonathan Jansen