



ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS, LAW AND ECONOMICS

The **Mercantile Law Department at the University of the Free State (UFS)** is organising the 1st Annual AFRICAN Conference on Business, Law and Economics (ACBLE) in conjunction with the **Mercantile Law Department at the University of Western Cape (UWC)**. This is the first revolving Conference to be hosted under the activities of the African Society for Business, Law and Economics. This society was started in January 2023 as an initiative to create a platform where researchers, practitioners and students in law focusing on aspects of business and the economy can frequently converge to discuss topical areas of interest. The particular interest is around the economic analysis of the law. This field has been around since the 1800s and concentrates on the prediction of behaviour in response to legal rules. Thereafter, questions are then posed as to whether the effects of the legal rules are socially desirable.

The purpose of the conference is to explore the economic analysis of the law and foster an interest on this particular area of the law. This includes doctrinal work on business, law and economics as well as interdisciplinary research in these areas. To that end, the theme for this year's conference is: **Dreams v Reality: The Practical Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Its Protocols**. Given the economic implications of the AfCFTA for the host state and their legal system, in particular, the rules related to business, there could perhaps not have been a better time to introduce this Annual Conference.

The conference will be presented in a hybrid manner. Registration fees for the conference attendance and access to all sessions is R1 000.00 for in-person attendance and R500.00 for online attendance. The registration deadline is 1 September 2023.

Please also note that all publishable papers will be published in a special edition of the Law, Democracy and Development Journal.

