

SEEHAAM SAMAAI

DIRECTOR LEGAL SERVICES- DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REGIONAL OFFICE WESTERN CAPE)

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Criminal Record : no

PERSONAL SUMMARY

Strong managerial background with senior level experience and cross sectoral exposure. Good strategic appreciation and vision, able to build and implement plans supporting the annual performance targets of an organization. Self- driven, self- reliant and motivated individual who sets aims and targets and leads by example. Collaborative leadership approach with good interpersonal skills to engage, motivate and encourage others through transformation and change. Highly focused with a positive track record of successfully delivering projects to tight time scales and within budget. Have strong strategic partnerships and alliances within the human rights sector. Ability to build strong relations between government and civil society organisations. Passionate, positive, energetic, and eager to further grow and develop within the human rights and legal sector. Seehaam is currently looking to continue a career in a senior management position within a work environment which promotes human rights values and invests in its people and community. She self identifies as a African Feminist and practices an intersectional form of feminism in her legal practice.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Litigation, Preparing Legal Documents, Legal Research
- Land, Housing and Tenure Reform
- Fundraising, Networking and Organising
- Project Management and Administration
- Alternate Dispute resolution
- Regional and International expertise in Clinical Legal Education and Law Clinics;
- Law reform and Advocacy
- Community Advocacy and public participation
- Law Reform and Advocacy

CAREER HISTORY

Women's Legal Centre - Director 2016 - Current

The Centre is an African feminist legal centre that advances women's rights and equality through strategic litigation, advocacy, education, advice, and training. The focal areas are Violence Against Women, Sexual health and Reproductive Rights , Women and Resources - Land and housing and Relationship rights, Vulnerable Workers

Department of Justice & Constitutional Development 2012 – 2015 Foundation for Human Rights Oct 2015 – May 2018**Director Legal**

Developing and implementing the Annual Performance Plan.

- Provide leadership, strategic management and legal advisory support services to the Courts and the Region
- Ensuring the expansion of justice services to people living in townships and rural areas with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and the aged
- Facilitating the implementation of the outputs of the JCPS Service Delivery Agreement and building and managing relationships with JCPS cluster partners and other stakeholders
- Representing the Region on all relevant provincial and inter-sectoral structures i.e Gender Justice Forum, Child Justice Forum, Victim empowerment, Human Trafficking, etc

Programme Manager

- Strengthening of Civil Society and Access to Justice Programme

University of the Western Cape 2002 - 2011

Director of the UWC Legal Aid Clinic,
Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, UWC.
General Practising Attorney & Clinician

Lawyers for Human Rights 2001 - 2002

Attorney (Farmworker Project)

Legal Resources Centre

1999 – 2001

Candidate

KEY COMPETENCIES

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Self-motivated and can act on own initiative
- Adaptable and have a positive attitude towards change;
- Motivated, persuasive and goal orientated
- Excellent negotiation and problem solving skills
- Experience and are able to communicate effectively with key decision makers i.e. HODs and senior managers;
- Community oriented and passionate about educating communities;

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Leadership and Management
- Litigation (General and Human Rights)
- Financial, Project and Office Management
- Familiar with risk assessment and management of losses
- Fundraising, Networking and Organizing;
- Teaching and Research

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **LLM (Constitutional litigation)** UWC - 2004 - 2006
- **B Proc** UWC -1994 - 1999
- **Matric** Vista Senior Secondary - 1989 – 1993

ADDITIONAL

- **Accredited mentorship** NQF level 4 - 2008
- **Accredited assessor Course** NQF level 6 - 2008
- **Basic Project management Course** (Stellenbosch University) - 2001

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Admitted Attorney of the High Court** 2001 - Current
- **Right of Appearance in the High Court** 2005

MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATION & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS (BEFORE REFERENCES)

- National Gender Coordinator of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and Vice Chair of the Western cape Branch (Current)
- Executive Member of the South African Women Lawyers Association (Current)
- Member of the Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) (Current)
- Chairperson of the Board of Lawyers for Human Rights (2006 – Current)
- Trustee of the Board of Rural Legal Trust (2008 – 2016t)
- President of Association of University Legal Aid Institutions (AULAI) (2006 - 2011)
- Trustee of the Association of University Legal Aid Institutions Trust (2005 – 2011)
- Provincial Chairperson of South African Women Lawyers Association (2010 -2012)
- Chairperson of the Access to Justice Clusters in South Africa (Network of Law Clinic affiliated Paralegals and Legal Service Providers) (2006 - 2011)
- Western Cape Provincial Housing Development Board Member (1999 - 2003)

PUBLICATIONS

- Evictions: towards a transformative interpretation of the constitutional requirement of considering all relevant circumstances LLM Research Paper in partial fulfilment towards LLM Degree 2006.
- Drafted Checklist on Evictions and Edited Evictions in South Africa Relevant International and National Standards by Lilian Chenwi Community Law Centre, 2008
- Chapter on The Promotion of Access to Justice by University Law Clinics in South Africa; A Human Right to Legal Aid published by the Danish Institute for Human Rights 2010
- Delivered various papers at National and International conferences on Access to Justice, development of Law Clinics, gender and family law, Land and tenure rights