

CHRISCENTIA CAROLINE BLOUWS

CONTACT



[Redacted]



[Redacted]



[Redacted]

SKILLS

- Strategic & Impact Litigation
- Gender Equality & Feminist Legal Analysis
- Violence Against Women & Accountability Mechanisms
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Policy Advocacy
- Legal Reform and Submissions to Parliament
- Organisational Development & Change Management
- Safeguarding Frameworks & Institutional Ethics
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Strategy
- Policy Development & Review (HR, Safeguarding, Governance)
- Stakeholder Engagement & Facilitation
- Training and Capacity Building
- Board Governance & Advisory Work
- Legal Research, Drafting & Strategic Analysis
- Policy & Framework Development
- Facilitation, Training & Workshop Design
- Dispute Resolution & Quasi-Judicial Representation
- Team Leadership, Supervision & Staff Development
- Excellent Written & Oral Communication skills
- Legal advocacy
- Policy development
- Institutional accountability
- Strategic governance

Transformative Social Justice and Human Rights Attorney with 13 years in law and over 15 years in policy advocacy and public education. Expertise in strategic feminist litigation, feminist legal theory, and organisational transformation, advancing women's rights and embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion principles. Currently expanding influence through consultancy across sectors, driving systemic change and fostering inclusive cultures.

EXPERIENCE

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Strategic and Feminist Litigation Attorney

(October 2018 – Current)

- Lead attorney in high-impact feminist litigation advancing women's rights in the workplace, home, and public life. My work combines legal strategy, movement building, public advocacy, and institutional accountability.

Key Focus Areas

- Women's labour rights and safe, equitable working environments
- Violence against women
- Women's independent rights to land, housing, and tenure security

Selected Landmark Matters

- Judicial Conduct Tribunal on Sexual Harassment against a Judge President (2025). I led the complainant's case in the first sexual harassment tribunal against a Judge President in South Africa's history, resulting in unprecedented judicial accountability for workplace sexual harassment.
- *Mahlangu and Another v Minister of Labour and Others* (CCT306/19) [2020] ZACC 24). I acted as amicus curiae in a Constitutional Court matter that extended social security protections to domestic workers in South Africa. My submissions contributed to the Court's explicit adoption of intersectionality as a legal concept, a first in South African constitutional jurisprudence.
- *S v P 2022 (SACR) 81 (WCC)* This case advanced jurisprudence affirming women's rights to speak publicly about sexual violence and name their perpetrators.
- *Booyesen v Major and Another* (5043/2021) [2021] ZAWCHC 273. I successfully defended survivors' rights to freedom of expression and dignity in the context of sexual violence disclosures.

REFERENCES

Advocate Rajab-Budlender SC

Motlatsi Komote (SBCWC Chairperson)

Publications

- A Feminist Legal Response to the Silencing and Repression of Women Who Survive Violence – Published in the Constitutional Court Review Journal.
- Intersectional Feminism as a tool to address climate change and a just transition for women working and living in precarious circumstances – Published in the Global Labour Rights Reporter (A Just Transition Law for Climate Justice)

Additional Contributions:

- Supervision and mentorship of junior attorneys and candidate attorneys
- Development of internal policies on staff wellness, safeguarding, and ethical practice
- Fundraising, donor reporting, and strategic organisational support

April 2025 – September 2025

Organisational Development & Safeguarding Consultant

- Led organisational diagnostics focused on safeguarding, power dynamics, and institutional culture.
- Developed and reviewed safeguarding frameworks, reporting mechanisms, and accountability structures.
- Advised leadership on embedding DEI and trauma-informed practices across organisational systems.

Current

Digital Security & Human Rights Consultant

Digital Society of Africa

- Supports frontline activists and human rights defenders to identify and respond to digital threats, with a focus on gendered and intersectional risks and holistic digital responses.

Current

Deputy Chairperson – Board of Management

Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children

- Provides strategic governance oversight, organisational leadership support, and feminist institutional guidance to one of South Africa's leading shelters for women and children.

NDIFUNA UKWAZI

Public Interest Litigation Attorney – Spatial Justice, Land & Housing

February 2017 - October 2018

- Worked at the intersection of law, activism, and civil disobedience to advance access to housing and spatial justice.
- Served as the first lawyer on the ground during the 2017 Reclaim the City occupation of vacant government buildings.
- Successfully argued against unlawful SAPS removals of activists.
- Six years later, these buildings remain occupied, having effectively provided housing through sustained community resistance.

LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (NORTHERN CAPE)

April 2015 - February 2017

Litigation Attorney & Office Manager

- Led litigation and advocacy on behalf of farmworkers and farm dwellers.
- Managed office operations, staff supervision, and community outreach.
- Conducted training on evictions, labour protections, and domestic violence legislation.

January 2016 - December 2016

Foundation for Human Rights & Department of Justice

Paralegal Training Consultant – Northern Cape

- Designed and delivered legal training and education for grassroots and faith-based organisations on domestic violence, evictions, and labour law.

January 2013 - January 2015

LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE – CAPE TOWN

Candidate Attorney (Articles of Clerkship)

- Completed articles at one of South Africa's leading public interest law organisations, gaining a strong foundation in constitutional and human rights litigation.

Bertha Alumna | Advisory Committee & Women's Working Group Member *Bertha Foundation*

- Engaged in global public interest networks, with specific focus on women's experiences within social justice and legal movements.

EDUCATION

05/2015

Admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa

Master's of Law (LLM)

University of Cape Town (UCT)

Ongoing

Nyuleka Senior Management Course

Ongoing

2012

Bachelors Degree (LLB)

University of the Western Cape