



Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy in South Africa: Join Us for a Book Launch and Film Screening

Date: Friday, November 14, 2014

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

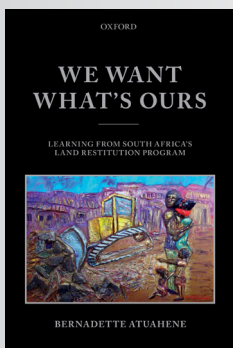
Venue: Cassidy Theater at Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602

RSVP: asteine2@kentlaw.iit.edu

***Free and open to the public
Dinner provided for those who RSVP**

- Screening of documentary *Sifuna Okwethu* (We Want What's Ours) • Filmmaker and author, Bernadette Atuahene, will discuss her work on land reform • Panel discussion about land reform featuring South African Consul General Vuyiswa Tulelo and Northwestern Professor Doug Foster • Presentation by Andre Guichard, creator of book cover art • Reception catered by Yassa African Restaurant

Co-sponsored by the South African Consulate, the IL Humanities Council, the Chicago-Kent Institute for Law and the Humanities, St. Sabina Church, and Gallery Guichard



We Want What's Ours: Learning from South Africa's Land Restitution Program

by **Bernadette Atuahene**

*Professor of Law, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
Faculty Fellow, American Bar Foundation*

Land dispossession occurring in South Africa during colonialism and apartheid is a quintessential example of 'dignity takings', which involves the deprivation of property and also dignity. There have been numerous examples of dignity takings throughout the world, but South Africa stands apart because of its unique remedial efforts. The nation has attempted to move beyond the more common step of providing reparations (compensation for physical losses) and to instead facilitate 'dignity restoration', which is a comprehensive remedy that seeks to restore property while also confronting the underlying dehumanization, infantilization, and political exclusion that enabled the injustice. In *We Want What's Ours*, Bernadette Atuahene's detailed research and interviews with over one hundred and fifty South Africans who participated in the nation's land restitution program provide a snapshot of South Africa's successes and failures in achieving dignity restoration.

Sifuna Okwethu (We Want What's Ours)

Sifuna Okwethu is an evocative and visually captivating documentary film about loss, resistance, identity and the elusiveness of justice as experienced by the Ndolila family, and their quest to get back their family land. Standing in their way are working class black homeowners who purchased portions of the Ndolila's land during Apartheid. For the homeowners, the land and houses they have legally purchased are a reward for their hard work. It is the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams for a better life in the new democracy. For the Ndolilas, the land is part of their family legacy and hence deeply intertwined with their identity. Both sides have a legitimate right to the land, but whose rights will prevail? The film leads viewers towards a more complex understanding of the dynamics involved in dealing with the present-day consequences of past land theft.

Film counterpart to book

