

You are cordially invited to

An Oration by

The Honourable Justice Unity Dow

*The Importance of Economic Rights in the Law:
A Perspective from Botswana*



Date: FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2011.

Time: 5:00pm. Refreshments will be served following the oration.

Place: Banco Level 13, Law Courts Building, Queens Square.

Chair: The Honourable Justice Margaret Beazley AO.

Please RSVP to may_samali@courts.nsw.gov.au by 3 March 1pm for catering purposes.

In 1998, Justice Unity Dow became the first female justice to be appointed to the High Court of Botswana. Throughout her distinguished career, Justice Dow has advocated for the rights of women and indigenous groups. Most noteworthy was her advocacy in High Court case *The Attorney General v Unity Dow*, where she successfully challenged the constitutionality of the Citizenship Act. The effect of this landmark case was to extend constitutional protections against discrimination to women, and enable land rights to pass down through the maternal line. Justice Dow's advocacy was also responsible for Botswana courts recognising the defence of battered women syndrome in criminal cases concerning domestic violence victims. After retiring from the High Court in 2009, Justice Dow opened the law firm "Dow & Associates" in Botswana in February 2010. She is an Executive Committee member of the International Commission of Jurists and a member of International Women's Rights Watch. In February 2010, Justice Dow was sworn in as Justice of the Interim Independent Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court of Kenya by the Kenyan President to assist in implementing the new Kenyan constitution. In July 2010, she was awarded the French Medal of the Legion d'Honneur de France by representatives of the French President Nicolas Sarkozy in recognition of her human rights activities.