



**Licensing Executive Society South Africa and
Licensing Executive Society International Life Sciences Committee**

presents a Virtual Panel Discussion

**Ownership of Human-Derived Digital Sequence Information: a South
African perspective**

Date:	Thursday, 29 August 2024
Webinar:	Details will be provided upon Registration
Time:	16:00 to 17:30 (CET)

ABOUT THE SESSION:

LES South Africa (LES SA) and the LES SA Life Sciences Committee would like to invite you to a virtual panel discussion with three experts on the legal interplay between personal and intellectual property rights relating to the ownership of human-derived digital sequence information and including the POPIA requirements around personal data regulation.

The panellists are:

- **Dr Donrich Thaldar** who is a full professor of law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who will provide insights into proprietary rights relating to human-derived digital sequence information.
- **Dr Marietjie Botes** who is the CEO of BioLAWgic and The Visual Law Lab as well as an honorary research fellow at the School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal, who will discuss the POPIA requirements around personal data regulation.
- **Dr Joanne van Harmelen** who is a partner at Adams & Adams who will discuss intellectual property rights relating to the ownership of human-derived digital sequence information

We look forward to engaging with you in this session.

The Licensing Executives Society International is an international association having over 30 national and regional member societies, each comprising of men and women who have an interest in the transfer of technology, or licensing of intellectual property rights - from technical know-how and patented inventions to software, copyright and trade marks.

ABOUT THE PANELLISTS:

Professor Donrich Thaldar



Donrich Thaldar is full professor of law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. He has recently published his 100th academic article, and has been cited over 500 times. He is the Principal Investigator of a research project on the legal aspects of the use of data science in health innovation in Africa, funded by the US National Institutes of Health. He also has a private legal practice, and has served as legal counsel in 21 reported cases.

For more information, visit www.datalaw.africa and www.thaldar.com.

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Dr Marietjie Botes



Dr Marietjie Botes has transitioned from a 20-year career as a practicing attorney in health law and biotechnology to academia focusing on interdisciplinary research at the intersection of science, technology, law, and ethics. She holds the degrees of BProc, LLB, LLM (Intellectual Property Law), and a LLD (Biotechnology Law).

Her research interests include the regulation of regenerative medicines (gene therapies and stem cell research), Health Data Governance, pandemic preparedness, digital health technologies, in particular with regard to neuro-technologies such as Brain-Computer Interfaces and their impact on fundamental rights, including online behavioural manipulation and how it shapes debates around digital constitutionalism.

So far Marietjie was the Principal Investigator in 1 international research grant, published more than 50 articles in national and international accredited academic journals, invited expert and co-author of both editions of the South Africa Country Reports on COVID-19, and served as co-editor for the special edition on Digital Ethics for the Humanities and Social Sciences Communications Journal (Springer Nature). She is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, and country representative of South Africa for the African Bioethics Network.

As legal designer and science communicator Marietjie also creates comics about biomedical and digital ethics to create awareness and stimulate debate among a wide variety of people - and in her free time she plays the flute.

Further details are available at: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6613-6977>, or <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-marietjie-botes-71151b55/>.

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Dr Joanne van Harmelen



Dr Joanne van Harmelen is a Partner at Adams & Adams and the Vice President of LES South Africa. She holds a PhD in medical microbiology and is a highly experienced patent attorney specialising in patent, design and plant breeders' rights filing and prosecution as well as commercial IP matters in the biotech, pharmaceuticals and chemicals sectors.

Joanne's clients include established international biotech and chemicals companies as well as South African academic institutions and start-ups with operations across the globe.

She also advises clients on IP and biotech-related legislation, in particular, legislation relating to publicly-financed research and development; bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources and traditional knowledge; and genetically modified organisms.

For more information, visit <https://www.adams.africa/staff/joanne-van-harmelen/>

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