

October 2010

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SENATOR DAVID COLTART

Personal Detail

Born in Gweru, Zimbabwe on the 4th October 1957.

Schooled at Hillside Primary School and Christian Brothers College, Bulawayo.

Married to Jennifer Reine Coltart.

Four children: Jessica, Douglas, Scott and Bethany aged 23, 19, 17 and 9 years respectively.

Extra mural activities include touch rugby, tennis, golf and cricket. Avid rugby and cricket spectator.

Academic qualifications

BA (Law) University of Cape Town. December 1980.

LLB (Post graduate law degree) University of Cape Town December 1982.

History and Work Experience

August 1975 - February 1978

Conscripted into the British South African Police Force stationed in Mashonaland, Matabeleland South and Masvingo Provinces. Best Recruit of Squad 7/75.

February 1978 - December 1982

Studied at the University of Cape Town.

1980 - 1981 Chairman of the Zimbabwe Students Society at University of Cape Town. This society represented the interests of the thousands Zimbabwean students then studying at the University of Cape Town. This was an elected post.

1981 - 1982 Director, Legal Aid Clinic, Crossroads Squatter Camp, Cape Town.

1982 Member of the Law Students Council (also an elected post).

January 1983

Employed by Messrs Webb, Low and Barry Legal Practitioners, Bulawayo. Within 2 weeks of starting work commenced representing victims of the “Gukurahundi”.

February 1983

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Zimbabwe.

March 1983

Campaign Manager for Bob Nixon MP (he was the first independent candidate to beat the Rhodesia Front party of Mr. Ian Smith in 17 years).

April 1983

Appointed Secretary of the Bulawayo Legal Practitioners Association; in this capacity started the first legal aid clinic in Bulawayo.

August 1983

Instructed by Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace to record affidavits from people who had suffered at the hands of the Fifth Brigade during the Gukurahundi. Affidavits subsequently submitted to the Chihambakwe Commission of Enquiry.

April 1984

Appointed a partner in Webb, Low and Barry.

1985

Campaign Manager for all the independent candidates in Matabeleland contesting the 1985 elections opposed to Ian Smith’s Conservative Alliance party.

March 1985

A member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange Tour to Pennsylvania in the United States of America.

August 1985

Instructed to represent Sidney Malunga, Edward Ndlovu, Stephen Nkomo and other PF Zapu Central Committee members detained by the Zanu PF government.

August 1985 to May 1986

Defended Sidney Malunga MP, chief whip of Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU party, in his political trial; ultimately leading to his acquittal of charges that he was assisting political dissidents.

January 1986

Author of a detailed Human Rights report concerning human rights abuses in Matabeleland during the Gukurahundi in 1985, submitted to the Governor of Matabeleland North and the Minister of Justice at that time. (In the capacity as a partner in Webb, Low and Barry handled hundreds of human rights cases between 1983 and 1986 and indeed until the present time).

August 1986

Put forward proposals for the establishment of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre.

October 1986

Appointed a Trustee of the Legal Resources Foundation.

Appointed Founder Trustee of Petra School (an inter-denominational Christian school in Bulawayo).

March 1987

Founded and appointed Director of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre, the second operational arm of the Legal Resources Foundation.

September 1987

Attended, and spoke at, Human Rights Summer School at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

1987 - 1988

Defence Counsel in several High Court criminal actions brought against political dissidents arising out of the conflict in Matabeleland.

1988

Appointed National Director (Legal Policy) Legal Resources Foundation.

August 1988

Member of a three person visitor tour of lawyers to the United States of America as a guest of the United States Government.

February 1989

Represented the then Governor of Matabeleland North, Jacob Mudenda, before the Sandura Commission of Enquiry into Government corruption.

July 1989

Opened the first Human Rights Workshop conducted by the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre regarding Human Rights Training for members of the Police Force and the Central Intelligence Organisation (in fulfillment of a project proposal first proposed in 1986).

August 1989

Appointed Legal Policy Consultant to the Legal Resources Foundation.

September 1990

Established and appointed board member of CASALAF (Central and Southern African Legal Assistance Foundation - a section 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation registered in the United States of America to support Human Rights work in Southern Africa).

Awarded a scholarship to attend the International Bar Association, biennial conference in New York.

August 1991

Delivered a paper in Arusha, Tanzania regarding the setting up of Human Rights Organisations in Africa at a conference entitled "Empowering Civil Society".

October 1991

Attended the Business Section of the International Bar Association's Conference in Hong Kong after being awarded a further scholarship.

May 1992

Founder member and Trustee of the Forum Democratic Reform Trust set up in Harare, a body designed to promote debate regarding constitutional reform and political change in Zimbabwe.

September 1992

Delivered a paper to an Amnesty International conference in the Netherlands on political killings and disappearances which happened during the Gukurahundi during 1982 -1987. The paper was entitled "Zimbabwe: The establishment of independent and public enquiries".

Attended a Commonwealth conference in Ottawa, Canada regarding the establishment and empowerment of Ombudsmen throughout Commonwealth countries.

October 1992

Visited the United States of America as a guest of the United States Government; involved in discussions in the State Department regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

Visited the United Kingdom as guest of the British Government to discuss human rights issues in Zimbabwe.

December 1992

Member of an international Electoral observer team to the Kenyan elections organised by the International Republican Institute, Washington, United States of America.

March 1993

Drafted the Constitution and the Manifesto of the Forum Party of Zimbabwe which was launched on the 29th March 1993 under the leadership of Zimbabwe's (then retired) first black Chief Justice, Dr. Enock Dumbutshena.

August 1993

Responsible for convening, in the capacity as Director of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre, an International Conference at Victoria Falls on Alternative Sentencing which looked at the introduction of community service in Zimbabwe, sentencing of juveniles and the death penalty.

1993

Put forward proposals for researching and preparing a report on human rights violations which occurred in Zimbabwe between 1982 and 1988.

February 1994

Attended a conference held in Gaborone, Botswana organised by the International Republican Institute. The conference considered ways of making the electoral process in Africa more democratic.

June 1994

Attended a conference at the University of Kent organised by the Law Centres Federation which led to the establishment of an interim International body to represent the interests of legal advice centres globally.

September 1994

Visited the Federal Republic of Germany as a guest of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation; involved in discussions regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and the promotion of democracy in Zimbabwe.

December 1994

Responsible for convening and organising, in the capacity as Director of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre, a conference at Victoria Falls on a new Constitution and Declaration of Rights for the whole of Southern Africa within the context of SADC.

March 1995

Attended a conference held in Mombasa, Kenya, organised by the International Republican Institute, as a member of the African Democracy Network. The conference was a follow-up to the February 1995 Gaborone conference which considered ways of strengthening the African Democracy Network.

June 1995

Delivered a paper on "Ethnic Conflict in Zimbabwe" to the Summer Institute on Self Determination and Ethnic Conflict Resolution organised by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts.

January 1996

Invited by the Westminster Foundation (London) to the inaugural meeting of the African Dialogue Group in Cape Town. Mandated to draft a Constitution for a new African Dialogue Group.

March 1996 - December 1996

Heavily involved in final research, drafting and editing of the “Breaking the Silence: Building True Peace” report.

February 1997

Presented a paper on a proposed constitution for the African Dialogue Group at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

March 1997

Report “Breaking the Silence: Building True Peace” published by the Legal Resources Foundation and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and presented to President Robert Mugabe in culmination of the work first started in 1993.

August 1997

Retired as Director of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre and appointed Chairman of its Board.

October 1997

Appointed Chairman of an informal group called the “Umthwakazi Reconciliation Group” set up to promote the recommendations contained in the “Breaking the Silence” report.

March 1998

Traveled to Namibia as part of a 2 person Amnesty International investigation team to assist human rights organisations there.

April 1998

Appointed Senior (Managing) Partner of Webb, Low and Barry, Legal Practitioners, Bulawayo.

1998 - 1999

Delivered numerous papers and speeches throughout Zimbabwe regarding the Constitutional debate and other human rights issues.

May 1999

Appointed to sit on the Legal Committee of the National Constitutional Assembly of Zimbabwe.

September 1999

Appointed as Chairperson of the interim Legal Committee of the Movement for Democratic Change.

January 2000

Elected Secretary of Legal Affairs of the Movement for Democratic Change at its Inaugural Congress.

June 2000

Elected Member of Parliament for Bulawayo South Constituency - a predominately black working class constituency - 20782 votes for against 3150 votes for the ZANU (PF) candidate - an 84% majority.

July 2000

Appointed Shadow Justice Minister by the President of the MDC, Morgan Tsvangirai.

August 2000

Appointed Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary affairs.

November 2000

Member of an MDC delegation to Washington to lobby the US Government regarding its policy towards Zimbabwe.

January 2001

Delivered paper regarding the current political situation in Zimbabwe to International Union of Democrats in Singapore.

March 2001

Member of an MDC delegation to the United Kingdom and the United States.

April/May 2001

Traveled to Geneva as a Director of Safdem (the Southern African Democracy Resource Bank – which identifies experts who can be deployed on United Nations human rights mission) to lobby for support of the organisation at the UN.

Traveled on to New York and Washington as part of a two person MDC lobby team.

July 2001

Led a bi-partisan group of the Parliamentary Justice Committee (in capacity as Chairperson) to Germany on a Konrad Adenauer Foundation sponsored study tour of Germany's justice system.

October 2001

Traveled to New York as a Director of Safdem to lobby for support for the organization at the UN.

November 2001 and February 2002

Traveled to London and New York to lobby on behalf of the MDC and to work on the finalization of the MDC justice policy (as Secretary for Legal Affairs).

March 2002

Election agent for Morgan Tsvangirai, Presidential candidate, in the Bulawayo South constituency.

May/June 2002

Traveled to the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and the United States of America on behalf of the MDC to explain the MDC's position regarding the March Presidential elections, the reasons for Electoral court challenge brought by the MDC's Legal Affairs Committee on behalf of Mr. Tsvangirai and the MDC and the background to treason charges brought against Mr. Tsvangirai.

November 2002

Attended the Parliamentarians for Global Action Consultative meeting on the International Criminal Court in Ottawa, Canada, on behalf of the MDC.

April/May 2003

Traveled to Canada and the USA in capacity as Secretary for Legal Affairs of the MDC to gather evidence in support of the defence of Morgan Tsvangirai and others facing treason charges.

July 2003

Member of a 3 person MDC delegation which met members of the Bush Administration in Pretoria during President Bush's trip to South Africa.

August 2003

Member of an MDC delegation to Kenya to study the Kenyan electoral system which culminated in proposals being made for wide ranging reform of Zimbabwe's electoral practices and laws.

September 2003

Member of an MDC delegation which attended the PGA Consultative forum on the International Criminal Court in the UN, New York and in Washington. Spoke on behalf of the MDC delegation at a PGA organized meeting in Congress regarding the situation in Zimbabwe.

October 2003

Member of a 2 person MDC delegation (with the Hon. Tendai Biti) to the Liberal International Conference held in Dakar, Senegal. Held a private meeting with President Wade to discuss the Zimbabwean crisis.

October 2003

Attended a private meeting with President Nelson Mandela and Advocate George Bizos to brief President Mandela on the Zimbabwe Presidential Election court challenge.

December 2003

Attended the MDC Congress and delivered a speech leading to the adoption of the MDC's Justice and Constitutional policy document.

March 2004

Traveled to Britain, Denmark and Germany in capacity as Secretary for Legal Affairs to speak to a new report compiled by the Zimbabwe Institute called “Playing with Fire” which documents the arrest, detention, torture and general harassment of MDC MPs during the period 2000 to 2004. Also assisted in establishing the Zimbabwe Defence and Aid Trust in the United Kingdom responsible for assisting the victims of politically motivated arrests, detention and prosecutions.

June 2004

Unanimously elected by MDC Bulawayo South District to stand again as MDC candidate for the scheduled 2005 Parliamentary elections.

July 2004

Attended the Democratic Party National Convention in Boston USA at the invitation of the National Democratic Institute, during which then Senator Barack Obama delivered his “Hope is on the way” speech.

October/November 2004

In capacity as MDC Secretary for Legal Affairs and Shadow Justice Minister introduced and led argument on in Parliament the MDC’s extensive proposed amendments to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Bill and the Electoral Bill.

December 2004

Attended a Parliamentarian for Global Action meeting in Wellington, New Zealand to deliver a speech on the International Criminal Court.

March 2005

Re-elected member of Parliament for Bulawayo South Constituency with a 76% majority, having stood against a ZANU PF woman Cabinet Minister.

June 2005

Met with Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, UN Special Envoy, in Bulawayo to make representations regarding Operation Murambatsvina, pointing out that it amounted to a crime against humanity.

July 2005

Delivered the 2005 Brennan Lecture (in honour of former Australian Chief Justice Sir Gerard Brannan) at Bond University, Queensland, Australia on the topic “The erosion of the Rule of Law in Zimbabwe 2000 – 2005, its consequences and the application of the International Responsibility to Protect doctrine”.

Spoke at numerous meetings, (including Universities and the media) regarding the ZANU PF’s regime’s “Operation Murambatsvina” (operation cleans up) exposing the same.

August 2005

Introduced into Parliament a comprehensive amendment to Zimbabwe’s Constitution to reform and democratize it, rejected by ZANU PF.

Attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Solidarity in Gdansk, Poland and met former Polish President and leader of Solidarity Lech Walesa.

October 2005 to May 2006

Attempted to mediate in division within the MDC party. In this regard did not stand for election at either Congress of the two MDC factions held in Zimbabwe in February and March 2006.

June 2006

Nominated and appointed on to the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament World Council at the PNND Annual Forum held at Vancouver, Canada, on 27th June.

July 2006

Presented a paper at 2006 Aspen Ideas Festival on “Southern African report Card 2006”

August 2006

Elected as Secretary for Legal Affairs and member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the MDC (Mutambara faction).

Appointed Shadow Justice Minister and member of the mediation team to attempt to reunify the two MDC factions or to agree on a coalition.

February 2007

Spoke on the topic “The role of the Judiciary in Africa” at the Mont Pelerin Society meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, alongside American Federal Judge Mr. Justice Douglas H. Ginsburg.

March 2007

Attended a course organised by the Frederic Neumann Stiftung regarding security legislation in Bonn Germany. During the same trip met with German government representatives regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

March 2007

Observed the general election in Finland as part of a multinational African observer team and at the same time had several meetings with Finnish government officials, including the Director for Africa, regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

March 2007

Met with senior British and German government leaders and Ministers in London and Berlin regarding the torture and illegal detention of opposition leaders in Zimbabwe.

April 2007

Appointed Chairperson of MDC (M) advisory committee on Constitutional reform for the SADC mediation exercise.

August 2007

Gave a speech on the topic "An overview of the June 2007 G8 summit – an African perspective" at a meeting organised by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Windhoek, Namibia.

September 2007

Spoke in a debate organised by the Intelligence Squared organisation in London, United Kingdom, on the topic "Britain has failed Zimbabwe" including Hon. Tendai Biti, Professor John Makumbe, Peter Godwin and Chenjerai Hove.

December 2007

Attended a meeting held in Stellenbosch, South Africa regarding the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine and spoke to the meeting regarding a Zimbabwean perspective on the doctrine.

January 2008

Spoke on Martin Luther King Day, the 21st January, at a memorial event in Columbus, Georgia, USA on the topic "The Power of dreams", which amongst other things called on the international community to use non-violent means to resolve international crises, including the Zimbabwean crisis. During the same trip to the United States of America gave several public addresses including speeches regarding the Zimbabwean crisis at the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the George Mason University in Washington.

The speech of the Cato Institute resulted in a development policy analysis paper being prepared and jointly published by the Cato Institute subsequently in March entitled "A decade of suffering in Zimbabwe-economic collapse and political repression".

March 2008

Elected to the Senate on behalf of the MDC in the Khumalo Senatorial Constituency of Bulawayo in the 29th March 2009 general election.

April 2008

Delivered a speech at Exeter College, Oxford University, on the topic "The International Responsibility to Protect Doctrine-a Zimbabwean perspective".

May 2008

Participated in a one day conference organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and in a briefing to staff of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on why it was important the United States of America to ratify the Treaty of Rome and to join the International Criminal Court. Spoke about the International Criminal Court from a Zimbabwean perspective. During the same trip held several private meetings and discussions with the State Department officials, a Senator and Congressmen regarding the Zimbabwean crisis.

May 2008

Delivered a speech focusing on crimes against humanity being committed in Zimbabwe at the Policy Exchange in London and held several meetings regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe in London and New York.

June 2008

Delivered a speech on the Zimbabwean crisis in the Swedish Parliament building at a seminar organised by the Swedish Liberal party. During the same visit held several meetings with Swedish civic groups, journalists and a Cabinet Minister and other government officials. Travelled to Denmark for meetings regarding the Zimbabwean crisis with donors, civic groups, journalists, politicians and the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation.

July 2008

Gave a speech at the Concilium meeting organised by the Sydney based Centre for Independent Studies on the subject of future investment in Africa and during the same trip to Australia met with the new Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to brief him at length regarding the Zimbabwean crisis.

September 2008

Spoke at a meeting organised by IDASA in Johannesburg regarding a new African Charter on Governance. Also in September travelled to Washington for several meetings and gave two public addresses, the first being an address on the Zimbabwean situation at a briefing organised by IDASA at the Woodrow Wilson centre, the second being a speech delivered at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on the topic " Suppressing democracy: unlawful detentions, torture, and assassinations of opposition leaders around the world". In the latter speech spoke about the incidents of unlawful detentions, crimes against humanity and human rights abuses concerning Zimbabwe during the last 27 years and in particular during 2008.

October 2008

Delivered a speech on the topic "The fight against impunity in international relations and cooperation: the role of parliamentarians" at the Parliamentarians for Global Action's consultative assembly of parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court which was held in the National Congress of the Dominican Republic. At the same assembly met with Luis Moreno-Ocampo the Special Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to raise the issue of crimes against humanity committed in Zimbabwe during 2008.

November 2008

Delivered a speech on the topic "Multinationalism and multiculturalism: the Bar making a difference" to the annual general meeting of the Bar Council of England and Wales in London regarding the role that barristers in the United Kingdom can play to assist human rights defenders in oppressive countries, especially in the context of Zimbabwe.

December 2008

Delivered a speech regarding the Zimbabwean crisis to a meeting in Cape Town organised by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

February 2009

Appointed Minister of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture in the transitional inclusive government brought about by the Global Political Agreement entered into by MDC (T), MDC and ZANU (PF) in September 2008.

Present positions held/occupations

Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Zimbabwe

MDC Senator for Khumalo Constituency, Bulawayo

Senior Partner, Webb Low and Barry, Legal Practitioners, Bulawayo. (Present clients include the Churches, Church organisations, human rights activists, politicians, a political party, parastatals and corporations).

Board member Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre, Bulawayo. (The Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre now runs ten advice centres throughout the Matabeleland Region which give legal advice to indigent people. The Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre is also involved in test case and public interest case litigation and in the past year has been responsible for a few landmark Constitutional decisions handed down by the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe. The Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre has recently completed detailed research into the human rights abuses perpetrated in Matabeleland during the period 1982 to 1987. This resulted in the publication of the report “Breaking the Silence: Building True Peace” in March 1997).

Chairman of Board of Trustees, Petra School Trust which runs Petra High School and Petra Primary School in Bulawayo.

Trustee and Deputy Chairperson, The Edward Ndlovu Trust (a trust which runs a library in Gwanda in memory of the late Edward Ndlovu - a veteran ZAPU/ZANU (PF) politician).

Chairman, Legal Committee of the Movement for Democratic Change and Secretary for Legal Affairs of the MDC. This position involves the organization and coordination of all the legal actions/defences undertaken by the MDC and during the period 2000 to 2005 included the 37 Parliamentary Electoral challenge cases, the Presidential Electoral challenge (the trial of which commenced in November 2003), the Treason trial defence, the defence of numerous other criminal prosecutions brought against members of the MDC and the representation of the thousands of MDC members and supporters detained by the Mugabe regime. The Committee is also responsible for the drafting of the MDC's Justice Policy.

World Council member of Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament (www.pnnd.org)

Patron – Zimbabwe Golf Union

Former positions held

Trustee, Legal Resources Foundation from 1986 to 2007 (The Legal Resources Foundation is the umbrella body which controls the work of legal project centres throughout Zimbabwe, including the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre).

Director of Safdem (The Southern African Democracy Resource Bank – a civil society organization funded by the Norwegian and Canadian governments which has established a resource bank of southern African human rights activists/professional who can be deployed on UN international missions).

Shadow Justice Minister, Zimbabwe for MDC.

Elder, Bulawayo Presbyterian Church.

Member of Parliament, Bulawayo South Constituency (June 2000 to March 2008).

Chairperson and member of Parliamentary Select Committee for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary affairs (2000 to 2003).

February 2009