**CITATION: HARVEY PHILIP DALE**

Harvey Dale is Professor and Director of the National Centre on Philanthropy and Law at the New York University Law School in New York, where he has been a faculty member since 1977. Professor Dale is a recognised expert and leader in the field of nonprofit law, and has advised groups in Australia, China, Mexico, Russia, the United Kingdom, and South Africa regarding legal issues affecting nonprofit organizations and the formulation of laws governing these organizations. Prof Dale holds a BA from Cornell University and a JD Cum Laude from Harvard Law School, and is a member of the American Academic of Arts and Sciences.

It is Professor Dale’s role in the founding and development of Atlantic Philanthropies that has had a particular impact on South Africa and the University of the Witwatersrand. Charles Feeney, one of the founders of the Duty Free Shoppers Group chain of airport shops, established The Atlantic Philanthropies in 1984 by donating more than $600 million to create the Atlantic Foundation and the related Atlantic Trust. As he wished to remain anonymous, he approached Dale, then a New York University tax law professor, to assist. Professor Dale conceived of the plan to ensure that the gift remained a secret and to operate the endowment without the annual public disclosures required of American foundations. Feeney believed in giving while living – and would plan to spend out the endowment by 2016. His identity became public in 1997.

Professor Dale served as Founding President and a Director of The Atlantic Philanthropies and was for approximately 20 years (until September 1, 2001) the President and CEO of the Atlantic Foundation (one of the ten largest philanthropic foundations in the world).

Atlantic became involved in South Africa largely on the initiative of Professor Dale who was particularly interested in how Atlantic could promote black lawyers, of which there were very few in the early 1990s, to advance the far-reaching rights of the newly-approved Constitution. To this end Atlantic funded the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University on projects relating to black lawyers, as well as training of judges on human rights issues.

Between 1991–2013, Atlantic invested $355.5 million to seek justice, promote better health care and greater health equity, and deliver services that support transformative social change, foster human rights and dignity in South Africa, and fulfil the promise of the democratic Constitution. About two thirds of this went to health, and most of the balance to human rights and reconciliation. The University of the Witwatersrand Foundation was one of the top three beneficiaries of Atlantic Philanthropies in South Africa receiving $18 820 055 in 40 grants between 1998-2013.

These grants funded, inter alia, human rights research and litigation at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, including the AIDS Law Project and the establishment of the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER).

Professor Dale was also instrumental in Atlantic’s larger involvement in law, constitutionalism and public interest initiatives in South Africa. This included early projects to build the new legal system, by supporting training and career development for lawyers, especially black professionals, and solidifying the role of nonprofit and community-based organisations to advance the rights in the new Constitution. Atlantic supported disadvantaged South Africans in securing their rights, and holding the government and private sector accountable for ensuring the Constitution’s standards and obligations. Examples include the AIDS Law Project (at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies and the Treatment Action Campaign who achieved the rollout of antiretroviral therapy to reduce mother to child transmission of HIV); the gay and lesbian community who were able to secure substantial rights though litigation; and the Legal Resources Centre whose work on land, housing and socio-economic rights has assisted impoverished and disadvantaged communities across the country.

Professor Dale also holds leadership positions in many charitable organisations working for human rights and social justice. Amongst others, he is a trustee of the Legal Resources Trust and on the board of the US based organization, the Southern African Legal Services Foundation, which supports the Legal Resources Centre. He is also Chair of the Friends of the South African Constitutional Court (USA) Inc.

It is to recognize Professor Dale’s commitment to democracy and social justice in South Africa, and globally, that the University of the Witwatersrand awards him this honorary doctorate.