



Professor Christiena Maria (Riana) van der Bank, a renowned human rights academic, assumed her responsibility as Executive Dean: Human Sciences with effect from 1 January 2007.

Prof van der Bank has enriched herself with a range of Legal qualifications including inter alia, A BA (Cum Laude), B Proc, LLB LLM and LLD in which she researched “The Borders of the freedom of the Press, in South African Law”. She was awarded the price for the best B Proc graduate.

Prof van der Bank was admitted as an advocate to the High Court of South Africa in 2001. She joined VUT in 1996 and became an Associate Professor in 2004 and received a Full Professorship in 2011.

Prof van der Bank currently serves as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences and is very involved in a number of committees at Vaal University of Technology as well as external professional bodies such as the National Patent Examination Board. She is a senior fellow of the World Business Marketing and Management Development organization. In 2008 she was recognized by her peers as one of the 2000 top intellectuals in academia in the world. She is currently a Deputy Director General for Africa appointed by International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England in 2013.

Her publications focus on Human Rights. She is the author of 3 Chapters in Books, and she published more than 62 papers in accredited and non-accredited journals. She also presented 25 papers and participated in numerous national and international conferences. She serves as the chief editor of the Journal of law and on the editorial board of the Conexão Ciência Journal.

Prof van der Bank is married to David van der Bank and is a dedicated and loving mother in her family which she values as core to her happiness and life.