

# **court reporting (Southern African)**

Report court cases like a pro

**fraycollege**  
of Communications

# court reporting (Southern African)

Duration: 5 weeks online eLearning / 1-2 days training facilitated online or in persons

The courtroom is one of the first places you might be sent as a junior reporter, but it's also one of the toughest types of reporting to get right, with the highest stakes. Mistakes made when reporting from court will cost you and your company, potentially leading to lawsuits, press code complaints, fines and even imprisonment. But you don't have to learn these lessons the hard way. Tap into the experience of veteran court reporter, Carmel Rickard, to equip yourself with everything you need to know to tackle reporting on court proceedings. This court covers both courts in South Africa and other Southern African countries.

## OUTCOMES AND GOALS

- How the legal system fits into government
- Understanding the different actors, documents and findings
- Understanding what makes it to court and what other solutions are possible
- Behaving in line with court conventions
- Distinguishing what is allowed and not allowed when covering court cases
- Applying for media access to the courts
- Following legal process from complaint to sentencing and appeals
- Jurisdiction and understanding how the courts work together
- Public interest, precedence and case law
- Access and reporting restrictions
- Beyond the courtroom – finding bigger stories

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Young reporters are sent to court to earn their stripes to introduce them to the basics of national law and to introduce them to numerous story ideas.

Reporting from court, when handled in a legally and ethically sound way, can catapult your career and fast-track your professional trajectory. Many of the top journalists in the country (and the world) first made their mark reporting from the courtroom. To follow in their footsteps, however, you will need to be familiar with courtroom protocols, the structure of various courts and the rules and regulations that govern reporting from and about different kinds of court proceedings.

The High Courts don't always have the same rules as the Magistrate's Courts, and a criminal case is a different kettle of fish than a civil proceeding. A rape trial cannot be covered in the same way as a commercial crimes case, and the rules are not the same when reporting on children who are accused of a crime as they are for reporting on adults.

fraycollege partnered with legendary court reporter, Carmel Rickard, to produce an eLearning experience aimed at beginner and mid-career journalists in Southern Africa. We've developed this course to help you navigate the obstacles that many journalists trip over while trying to find their feet when reporting from court. We've highlighted some common mistakes so that you don't have to make them.

By the end of this training, you will have both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills to report from any courtroom. You will also know how to make these stories relevant beyond the confines of the courtroom, ensuring that the impact of your work doesn't end the moment you step outside the courthouse.

The short course consists of four modules, an assignment and a final test. The course can be completed at your own pace, with up to six weeks to complete all six modules.

*The facilitated version of this course is available for most Southern African countries.*

# media courses

Master key media concepts and gain in-depth knowledge that will help you keep pace with the latest trends and new technologies

## LEADERSHIP

- Media Management

## FUNDAMENTALS

- Presenting Story Ideas
- Research for Journalists
- Mastering the Press Code
- Writing for Journalists
- Social media for journalists

## WRITING

- Writing Winning Proposals
- Column Writing

## REPORTING

- Court Reporting (South Africa)
- Specialist reporting

## LAW AND ETHICS

- Introduction to Media Law
- Online Ethics for Journalists

## AUDIO AND VISUAL

- The Ultimate Radio Sales Course
- Introduction to Podcasting



### CUSTOMISED COURSE PROGRAMS

We know your organisation is unique, and that means your training should be too! At **fraycollege** we will work closely with you to customise training programmes, offering you tailor-made interventions that meet your personal and organisational learning needs.



### SETA FUNDING FOR YOU OR YOUR TEAM

**fraycollege** deals with five Sector Education and Training Authorities (Setas) and can assist you in obtaining funding for your leadership and communication training programmes.



### GROUP DISCOUNTS ON SELECTED COURSES

Take advantage of our special group rates and discounts when you book three or more spots on a course and ensure that your entire team reaps the benefit of our world-class **fraycollege** training programmes.

# about **fray**college

**fray**college provides short courses and qualifications in journalism, as well as communication training to all sectors and industries across the African continent and beyond. Over the past 14 years, we have refined our programmes to ensure our learners gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills in line with national, regional and international best practice.

Our **fray**college facilitators are qualified industry experts with a passion for learning, training and information sharing. The college operates under pan-African impact communication firm **frayintermedia**, which boasts media specialists and a newsroom that produces traditional and new media content.

Our dynamic training courses are offered both online and in person, based on the latest learning trends and developments within the South African and international training sphere. The **fray**college trainers and facilitators have worked with groups and individuals for more than a decade across 31 African and Middle Eastern countries, training participants in journalism, communication and social media skills in line with the latest global trends and standards.

## our **team**



### **Paula Fray**

CEO

Paula Fray has worked in media for more than three decades as a journalist, editor, trainer, and media manager. Paula was the first female editor of the Saturday Star newspaper in South Africa. She is currently the managing director of the pan-African media training organisation **frayintermedia**, which she founded in 2005. The organisation has trained journalists, media leaders, civil society organisations, government officials and corporate leaders during its decade-long existence.

She is President of The New Humanitarian news agency, a board member of Africa Check and of Accountability Lab SA. She is a Print and Digital Media SA fellow and a public representative on the Press Council of South Africa.

Paula graduated with a BJourn degree from Rhodes University and has a Woman and Law Certificate from UNISA. A recipient of the prestigious Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University, she is a former member of the Nieman Foundation Advisory Board at Harvard.

### **Dr Sandra Roberts**

Academic Head



Dr Roberts heads **fraycollege**. She has worked in media development for over 18 years and was lead developer of the learning materials and contributed to the EISA of the new Journalism Certificate. Dr Roberts specialises in the development and application of practical journalism and communications training.

Most recently she was research and academic head of **frayintermedia**, before which she was the Centre Manager of the Centre of Excellence in Human Development at the University of the Witwatersrand. She was previously the Writing Unit Manager of the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism and the Head of Research of Media Monitoring Africa. Dr Roberts has her degree in Information Science, her honours and Masters (cum laude) in Sociology and her D Litt et. Phil in Sociology.

# our clients



CAXTON



OLDMUTUAL



**fray**college has been an excellent sounding board for Media24 in terms of strategy, the approach we should be taking in terms of learning and development. They have become a true business partner as they understand our organisation and its needs so well

Adam Cooke  
Head: Media24 Academy  
Media 24

fraycollege, has provided Soul City with training for story writing, column and formal report writing as well as web and online skills. They have provided these high-quality services timeously and at an effective cost.

Phinah Kodisang  
Chief Executive Officer  
Soul City

fraycollege is a professional and efficient organisation and we recommend their services, we have been more than happy with the service we've received

Kate Skinner  
Executive Director  
SANEF

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