

Curriculum Vitae Prof. Dr L.C.A. (Leon) Verstappen

1. Name

Surname: Verstappen
Christian names: Leonardus Catharina Antonius
First name: Leon
Born: Meijel (Limburg) on 8 March 1965
Nationality: Dutch

2. Key qualifications / Fields of Expertise

Professor Verstappen has been working since 1990 as (assistant and later full) professor at two universities, developing new curricula and learning methods, giving lectures on different legal subjects, developing and conducting research, and supervising (PhD-)students. He is leading expert in developing university programmes and professional training for notaries (Radboud University of Nijmegen, University of Groningen, Grotius Academy, Foundation for professional training of notaries 'SBN').

Professor Verstappen has been working in notary legal practice since 1989, making notarial deeds, and since his appointment as full professor of private law, especially notarial law, supporting legal procedures and advising clients of the same law firm (Hekkelman advocates and notaries in Arnhem/Nijmegen). He has been appointed as deputy judge at the Court of Appeal in Leeuwarden/Arnhem and currently at the Court of Appeal in The Hague, and he advises legal professionals.

He has profound managing skills: as Dean of the Faculty of Law, as Head of the Department of Private and Notarial Law, as associate partner/deputy notary at a large multidisciplinary law firm and as chair of The Land Portal Foundation (www.landportal.org).

Professor Verstappen is a leading expert in private and notarial law (family law and property law), in terms of theoretical and practical knowledge (approx. 600 lectures and speeches, partly as key speaker, 200 scientific and professional articles, 100 books and contributions to books). He holds positions as editor in chief of a considerable amount of book series and journals.

Professor Verstappen is an expert in legal knowledge systems (developed a new notary knowledge system, practical manuals for notaries, to which approximately 80 authors contribute and which is distributed among notary offices in the Netherlands; it contains four comprehensive manuals).

One of his major achievements is the drafting of four bills on behalf of the Dutch ministry of Safety and Justice and three political parties of the Dutch Second Chamber of Parliament on the modernisation matrimonial property law. All four laws have been accepted in parliament; the last one took effect as from 1st of January 2018. This project lasted over 20 years. Currently, he is coordinating the drafting of 6 bills on the reform of parts of Dutch real estate law, of which he drafted two himself.

Professor Verstappen has initiated/(co-)founded a number of (inter)national initiatives and networks, such as: Groningen Centre for Law and Governance, Netherlands Institute for Law and Governance, International Alliance on Land Tenure and Administration (IALTA), Foundation The Land Portal, Expropriation Expert Group, Dutch-Belgium Research Community on Family & Law. IALTA is member of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

His international activities concern land rights issues. He participates in the multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Land Governance (MSDLG) organised by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, case team Due Diligence Procedures with respect to Land Governance: Responsibilities for private sector and financial institutions in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). In the context of his interest in 'Land', he and his team organised in cooperation with scholars from South Africa three international conferences on 'Rethinking expropriation law'. Two books were published in 2015, both double blind peer-reviewed and with contributions from legal scholars in this field from all over the world. As a follow-up of these conferences, two of his PhD researchers conducted extensive empirical and comparative research under his supervision into the legal procedures and safeguards regarding expropriation and forced eviction in 50 countries. The first study is published in 2017 (Björn Hoops, The legitimate justification of expropriation, Juta Publishers) the second will be published in 2018. Moreover, he founded and chairs Foundation 'The Land Portal', a Dutch legal entity that takes care of the website www.landportal.org, which is world leading in resource for information, data and knowledge-exchange on land governance issues. This initiative is funded by several organisations, which all can be found on the website, in particular the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Government. The social impact is to improve the quality of decision-making by making all types of data and information on land issues easily accessible to the international land community.

One of the main current activities is to develop tools to implement the VGGT. The goal is to develop a normative framework and a procedural protocol on the valuation of land in the context of compensation for expropriation. The societal impact is to improve the position of poor and vulnerable people worldwide, especially in developing countries.

3. Educational record

- Secondary education: Gymnasium-B, St. Thomascollege in Venlo (1977-1983).
- University: Radboud University Nijmegen (former Catholic University Nijmegen), Law faculty (1983-1989); Dutch Law and Dutch notary Law. February 29th 1996 PhD (doctor in law) on the thesis 'Universal succession in title' ('Rechtsopvolging onder algemene titel').

4. Employment record

University

- From January 1990 to 1998: part-time assistant professor section Notary Law at the former Catholic University Nijmegen, now Radboud University Nijmegen.
- 1 December 1998 to date: professor of private law, especially notarial law at the Department for Private and Notarial Law of the Faculty of Law University of Groningen (0,8 fte).
- From 1 September 2006 to 1 September 2010: Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Groningen.

- From 1 September 2010 to 1 September 2014: Academic Director Groningen Centre for Law and Governance.
- From 1 September 2016 to date: head of the Department of Private Law and Notary Law (0,8fte).

Practical experience

- From 1 August 1989 to 1 October 1991: associate at Dijkstra-de Graaff, notaries in Apeldoorn.
- From 1 October 1991 to date: associate and advisor at Hekkelman, advocates and notaries in Arnhem and Nijmegen.

5. Secondary positions

- Editorial positions
 - Editor “Modellen voor de Rechtspraak”
 - Editor “Jurisprudentiebundel personen- en familierecht”
 - Editor-in-chief practical manuals for notaries
 - Editor-in-chief “Tekst & Commentaar Erfrecht”, a book on inheritance law
 - Editor “Weekblad voor Privaatrecht, Notariaat en Registratie”
 - Editor-in-chief “Netherlands Institute for Law and Governance”-series (NILG-series)
 - Editor NILG-sub-series on Family and Law
 - Editor NILG-sub-series on Real estate, environment and law
 - Editor open access journal “Family & Law”
 - Editor, Rethinking Expropriation Law series (Expropriation Expert Group)
 - Annotator “Nederlandse Jurisprudentie”
- Other secondary positions
 - Legal advisor to legal professionals
 - Chief lecturer of the Foundation for Professional Training of Notaries, section Family Law (Stichting Beroepsopleiding Notariaat, ‘SBN’)
 - Deputy-judge of the Court of Appeal Leeuwarden/Arnhem and later Court of Appeal The Hague
 - Board member of the Foundation Gewin Storm de Grave trust
 - Secretary of the Foundation of Product History (Stichting voor Produktgeschiedenis, formerly Stichting Industrial History and Design) (non-remunerated)
 - Member of the board of governors of the Grotius Academy (Stichting Grotius Academie) (non-remunerated)
 - Member of the Supervisory Board of the Foundation for the advancement of Notarial Science in Amsterdam (Stichting tot Bevordering der Notariële Wetenschap) (non-remunerated)
 - Chair Trust Foundation Practical Notarial Manuals (Stichting Beheer Auteursrechten Praktijkhandboeken Notariaat) (non-remunerated)

- Co-founder and member of the Board/academic director from 2009 to 2014 of the Netherlands Institute for Law and of the Governance and the Groningen Centre for Law and Governance (non-remunerated)
- Chair of the International Alliance on Law and Governance (IALTA, www.ialtanetwork.org) (non-remunerated)
- Chair of the Foundation The Land Portal (Land Portal, www.landportal.org) (non-remunerated)
- Fellow of the European Law Institute (non-remunerated)
- Member of the Board of Advice of the Association of Notary Specialists on Real Estate (Vereniging Notariële Registergoed Specialisten, www.nrs-notaris.nl) (non-remunerated)
- Member of the Board of Advice of the Young Property Lawyers Forum (YPLF, yplf.net) (non-remunerated)
- Member of the Board of the Dutch Association for Comparative Law (non-remunerated)

6. PhD projects

Realised PhD projects subject	
1. Wilbert Kolkman	Debts of the inheritance (2006)
2. Gert van Rijssen	Transfer of contracts (2006)
3. Hisashi Owada	Doctor honoris causa (2010)
4. Birgit Snijder-Kuipers	Transition of legal entities (2010)
5. Yongjun Zhao	China's rural development challenges: land tenure reform and local institutional experimentation (2010)
6. Dolf Plaggemars	Competition between notaries (2011)
7. Noortje Vegter	Association of home owners (2012)
8. Hans ter Haar	Asset management of minors (2013)
9. Fokke Jan Vonck	Leasehold (2013)
10. Irene Visser	Foreclosure (2013)
11. Ronald Brinkman	Fideicommiss in notary practice (2014)
12. Lan Huong Nguyen	Land tenure security for agricultural growth and rural poverty reduction in China and Vietnam (2014)
13. Linlin Li	Transformation of the law on farmland transfer in China (2016)

Realised PhD projects subject	
14. Martijn Albers	Taxation on real rights (2017)
15. Peter Ng'ang'a Mburu	Modernisation of Land registration in Kenya (2017)
16. Bjorn Hoops	Legitimate Justification of expropriation (2017)

1. Nicholas Tagliarino	Comparative study on expropriation	2018
2. Rutger Timmer	Landregistratie en third party protection	2018
3. Leon van den Broeke	The law on funerals and religion	2018
4. Michiel de Koe	Valuation and leasehold	2019
5. Arie Mes	3-D property	2019
6. Peter Blokland	Exclusion clause	2021
7. Jan Hein Lieber	Division of property	2021
8. Tidde Bos	Risks of transactions and the role of the notary	2021
9. Joe van Anken	Fixation principle and insolvency of an estate	2021
10. Arnaud Wilod Versprille	Company law	2022

7. Languages

- Dutch: fluent, native speaker
- English: proficient in speaking, reading and writing
- German: proficient in speaking, reading and writing
- Spanish: basic

8. Awards

In 2009 elected by peers as the best notarial lawyer of the Netherlands