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Dan Mafora
Capture in the Court
In Defence of Judges and the Constitution

Lawyer and legal researcher Dan Mafora looks at how populist rhetoric has entered the South African legal arena, and why this is happening now. Politicians have in recent years grown their following by painting the Constitution as an obstacle to true freedom, trying to sway judgments using politics. Mafora shows how this happens in the politics cycle as taps close on fraud and corruption and the masses turn apathetic in the face of government failure.

Disinformation campaigns are used to sway public opinion. The era of Bell Pottinger is not behind us... These campaigns exploit the public's lack of knowledge and with anti-intellectualism pervading every facet of our society, it has become acceptable to attack our South African judges and courts to settle political scores.

What does this mean for the future and stability of our democracy and our ability to hold politicians accountable? Mafora illuminates the true dangers of this moment and proposes ways in which we can change course.

About the author

Dan Mafora is the senior researcher at the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution. He previously worked for the Constitutional Court of South Africa. He is also a master's student working on his thesis in constitutional law and theory at the University of Cape Town, a city he now calls home.

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