

**The Office of the Jurisprudent:  
The Status and Care of the Dying and  
the Dead**

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**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements of the  
degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 1 January 2018**

## **CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP**

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as part of the collaborative doctoral degree and/or fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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During my enrolment, I have published the following works (either alone or with others). Some of these have been referred to in the text of the thesis. It is clear from the references where I have done so.

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## **Abstract**

The central concern of this thesis is the investigation of a contemporary ethic of the office of the jurisperit – that is, someone who cares for the conduct of lawful relations or ways of belonging to law. This thesis investigates the ways in which jurisperits understand their office and the conduct of office and links two questions: ‘How is it possible to die well before the common law?’ and ‘How are the dead placed and cared for before the law?’. It responds to these questions in three ways. First by developing an ethic of office through analysing the competing repertoires, commitments and limits of the conduct of the office of the common law jurisperit. Second, by analysing the repertoires of legal action in the care of the dying and dead. Third, by evaluating the *persona* (character) of the jurisperit. This thesis is presented as a contribution both to the elaboration of an ethic of office of the jurisperit and to developing forms of rhetorically inflected jurisprudence directed towards the conduct of lawful relations in the dying and the dead.