

## RHC Equity Keynote Speaker: Mark Heywood



Mark Heywood is a South African human rights and social justice activist. His activism in civil society spans the whole of the democratic period in South Africa. In 1994, Mark joined the AIDS Law Project (ALP) and headed ALP between 1997 and 2010. Later he co-founded SECTION27, a public interest law centre that seeks to influence, develop and use the law to protect, promote and advance human rights, which incorporated the ALP in 2010. He was also one of the founders of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in 1998, the AIDS and Rights Alliance of Southern Africa (ARASA), Corruption Watch and Save South Africa. Mark stepped down as Executive Director of SECTION27 in May 2019. He is now dividing his time between a position as the founding co-editor of a new civil society/social justice

segment of the South Africa's most widely read online news source, the Daily Maverick, Maverick Citizen, and research on activism and strategies to ensure the enforceability of socio-economic rights and the alignment of economic policy with state duties to realise these rights.