Bar news

Transkei

Contributed by Mathobela Sishuba, Umtata Bar

The last year turned out to be an interesting period at our Bar.

The Bench

In the last year three of our members were elevated to the Bench. They are: Judges CN Jafta (Transkei), ZS Peko (Ciskei), and M Maya (Transkei).

Acting appointments

The following members acted as judges in the various divisions: LP Pakade (Ciskei), SM Mbenenge (Transkei and Durban), PHS Zilwa (Transkei and Ciskei), and NK Dukada (Transkei).

New members

New members who joined our Bar after completing pupillage are: FS Gagela, AM Jozana, NM Hinana.

Bar Council

The new Bar Council consists of SM Mbenenge (chairman), PHS Zilwa (deputy chairman), MH Sishuba (honorary secretary), NR Mtshabe (treasurer), KD Qitsi (administrative secretary), SD Majokweni and PV Msiwa (additional members).

General

Our society congratulates our acting Judge President R Madlanga who has acted in the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court. A word of welcome is also extended to Judge Irma Schoeman who was permanently appointed to our division from the Bloemfontein Bar. We welcome back our current acting Judge President Selwyn Miller from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

North-West

Contributed by John Stander, North-West Bar

End of year function

Our end of year function was held during November 2000 at the Mmabatho Tusk Hotel. The management and staff of that hotel excelled in both the setting and menu for the occasion. The guest speaker was Judge JH Hugo from Kwa Zulu Natal Bench (Pietermaritzburg). He gave a stimulating speech incorporating his ideas for streamlining the criminal justice system in our country. In attendance were members of the Bar and also members of the local Bench. These included Judge President MW Friedman, Judges J Khumalo, N Hendler, B Nkabinde and M Leeuw. Judges Nkabinde and Leeuw (both women) are former members of this Bar.

The judiciary

Judge Khumalo is at present on long leave whilst Judge Nkabinde has been seconded to the Labour Court.

Membership

Denis Kneen has resigned from our association and is going into business. We wish him well with his future venture. Ronnie Hendricks and his wife, Nonnie, were blessed with the arrival of Ronald Deon (Junior) on 25 January 2001. We congratulate them both.

Pupils

Currently there are no pupils. Although we received several inquiries regarding pupillage at our Bar, no formal applications have been received. This is particularly worrying because there seems to be a lack of newcomers to the profession in this area.

New Bar Council

The Bar Council for the 2001 is as follows: LCJ Maree SC (chairman), OK Chwaro (vice-chairman), and JS Stander (honorary secretary).

Chambers

As in the bigger centres, we have also experienced increased violent crime in our area. This has involved personal attacks on members of our Bar, and also theft from within our chambers. As a result a move from central Mafikeng may be considered. One of the premises proposed has been to relocate to the business section of the Leopard Park Golf Estate. Not only would this be closer to the High Court and the magistrate's court, but it is also situated on the secured golf estate. It is also in close proximity to the Mmabatho Tusk Hotel and other conference facilities. As you may have guessed, these premises have been suggested by the golfing sector at our Bar who advance the argument that the ability to consult with clients while playing nine holes of golf, and thereafter enjoying refreshments at the fully appointed club house on the estate would enhance our practices,

Downturn in work

We notice with some disquiet the shrinkage of the North Cape Bar, and also "Sarah Raal's" suggestions on what to do while waiting for briefs as published in 2000(4) *Advocate* 32. It is unfortunate to report that we also are experiencing a downturn in the number of briefs received, perhaps as a result of attorneys taking over more of the motion court work. We believe however that the failure on the part of the Department of Justice to extend properly the jurisdiction of the so-called Bophuthatswana Provincial Division to cover the entire North-West Province is mostly to blame.

Pretoria

Bygedra deur Henk Havenga, Pretoria Balie

Sedert die vorige uitgawe is drie van ons voormalige lede ingehuldig as regters, nl Nico Coetzee, Anna-Marié de Vos en Dion Basson. Veels geluk, die Pretoria Balie is trots op u!

Waarnemende regters

Die volgende lede het die afgelope termyn waargeneem as regters: EG Preller SC, FJ Jooste SC, E Jordaan SC, RD Claassen SC, WPN Sceales SC, MNS Sithole SC, WRC Prinsloo SC, H Goosen SC, B van den Heever SC en Q Pelser SC.

Pupille

Elf van die vorige inname se suksesvolle kandidate het begin praktiseer as advokate by die Pretoria Balie. Gedurende die Februarie 2001 inname het 'n verdere 33 kandidate met hulle pupilskap begin.

Bedankings

Die volgende lede het die afgelope kwartaal bedank: O Salmon, JHP Hattingh,