

Eastern Cape

Contributed by
I J Smuts SC,
Grahamstown

Function

At the end of March the Grahamstown Bar held a cocktail party to bid farewell to Andrew Lang SC, who has retired. A most enjoyable function was attended at the Albany Club by Bar members and their wives, and a number of judges, including Lex Mpati JA, whose elevation to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Appeal at the end of last year brought the number of former members of the Grahamstown Bar serving on that Bench to three.

Pupillage

Charles Stamper who successfully completed pupillage last year commenced practice in the first term this year, and Gerald Bloem opened chambers in Grahamstown in May.

Jurisdiction

The Eastern Cape high court faces the interesting prospect of encountering (albeit probably very seldom) the court of another division sitting in its jurisdiction. In terms of a Bill tabled recently, the Ciskei high court is to be empowered to sit anywhere in the province of the Eastern Cape. In the light of the fact that parliament has not found the time in the past seven years to discharge its constitutionally-imposed duty to rationalise the superior courts, it is extraordinary that it should have time to tamper with the sitting arrangements of a court which issued fewer than 300 items of civil process last year.

Johannesburg

Contributed by
Pieter Pauw SC,
Johannesburg

Bar news

Accommodation

By the end of June more than two-thirds of the members of the Johannesburg Bar will be in Sandton. The common room in the CBD closed for lunches on 18 May. At present only snacks, tea and coffee are served. As regards the library, it was resolved at a general meeting on 3 May that there would be two libraries, one in Sandton and the other in the CBD. Both will be equipped in a manner which fairly addresses the requirements of the members who will practise in the two centres. The library committee will be responsible for the allocation of resources towards funding for acquisitions and maintenance. This is subject, again, to the approval by the Bar Council. This was the last time (after 40 years) that a general meeting would be held in the common room.

Pupils

Forty pupils underwent pupillage during the first semester. At the time of going to press the results of examinations have not been obtained. Pupils, however, are not satisfied with the short period of pupillage: they started on 1 February and the examinations commenced on 10 May. This effectively meant that, before sitting for the exams, they had three months of pupillage. A large number of the pupils are computer-literate, and did their own typing. A question which arose, and will have to be addressed by the GCB Examination Board, is whether pupils should in future be allowed to "write" their examinations electronically.

Acting appointments

A number of our colleagues held acting appointments during the second term.

New silks

Fanie Grobler, Vincent Maleka, Ros Rosenberg, Glenn Turner and David Unterhalter (in alphabetical order) have been recommended for silk. The criteria have been tightened: only in special circumstances will a candidate be recommended if he or she has been at the Bar for under 12 years.

Natal

Contributed by
Shelley Walker,
Durban

Acting judicial appointments

Aboobaker SC, Richings ASC, Van Zyl SC, Moola SC and Ms C J Thomas held acting appointments in Natal during the second term. Acting appointments for the third term were not available at time of going to press.

Pupillage

Twenty pupils sat the Bar examinations in May this year – eighteen in Durban and two in Pietermaritzburg.

Comings and goings

VM Ponnann left the Durban Bar recently to take up an appointment to the Eastern Cape Bench, after holding an acting appointment there for some time. We extend our congratulations to him and our best wishes for the future.

Anne Gordon, Franci Cantatore, Farhana Docrat, Jackie Schaffer, Sherry Premjee, Beena Harrichund, Steve Janson, Michael Lasich and Dumisane Nene have left the Durban Bar. Anthony Brink, Pit Joubert, Andre Ludick and Patrick Dickin have left the Pietermaritzburg Bar.

Reshma Athmaram has rejoined the Durban Bar after a short absence, and Gideon Scheltema and Peter Rowan have relocated to the Durban Bar from Pietermaritzburg.

Pietermaritzburg

Having completed their pupillage at the end of 2000, Louis Barnard and Zina Anastasiou have joined the Pietermaritzburg Bar. During the first intake of 2001 two pupils namely Sash Kapoor Maharaj and Ruan van Rooyen have completed their pupillage and passed their examinations without the need to attend the oral examination. After leaving the Bar, Anton Grové has sadly passed away. Anton van Zyl SC, Faizel Moola SC and Rishie Seegobin have held acting appointments

Noord-Kaap

Bygedra deur Japie
Schreuder,
Kimberley

Waarnemende regters

Daar was geen waarnemende aanstellings gedurende die eerste termyn van 2001 nie.

Regshulp

Mnr Bert Viljoen is onlangs aangestel as die direkteur van die Kimberley Regsentrum. Alle aanduidings is daar dat hy sal toesien dat regshulpwerk, sover moontlik, op 'n beter en meer georganiseerde wyse in die Noord-Kaap hanteer word. Die Balie het reeds sy steun toegesê aan mnr Viljoen se pogings. Dit mag dalk tot gevolg hê dat rekenings weer betaal word.

Sosiaal

Daar was, soos elke jaar, weer groot entoetiese vir ons jaarlikse Baliejag wat gedurende die naweek van 12