

The judiciary

Honorary doctorate: Justice Pius Langa

An honorary degree of doctor of law was awarded to Justice Pius Langa, Deputy President of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, by the University of Cape Town at a graduation ceremony on 22 June 2001. In his presentation, Jeremy Gauntlett SC, a member of the university council, said, *inter alia* "... [His] life is marked by a rise to leadership in the legal profession and ultimately the judiciary in which he has overcome considerable adversity ... His practice reflected the struggle against the apartheid order, and his clientele included the underprivileged, civic bodies, and trade unions ... Justice Langa has written a number of leading judgments of the Constitutional Court. He has provided important leadership both within the legal profession and wider South Africa society. His involvement throughout his life to the cause of human rights and combatting injustice and discrimination has been extensive. He enjoys the widest respect for his intellectual and moral leadership, and his uncompromising commitment to the role of the independent judiciary as a cornerstone of constitutional democracy."

Zimbabwe

The GCB has followed with great concern events in Zimbabwe. From time to time it has issued statements of support for the profession and the judiciary in Zimbabwe, expressing concern regarding the harassment of the media and political opposition. The GCB chairman has also written (without result) to the SA Minister of Justice, asking that the matter be taken up with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President. When in London recently he discussed the situation with Roy Amlott QC (current chair of the Bar of England and Wales), Peter Gross QC (chair of its international relations committee), and Lord Peter Goldsmith QC (chair of the IBA investigations committee, and now British Attorney-General).

More recently letters have been addressed to the president of the Law Society of Zimbabwe and the chairman of the Zimbabwe Bar in which the GCB asked the profession how it might best assist in the light of the worsening situation. The answer was: by maintaining interest and support, and communicating concern to our own government.

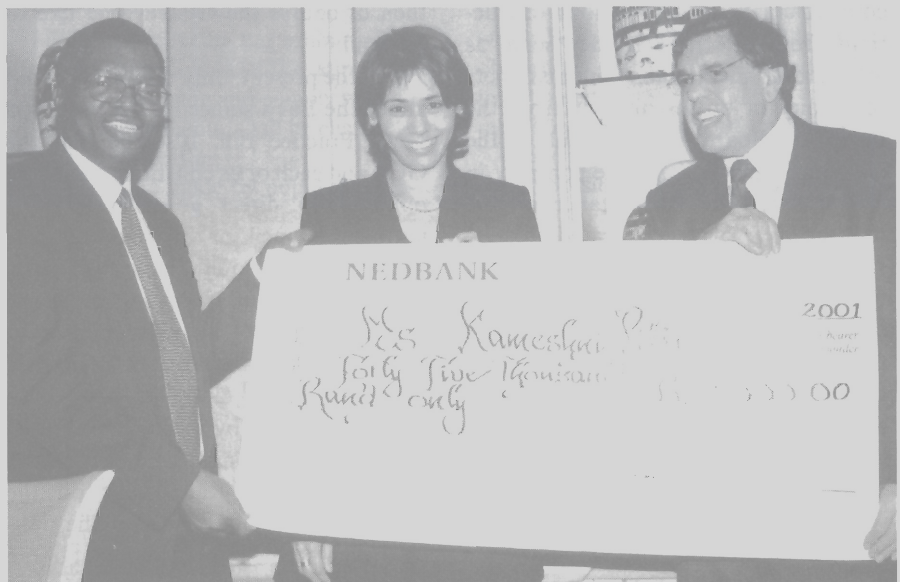
GCB awards

Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award



Justice Arthur Chaskalson, president of the Constitutional Court, and the second recipient of the Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award for Service to the Law, at the handing over ceremony. The Kentridge award was set up by the GCB in 2000. The first award was bestowed posthumously on the late Chief Justice Ismail Mahomed.

Pius Langa Scholarship



The Pius Langa Scholarship for 2001 was awarded to Kameshni Pillay. Here she is with Justice Pius Langa, deputy president of the Constitutional Court, and Prof Michael Katz of the Nedcor Group, members of the selection committee. See the full report in 2001 August Advocate 2.