

Bar news

Port Elizabeth

Contributed by Peter Kroon

New members

Of our seven pupils, five passed the Bar examination and have taken up chambers as from 15 December 2005. They are:

Jèan Neppen BCom LLB, formerly a professional assistant with attorneys Goldberg & De Villiers Inc.

Melanie Badenhorst LLB (UPE), who completed pupillage directly out of university.

Charl van Rooyen BJuris LLB (UPE), formerly an attorney practising for his own account as Van Rooyen Attorneys, Port Elizabeth.

Helen Ayers BJuris LLB LLM (Tax), formerly an attorney, public prosecutor and most recently, a legal advisor for Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concession.

Jonathan Partington LLB (UPE), who completed pupillage directly out of university.

Pupils

The Port Elizabeth Bar has three new pupils for 2006. They all graduated from the University of Port Elizabeth (now known as the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University). They are:

Badrika Naran LLB;

Nathi Gaisa LLB;

David Smith LLB (he also worked for a year at the Human Rights Commission).

Bar Council members

At the annual general meeting held on 19 January 2006 the following were elected as members of the Bar Council:

Pretoria

Bygedra deur Henk Havenga

A good start to 2006

The teacher-training weekend of the GCB took place at the Protea Golden Gate in Clarens from 20 to 22 January 2006. As usual, the event was well attended by members of the

My experience as a young black female at the Bar

Contributed by Siphokazi Cubungu, Port Elizabeth Bar

Siphokazi Cubungu LLB (2003) is a graduate of Vista University, Port Elizabeth..

I am 26 years old and am one of two black females at the Port Elizabeth Bar.

I graduated in 2003 from Vista University, Port Elizabeth, and at times I have grave reservations about having come straight out of university to do my pupillage with no legal experience. I am convinced that that contributed to my having to repeat my pupillage. However, because of my colleagues' support here, I have started my second year as a member of this Bar.

Turning to my experiences at the Bar, I should mention at the outset that I really struggle to make a living. My personal circumstances are such that, as a young black female, there is no one in my family to support me financially. The reality is that I find myself in a position where, with little or no income for the last nine months, I continue to incur debts that need to be paid each month. This makes me very disheartened and causes me to dwell on my decision to come to the Bar.

I do, however, find consolation in two respects. First, my colleagues, both black and white, offer me much moral support. Second, I observe that there are people who have emerged from circumstances similar to mine and who are beginning to build their practices.

I have not had any experience of being discriminated against because of my colour and gender. I sometimes forget that I am a black female.

My greatest difficulty, and I can only attribute to this to perceptions about my experience, is that I am not afforded opportunities to demonstrate my talents and my willingness to work hard in a junior or any other capacity. In particular, I must regretfully state that I am yet to receive support from government institutions such as the State Attorney and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality.

Having overcome great adversity to progress this far in my career, I trust that in time these opportunities will present themselves and that, in future, I will worry less about food on the table and more about the success or otherwise of my clients.

I thank all the members of this Bar who have supported me.

Chair: Glenn Goosen SC

Members: Richard Buchanan SC, Olav Ronaasen, Nyameko Gqamana, Roshan Pillay, and Eric Menti.

Secretary: Mechelle Beneke

Acting appointments


Chris Mouton SC acted in Port Elizabeth in November 2005 and January 2006.

Glenn Goosen SC acted in Grahamstown, East London and Graaff-Reinet from 14 November to 2 December 2005. Glenn also attended the Advocacy Training

Programme as a trainer hosted by Gray's Inn, England, in October 2005.

Social

The end of term function was held on 20 September 2005, and in conjunction with this function, the Port Elizabeth Bar hosted a farewell party for Judge Michael Jennett.

Congratulations to Hendrik van der Linde SC, Barry Pienaar and Gerhard Wolmarans who recently competed in and completed the *Herald Cycle Tour*. 

Pretoria Bar who, as always, found it to be a huge success. Members of the Pretoria Bar who attended as trainers were Carlos da Silva, Walter Duba, Piet Kemp SC and Dolf Raath SC. The trainees included John Mullins SC, Freek Terblanche SC, Norman Davis, Julian du Plessis, Stephen Farell, Salie Joubert, Gerhard Naude, Thillay Pillay, Cynthia Pretorius, Piet van Niekerk and Maryke van Rooyen. Wilco Botha, Lezanne

Coetzee, Jolandi de Klerk, Alex Ellis, Caroline Foord, Peter Mkhambeni, Paul Nonyane, Liandra Taljaard, Johria van den Berg and Margie van Graan attended as 'pupils.'

Die nuwe geslag

Daar is 'n trotse tradisie by die Balie van kinders wat in hulle ouers se voetspore volg. Hierdie tradisie is voortgesit deur Alex Ellis (seun van Patrick Ellis SC)