



Advocacy Training

Sharise Weiner SC, convenor of the Advocacy Training Committee (ATC), reports that the ATC continued its ongoing relationship with Gray's Inn as well as the ATC of the Bar of England and Wales and made many more international connections over the year.

In August 2006, Ben Ford SC attended at the Keble College Advanced Advocacy Course as a trainer invited by the ATC of the Bar of England and Wales, and M Stewart attended as a junior. In October 2006, Sias Reyneke SC participated at the Gray's Inn workshop. In May 2007, Gerhard Naude and Ron Paschke, as trainers, attended at the Gray's Inn workshop on our behalf.

Appeal workshop

An appeal advocacy workshop took place in Johannesburg in October 2006.

Teacher training workshop


In January 2007, we held our annual teacher training workshop at Mont Aux Sources, Drakensberg. David Hunt QC, Geraldine Andrews QC and Charles Haddon-Cave QC of Gray's Inn attended from the ATC of the Bar of England and Wales. Our judges, Johann Kriegler, Ivor Schwartzman and Eberhard Bertelsmann, attended to assist as trainers. It was a very successful weekend in which we trained 28 new advocacy trainers and 27 pupils assisted in this.

Pupillage lecturer workshop

A very successful workshop conducted by Lorraine Chaskalson and Toni Gottlieb with lecturers from all Bars took place simultaneously with the AT workshop in the Drakensberg. It will be repeated in 2008. An additional workshop of similar nature will take place at Irene Country Lodge in June 2008 for the Johannesburg and Pretoria lecturers who were unable to attend in January at the cost of those two Bars.

Continuing legal education

The consensus amongst all Bars at the previous GCB was that CLE should remain voluntary and not be compulsory. All Bars were invited to contact Joni Raff to obtain all materials used by the Johannesburg Bar in its junior advocacy workshops. Several Bars have conducted junior advocacy workshops. The issue of CLE, other than advocacy training, has not received adequate attention, in that specific committees have not, I believe, been set up at individual Bars. This is recommended. Such committee can then work in conjunction with the AT chair in organising CLE lectures, seminars or workshops in subjects other than advocacy skills training.

Our thanks to Elize and her team as well as to Joni Raff for her able assistance this year. 

Bursary Committee: more money and new method of allocation needed

Gerrit Pretorius SC, convenor of the Bursary Committee, reports that although the pass rate was far better this year, the manner in which bursaries are allocated still remains unsatisfactory. It is suggested that consideration should be given to delegate the actual decision-making to the respective Bars. In such a case the Bursary Committee will have to decide how much money to grant to each Bar that applies for assistance.

Large bursaries

In the beginning of 2006, twenty-one pupils - from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal - applied for GCB bursaries. No pupils from the other Bars applied for bursaries. Twelve bursaries of R19 000.00 each, payable in ten monthly instalments, were awarded to the following pupils:

Pretoria: MJ Eastes, MM Mmela, TM Motshwane, RT Masevhe, MJ Ledwaba, MD Motwadi.

KwaZulu-Natal: TT Buthelezi, J Kilani.

Cape Town: SL Hilliard, LP Kubukeli,

CN Cutler, KC Brown.

Except for Ledwaba and Motwadi, all the pupils passed the Bar examinations. Buthelezi did not finish his pupillage and only received three monthly payments. Of the nine unsuccessful applicants for bursaries, three failed their examinations.

In 2007, 18 pupils from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape applied for bursaries. The amount available was R300 000. We

decided to award five 'full bursaries' of R30 000 each, and seven 'limited bursaries' of R18 000 each.

The full bursaries were awarded to:

Eastern Cape: T Loqo (Ms).

KwaZulu-Natal: N Mbatha (Ms), D Nkosi.

Pretoria: G Ledwaba, MD Motadi (Ms).

The limited bursaries were awarded to:

Eastern Cape: C Kruger (Ms), N Renou (Ms), C Schuring.

Pretoria: R van der Walt (Ms), J Milanzi, L Ngogela, MB Malatji.

Two of the six unsuccessful applicants received bursaries from the Johannesburg Bar. The others were either not recommended by their respective Bars or had sufficient means to get through pupillage. There is still R24 000 available. It is intended to use this to assist any of the applicants should they need it later in the year.

The Bursary Committee consisted of Gerrit Pretorius SC and Hamilton Maenetje of Johannesburg, and Ig Bredenkamp, and Lesego Moilisanane of Pretoria. 