

## Port Elizabeth

Contributed by Peter Kroon

### Members leaving

Elaine Botha left us at the end of last year and will be pursuing a career at the office of the Family Advocate. We wish her well.

### New members

Our five pupils for 2007 all passed their Bar examinations. The following have joined the Bar:

**Dean Niekerk BJuris LLB.** Dean practised as an attorney in East London and Port Elizabeth from 1995 to 2007. He commenced pupillage in June 2007 and became a member as of 14 December 2007.

**Dean van Niekerk BA LLB.** Dean matriculated at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown in 1986. (Having matriculated at Kingswood College in Grahamstown, the writer hopes that Dean will be able to put the fact that he attended St Andrew's behind him.) Dean completed his studies in 1994 at the University of Johannesburg. He practised as an attorney there for some eleven years before relocating to the Eastern Cape in July 2005 where he continued to practise as an attorney until commencing his pupillage in April 2007. Dean became a member on 14 December 2007.

**Anusha Rawjee BA LLB (Unisa).** Before commencing her pupillage, Anusha worked as a researcher and drafter of training material relating to the Constitution and democracy at work in South Africa for both the provincial and local government and some private tertiary institutions, as well as researching the HIV epidemic and its impact on South Africa. Her experience includes

teaching English and History, holding the position of a legal officer for a corporate and giving small businesses legal advice. Anusha is married and has a little boy who thinks advocates are the most intelligent people in the world! His mother became a member of this elite group on 14 December 2007.

**Lee-Anne Ah Shene BJuris LLB (NMMU).** Before starting her pupillage at the PE Bar, Lee-Anne worked as: legal advisor for the Provincial Administration Western Cape; legal advisor for the Provincial Commissioner of Correctional Services: Eastern Cape; full-time commissioner: Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration; part-time commissioner for CCMA.

Lee-Anne became a member of the Bar on 14 December 2007 and would like to establish a practice in labour law. She is currently enrolled at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University for the LLM (Labour Law) which will be conferred in April 2008.

Lee-Anne is married and has a daughter, Jordan, who will be four in June.

**Clarise Kruger LLB (NMMU).** Clarise commenced her pupillage in January 2007 soon after having graduated from university and became a member on 14 December 2007.

### New pupils

After considering about fifteen applications, six new pupils have been accepted. They have the following profiles: two black males, one black female, two white females and one white male.

The pupillage programme for the Eastern

Cape has been adapted to the extent that six pupil-mentoring groups have been established, comprising members from all levels of seniority at the Bar. The aim of the adapted programme is two-fold: first, to lessen the burden of pupillage on members in a small Bar, and secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it is hoped that the pupils themselves will benefit from a far broader range of experience than to which they would otherwise have access. It is further hoped that given the shortage of junior work, the adapted programme will present the pupils with a greater exposure to attorneys.

### Miscellaneous



Melumzi Gladman Sinyongo, a loyal cleaner at the Bar for more than ten years, left for greener pastures in 2006. He was last seen sampling some rare Merlots at the Nederburg Wine Estate just outside Stellenbosch.

## Grahamstown

Contributed by Izak Smuts SC

Chris Schuring and Natalie Renou, who came into pupillage last year fresh from the Rhodes University law faculty, successfully forded the raging waters of the National Bar examination and the more placid lagoon of advocacy training, have joined the Bar, and are ensconced at St George's Chambers.

To remain politically correct, it suffices to record that Chris is taller than Natalie, and has a bigger shoe size. For reasons unrelated to appearance, it is believed that Natalie's arrival improves the demographic composition of the bar.

Torquil Paterson SC served as an acting judge in the last term of last year. His observations regarding judicial plumbing facilities at the Port Elizabeth High Court, as conveyed to those still listening in the

latter stages of the Bar dinner in February, were moving.

The annual Bar dinner was hosted by the Grahamstown Bar this year, and we were addressed by Judge Clive Plasket, whose forthright speech on the challenges facing the legal professions and the judiciary underlined the fact that he had lost none of the fervour with which he approached practice on behalf of the oppressed under the previous regime.

Grahamstown members elected to the Eastern Cape Bar Council at the annual general meeting on 1 February are Izak Smuts SC, who was elected chairman of the society, Torquil Paterson SC, Richard Brooks, Bevan Boswell, Sunil Rugunanan and Ntsiki Sandi. Margaux Beard will serve as honorary secretary of the society this year, despite the challenges posed by her impending nuptials in March. Steve Alcock will serve as her right-hand man (in chambers, and not at the nuptials).