

## 'Juniors squander their opportunities'

Contributed by André Gautschi SC

The Johannesburg Bar, in conjunction with the Pretoria Bar, offered two advocacy training workshops for junior counsel during September and October last year. The first was a labour court workshop held at the Labour Courts in Braamfontein on 18 September 2007. The second was a criminal appeal workshop held at the High Court in Johannesburg on 4 October 2007. The workshops were preceded by a lecture held during the previous week to impart to participants useful information concerning the particular field involved.

The Labour Court workshops were presided over by Labour Court judges, and the criminal appeal workshop by judges of the SCA as well as the WLD. Counsel were robed, and their performances were reviewed by accredited trainers. The workshops were open to counsel from Pretoria and Johannesburg.

The interest of junior counsel in the workshops, and their attendance at the workshops was disappointing. What an opportunity, if you had never done a Labour Court matter before, to become familiar with the field, and expand your opportunities for future work! And when one day in the future you are offered a criminal appeal, how useful to have cut your teeth in a constructive learning environment. There are a handful of junior counsel who seem to embrace opportunities of this nature, and who are found regularly at the workshops on offer. But there seems to be general apathy amongst the majority of junior counsel. Is it the fact that the new generation seems to believe that they can receive maximum rewards for minimum effort?

'Life is too short to waste such opportunities.'



## KwaZulu-Natal

### KwaZulu-Natal pupils for 2007

Contributed by Zuleka Rasool

There were 28 pupils who sat for the Bar examination of whom six were from Pietermaritzburg and 22 from Durban. Twenty-two pupils passed and have taken chambers at either Durban or Pietermaritzburg. The KZN Society of Advocates is very appreciative to its members who have assisted the pupils during their pupillage. Here are some of the profiles of the newest members of the KZN Bar.

**Feisel Abrahams** BA LLB (1990) Served articles of clerkship and practised as an attorney from January 1991 to March 2007. Admitted as an advocate (March 2007) and served pupillage at the Durban Bar.

**Alan Boule** BBusSc Hons UCT (2001) LLB *summa cum laude* UKZN (2006). Other jobs: systems analyst for IT company; game ranger

**Andreas Coutsoudis** BCom *summa cum laude* LLB *summa cum laude* (Natal) BCL (Oxon) MPhil (currently completing work on thesis for resubmission) Rhodes Scholar. Former law clerk to Justice Thembele Lewis Skweyiya, Constitutional Court.

**Marian Hutson** A HDE (Natal) LLB LLM (Business Law) (UKZN). Music and speech and drama teacher, South Africa, 1993 to 1995). Production coordinator and legal adviser, Telstar Records plc, London, 1995 to 2002.

**Natalie Lange** BA LLB (1979). Admitted as an attorney in February 1981, and remained as a professional assistant at Goodrickes; commenced practice as Natalie Lange & Co in July 1981. Admitted as a conveyancer in 1984; admitted as an advocate in March 2007.

**Michael O'Connor** MB ChB (UCT) MMed Path (UCT) LLB (KZN). Served articles with Seymour Inc. Admitted as an attorney in 2003. Worked mostly as a pathologist. Resigned as part-time pathologist at Grey's Hospital in December 2006 to start pupillage.

**Vimal Thakersee** BComm (UDW) 1998 LLB (UKZN) 2003. Candidate attorney at Pat Poovalingam & Hassan in 2005. Admitted as an attorney in 2006.

### Charity challenge

Since 1989, the Society of Advocates (KwaZulu-Natal) has been contributing to the Community Chest. In this time it has donated approximately R590 000.

The Community Chest is a registered South African non-profit organisation, established in 1932, committed to raising and distributing funds to organisations engaged in meeting the welfare needs of the community. Its focus is predominantly on providing finance for care for children, the elderly, the disadvantaged and the disabled.

This year the Society donated R36 848,00 (the eleventh biggest corporate donor).

The Society of Advocates (KwaZulu-Natal) challenges its fellow Bar Councils around South Africa to match or exceed this donation.

For more details about the Community Chest see <http://www.comchest.org.za>



## Advocacy services

'The comparative attraction of 'advocacy' to some firms of solicitors, as a service that they themselves might offer, may be causing them not to instruct barristers until errors have been made by inadequate in-house handling of work.'

I shall be working with the Law Society to ensure that professional standards are never compromised in the way that clients are supported by law firms.'

Timothy Dutton QC, chair of the Bar of England and Wales in Counsel, November 2007.