

Johannesburg

Appointment as SCA judge

Judge Suretta Snyders

Contributed by Lötter Wepener, Johannesburg Bar

Judge Suretta Snyders, a former member of the Johannesburg Bar, has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal from 1 December 2008.


Suretta Snyders was raised in Prieska, Northern Cape. The closest town was Kimberley where Judge Leo van den Heever was a judge. This was an inspiration to Judge Snyders who had a desire to become an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar from an early age and saw Judge van den Heever as a role model for her own future.

Upon obtaining her university exemption she studied at the University of Stellenbosch where she obtained the degrees BComm (Law) in 1980 and LLB in 1982. She was the head of her house in her final year.

Because Judge Snyders funded her studies with a bursary from the Department of Transport, she started her career in its legal department. During the middle of 1984, Judge Snyders commenced her pupillage and became a member of the Johannesburg Bar at the end of 1984. She practised as a member of Group 444 and was conferred silk in November 1996. She took acting appointments in Johannesburg during 1996 and was permanently appointed to the Johannesburg Bench on 1 February 1997. For six months in 2007 and 2008 she took acting appointments in the Supreme Court of Appeal. Having now been permanently appointed

to the Supreme Court of Appeal from the beginning of 2009, she sees herself slowly returning to her roots in the Karoo, not far off from Bloemfontein.

Judge Snyders sadly lost her husband, Robert in 2001. Her son, Martin, currently lives in Johannesburg.

Judge Snyders is an outdoor person who loves nature and often returns to Prieska. She has climbed the live Volcano in the Atacam Desert in Chile, she has snorkelled in the Galapagos, she went canopy gliding in the woods of the Andes Mountains, she rowed on the Okavango, went climbing in the Tsingi in Madagascar and she goes white water river rafting whenever the opportunity arises - in short the more adrenalin, the better. We wish Judge Snyders well in her new and esteemed position. 

The Johannesburg Bar at Midmar 2009

Contributed by André Gautschi SC

This year four teams representing the Johannesburg Bar were entered in the Midmar Mile non-company team event. Teams were (mostly) made up of members and their immediate family, as well as a judge.

The Barwon team, thanks to the strong efforts of Emiel and Reenen, did well, but at the time of going to press its position was not yet known. Reenen went on to swim the individual event on the Sunday in the outstanding time of 21.53, achieving 55th place out 1762 entrants in the Men 14-30 category, while Emiel came 4th out of 364 entrants in the Men 31-40 event, with an equally impressive time of 22.06.

André and Emiel successfully completed the 8-Mile Challenge, which involves swimming all eight one mile races held over the two days of the Midmar weekend, Emiel achieving an incredible average of 23 minutes and 6 seconds over the eight miles.

The results were (in minutes and seconds):

BARWON	
Emiel van Vuuren	22.42
Reenen du Plessis	24.08
André Gautschi SC	30.56

Roelof du Plessis SC	37.18
BARTOO	
Jenny Cane	36.31
Vicki Krause	40.17
Judge Colin Lamont	43.43
Alan Lamplough	48.30
Craig Cothill	51.02
BARTER (withdrew)	
BARQUAT	
Charles Abraham	50.52

Caroline Abraham	54.53
Garth Abraham	57.37
Alexander Abraham	57.38
BARQUIN	
James Rycroft	41.06
Farhana Docrat	53.37
Ebrahim Docrat	59.37



Our gazebo at Midmar

