

Port Elizabeth

Contributed by David Smith

The new year began in earnest with some members coming to chambers in shorts and flip-flops. However, neckties and white-shirts soon returned after the commencement of the High Court's term.

We are pleased to welcome our new members, all of whom successfully completed their pupillage: Lallie is a former industrial court presiding officer, Msisi previously worked in the legal department of the Coega IDZ and Zietsman has joined us from the side-bar in Pretoria.

Two of our members celebrated new additions to their families: Ah-Shene was deliv-

ered of a baby girl and van Rooyen's wife of their first child, a baby boy. Mey, between falling off jetties and fracturing her shoulder, has obtained her (yachting) pilot's licence.

The Eastern Cape Society of Advocates held its AGM at Villa Toscana in Port Elizabeth this year. The event was well attended by past and present members of the judiciary. Our distinguished guest was Judge Craig Howie who delivered an eloquent speech that touched on the challenges presently facing both the Bench and the Bar. See above – page 15.

The Eastern Cape Society of Advocates, and some judges, played cricket against the Johannesburg Bar at Grahamstown. It appears that our Jozi counterparts are better

on the sportsfield, but our members truly demonstrated their abilities by being able to drink a pint of lager without falling off a barstool at the Rat & Parrot, or so I've been told.

Goosen SC has stepped down as chairperson of the Port Elizabeth component of the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates and is eagerly awaiting that bottle of Jonnie Walker Blue Label that the Bar's (previous) secretary has been promising him. Goosen SC's shoes are now filled by Buchanan SC. The PE Bar's new Council members are: Ronaasen, Pillay, Scott, Beneke, Rawjee, Simoyi. Mey. Nobatana and Pienaar. Its new secretary is Smith.



Free State

Contributed by Henriette Murray

Appointment as judge



Judge Fouché Jordaan Photo: Die Volksblad

Three years down the line another member of the Free State Bar has been appointed to the Free State Bench. After a gruelling interview with the Judicial Services Commission in Cape Town on 17 October 2008, Adv Fouché Jordaan SC on 1 January 2009 officially became the fourteenth permanent judge on the FS Bench.

Judge Jordaan is an *alumnus* of the University of the Free State. He joined the FS Bar in 1977 and served in the Bar Council for 18 years, three terms as chairman. He lives on the farm Klein Ossspruit in the Brandfort District and is an internationally acclaimed breeder of and expert on Mutton Merino sheep.

Judge President Musi and his colleagues officially welcomed Judge Jordaan to the FS Bench in a formal ceremony in the Motion

Court on 29 January 2009. That same evening the members of the Bench and the Bar gathered for an informal welcoming function for Judge Jordaan, hosted by the Bar, where all could relax and enjoy drinks and wines (ably served by the very new pupils) and an impressive spread of hors d'oeuvres in the foyer.

Meeting with Minister of Justice; Bar membership; adrenaline junkies

On 22 November 2008 the Bloemfontein Legal Fraternity got to meet the then new Minister of Justice, Mr Enver Surty, when he visited with judges of the SCA and the High Court, as well as with the magistrates and the officials of the Director of Public Prosecutions to give a pre-view of the way forward for the judicial system.

On a practical note: the Free State Bar is bursting at the seams. Bar membership has reached a record high of 54. The Bar no longer occupies only the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the *Lustitia* Building but last year had to rent additional space on the ground floor to accommodate the six new pupils, five of whom have now taken chambers. With this year's further influx of six pupils (Lawrence Manye from Durban; Willem van Aswegen from Welkom; Berna Smal from Bloemfontein; Danita de Kock from Bethelhem and Mike Louw from Welkom) the Bar has finally run out of floor space, at least

until the extension to the Supreme Court of Appeals is complete, since three acting judges of appeal as well as an extra SCA court room presently occupy the third floor.

Ever wondered what FS advocates do to 'relax'? Well, some river raft, some row, some run, some cycle, some swim or gym. But then there are those who got bitten by the no longer so rare, highly contagious 'biker' bug: with attorneys Hendré Conradie and Jan Smit and other fellow 'adrenaline junkies', they go for 'breakfast runs'. At the crack of dawn on any given Sunday, therefore, you'll find one or more of our colleagues Van Rhyn, Van Rooyen, Möller, Reinders, Fischer, Cilliers, Grewar or Grobler roaring through 'greener pastures' on their shining BMW 1150 RTs, BMW LTs or Triumph Tiger 1050s. Certainly not in any noble attempt to conserve fuel or to protect the ozone layer, but all for the thrill of the speed, the freedom and the beauty of the Free State 'platteland' and a very different type of Bar!



Reinders, Van Rhyn and Fischer gearing up for the run. Photo: Hendré Conradie.

