Leona Theron: A remarkable woman

Leona Theron, 28, member of the Durban Bar since 1991, was recently nominated by the General Council of the Bar of South Africa for The Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship, a fellowship awarded annually to 12 outstanding professionals from within the Commonwealth. And on 8 December 1994 she was advised by the Director of the Foundation that her nomination had been successful. The programme was due to begin on 5 March 1995 in the United Kingdom and to end on 31 March 1995 in South Asia. She accepted the nomination.

Leona has had a remarkable career. At the age of 12 she started a home industry business which involved making and selling home-made sweets, the income of which was used to pay for schooling needs and music lessons. Today, Leona is an accomplished musician and an expert organist who also plays the piano and violin. In fact, she has since the age of 14 been playing the organ in the New Apostolic Church where she is involved in almost all the church activities.

When she was 15, Leona started working as a cashier at the O K Bazaars in Umhlanga Rocks during weekends. She worked there throughout high school and when at University until she completed her BA Degree.

On her return to South Africa in 1990 she joined the Community Law Centre. And during the April 1994 elections, Leona gave up practice at the Bar for four months to assist in the electoral process as the Provincial Adjudication Secretary.

Leona is an active member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel) where she serves on the Executive Committee of the Durban and District branch. She is also active in various other community projects.

Leona is a very cheerful and positive person, and has a pleasant personality. We wish her well for the future.

Although Leona worked hard to afford financially to continue her studies, she nevertheless did extremely well in her academic work. She attained the BA in 1987, the LLB in 1989 and a Master of Laws degree in May 1990 at the Georgetown University Law Centre (USA) with the thesis “The Suitability of Mediation in Family Disputes”. The latter degree was obtained through the Fulbright Scholarship which was awarded to her in 1989. During her stay in America she served a six-month internship with the International Labour Organization.

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BUTTERWORTHS PRIZE

Adv Gerald Josman SC of the Cape Bar was awarded the 1994 Butterworths Prize for the article containing the most useful and best motivated law reform proposal, namely “Restructuring the Bar” (1994) 7 Consultus 99.