New appointments
Lewis Goldblatt SC and Percy Blieden SC were elevated to the Transvaal Bench with effect from 1 August 1992.

Acting appointments

Senior status
Jinks Joubert, Walter Klevansky, Fanie du Plessis, Peter van Blerk, Solly van Nieuwenhuizen, Chris Loxton, Tony Rubens en Alex Goodman het senior status verkry sedert die vorige uitgawe van Consultus.

The Johannesburg Society of Advocates
After many years of practice (more than forty years as a silk) Willy Oshrey QC has given up chambers. He now practises from home but remains a member of the Society.

George Bizos SC gave up chambers and joined the Legal Resources Centre as full-time counsel. He remains a member of the Society.

Karen Blum SC resigned as a member of the Society.

The Bar
Lionel Weinstock SC recently celebrated fifty years at the Bar and was appropriately congratulated.

Willem Muller SC passed away on 27 June 1992 and Legwai Pitje passed away under tragic circumstances.

New members
On 14 April 1992 Samuel Mufamadi was admitted as an advocate of the Supreme Court by Mr Justice Lazarus. This was an historic moment in that he was the first person to have been admitted as an advocate by the Witwatersrand Local Division.

Twenty pupils passed the National Bar Examination and are now members of the Bar.

IN MEMORIAM

WILLEM MULLER SC

The sudden death of Willem Muller on 27 June 1992 came as a great shock to the Johannesburg Bar.

Willem Gerhardus Muller was born in Pretoria in 1927. He matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool, and thereafter read law at the University of Pretoria. The LLB degree was conferred on him in 1949. He thereafter worked for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice. He was articled to the State Attorney and also prosecuted in Johannesburg. He became the Advocate-General of the Defence Force.

He was called to the Bar in Pretoria in 1952. He commenced practice at the Johannesburg Bar in 1955, and took silk in May 1965. From 1967, until his elevation to the Natal Bench on 1 February 1970, he held several acting appointments in the Transvaal. A tragic accident subsequently occurred in his retirement from the Bench in 1976.

In 1977, the Johannesburg Bar Council permitted 13 young advocates to establish a set of chambers for themselves in a building adjacent to the traditional home of the Bar. A year later, at a time when the child so created was still in danger of being stillborn, Willem joined the Group. He soon became its chairman, which position he held uninterruptedly for the next 13 years.

His profound courage in adversity, his skill and frequent brilliance as an advocate, his passionate sense of justice, his unrelenting resolve to pursue that which he considered was right, his kindness to his charges beyond the call of legitimate duty and his genuine concern for the welfare of others soon became manifest.

Willem had a busy practice. This is hardly surprising, given his acumen, meticulous attention to detail, devotion to the causes he sought to assert and his painstaking attitude to proper preparation. He was a complete jurist in every sense of the word.

Notwithstanding the rigours associated with his practice, Willem nonetheless made time for all. No person, whether it be members of staff or of the Group, was turned away. He saw us all, not by way of symbolic gesture accompanied by some degree of impatience, but in the genuine desire to assist, and to do so meaningfully. Many a problem, whether professional or personal, was resolved because of Willem’s wise counsel.

Willem never complained.

His uncompromising integrity and honesty were perhaps traits which most influenced my career. He was gracious in his praise. He was constructive, yet always gentle, in his criticism. The seeds of many a successful career were sown under his skilful guidance.

He led by example. I was privileged to be his friend. We shall miss him, not only as a jurist and leader of men, but more importantly as a loyal and true friend.

The reciprocity of love, devotion and respect which existed between Miguette and Willem needs no elaboration. To her, and to members of Willem’s family, we express our heartfelt sympathy.

Gerald Farber SC