

Durban advocacy training workshop

by Rashid Vahed,
Durban Bar

IN January 1996 the Inns of Court Advocacy Training Committee (IATC) under the leadership of Michael Hill QC hosted twelve members of the South African Bar in London. This was the first leg of a scheme devised essentially between Hill QC and Malcolm Wallis SC to set up and run advocacy training workshops for the South African Bar. Johan Ploos van Amstel SC, John Pammenter SC and Rashid Vahed were Natal's contribution to the London leg. They were accompanied by members from the other centres including Lynn Ploos van Amstel, a former member of the Natal Bar and now the GCB's national co-ordinator for the South African advocacy training programme.

At Gray's Inn in London the delegates were put through a two and a half day intensive and rigorous training schedule designed to equip them with the skills necessary to train other trainers as well as to train pupils in the skills of advocacy.

The second leg of the scheme has just been completed in Durban. A team of

IATC barristers consisting of Hill QC, Edwin Glasgow QC, James Hunt QC, David Hunt QC, Lincoln Crawford, Stephen Lloyd and Anesta Weeks, accompanied by Sarah Foggit, their administrative officer, arrived in Durban on 3 February 1996.

In the week 5 to 9 February 1996 the English team, assisted by Ploos van

Amstel SC, Pammenter SC and Vahed, together with Lynn Ploos van Amstel worked tirelessly and put together and ran the Bar's first training workshop. A successful evening on Monday 5 February saw the 3 hour introductory lecture/workshop set the scene for 4 days of intensive training workshops. On 6 and 7 February a further 17 members of the Natal Bar were trained as trainers and on 8 and 9 February some 30 trainees (pupils and junior juniors) were trained. Natal's Deputy Judge President, Broome DJP attended some of the sessions to observe the training; other sessions were observed by Magid J and Levinsohn J. All three judges were extremely impressed with the programme. The tremendous success of the week was evidenced when all "trainees" (both trainers and pupils) expressed personal satisfaction with what they had undergone.

It goes without saying that a huge debt of gratitude is owed to the English team who left Durban on 11 February to conduct similar workshops, first in Johannesburg and thereafter in Cape Town.



Advocacy training: workshop programme

Solly Sithole of the Pretoria Bar gives a detailed report on the Anglo-South African Bars Teacher Training Workshop which was held at Gray's Inn in London from 11 to 15 January 1996.

THE workshop programme was preceded by detailed and meticulous planning and is in three broad stages, namely:

Stage One: This stage of the programme, which may be termed "the groundwork stage", involved the chairperson of the GCBSA, Mr Malcolm Wallis SC visiting the London Inns of Court with a view to:

- observing pupil-training workshops at the Inns;
- discussions with the IATC on programme format and dates;
- imparting relevant South African Bar considerations to the IATC;
- preparing a budget for submis-

sion to the Overseas Development administration (ODA) which funds Stage Three of the programme;

- attending and dealing with any administrative detail concerning the workshop programme.

Suffice it to say that the visit mentioned above was successfully undertaken by Mr Wallis SC from 20 to 23 November 1995.

Stage Two: This stage involved actual participation by the South African contingent in a teacher-trainee workshop on advocacy held at Gray's Inn from 11 to 15 January 1996. As said earlier, more than a dozen South African Bar teacher-trainees received train-



Solly Sithole

ing at the workshop. Two trainees were drawn from each bar centre in South Africa and these participated in three groups in the workshop together with their English counterparts.

