

while it would be idle to assert that the development of the Roman Dutch law in the territories now constituting the union has not been affected appreciably by the English law, yet in their Lordships' judgment, approach should be made to any question governed by Roman Dutch law without any fetter imposed by the recollections of other systems, and through the principles of Roman Dutch law alone.

The fact that the solution of a particular problem reached by the Roman Dutch law bears a similarity to the solution provided by another system does not necessarily indicate any imposition of the rules of one system upon the other, but may be cogent evidence of a resemblance be-

tween the basic principles of the two systems."

And speaking of similarities, Aaron also quoted Judge Toon Van Den Heever in *Pahad v Director of Food Supplies & Distributions* 1949 (3) SA 711 (A):

"If one wishes to stress superficial similarities and ignore essential differences, one might as well say that a ship is a very special kind of bicycle and silence all doubt by means of the reminder that, of course, the latter was designed to travel on land."

He cautioned against the danger in our present dispensation of jettisoning too many of the principles that have served the country so well for 350 years, and

added that our law may become eroded by statute or novel judicial interpretation, in a resort to, as yet not entirely developed, systems of law.

He also commented on the future of the Bench. The strength of the Bench obviously depends on the strength of the Bar, and he cautioned against the overhasty appointments to the Bench of persons who have not yet had the essential experience of adequate practical and personal involvement.

Advocate Fine made a suitable presentation to Aaron on behalf of the Johannesburg Bar, and the congratulations and good wishes kept pace with the wine for some time. 

The Bench

PM Meskin SC and VM Niles-Dunér SC were appointed to the Natal Provincial Division on 1 August 1996. SS Ngcobo was appointed to the Cape Provincial Division. (See also p 96 of this issue)

Acting appointments

Three Natal advocates held acting appointments during the last quarter:

FG Richings SC in the Northern Cape Division, YN Moodley SC in the Natal Provincial Division and SS Ngcobo in the Cape Provincial Division.

Members

WF Bezuidenhout, MW Collins, G Morley, RG Mossop, T Mukadam, R Punchoo and A Stewart joined the Natal Bar after successfully completing their pupillage in July 1996. We wish them all every success in practice at the Bar.

Departures

GG Lotz SC left the Natal Society of Advocates in June 1996 due to ill health. TL Skweyiya SC became the first inspector-general of the Department of Intelligence Services, and M Jacobs again left the Bar after a brief return, to focus on the provision of quicker and better access to the electronic media by the profession.

Pupils

Twelve pupils in Durban and two pupils in Pietermaritzburg commenced

pupillage on 1 August 1996 in preparation for the National Bar Examination in November 1996.

In addition to their ordinary curriculum, a structured series of lectures is being provided by certain members of the Natal Bar in a concerted effort to improve the results of Natal candidates. The pupils are also to undergo an advocacy training course which was introduced in South Africa in February 1996.

Bar Council

The AGM of the Natal Society of Advocates was held at the Edward Hotel in Durban on 31 August 1996. The meeting was well attended notwithstanding the competition provided by the third rugby test against the All Blacks at Ellis Park on the same day. The following members were appointed to the Council –

In Durban: DA Gordon SC (chairman), CJ Pammenter SC, JA Ploos van Amstel SC, VI Gajoo, S Gyanda, AWM Harcourt, D Phillips and RAK Vahed.

In Pietermaritzburg: JA Booyens SC (vice-chairman), FM Moola, RJ Seggie and C Snyman.

Sport Athletics

On 13 April 1996, a team comprising M Bingham, T Seery, PD Quinlan, C van Vuuren, GS Vos and C Walker, sponsored by the Durban members of the Natal Society of Advocates completed the annual

Natal

contributed by Anne Gordon
Durban

Durban Business Challenge Relay 1996, and earned themselves a silver medal in the legal category. I am informed that the team is committed to continued success!

Soccer

After a slow start to the year, Advocates Group 7 indoor soccer team – TN Aboobaker SC, S Gyanda, AN Jappie, AE Motala, T Mukadam, R Reddy and M Vahed, assisted by a few "imports" from the side bar, and G Lopes of the 8th Floor – after holding the all-comers record for the past two years, and having thrashed the Durban articulated clerks' side and beaten the Chatsworth attorneys' side by three matches to one, finally succumbed to I Topping and the entire Stella Football Club team, masquerading as the 8th Floor Group. The 7th Floor Group, ever gracious in defeat, hereby challenge all other groups of advocates to test their skills against them.

Maritzburg Athletics

On 5 September two teams of advocates, supplemented by Judge RP McLaren and two secretaries, competed in the annual Business Relay. At the time of going to press, no results were yet available. 