

by Mr GJ Madern at ICL House in Smith Street.

The North Eastern Divorce Court still has jurisdiction to hear matters from all over Natal. The jurisdiction of the New Divorce Court is confined to matters emanating from the Durban Magisterial District at this stage.

An open day organised by the Family Court Project Committee headed by Mr DS Rothman, the Commissioner of Child Welfare in Durban, was held on 27 November 1998. The day was well supported by representatives from various NGOs who are on the Family Court pilot project committee and in order to accommodate the large number of Zulu speaking members of the public present an interpreter was used for a large portion on the programme. The regional office of the Department of Justice also made available TV and VCR sets which screened many interesting aspects of domestic violence and this was very well received by the public.

The development of the Family Court Centre at the Durban magistrate's court is an ongoing process and inasmuch as there have been many teething problems these are being ironed out and programmes are being established on an ongoing basis to ensure that the public has access to the services being provided by the Centre. 

## Advocacy training report

**Report by Lyn Ploos van Amstel, advocacy training co-ordinator, Durban**

**T**he advocacy training programme for pupils is ongoing at all Bars, with all the bigger Bars reporting an increase in pupils numbers in the first intake of 1999. This has caused something of a strain on resources, with all trainers being called on to take part in a greater number of exercises. A great debt of gratitude is owed to all those trainers at all the Bars who give up so much of their work and private time to assist in the training of pupils.

Many of the Bars continue to offer additional training exercises such the simulated motion court exercise, the trial exercise and the appellate advocacy exercises over and above the compulsory basic litigation skills workshop.

### The National Teacher Training Workshop

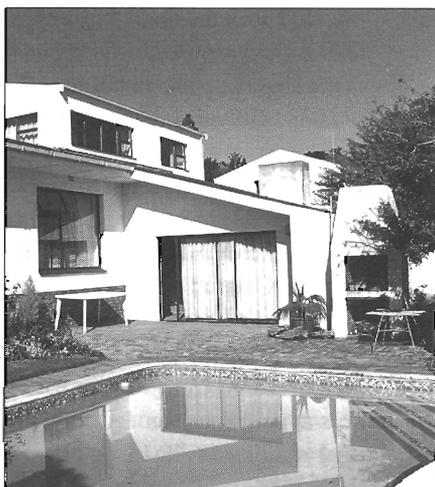
The GCB will once again be holding a national advocacy teacher training workshop during the July recess. The likely dates are 20 - 22 July and the workshop

will take place in Johannesburg or its near vicinity (the venue has not yet been finalised). At this workshop twenty-four new advocacy trainers from all the Bars will be trained in the training methods used in the GCB's advocacy training programme. Local advocacy training representatives will be looking for volunteers from their Bars to take part in the workshop and become involved in the pupil training programme at their Bars.

Anyone interested in taking part in this workshop should contact the advocacy training representative at their Bar or contact Lyn Ploos van Amstel directly on 031 306-1687 or 083-5004740.

### International Contacts

The National Advocacy Training Coordinating Committee continues to maintain contacts with equivalent bodies in other jurisdictions to ensure our trainers are kept up to date with the work that is being done in advocacy training circles in other countries. Four South African trainers have been invited to form part of the teaching panel at the Grays Inn New Practitioners Workshop on Appellate Advocacy and Ethics on 21 to 23 May this year. They are Guy Hoffman SC, Margie Victor (both from the Johannesburg Bar) and Spicko Dickson SC and Peter Olsen SC (from Pietermaritzburg and Durban respectively). 



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