

no 4/2001. Numerous accounts have to be returned to practitioners who fail to comply with basic requirements, especially the requirement to include a photocopy of the bar coded LA1A cover sheet in respect of 2002 instructions whenever accounts or correspondence is sent to the Board. An updated version of a checklist designed to assist practitioners when submitting their accounts will be circulated to members.

- A new *Legal Aid Guide* was compiled during 2001 and ratified by parliament. Juta published the new guide which has been available to practitioners since July 2002.
- The sub-committee dealing with the amendments to the *Legal Aid Guide* has recommended the reduction of the membership of the LAB. As far as representation on the LAB of legal practitioners is concerned, the sub-committee has recommended the appointment of three legal practitioners nominated by the proposed Legal Practice Council (at least one of whom shall be from the referral profession). Legislation will have to be introduced in order to bring this amendment into operation.

With effect from July 2002 the *Legal Aid Guide* provisions will be strictly applied. When a practitioner signs the LA2 he/she accepts the terms and conditions of the *Legal Aid Guide* of 1996 and of 2002.

- Odette Geldenhuys, who was previously the director of the Access to Justice portfolio, has recently been appointed as the legal analyst of the LAB. Her portfolio inter alia includes the Legal Internship Pilot Project which will come into operation in August 2002 (advertisements for interns have already been placed in leading newspapers), and the Plea and Sentencing Bargaining Project which has been set up as a pilot project in Port Elizabeth and Empangeni.

The National Internship Pilot Project provides the context for LLB graduates to acquire practical experience and training in the legal profession. The interns will be paid R1 750 per month.

It is hoped that law graduates employed as interns will be a resource to be drawn upon for the provision of legal services to the poor. Internship is seen as a precursor to articles and pupillage.

The French government's Priority Solidarity Fund is providing the LAB with the funding for this project. This pilot project

is limited to 40 interns being placed at four justice centres.

- The activities of the GCB's representatives over the past year include inter alia the attendance at board meetings, workshops, opening of justice centres and serving on sub-committees of the LAB.

Halima Saldulker was appointed with Judge Francis to decide on a process to review executive management's contracts of employment. Together with Geoff Budlender, Halima Saldulker also serves on the sub-committee for the revision of the *Legal Aid Guide*. Philip Mokoena has been actively liaising with members of the Johannesburg Bar and the administration department of the LAB to facilitate the payment of LAB accounts. Both GCB representatives are also attending the combined LAB meetings with other role players, eg the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Department of Correctional Services, the Johannesburg Attorneys' Association, and the Criminal Bar.

- Many developments are taking place at the LAB and amongst these are the transformation of the LAB and the implementation of various models that will achieve better access to justice for the poor and the vulnerable in South Africa.



## Stop press:

### ***Forum for Barristers and Advocates***

The Forum for Barristers and Advocates of the International Bar Association resolved at its meeting held on 23 October 2002 in Durban to:

- condemn in the strongest terms the continued and escalating gross violations of human rights and the rule of law by the Government of Zimbabwe, including the unjustified arrest, imprisonment and prosecution of members of the justice system and other individuals;
- promote legal representation for members of the Zimbabwean justice system who face arrest, imprisonment and trial in similar circumstances;
- support the appointment of high-level IBA observers to attend appropriate court proceedings in which important human rights issues and questions relating to the rule of law in Zimbabwe are in issue;
- maintain close liaison with the Zimbabwe Law Society and Zimbabwe Bar to support Zimbabwe's legal practitioners in their endeavours to sustain an independent legal profession;
- support the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers in his continued monitoring of, and reporting on, the conduct of the government of Zimbabwe towards lawyers and judges there;
- take note of the willingness of member Bars represented in the Forum for Barristers and Advocates to assist in providing the services of counsel as international observers in the trials referred to above.