

North West

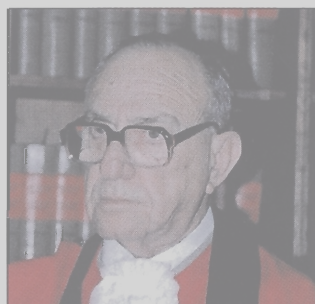
Contributed by
John Stander

My fishing trip (see 2002 August *Advocate* 14) to the Drakensberg is now no more than a fond memory, but I can report that my son Andrew caught and released a five pound rainbow hen at Elands Dam in the Kamberg Nature Reserve. Andrew completely outfished me – just like he outrides me on the fairway...

Anyway...

Johann Pistor will again be acting in our division in the final term of the year. Two vacancies have also arisen and he is one of the short-listed candidates for interviews by the Judicial Service Commission.

Judge president retires



Judge President MW (Mockie) Friedman

At the end of September our judge president retires. Judge President MW (Mockie) Friedman was born in Witbank. He obtained his BA at Cape Town and his LLB at Wits. Thereafter he practised at the Johannesburg Bar, taking silk in 1978. He was elevated to the Bench in 1986. He is a former chairman of the Zionist Labour Group and of the South African Zionist Federation. At one time he was also a member of the World Zionist Executive. Mockie's hobbies include

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philosophy, history and music, and he has lectured extensively on philosophical and Jewish subjects. He played, and maintains an interest in, cricket, soccer and rugby. He is married to Daphne, a former attorney. They have six children.

A farewell for the judge president has been combined with our annual Bar dinner.

KwaZulu-Natal

Contributed by Wendalynn Bowler, Durban Bar

Acting appointments

The following persons, of whom several are members of the KwaZulu-Natal Bar, were appointed as acting judges from August 2002 to December 2002: G Kruger, K Pillay, AB Mohammed SC, GH Penzhorn SC, ND Hollis SC and MD Southwood SC.

Pupillage

The pupillage system draws heavily on the time and resources of members of the Bar. Gardner van Niekerk leads the Advocacy Training Programme. At present there are 22 pupils in Durban and two in Pietermaritzburg.

Court building

The long-awaited facelift for the Durban high court building has finally materialised. Members of the Bar must be recommended for their hard work and dedication in assisting with getting the project started. We await with bated breath the end-product.

AGM

At the annual general meeting of the Society of Advocates of KwaZulu-Natal held on 31 August 2002, the following members were elected to the council:

N Singh SC, A Rall SC, R Vahed SC, G Harper SC, A Troskie, T Gorven, R Seegobin, R Singh, W Bowler, T Norman, T Madonsela, T Mbongwa, M Posemann (secretary), G Goddard (treasurer), N Israel (assistant secretary). The KwaZulu-Natal Bar wishes them prosperity in carrying out their duties.

Vrystaat

Bygedra deur Germa Wright

Lede doen pro bono werk

'n Versoek is deur die Vrystaatse regbank aan lede gerig om betrokke te raak by 'n pro bono projek wat ten doel het om verslag te doen oor persone wat die doodstraf opgelê is, maar wie se vonnisse nog nie met gepaste ander vonnisse vervang is nie. Verskeie lede het hulself bereidwillig verklaar om deel te neem. Dit was verblydend om te sien dat selfs sommige senior lede op die uitnodiging gereageer het.

Die regshulpkomitee het aan die werk gespring en die Mangaung gevangenis buite Bloemfontein is op 16 Augustus besoek. Elf lede en pupille het per kombi en die (altyd beskikbare en gewillige) Land Rover in die pad geval. Die deeglike "intekenproses" het veral die praktisyns wat nie strafwerk doen nie, verras. Nadat selfone en sleutels in veilige bewaring geplaas en die advokate en hul besittings deeglik ondersoek is, kon hulle uiteindelik die besoekarea betree.

Die gevangenes was gretig om met die "advokate van Bloemfontein" te praat. Verskeie het aangedui dat hulle jare laas deur iemand anders as polisiebeamptes en personeel van die gevangenis besoek is. Dit was aangrypend om te ervaar hoe gretig hulle was om oor hul lewens en tronkomsandighede te gesels. 'n Besoek wat aanvanklik as 'n opoffering beskou is, het vinnig ontwikkel tot 'n belewenis. Later het een van die junior lede opgemerk dat sy nie verwag het om die besoek so te ervaar nie.

Die lede was nie voorbereid daarop om so diep getref te word deur die verhale wat hulle aangehoor het nie. Vir diegene van ons wat gereeld in die strafhowe verskyn en dikwels met persone in aanhouding te doen kry – en moontlik vergeet het waarom ons daardie tipe werk doen – het die boodskap weer sterk deurgekom: daar is mense wat ons nodig het en vir wie die professionele diens wat ons lewer, iets beteken.

Lede

Xolani Mabusela het die eksamen geslaag en praktiseer nou as volwaardige lid van die Vereniging. Celestè Reinders, Lentswe Setouto, Craig Snyman en Makhosi Madlala is tans besig met hul pupilskap. Johan Horn het het hom weer by ons aangesluit. Die ledetal staan tans op 48.

Regbank

Een van ons lede, Corné van Zyl, het weer eens as regter waargeneem. Israel Menong, 'n streeklanddros, was die ander waarnemende regter. Regter Irma Schoeman, 'n oud-lid van die Vrystaatse