

Laws and Administration Committee

Abraham Louw, Pretoria Bar

During the year under review, the committee commented upon the following:

- The designation of the United Kingdom in terms of the Admission of Advocates Act 74 of 1964.
- The designation of the Kingdom of Lesotho in terms of section 3(2)(a)(ii) of the Admission of Advocates Act 74 of 1964.
- The Revenue Laws Amendment Bill [B 22-2004] was, after receipt of

the comments of the Parliamentary Committee of the Cape Bar, referred to the Bar Council of the Pretoria Society of Advocates for further consideration in view of the (in the writer's respectful opinion) serious implications thereof.

Marius Ackermann and Abraham Louw attended the discussion held by the Law Reform Commission regarding the review of the Interpretation Act 33 of 1957. 

Legal Provident Fund (LPF)

JL Basson, Pretoria Bar; GCB representative on the LPF

When I last reported on the Legal Provident Fund in 2004, I conveyed that, with effect from 1 July 2004, the LBF's administration would be moving from the offices of the Law Society of South Africa to Alexander Forbes. I am pleased to report that the move to Alexander Forbes was successfully completed in August 2004. To demonstrate to members that the method of conversion had proceeded smoothly, each member was provided with a benefit statement from the old system as at 30 June 2004 and a benefit statement indicating identical values drawn from the Alexander Forbes system as at 1 July 2004. The administrators have completed a four-month training session in Sandton and are now based in the Brooklyn office in Pretoria.

The trustees are particularly pleased that the fund's independence has been maintained as it is being managed as a separate umbrella fund within the Alexander Forbes group. In addition, the LPF has its own independent board of trustees where representatives are nominated by the GCB and the Law Society of South Africa.

Trustee meetings

The trustees met three times in 2004: in March, June and December. While the March and June meetings were to plan the move to Alexander Forbes, the December meeting set performance objectives and capitalised on the move in administration for the best interests of members.

Investment portfolios

During the board meeting held in December 2004, the trustees added two more investment portfolios (Conserver and Banker), bringing the total to six. These additions were necessary in order to cater for all members' risk profiles and objectives. For members who did not choose an investment portfolio, the trustees produced two default investment models where the investment portfolio was selected for the member depending on the member's age and retirement date. At the same meeting the trustees elected to permit members to switch portfolios once every quarter and not biannually as before. Members who are 57 years old or older may switch their benefits to a port-



Jacques Basson has been a member of the Pretoria Bar since 1999.

folio with a lower risk profile at any time during the year.

Fund assets

For the period 1 April-31 March 2005 the assets have grown by approximately 25%. This growth can be attributed to new members, higher contributions and positive investment returns.

Conclusion

The LPF is a formal saving mechanism and was specifically established to cater for the retirement needs of legal employees. Of the 500 participating employers on the fund, 50 represent the advocates' profession. I have full confidence in the people and systems employed by the fund to ensure optimal benefit for its members. 

Professional Provident Society (PPS)

Ralph Meyer SC, Johannesburg Bar; GCB representative on the PPS

During the past year, I served again as a non-executive director and deputy chair of PPS Insurance Company Limited. (I was recently re-appointed as a director of PPS Insurance Company Limited for a further year.) I also continue to serve as: co-chair of the

Audit and Risk Committee; member of the Remuneration Committee; trustee of the PPS Staff Pension Fund; and on certain *ad hoc* subcommittees which have been set up from time to time. The PPS has experienced a phenomenal year in which members have received

unprecedented allocations. Two new products were launched in the past year, including a specific occupation rider to the sickness benefits which provides independent practitioners such as advocates with cover which has not previously been available.

I am currently engaged in discussions relating to the possible introduction of new products which will be of particular interest to newly qualified members of the profession and will be aimed at assisting them in the difficult early years of practice. 