

and to prepare properly for the repetition. Opinions are divided whether this is an improvement or not. I experienced it as a distinct benefit to the young practitioners.

There was no doubt that the trainees benefited enormously from the intensive training. The exercises with the experts stood out as Tim Dutton had assembled a veritable galaxy of leading lights in their respective fields to participate in these workshops. All participants experienced an improvement of their skills during

the strenuous sessions. But it was not all work. There was some time to explore historical Oxford. Friday night's wonderful dinner was marked by the operatic arias performed by Michel Kallipetis QC, ably assisted by the musical talents of other members of the faculty. And the stress of the daily exertions was relieved in happy reminiscence of student days at 'The Lamb and Flag' around the corner ...

The cosmopolitan composition of the faculty and the body of trainees

underlined that advocacy issues are universal in character and that advocacy training can – indeed, must – transcend national and cultural boundaries to ensure that an independent and effective body of legal practitioners is available to defend individual and human rights the world over. It was a wonderful experience to be part of this course and this faculty. I am indebted to the GCB and look forward to future training courses under their auspices. 

## ***Compulsory continuing legal education – yes or no?***

*Sharise Weiner SC, Johannesburg Bar; convenor of the GCB's Advocacy Training Committee*

In most jurisdictions with which we have contact in dealing with education and training, compulsory continuing legal education and training (CLE) has become the norm.

In the UK, juniors are required to complete several hours of CLE within their first three years of practice in order to renew their practice certificates. Part and parcel of this is a requirement to undertake skills training in advocacy. Gray's Inn, for instance, runs workshops biannually, in which juniors are required to prepare for and attend a weekend workshop which encompasses the preparation and presentation of:

- skeleton arguments (heads) for an appeal;
- arguing the appeal;
- skeleton arguments for an opposed application;
- arguing the application; and
- an ethics exercise.

This workshop takes place on a residential basis at a conference centre in the 'country'. Gray's enjoys an overwhelming response to such workshops and has to turn away

many applicants due to lack of space. The charge for such workshops is £175 (± R2 000) per person.

The GCB has for several years been considering the desirability and necessity of compulsory CLE. As a result of a lack of resources (both human and financial), we have resisted the call for compulsory CLE for many years and have rather encouraged the individual Bars to provide voluntary workshops for their junior members. The GCB ran its first junior workshop in Johannesburg in 2000. Advocacy trainers from all the other Bars as well as juniors from each Bar were invited to attend. Our trainers included several High Court and Appeal Court judges as well as trainers from Gray's Inn.

The workshop involved:

- preparation of heads of argument and arguing an opposed application;
- a full-day trial exercise with opening argument, examination-in-chief and cross-examination as well as closing argument;
- an ethics exercise in discussion with trainers and judges.

This workshop has been presented in Johannesburg annually since then.

In addition, the Johannesburg and Pretoria Bars have held 'expert witness' workshops for the past three years (see page 10 of this issue).

As indicated, these workshops have been voluntary and a very disappointing pattern has become apparent – the same juniors volunteer for every workshop; many that desperately need the skills training do not volunteer; and, in one case, a workshop had to be cancelled as several juniors who had said that they would attend, simply did not.

Every junior who has participated in any of the workshops presented has, without exception, been totally enthusiastic about the benefits. The training is conducted by trainers who have been put through an intensive training workshop; such trainers include eminent judges such as Justice Johann Kriegler; Judges Jonathan Heher and Edwin Cameron of the SCA; Judges Bertelsmann, Blieden, Cachalia, Goldblatt, Hussain, Schwartzman, Snyders, Stegmann, Van Oosten and Willis. All these judges have given up a good deal of time to put themselves through a demanding training program in order to become part of the Advocacy Training Team of the GCB.

The question is: Why, despite the availability of these workshops and the dedication of the trainers and judges, do so few juniors put