

Port Elizabeth

Contributed by Peter Kroon

Acting appointments

During the period under review Glenn Goosen SC acted in the Eastern Cape High Court, Port Elizabeth, for one week and in Grahamstown for one week, and later in Port Elizabeth again.

Jannie Eksteen SC acted during March 2008 in Grahamstown.



Glenn Goosen SC giving his speech at the advocates' and attorneys' function.

Advocates' and attorneys' function

The annual advocates' and attorneys' cocktail function was held on 29 May 2008. At the function a booklet for the Eastern Cape Society for Advocates was launched containing a directory of all the members of the Bar. The purpose of the booklet is to increase the exposure for junior members. The gathering took place at the President's Suite, St George's Park, and was well attended. 



Sonwabo Mamase from the office of the State Attorney (left) and Nyameko Gqamana from the Bar.

Pretoria

Contributed by Henk Havenga

Bar Council for 2008/ 2009

The Bar Council for 2008/2009 was recently elected. In accordance with the constitutional amendments to the Pretoria Bar Constitution previously effected by the Pretoria Bar to promote transformation, 50% of the members are elected by the general body of the Bar and 50% are nominated by the AFT. In terms of an arrangement between the AFT and non-AFT members, the position of chairman is rotated annually between the AFT and non-AFT members. The voting patterns in both the general and AFT elections this year showed a clear moving away from race and gender as criteria in the election process, which bodes well for the future of this Bar.

The following members were elected to the Pretoria Bar Council for 2008/2009:

Ben Swart SC (chairman), Seth Nthai SC (deputy chairman), Hennie de Vos SC, Sam Maritz SC, Johann Engelbrecht SC, Nellie Cassim SC, Billy Mothle SC, Nantes Diedericks, Ig Bredenkamp, Soraya Hassim, Helen Fourie, Francois Botes, Leon Dicker, Nana Makhubele, Phumlani Ngobese, Zondeka Makondo, Thami Ncongwane, Cedric Kekana. Dennis Roux was appointed as honorary secretary and Oupa Modisa and Zjaan Schoeman as secretaries.

The four buildings

The Pretoria Bar is housed in four buildings, namely High Court Chambers and New Court Chambers in the central City, and Brooklyn Chambers and Circle Chambers in Brooklyn. High Court Chambers currently houses 277 members as well as the central administration of the Pretoria Bar, thus in effect making it the main building of the Pretoria Bar.

Renovations to High Court Chambers: The High Court Chambers building was recently

renovated. The renovation committee consisted of Danie van Loggerenberg SC and the office manager, Deon Gericke. The renovation included the upgrading of all common areas and ablution facilities; the upgrading of the foyer; and the affixing of the name of the Pretoria Society of Advocates in the foyer. This is the first time in the history of the Pretoria Bar that its name is displayed in a building occupied by it.

Negotiations with the landlord are underway to upgrade all the lifts in High Court Chambers. The main parking area for attorneys and for the public visiting High Court Chambers is in the Hallmark Building adjacent to High Court Chambers. Sufficient parking areas are now available. There is also a designated parking area for attorneys and clients who visit High Court Chambers and wish to make use of that area. Arrangements for parking in that area can be made through the High Court Chambers switchboard on tel (012) 303 7400.