

KwaZulu-Natal

Contributed by Zuleka Rasool

Appointments

We welcome and congratulate Judge Mohini Murugasen on her appointment as a judge in the Natal Provincial Division. Judge Murugasen is an experienced attorney, and is well respected in the profession.

We bid a fond farewell to a member of our Bar who has taken up an appointment at the Eastern Cape Bench. Judge Fatima Dawood will be sorely missed by her colleagues in Durban and we wish her well on her new path and are confident that she will be an asset to the Eastern Cape Bench.

Our members have, as always, graciously heeded the call of our Judge President to act as judges. We thank them for their selfless dedication and hard work. To name but a few members who have availed themselves: Skinner SC, HK Naidu SC, Potgieter SC, Hollis SC, Van Heerden SC, Wallis SC, Julyan SC, and Gorven SC.

Our senior colleagues are also to be commended as they volunteer to sit as acting judges during the mid-year recess in an effort to reduce the backlog in criminal appeals. For the last two years, and at the request of the Chairman of the Bar Council, Julian King SC has assisted the Judge President and Deputy Judge President in compiling a list of volunteers. This year's volunteers have been Findlay SC, Jeffrey SC, Pillay SC, Gorven SC, Pammenter SC, Van Niekerk SC, Lopes SC, Moosa SC, Rall SC, Potgieter SC, Griffiths SC, Southwood SC, Wallis SC, Mann SC, and Vahed SC.

We thank them for their commitment to

facilitating this worthy cause.

New silks

The KwaZulu-Natal Bar has four new silks. We congratulate them and wish them the very best in their practices. The profiles of three of the new silks - the fourth being Alex Jeffery SC - are as follows:

Avril Potgieter SC

Avril Potgieter was born on 27 August 1960 and matriculated at Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool in Pretoria. He obtained the BLuris and LLB degrees at UNISA. He was employed by the Department of Justice, as it then was, from December 1980 to February 1991 as a clerk, prosecutor, regional court prosecutor and state advocate. He commenced pupillage at the Pietermaritzburg Bar on 1 March 1991 and commenced practice on 1 July 1991.

Avril has a varied practice which consists of general high court civil litigation in commercial, family, third party and other delictual claims matters. He recently also acted for a number of days as a judge in the Durban and Coast Local Division. He was a member of the Bar Council of the Society of Advocates of KZN and served on the Pietermaritzburg Bar committee.

Outside the profession he has been the chair and member of governing bodies of schools in Pietermaritzburg for a number of years. He has received a merit award for his involvement in the cultural activities of his community in Pietermaritzburg and nationally. He is a conference speaker of a national Christian organisation and addresses conferences in the RSA and as far as Namibia and Zimbabwe. He is a worship leader of a multi-cultural congregation, Pietermaritzburg Christian Fellowship.

Swimming the Midmar Mile has been a regular occurrence for the last couple of years. He has completed the Comrades Marathon and was a provincial water polo player at junior and senior level. He is a family man and has been married for 27 years to Annalien. They have a daughter of 22.

Colin Mann SC

Colin Mann was educated at Durban High School and the University of Natal. He joined the Durban Bar in 1973. He served on the editorial committee *Consultus* (now *Advocate*) and is actively involved in pupil training programmes in Durban.

Hugh Jeffreys SC

Hugh Jeffreys has led a full and exciting life in the legal profession. He came to the Bar in 1998 and has been practising as an advocate since then. He started his career in the profession as an attorney. From 1977 to 1984 he served as a professional assistant for the firm Findlay & Niemeyer in Pretoria. Afterwards he was a partner in the firm Lochat De Beer & Jeffreys in Pretoria. He then went on to lecture candidate attorneys in courses required for the examination set by the Law Society of KwaZulu-Natal. He served as a public prosecutor and magistrate from March 1996 to February 1988.

Hugh has also been elected to the governing body of Danville Girls High School. In 1996 he served on a service committee of the Umdloti Beach Rates Association to resist the rezoning of privately owned immovable property. He was then elected to the governing body of the Atholton Primary School in 1993 and in 1994. He is a father of three children and has a keen interest in rugby, cricket, ocean sailing, woodwork and cycling. 

La dolce Vita

By Glen Goddard

One of the features of the Bar is independence, which allows holidays in term time and the bank manager be damned. I was recently able to exercise my independence when the opportunity to ride a bicycle in Sardinia arose, and my bank manager may read this as my confession.

Sardinia is in Italy. Riding a bicycle in Italy is completely unlike riding a bicycle anywhere else. Italians are disorganised, generous, stylish and beautiful. In that order. Most Italians would disagree. Loudly, with lots of extravagant hand movements, some threats and lashings of random logic. After that, most Italians would apologise, make sure their disagreement did not cause you any discomfort and ask after your digestion. All in a self-possessed flamboyant yet elegant, and dare I say stylish, way.

In a village called Vigevano (which, incidentally is not in Sardinia, but that is another story) I was shown row upon row of Ferraris when I sought transport. I did not really expect to be allowed loose on one but, like a schoolboy before a stripper, desire which I had not know before welled up and the pounding in my temples excluded reason. Anyway, they gave me a very nice bicycle with wheels almost thick enough so that the cobbles didn't jar too much.

And it's not just the Ferraris (which one sees littered about at street corners) which evoke deep feelings. I am a Ducatista. In Bologna I witnessed the mighty Desmosedici at creation. For free. Just because I e-mailed ahead and asked if I could. I'm sorry if this is hard to read but it's not hard to understand - look at what happened to Keats or Shelley. Perhaps it's caused by a country so beautiful that you almost have to

pay extra if you don't want a view.

Of course, nothing is perfect. In Sardinia, I, Durban boy, surfer (after a fashion) leapt lustily into the brochure clear sea and regained the tonal characteristics of my adolescence. 'kin hell it was cold, nearly as bad as the wet place under the mountain. And don't, whatever you do, try to ride a bicycle at the same speed as that disorganised, generous, stylish lot! 

Our transport – that's me on the bicycle

