

KwaZulu-Natal

Contributed by Zuleka Rasool and Paul Wallis

14 February 2009 marked the 50th anniversary of the appointment of Shaw QC to the rank of Queen's Counsel.

This is a most outstanding achievement and one which is unlikely to be matched in the foreseeable future. The KZN Society of Advocates extends its congratulations and thanks to Shaw QC for the example he provides to all advocates irrespective of age and experience.

The Bench

A cocktail party was held to record the KZN Society's farewell thanks to two of its most popular and well-respected judges: Hurt J and Thumba Pillay J have retired after outstanding service to the Bench.

Five new judges have joined the Natal Provincial Division. Of those five, two (Wallis J and Gorven J) have been elevated from the Bar. Mnguni J was previously based in Pietermaritzburg at the firm Tomlinson Mnguni James.

KZN also welcomes Judges Steyn and Mokgohloa who have been appointed after work in other divisions.

The Society extends a welcome and our best wishes to all of the newly appointed judges:

Malcolm Wallis SC

Judge Wallis was a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Bar for some 35 years since 1973. He took silk in 1985. Judge Wallis' contribution to this Bar and to the practice of law in general has been inspirational. He is an author of the book *Labour and Employment Law*, and had various articles published. Judge Wallis has the distinct honour of having 321 reported judgments, of which 12 are Constitutional Court matters and 102 are Supreme Court of Appeal matters. He has been the chairman of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa and of the Society of Advocates of KwaZulu-Natal and has played an important role in the International Bar Association. Judge Wallis is married with three children and is currently completing his PhD in maritime law.

Trevor Gorven SC

Judge Gorven came to the Bar in 1988. Prior to that he worked as a public prosecutor and in February 2006 he achieved silk status. Having practised at the Pietermaritzburg Bar, his interests encompass most areas of civil law. Judge Gorven's interests also extended to the training of advocates in his role as pupillage coordinator and advocacy trainer. He is married with two children.

Bhekisisa Mnguni

A former attorney, Judge Mnguni, started his legal career in 1990. He went on to become a director of Shepstone & Wylie Tomlinson (1999-2004) and afterwards of Tomlinson Mnguni James. During this time he was appointed as an acting judge at the Natal Provincial Division. Judge Mnguni has the distinct achievement of being a member of the Rules Board for Courts of law from 2006. He has three teenage children.

Fikile Mokgohloa

The newly appointed Judge Mokgohloa's career started in 1990. She practised as an attorney until 2000.

Afterwards she acted as an acting regional magistrate, Bakokeng; acting district magistrate, Brits; acting magistrate ODI; acting judge, Northern Cape Division; and acting judge, NPD. Judge Mokgohloa has practised in semi-rural areas and as a result served people from historically disadvantaged communities. She has considered this her modest contribution to the social justice.

Esther Steyn

Judge Steyn started her legal career in 1980 as a clerk of court. She then began prosecuting in 1984 and rapidly progressed to becoming a senior prosecutor in 1993. She progressed to becoming a lecturer at the University of Cape Town and was promoted to becoming senior lecturer in 2000. Whilst lecturing she became a commissioner on the Jali Commission. Judge Steyn has a keen interest in criminal law more especially in prisoner's rights. She has been published in many legal journals and presented many papers at various conferences.

Durban Bar: new members

Thembela A Lembethe

Sipho Bavuma; formerly a regional operations manager of SARS.

Stewart Hoar; formerly an attorney.

Mluleki M Chithi; formerly an attorney.

Lisa V Thomas

Sarisha Dheepnarain

Carol Sibiya; formerly an attorney.

Lisa Olsen; formerly an attorney.

Pietermaritzburg Bar: new members

Kerusha Pillay

Elize van Jaarsveld; formerly an attorney.

Anton Flemming; formerly an attorney.

Sonja Franke; formerly a paralegal in London.

Shameela Jasat; formerly an attorney.



Pupillage class of 2008

Standing (l - r): Thembela Lembethe; Sipho Bavuma; Rob Sichel; Stewart Hoar; Kevin Gounden; Mluleki Chithi **Seated (l - r):** Lisa Thomas; Sarisha Dheepnarain; Carol Sibiya; Zola Ndlovu; Zuanite Oliver **Absent:** Lisa Olsen; Kubeshnie Govender