

Northern Cape

By Lizanne van Niekerk, Northern Cape Bar

The Bar examination

Both pupils of 2009, David Khokho and Danie Olivier, passed their Bar examinations.

Judiciary

Jaqui Henriques and Chris Botha of the Northern Cape Bar held acting appointments during the second and third term respectively.

A former member of the Northern Cape Bar, Judge Majiedt, was appointed as acting judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal with effect from December 2009. Judge Majiedt obtained his BA LLB from the University of the Western Cape. He was admitted as an advocate in 1984, and was a member of the Cape Bar during the period 1984-1995. He was a member of the Northern Cape Bar from January to March 2000. On 1 May 2000, he was appointed judge of the Northern Cape High Court, Kimberley.

Social events

The annual Bar dinner was held at the Kimberley Club on 20 November 2009.

Members of the Bar closed the year on 4 December 2009 with a

'Hippie rally' on one of the members' game farm. Members and their partners attended. From the outfits it appears that many of the older members only needed to open an old suitcase to find suitable attire. All couples brought their camping equipment and spent the night on the farm. The next morning everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast before leaving.

North Cape Bar dinner



At the dinner, from left to right (front): Johan van Niekerk SC, Judge Johan Olivier, Jackie Henriques, Judge Hennie Lacock, Chris Botha; (back): Lizanne van Niekerk, Theo Fourie, Japie Schreuder, Willem Coetzee, Danie Olivier, Dries van Tonder, Boitomelo Babuseng, Sharon Erasmus. 

Cape

The Cape Bar's scholarship for African women: 'making our affirmative action policies real'

By Roseline Nyman, Cape Bar

In recognition of the under-representation of black women and men in the advocates' profession, the Mission Statement of the Cape Bar expresses its commitment '... to changing the composition of the Cape Bar's membership so as to be representative of South African society'. In line with this commitment, during 2006, the Cape Bar established a ground-breaking scholarship for three African women, funded from members' levies. The requirements for this scholarship are:

- Candidates must be persons who have already been admitted and enrolled to practise as advocates in the Republic of South Africa or who will qualify to be so admitted before 15 January 2010.
- The candidates must be committed to practising as advocates at the Cape Bar and have the potential of being successful in practice, but not have the means to support themselves during the period of pupillage.
- The financial assistance for each of the successful candidates is in the form of a monthly allowance of R5 000 for the twelve months

of pupillage. Thereafter, each candidate who has successfully completed the National Bar Examination and taken up chambers at the Cape Bar, will receive a contribution towards the running expenses for the first year of practice.

Penelope Magone, a former beneficiary of the bursary and member of the Cape Bar, explains how the scholarship assisted her:

'The funding assisted in achieving my career goal. It proved to be extremely valuable for me, and has helped to reduce the financial burdens that I had whilst pursuing a career here at the Bar.

The amount was a stipend, which contributed to some of the monthly obligations that one had as a pupil. It proved to be a good support system, especially with the expenses one incurred daily whilst continuing with the pupillage programme. It certainly served the ultimate purpose of sustaining one for the duration of the programme.

I came to the Bar by faith, which was my only drive behind the risk I took. I boldly stepped out of a comfort zone, from being an independent woman, with a stable monthly salary, but I had hope and a vision. The monthly stipend helped ease the journey on the path towards becoming an advocate at the Cape Bar.

To the Cape Bar community! You are most appreciated for your support to this great initiative. God bless you all!

It is heartening to see that the scholarship has been of assistance to Magone's admission to and practice at the Cape Bar. We are hopeful that the scholarship, combined with our policy on fair and equitable briefing patterns, will result in an increase in the number of women in the advocates' profession. 