

teacher; **Modupi Mokoena** (NCC); **David Mtsweni** (HCC); **Inge Oschman** (HCC), previously legal researcher and judge's clerk for Judge Gildenhuis at the Land Claims Court; **Kgaogelo Ramaimela** (CC); **Marlize Ras** (NCC), voorheen 'n prokureur; **Sajeedah Sayed** (HCC); **Frank Sibulela** (HCC), previously in the legal division of the SA Police Service; **Nico Strydom** (NCC); **Sazi Tisani** (HCC); **Lafras Uys** (HCC); **Philip van den Ordel** (HCC) who is officially the youngest member of the Bar, but according to him also the proudest and most keen to start his career! **JC van Eeden** (HCC); **Adèle van Niekerk** (HCC) who hopes to specialise in tax, labour, contract, insolvency and medical negligence law; and **Adrian Vorster** (HCC), previously an attorney specialising in property law.

## New Court Chambers

By Mabel Jansen SC, Pretoria

New Court Chambers has always had a certain allure, an elusive 'je ne sais quoi.' The reason for this can be attributed to the fact that it was the brainchild of the first breakaway group of advocates who attended a special general meeting *en masse* and voted for the right for advocates to be housed in different buildings.

This group moved into New Court Chambers during 1997. It housed a free-spirited group of advocates, true individuals with idiosyncrasies. Owing to the diminution in numbers it was possible for the advocates to interact on a daily basis and to experience a genuine feeling of belonging and camaraderie. The seventh floor was a true haven, with its balcony and spectacular views of the Union Buildings and the Jacaranda City, where one could down a 'beaker full of the warm South' in order to celebrate a court victory or to drown one's sorrows. It was also the venue for monthly lunches prepared by Annie Williams.

Valerie Matthysen, an institution at the Bar, manned the reception desk. Val, an employee of 25 years, knew the history and family of each advocate. She presided over the New Court Chambers like a hen protecting her brood.

Sadly in 2003, due to faulty electric wiring, the sixth floor caught fire and the entire floor and parts of the fifth floor were destroyed. Other floors suffered water damage. Although the building was repaired, it somehow lost its cachet.

During October 2007 a large contingent of New Court Chambers advocates left for greener pastures. They were blissfully unaware of the imminent economic 'Great Depression.' A small diehard group of advocates, who knew the wisdom of frugality adopted Custer's last stand. However, the Bar's Building Committee (Grobler SC, De Vos SC and Abraham Louw SC), NCC's steering committee (Ferreira SC, Motimele SC, Danie Blignaut and Isabelle Ellis) and the landlord, Growthpoint Properties (Pty) Ltd, assisted by Deon Gericke, conjointly stepped into the breach. New Court Chambers was given an extreme make-over. It rose from the ashes like a phoenix. Advocates soon flocked to it, due to its convenient location on the North Gauteng High Court's doorstep and the reasonable rental. Ben Bernanke – *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year, would nod with approval.

Thus a tranquil oasis was created in the bustling mid-city for members. Members such as Andre Ferreira SC and I, who have practised at New Court Chambers since its inception, smile wryly when colleagues beg us for parking or the use of our chambers for purposes of consultations.

In the words of Churchill when motivating the need to rebuild the Commons Chamber (destroyed by an enemy bomb on May 10,

1941): 'We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.'

Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr was correct in stating that '*plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*'

## In memoriam

Die Pretoria Balie het met leedwese kennis geneem van die afsterwe van twee lede, Dupie (PJ) du Plessis wat in Oktober 2009 oorlede is, asook 'n voormalige lid, Charles More, wat op 1 Februarie 2010 oorlede is. Ons simpatie aan beide se naasbestaendes en ook Charles se vrou Linda, wat steeds by die Pretoria Balie werk.

## Waarnemende aanstellings

Die volgende lede het gedurende die tydperk Oktober 2009 tot Desember 2009 as regters waargeneem: Piet Ebersohn, Ben van den Heever SC, Hans Fabricius SC, Sam Maritz SC, Hennie de Vos SC, Bert Bam SC, Dawie Fourie SC, Francois du Toit SC, Frans Arnoldi SC, Danie van Loggerenberg SC, Mervyn Rip SC, Piet Kemp SC, Ronel Tolmay SC (wat intussen permanent aangestel is as regter!), Daan Mills SC, Abraham Louw SC, Roelof du Plessis SC, Marc Leathern SC en Sarel Wagener SC. 

Moderne interieur van die New Court Chambers.

