

## KwaZulu-Natal

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### New Bar Council

On 7 August 2010 the KZN Bar held its annual general meeting at the Riverside Hotel, Durban North. Among various matters for discussion was the appointment of new office-bearers. The members voted in Marumo Moerane SC as the new chairman and Gurhard Roberts SC as the new vice-chairman. Also appointed to the Bar Council were Laurence Broster SC and Dusty Donnelly. The members of the Bar paid tribute to the tireless and adroit leadership of the outgoing chairman, Peter Olsen SC.

The KZN Bar is fortunate that Moerane SC has been willing to take up the responsibility of leading the profession in KwaZulu-Natal over the next two years. Moerane SC began his tertiary education at Rhodes University where he obtained a BSc. He then went on to the University of Natal obtaining a BComm and an LLB. He was admitted as an attorney in 1972 and practised as such until being admitted as an advocate in 1978, taking silk in January 1994. As a junior Moerane SC had an extensive human rights practice from 1978 to 1994. Since taking silk he has regularly appeared before the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Appeals. He was part of a legal team that represented the Constitutional Assembly before the Constitutional Court in the final Constitution certification case.



Marumo Moerane SC

Moerane's involvement in the profession stretches beyond the court, having served on the KZN Bar Council from 1992 to 1996, from 2000 to 2002 and again most recently from 2009 to 2010. He is also an erstwhile examiner of the National Bar Examination and a past convener of the National Bursary Fund of the GCB. Perhaps more importantly he was a member of the Judicial Services Commission, representing the advocates' profession, from October 1994 to February 2010. He served as the vice-chairperson of the Competition Tribunal of South Africa from 1999 to

2007. Other highlights include being a visiting scholar at Columbia University Law School in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. He has also been appointed as an acting judge of the KZN High Court on various occasions as well as acting as a judge of the Labour Court in 2001. In addition, he has served on various commissions of inquiry.

With such an active professional career one would imagine that he had no time for leisurely pursuits, but he is an avid jogger and enjoys both watching and playing tennis, rugby, cricket and soccer. He also has an abiding love for all types of music and for reading biographies.

We wish Moerane SC and the new Council every success in their guidance of the KZN Bar.

### The new GCB chairman: Rashid Vahed SC

It is with a certain sense of pride that we note that the new GCB chairman, Rashid Vahed SC, hales from the KZN Bar. Vahed SC very kindly offered to provide us with a brief biography in his own words, which we promised not to edit, and indeed include herein unsullied by any editorial influences:

*'(A brief bio with apologies to my friend Russel Coleman SC of the Hong Kong Bar)*

*I decided at an early age to become an advocate after realising that no other member of my extended family was an advocate against whom my failings could be measured. However that decision was not immediately implemented.*

*After taking a few wrong turns which led me down a few incorrect paths, teaching, business, the attorneys' profession etc; I eventually decided to return to the original decision and become an advocate.*

*Armed with a moderate law degree I joined the Bar in Durban in 1989. It was then that I realised that I ought to have been a pilot because I very quickly taught myself to fly below the radar in testimony of which is the fact that the Bar Council has never been required to investigate my conduct.*

*Circumstances required me to take silk in 1997. This now entitled me to have a junior appear with me, resulting in many instructing attorneys commenting that the quality of my legal research had improved significantly. There was however, no change in my court craft.*

*I have served many stints as an acting judge, both in the High Court and the Labour Court, developing an increasing misguided confidence that I could actually do the job, requiring the Judicial Service Commission to twice tell me that that confidence was woefully misplaced. I must however record that I have had marginally more success deciding cases than I have in arguing them.*

*From July/August 2004 to July/August 2006 I served as chairman of the Society of Advocates of KwaZulu-Natal. After being elected, I was informed that no one else wanted the post. Since 2005 I have served on the executive of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa, initially as ordinary member, and thereafter successively as vice-chairman, deputy chairman and now as chairman. It is slowly dawning upon me that one can fool all of the people all of the time!*

*I am married to Roxana, the only person who brings order and purpose to my life, and we have three children who serve as constant reminders of the fact that my hopes of a rewarding retirement are even more misplaced than my judicial aspirations.'*