

## Johannesburg Bar

### New silks

By Les Morison



Silks at the Johannesburg Bar who received their letters patent on 1 October 2010.

Seated: T Motau SC; B Vally SC; M Basslian SC; R Strydom SC; SJ Bekker SC.

Standing: WR Mokhari SC; AT Myburgh SC; DF Dörfling SC; JB Berridge SC; DT v R du Plessis SC; PT Rood SC; APH Cockrell SC. Inserts: JMA Cane SC (Ms); BE Leech SC; PG Malindi SC; JPV McNally SC; ARG Mundell SC; M Naidoo SC; JR Peter SC.

### Profiles of some of the new silks:

#### Bruce Berridge SC

Bruce Berridge matriculated *summa cum laude* from King Edward VII High School in Johannesburg in 1985 and graduated with a BA LLB from the University of Cape Town. He served articles of clerkship at Bowens Attorneys (now part of Webber Wentzel), whereafter he joined the Johannesburg Bar in 1994. His practice covers a broad spectrum of commercial law including both contractual and delictual disputes. Particular areas of focus include insurance law, construction law, professional negligence, pension law and JSE regulatory functions. In his youth, Bruce played provincial and national level basketball. He is married to Alessandra, and they have a one year old son. His hobbies include scuba diving and photography.

#### Jenny Cane SC

Jenny studied at the University of the Witwatersrand where she obtained the degrees of BA LLB (*cum laude*). She thereafter completed her articles at Werksmans, and was admitted as an attorney in 1994. Jenny then joined the Johannesburg Bar and served pupillage with Cassie Badenhorst SC in 1994. As the recipient of the Livingstone Trust Scholarship, Jenny took a one year leave of absence from the Bar to read law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where she obtained an LLM degree in commercial subjects in 1995. She returned to the Johannesburg Bar to pursue a career as an advocate. Jenny focused her attention on commercial litigation and tax, and continued studying to obtain a further LLM (*cum laude*) in tax law from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1998. She was also a part-time lecturer in Tax Law at the School of Law, University of Witwatersrand, from 1998-2003. She is currently a chairperson of the Tax Board, a position that she has held since August 2003. Jenny has a commercial and tax litigation practice. She is looking forward to encouraging and assisting young juniors to gain experience and develop their skills. She sees it as a privilege to play a role in advancing young people's careers and sincerely hopes

that she may impart something of value to those she leads in future. Jenny has been married to Colin since 1992, and they have two boys aged 7 and 10. She enjoys various sports, her favourite at the moment being tennis.

#### Anton Myburgh SC

Anton matriculated at Woodridge College outside of Port Elizabeth and obtained BJuris and LLB degrees from the (then) University of Port Elizabeth. After a stint as a labour law consultant, he commenced practice at the Johannesburg Bar in the beginning of 1997, and has gone on to develop a specialised labour law practice. He has written and lectured extensively in the field, and is currently the national president of the South African Society for Labour Law (SASLAW) and the nominee of the General Council of the Bar to the Rules Board for the Labour Courts. He has a keen interest in golf, travel, wildlife and historical South African art. He is married to Maggie.

#### John Peter SC

John is a member of the Bridge Group in Sandton. He has been a practising member at the Johannesburg Bar since 1992. He is also admitted to practise law in Botswana and the State of California, USA. John obtained BCom and LLB degrees from the University of the

Witwatersrand and an LLM from the London School of Economics. Outside the law he has been seen road running. In 2011 he hopes to complete his tenth Two Oceans Marathon run, and achieve a Bill Rowan Medal in the Comrades up-run to match his 2010 down-run.

#### Pearce Roodt SC

After matriculating in Johannesburg, Pearce studied at the then Rand Afrikaans University where he obtained the degrees BCom and LLB. He then served his articles at Cliffe Dekker & Todd, and was admitted as an attorney and conveyancer in 1986. In 1988 he became a partner of Cliffe Dekker & Todd where he continued to practise in the commercial department until he joined the Johannesburg Bar in 1994. He served his pupillage under Josef Kruger. He is married to Marleen. They have a son and daughter, both of whom are university students. He is an avid angler and wingshooter, which he combines with the training of gun dogs and participation in field trials. He has a general commercial practice.

#### Sarel Bekker SC

Sarel Bekker completed his BA and LLB degrees at the University of Stellenbosch during 1983, and was admitted as an advocate at Cape Town during 1984. He served as a state advocate at the Attorney-General's office of the WLD prior to joining the Johannesburg Bar during July 1988. Sarel is an AFSA qualified mediator and arbitrator, and is a member of Group One, Sandton. His practice comprises general commercial litigation and arbitrations, mainly involving contracts, insurance, insolvency, engineering and corporate law. He specialises in the area of aviation law and aviation insurance. Sarel is married to Sonja, with whom he has three children. When he gets a chance, he enjoys reading, music, films, horse riding and fishing.

#### Rean Strydom SC

Rean Strydom was born in Pretoria on 17 December 1955. He matriculated at the Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool in 1973. He obtained his BCom and LLB degrees (1979) at the University of Stellenbosch. He joined the Johannesburg Bar in 1980 and did his pupillage under Piet

Streicher. Whilst in practice he obtained LLM degrees in constitutional and corporate law at the then RAU. Initially his practice focused on criminal law but now centers around commercial work with particular emphasis on corporate and contractual law. He also practises in the field of administrative law relating to tenders. He further practises in Namibian courts where he gets admitted on an ad hoc basis. He is married to Alet and they have three daughters - one lawyer and two engineers. Rean is an avid golfer and is currently the club captain of Randpark Golf Club. He is also the Johannesburg Bar golf champion. He has completed the Comrades Marathon on six occasions. His other interests include opera, travel and farming in Hazyview.

### Bruce Leech SC

Bruce Leech studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. After obtaining his BA LLB, he lectured part-time at the university and completed his pupillage. He joined the Johannesburg Society of Advocates in December 1993. His practice is centred mainly around regulatory and administrative law. Bruce is married to Catherine and they have five sons. He plays cricket for the Barristers XI, enjoys time with friends, cooking, reading and music.

### Alfred Cockrell SC

Alfred Cockrell graduated from the University of Cape Town with the degrees BA (*cum laude*) LLB (*magna cum laude*). He went on to study law at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. After returning to South Africa, he commenced an academic career and held the position of associate professor at the University of Cape Town and professor of law at Witwatersrand University. He did pupillage at the Cape Bar in 1994, but has practised as a member of the Island Group of Advocates since moving to Johannesburg in 1996. His practice covers many aspects of public law and commercial law, with a particular emphasis on regulatory matters.

### Morris Basslian SC

Morris Basslian attended Natal University (Durban) and graduated

with a BCom LLB in 1971. He was admitted as an attorney of the Transvaal Provincial Division in March 1973 and practised as such until October 1977. He became a member of the Society of Advocates in February 1978 after serving pupillage with M Zar SC. He has a trial practice involving mainly commercial matters although he also appears in opposed motion matters, matrimonial matters, personal injury claims and occasionally in criminal matters. He has appeared in 36 reported cases.

### Dana du Plessis SC

Dana du Plessis obtained a BProc degree at UP and his LLB at Unisa. He completed his articles at Adams & Adams in Pretoria and was admitted as an attorney, conveyancer and notary in 1986. He joined the Johannesburg Bar in July 1990. His practice is mostly of a commercial nature, focusing on the fields of contract, insolvency, company law, insurance, building disputes, property, delict and unlawful competition. He regularly acts as an arbitrator. Dana is married to Marlene and they have two sons, Quentin and Jacques. His hobbies include golf, scuba diving, camping, overlanding and game farming. He is currently the chairperson of the governing body at Hoërskool Linden.

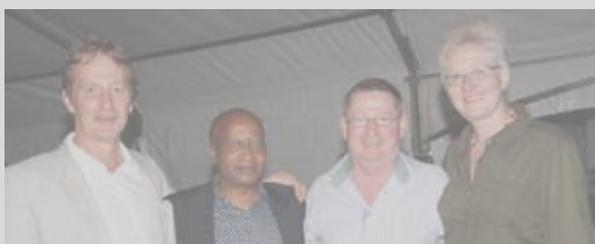
### Gcina Malindi SC

Gcina Malindi is a member of the Island Group of Advocates. He graduated with a BA and LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1994. He did pupillage in 1995 and joined the Johannesburg Bar in July of the same year. Gcina was a member of the Bar Council from 1998-2002. He has served on various Bar Council subcommittees and currently serves on two. Gcina can be described as a legal activist. He is an executive committee member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL) and a member of Advocates for Transformation (AFT- Johannesburg). He gravitates towards any endeavour to promote access to justice and transformation of the profession. He plays football and tennis as his extra-mural activities.

## Group 21 bids farewell to Judge Wepener

By Johan Moorcroft; photograph by Brian Hitchings, Johannesburg Bar

This year, the annual Group 21 function was combined with a celebration of the elevation to the Bench of Group 21's leader for the past decade, Judge Lötter Wepener. In addition to the guests of honour, Judge Wepener and his wife Nakka, the guest list included Judges of Appeal S Snyders (who delivered a keynote address) and FR Malan, Deputy Judge President PM Mojapelo, PA Meyer J, retired Judges HCJ Flemming and Goldblatt, the chair of the Johannesburg Bar Council, Roshan Bedhesi SC, and the past chair of the General Council of the Bar, Patric



**At Judge Wepener's farewell function.** From left to right: Stockwell SC, Mojapelo DJP, Wepener J, and Snyders JA.

Mtshaulana SC. The youngest guest was the Wepener granddaughter Alia, one month old and accompanied by her mother Lisa on a visit from Zambia.

Robbie Stockwell SC who had succeeded him as group leader paid tribute to Judge Wepener. As a student Judge Wepener became involved in public life at a young age, serving on the student branch of the Progressive Party and later as chairman of its Youth Branch. He qualified at the University of Stellenbosch and after a stint as a prosecutor he joined the Bar in 1978. He was awarded silk in 1994. He served as a member of the Bar Council and in 2010 he chaired the Council. He brings a wealth of experience to the Bench.

Behind every great man stands a great woman, and Stockwell SC paid tribute to the role that Nakka played in Judge Wepener's life and career.

Snyders JA spoke eloquently about her early days at the Bar as Judge Wepener's first pupil (a list that also includes Meyer J) and welcomed him to the Bench. Under his leadership the membership of Group 21 grew from the original 21 to 103 a decade later.

Stockwell SC extended a special welcome to the new members, Peter Makhambeni, Casey Chiang, Nadeem Alli, Willem Bezuidenhout, Willie de Beer, Amelia Rawhani, Marius Reineke, Willie Scholtz, Iva Vaz, Pieter Venter, Sarah Wainwright and Bianca Williams.

Dana du Plessis SC, Danie Dorfling SC and Tony Mundell SC had recently taken silk and Stockwell SC congratulated them on an achievement of distinction.