

CONTRIBUTED BY **LIZANNE** VAN NIEKERK

Appointment to the Bench

Judge VM Phatsoane



Violet Phatsoane has been appointed as a judge of the Northern Cape High Court. Her career in the legal profession commenced after obtaining her BProc degree at

the University of the North in 1994. She completed her LLB degree at the University of the Free State in 1996,

and was then appointed by the Department of Justice as a researcher at the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein, working closely with the late Justice PJJ Olivier JA.

Judge Phatsoane continued her studies and completed the LLM degree in Labour Law and Human rights in 1998. She commenced her professional career as a candidate attorney at Naudes Attorneys in Bloemfontein in 1997, where she advanced to become a director and head of the labour law department.

From 25 January 2010 to May 2011 Judge Phatsoane served as an acting judge of the Northern Cape High Court.

New Bar Council

The members of the newly elected 2011/2012 Northern Cape Bar Council are: Johan van Niekerk SC (chairman), Willem Coetzee (deputy chairman), Lizanne van Niekerk (honorary secretary), Japie Schreuder, Sharon Erasmus, Dries van Tonder (additional members).

Acting appointments

Jacqui Henriques and Sharon Erasmus of the Northern Cape Bar held acting appointments in the Northern Cape High Court during the first term.

BAR NEWS NORTH WEST

BY **JOHN STANDER**

Sometimes I wonder what on earth I can write about in this column. Perhaps that is why it is good that my contribution can be short and also, fortunately, that the editions of *Advocate* are only triannual.

I guess that at a bigger Bar one might find more 'newsworthy' stuff. Like a tuxedo aversion or a visit to the Czars library in St Petersburg, or a dash through the Namib on a mountain bike, for example. Here I can safely report on what has not happened, even though it has been mentioned that no news is frequently good news. That of course was during wartime...

So, we have applications for membership but, so far, no new members this year. We still have five pupils (I did the colour/gender report in the last issue) who are plying their way through those voluminous pupil manuals – no sign of burnout yet. We have no new silks to report and no scandals either.

So far, so boring. We do have a new Bar Council however.

After serving two terms (ten or so years) as chairman, Henry Lever SC indicated that perhaps it was time for someone else to

try and convene a Bar meeting at a time that was convenient for everyone. This is really difficult where a Bar has 16 members – to be quorate I mean.

So our new council consists of Johan Pistor SC as chair, Joseph Senatle as vice-chair, Henko Scholtz as honorary secretary and Lawrence Lever as treasurer.

Oops. Nearly forgot. Cecile Zwiegelaar holidayed in Argentina in May – traveled all over. Huge lakes in the south fed by blue-iced glaciers, snow-covered villages with chalets that could have been transplanted from Switzerland, huge, sprawling haciendas in the middle, with gauchos whose chosen career it is to do with cattle what advocates sometimes try to do with the law. And then at the very top, vast cascading waterfalls.

Cecile made it sound really good. Cecile also mentioned the chocolate. She reckons that Argentina beats Europe hands down.

But then, if I were to carry on about her visit, it would be pure hearsay – inaccurate at worst, inventive at best.

So my difficulty in finding news for the next edition is solved.

Cecille can do the report next time and you can get it first hand. With photographs. Okay Cecille?



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