

'While people might ask where I find the time, for me, it's a form of relaxation. I always say: other people play golf, I proof-read.'

'Each time a new publication is born, it is a great joy to see something created which wasn't there before.'

'I guess my true motivation for the publishing lark is to keep in print books which I think are wonderful and should be available to modern South African readers.'

'I majored in English at Wits University in the 1970s, and I suppose this is a tribute to my English teacher at school and to my English lecturers at Wits.'

'However, it's frustrating that the size of the reading public in South Africa is so lamentably small.'

While South African lawyers are keenly interested in the Carson volume, interest has also been piqued much wider. Trevor recently travelled to the United Kingdom to distribute review copies and to undertake promotional events.

Edward Carson was one of the giants

of the English Bar in the early twentieth century, when the leading advocates were public figures whose cases were reported widely in the press.

In one of Carson's earliest cases a woman sought – *à la* Sunette Bridges – to recover gifts from a man who refused to keep his promise of marriage.

'Carson began his cross-examination of the man,' Trevor recounts, 'by asking: "Why don't you give the lady back her presents?" The witness looked at Carson and said, "I think, yer honour, that's a very leading question." He was unable to answer it.'

'Carson duly decided that it was always necessary in cross-examination to ask a *very leading question* going to the heart of the matter. This laid the foundation of what became the famous Carson method of cross-examination: to ask very few, very embarrassing questions, and then to leave the witness alone.'

Trevor's enthusiasm for his subjects is infectious and it's clear: golf's loss is certainly the South African reading public's gain.

EDWARD CARSON QC

'Carson's advocacy ... is worthy of scholarly research and presentation ...'

MARJORIBANKS

- Trevor Emslie's books can be obtained via <http://www.cederbergpublishers.co.za>.

Run, Ncumisa, run

Despite the many responsibilities she shoulders as a busy junior member of the Cape Bar and as a mother, Ncumisa Mayosi is an avid and dedicated runner, the veteran of many half-marathons.

'Don't call me a marathon-runner,' Ncumisa cautions. 'That's an entirely different breed.' Having completed her pupillage with Nazreen Bawa in 2007, Ncumisa commenced practice in 2008.

'I come from the Eastern Cape – from a village called Fort Malan in the district of Willowvale.'

'Law seemed like a natural choice to me, because I loved to read, write and I was a keen student of history. Law seemed to offer many stories worth reading, writing and knowing about. Later, I was attracted to the independence of the Bar.'

From 1989 to 1994, Ncumisa studied at Howard College, the law school of the University of Natal in Durban (as it then was), before completing her articles and working as a professional assistant at Werksmans in Johannesburg.

In 1998, she took up a bursary to complete a Master's degree in bank-

ing and commercial law at University College London. Upon her return and until 2002, she lectured in insolvency and company law at the University of Cape Town.

Ncumisa then veered away from academia and was employed first as the procurement manager and, subsequently, the legal advisor and company secretary of the Coega Development Corporation in Port Elizabeth.

'After four years there it seemed to me the right time to come to the Bar. I was ready for the challenge and I knew I wanted to stay in law.'

Her practice soon flourished. It involves some family law, but is mainly centred upon administrative law and public-interest work.

And amidst it all, Ncumisa finds the time and energy to hit Cape Town's roads before dawn.

'At university, I ran on-and-off. In the

Adv Ncumisa Mayosi just after completing a Two Oceans Half Marathon.

months after my twins were born, in 2000, I started taking running more seriously.

'This was mainly an attempt to cope with the physical demands of two small babies.'

‘Then, I started entering half-marathons. Gradually, running became an important part of how I coped.

‘Yet, I am not strictly a competitive runner. In 2008, I tried to train for a full marathon in a very structured and serious way, but I found the training routine too onerous when added to the demands of parenting and starting my practice at the Bar. I found I wasn’t any longer enjoying running.

‘So, I switched back to half-marathons and the enjoyment returned. It fits more comfortably into my life. I tend to run more often in the spring and summer months, and I do more races then. In winter, I slow down and run only on weekends.

‘Between the months of September and April, I run pretty much five times a week and aim to take part in one half-marathon per month. My running season culminates in the Two Oceans Half Marathon, which takes place in Cape Town every Easter, before tapering off into the winter slow-down.

‘To date, I’ve completed 15 races, including eight Two Oceans.’ Many colleagues wonder how Ncumisa manages this regime.

‘For me the trick is to run first thing in the morning. That is why it works better for me in the summer months when there is morning light. I have tried to run in the afternoons – I even joined a running club – but I tend to find it is easier in the afternoons to opt for staying at work later than to run, or to choose to do homework with the kids or to bring my own work home.

‘There’s something magical about morning running: the solitude; the crisp freshness of the air; the fact that the world is still asleep while you manage – repeatedly and rapidly – to put one foot in front of the other.

‘It makes it feel pretty special. It makes the day ahead seem full of possibilities, rather than burdens.

‘It often helps me solve problems in my cases – running alone in the morning.’

Ncumisa is philosophical about the challenges she faces as a young woman at the Bar: ‘I believe that organised professional associations, like the Bar, are a microcosm of their immediate environment. The Bar reflects how Cape Town is organised.

‘Negative perceptions are a challenge.

However, there are also opportunities that flow from the same difficulty: being a black female practitioner.’

By all accounts, Ncumisa Mayosi is expert at turning difficulties into opportunities – in court and on the road.



Since November 2009, Jean Meiring has been a member of Group 621 at the Johannesburg Bar. Previously, he was an academic in the United Kingdom, and he has moonlighted as a freelance journalist. 

The story of Dennis: from messenger to group leader

DUMISA NTSEBEZA SC WAS APPOINTED AS GROUP LEADER OF THE DUMA NOKWE GROUP IN 2010. HE WRITES AS FOLLOWS:

I was born in a small town in the Transkei, Eastern Cape, called Cala. Both my mother and father were school teachers.

In 1967, I had come to Cape Town to take up a holiday job. The arrangement had been that during the ploughing season, my uncle would go to Willowvale, Transkei, and be involved in ploughing. He would obviously take a long leave to which he would ordinarily not have been entitled. The arrangement was that he would leave me substituting for him as a messenger for the advocates on the 9th and 10th floors, and his return to work would coincide with the time that I had to return to where I came from.

This dovetailed well with my own pro-

gramme. I was a first year BA student at the University of Fort Hare in 1967. Our examinations were over by the end of October, and I could come to Cape Town and earn pocket money before proceeding back to university in the following year.

When I assumed duties, my uncle was there during October/November to orientate me in how his job could best be performed. From what I can recall, there were two of them who worked for the 9th floor. The person who was employed as the switchboard operator was an African male originally from Fort Beaufort, I think. His name was Johnson. I have now forgotten what his surname was.

The floor manager on the 9th floor was Advocate John Foxcroft (as he then was). I

noticed that Johnson was one of those officious Africans in what was arguably a privileged job. To operate the switchboard, and to field some calls was a prestigious job, and he regarded himself as hierarchically superior to my uncle, Alfred Sidumo, who was the messenger in the group.

Johnson would come and get to the switchboard, put on his earphones, sitting in front of this board that had holes into which you would stick the metal end of a telephone wire which would then trigger a ring in the chamber of the advocate who was being phoned. He had mastered the art of always responding to any incoming call by saying ‘Advocate Gerald Gordon’s chambers, good morning?’ Advocate John Foxcroft’s chambers, good afternoon’, and so on. Because Johnson, at some stage, had to take lunch, he had the duty to orientate my uncle, and therefore me, in this ‘treasured’

Dumisa Ntsebeza SC is inter alia a member of the Judicial Service Commission and chairperson of Barloworld.