


Advocates and Barristers (ICAB). Every two years ICAB hosts a conference for members, the last being in Sydney last year and the next in London next year from 29 June until 1 July.

The conference is the only one tailored exclusively for members of the referral profession and provides an excellent platform to exchange views and share common experiences. It is also good fun. The GCB has been well represented at all previous conferences and I urge all who are able to make every effort to attend.

CHIEF JUSTICE MOGOENG

At the time of writing the announcement of the appointment of Justice Mogoeng as the new Chief Justice is a few days old. On behalf of the GCB I congratulate him on that appointment and wish him well and every success for his tenure. The GCB commits itself to working with him on every aspect concerning the administration of justice and will not hesitate to assist when called upon to do so. 



THE AUTHOR

Rashid Vahed SC, chair of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa

A WORD OF THANKS

It is with no small measure of sadness that I record that this is my final contribution as chairman of the GCB. My term of office ends earlier than usual because I now move on to different pastures.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the GCB Executive and was humbled and privileged to lead the GCB since my election as chairman in July 2010. Where the GCB has enjoyed successes or delivered effectively on its leadership mandate, those were due solely to the magnificent collective effort of all on the Executive.

Where there have been shortcomings, these have been mine alone. I leave certain in the knowledge that the GCB is in good hands and that it will enjoy strong and committed stewardship in the years to come.

I thank you all for the privilege of working with you but I am compelled to record a special thank you to Elize van den Heever and Tracy Nothnagel, without whom a lot would simply have not been possible.

Rashid Vahed

Press releases by the GCB

GCB executive

At the conclusion of the annual general meeting Rashid Vahed SC was elected as chairman for 2011/12 with the following members of his executive: Ishmael Semenya SC (deputy chairman), Izak Smuts SC (vice-chairman), Soraya Hassim (honorary secretary), Anthea Platt (assistant honorary secretary), Tayob Aboobaker SC, Jeremy Muller SC, Kgomotso Moroka SC, Gerrit Pretorius SC, McCaps Motimele SC, Archie Findlay SC (*ex officio* as convenor of the National Bar Examination Board), and Mbuyiseli Madlanga SC (*ex officio* as the GCB's representative on the Judicial Service Commission (who serves there with Izak Smuts SC as the GCB's other representative)).

Rashid Vahed SC, GCB chairman, 4 August 2011

Annual general meeting

The GCB held its 66th annual general meeting in Port Elizabeth on 29 July 2011.

The Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award for Service to Law in Southern Africa was made to Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke by the GCB at a gala dinner on the Friday evening, 29 July 2011. The award is presented annually to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of the law in Southern Africa. In that regard Moseneke DCJ needs no introduction. [See also the report on page 8 - Editor.]

Erosion of judicial independence in Swaziland

The GCB joins with other lawyers' organisations, notably the SADC Lawyers Association, the Law Society of South Africa and the Law Society of Swaziland, in expressing its extreme disquiet at the disturbing inroads made into the maintenance of the rule of law and the erosion of judicial independence in Swaziland. The need to say this publicly has been prompted by the recent events in Swaziland which include:

- The removal from office of High Court Judge Thomas Masuku by King Mswati III;

- The facts and circumstances surrounding Judge Masuku's disciplinary hearing;
- The failure of the Chief Justice of Swaziland to acknowledge and deal with the complaints of and issues raised by the Law Society of Swaziland concerning the directives issued by him.
- The apparent 'suspension' from office of Swaziland's Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Rashid Vahed SC, GCB chairman, 10 October 2011