

Johannesburg Bar

By Kameshni Pillay

Silks Judges Dinner

The Johannesburg Bar successfully hosted its annual Silks Judges Dinner on 16 August 2012 at the Johannesburg Country Club. The event was attended by silks and judges from the South Gauteng High Court. The keynote addresses were by Modise Khoza SC and Deputy Judge President Mojapelo. One of the highlights of the evening was an address by Wulfsohn SC, formerly from Group 500 Innes Chambers, and currently an associate member of Group 500 Schreiner Chambers. Now 90 years old, Wulfsohn regaled the judges and silks with stories and anecdotes gathered during his 60 years at the Bar.

Formation of a new group

The Johannesburg Bar is set to welcome a new group into the world. Members from the Duma Nokwe and Island Groups have

come together to start the process of forming the as yet unnamed new group (although the name 'Baobab' has been suggested). According to Wim Trengove SC – who is one of the leaders of the project – they hope to create a group that will be truly non-racial in every way.

The plan, says Trengove SC, is to start with 60 or 65 members drawn mostly from Duma Nokwe and Island. He says they already have a waiting-list of aspirant-members, but will wait for the group to settle down first before looking at the possibility of adding more members.

Apart from non-racialism a big focus for the new group will be on the development of young practitioners. Trengove SC says they want to assist young advocates and pupils as much as possible with advocacy training – in addition to the training provided by the Bar. Pro bono work

involving important principles will be another focus. Trengove SC says they want to bring justice where there is injustice. He says they know everyone does this kind of work, but the new group wants to place a bigger emphasis on it.

Although Trengove SC is certainly one of the high profile practitioners involved in the project, he is adamant that Vincent Maleka SC should receive the credit for this initiative. Trengove SC says Maleka was the one who started it and is still the one driving the project.

The building at 1A Protea Place in Sandton has been identified as the home of the new group. If all goes according to plan the members will move in early next year. The formation of this new group will bring the number of groups at the Johannesburg Bar to 17. It will also be the second new group created at the Bar since 2010 (along with the Victoria Mxenge Group).

Amongst those members who have already committed themselves to the project (apart from Maleka and Trengove) are Tom Bokaba SC, Gilbert Marcus SC, Vas Soni SC, Les Morison SC, Lindi Nkosi-Thomas SC and Kgomotso Moroka SC. **A**



Soccer fever

Soccer fever has taken the Johannesburg Bar by storm with the Johannesburg Bar joining the corporate soccer league. The Bar team is captained by Daniel Hersch from Maisels Group.

Games are played every Sunday at the Zoo lake.

There are also less formal initiatives taking place.

Two groups, Pitje and Constitutional Hill, have organised themselves into soccer teams. Every Friday friendly games take place amongst themselves and against outside teams.

On Friday, 31 August 2012, Pitje United, starring none other than Semanya SC in midfield, took on the Jhb Attorneys and emerged with a 7:2 victory.



New silk

Christopher Whitcutt SC

Christopher Whitcutt was called to the Bar in 1995.

Christopher's area

of practice is general commercial law, specialising in the law relating to restraints of trade and unlawful competition. His practice also includes company law and mining law matters.

Christopher is accredited by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) as a commercial mediator, is a member of the Arbitration Foundation of South Africa and has acted as an arbitrator. He has been actively involved in both pupillage and advanced advocacy training since 1999 and is serving on the Johannesburg Bar and GCB advocacy training sub-committees. He helped to set up and run the inaugural advanced advocacy training course in Stellenbosch in 2011.

He has taught at advanced advocacy training courses in South Africa, England and Australia.