

Eastern Cape Bar

Port Elizabeth

By Steve Rorke SC and Anusha Rawjee

We pen this article with Port Elizabeth still in the grip of African Cup of Nations soccer fever. Playing host to Ghana added colour and flare to our friendly city. Between working and following the soccer games, some of our members found the time to participate in the Herald Cycle Tour in preparation for the Cape Argus Cycle Tour held in March. Special mention must be made of Barry Pienaar SC who, having completed 21 Argus Cycle tours, sports the blue Club 21 jersey and enjoys life membership of Club 21. Even after 21 tours, he maintains no one race has ever been the same as any other.

Our Bar, recognising the importance of good competition which ensures excellence, welcomed three new members to our ranks: Kent Williams, Tanja Gauss and Daryn Arends.

Williams studied at NMMU and obtained his LLB in 2001. Having completed his articles at Burmeister De Lange Inc in 2003 he remained there as a practising attorney. He was appointed as a director and as head of the litigation department dealing predominantly with commercial and civil litigation in 2005. Williams is a sports fanatic and an active cyclist having participated in the Ironman SA in 2011. His love for law is evidenced by his choice in a partner, Haley Gathercole, who is an attorney.

Gauss holds a BCom LLB degree from NMMU and completed her articles at Gray Moodliar Attorneys. She continued practising as an attorney at Gray Moodliar for a further two years gaining experience in the field of labour law. During those two years she also completed an LLM degree

in Labour Law. When Tanja has spare time, which is now no longer often – she enjoys rowing.

Arends obtained his LLB from Stellenbosch University in 2011. During 2011 he attended the School for Legal Practice in Port Elizabeth where he successfully completed a six month practical legal training course.

Arends took part in the Legal Education and Development National Litigation Competition where he finished in 7th position nationally.

He also obtained best overall marks for High Court Practice, Commercial Contracts and Legal Costs (all *magna cum laude*) at the School for Legal Practice. He is currently completing his final module for his LLM in Criminal Justice at NMMU. He enjoys watching sports, especially soccer and rugby and enjoys fishing.

Nyameko Gqamana and Candice Mey acted as judges last term and do so again this term together with Johann Huisamen SC. We wish them well during their acting appointments. **A**

Grahamstown

By Richard Brooks

New judge

Judge Murray Lowe

The Grahamstown Bar has been happy to relinquish one of its senior members to become an addition to the Bench in the Eastern Cape. Judge Murray Lowe commenced practice at the Bar in Grahamstown at the end of 1984. He holds an LLB degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and an LLD from Unisa. He took silk in 1997 and was chairman of the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates in 2010.

Prior to joining the Bar Judge Lowe had a distinguished career in academia as a senior lecturer in Private Law at the University of Fort Hare, followed by holding the chair in Mercantile Law at the University of Bophutatswana. Earlier involvement saw him qualify as an attorney, notary and conveyancer in Johannesburg.

This background enabled both a competent and illustrious career at the Bar, further distinguished by his being the lead author of an academic treatise: *Elliott – South African Notary*. We are delighted to welcome him as a judge and wish him well in the further development of his career.

2013 also sees the appointment of a new judge to the Mthatha High Court in the Eastern Cape Division. Judge Buyiswa Majiki was admitted as an attorney in 1995. Prior to her appointment to the Bench she practised as an attorney in Butterworth. We wish her well in the further development of her career.

New members

Thomas Stanley Miller: Born in Johannesburg, Thomas moved to Belgium with his family at the age of ten, where he attended the British school of Brussels. He completed his secondary education at the King's School Canterbury in the United Kingdom, with A Levels in Politics, Economics and French. Thereafter followed an undergraduate degree in Economics and Business with Eastern European studies at the University College, London. Thomas returned to South Africa and completed an LLB degree at Rhodes University. He joins the Grahamstown Bar after success in his pupillage at the end of 2012.

Matthew Xola Mpahlwa: Born in Mthatha, Matthew graduated from Rhodes University with an undergraduate degree majoring in journalism with specialisation in television. Thereafter, he undertook fulltime study towards an LLB degree at Rhodes University while working as a reporter for the South African Press Association.

Work as an investigative journalist in broadcast and print media saw him as a news correspondent reporting on East and West Africa, often undertaking cross-border investigations as an undercover reporter exposing lethal criminal activities in the underworld in Africa.

In 2010, Matthew was selected by World Press as being among the top 18 Journalists in Africa. He obtained the LLB degree at the end of 2011.

He joined the Bar after the successful completion of pupillage at the end of 2012 and is currently pursuing an MA degree in the African Languages Department of Rhodes University, focusing on court interpreting in the Eastern Cape. **A**