

- 20 Precisely the same response is given by the DOJ to a proposal put by the LSSA that regional councils should comprise separate chambers of attorneys and advocates.
- 21 In response to the GCB's proposal of equal representation on the LPC the DOJ states that there 'are more attorneys than advocates in the country,' and no more.
- 22 The responses of the DOJ to the various submissions made to the Portfolio Committee were furnished to the *ad hoc* committee by the LSSA, which presumably received the document from the DOJ.

**Recent meeting with the LSSA**

23 The *ad hoc* committee had a meeting with the LSSA on 20 April 2013. The representatives of the LSSA expressed the view that the Bill to be placed before Parliament will not deviate, insofar as governance issues are concerned, from the one currently before Parliament. The door appears to be closed on further discussion with the LSSA on the provisions of the

LPB affecting the issue of governance. The *ad hoc* committee of the GCB has itself received no indication that the DOJ (or the Minister) proposes to deviate from the stance which we have described above.

- 24 The *ad hoc* committee accordingly finds itself in a position where, unless new initiatives are undertaken, it can do little more than make a contribution to preparation for the enactment of the Bill, and especially for implementation of the transitional provisions set out in chapter 10 of the Bill.
- 25 In anticipation of that process it has been raised in discussions between representatives of the LSSA and the GCB *ad hoc* committee that details of the following aspects, in particular, ought to be explored:

(a) the quality of law degrees; (b) vocational training; (c) continued professional development; (d) assessment; (e) foreign qualifications; (f) the referral rule; (g) capping of fees; (h) conversion of registration; (i) remuneration of candidate legal practitioners. **A**

## Annual general meeting of the GCB

By **Francois Botes**, Pretoria Bar

The Pretoria Bar hosted the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the GCB on 19 July 2013. Delegates from all the constituent Bars of the GCB attended the meeting at the Royal Elephant Hotel and Conference Centre in Centurion. Members attended an informal welcoming function on Thursday evening, 18 July 2013, in the cellar of the Royal Elephant Hotel. This function created an ideal platform for members to familiarise themselves with the important issues and challenges that the Bar is dealing with. It soon became evident (just before midnight) that our colleagues had solutions to all the prevailing challenges that we are currently facing and with the assistance of Bacchus, the challenges occasioned by the notorious Legal Practice Bill seemed to be an easy hurdle to overcome. The fact of the matter is, however, that members enjoyed the opportunity to interact with each other on an informal basis.

The formal proceedings commenced early on Friday, 19 July 2013. Two colleagues from the Namibian Society of Advocates also attended the meeting as observers.

The highlight of the occasion was the gala dinner which was held at the same venue. The guests of honour were Justice Zak Yacoob, who recently retired from the Constitutional Court, and Mrs Yacoob. The Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award for Service to Law was awarded to Justice Yacoob by the GCB at the dinner. The award is presented annually to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of the law in Southern Africa.

The GCB chairman, Ishmael Semenya SC, elaborated on Justice Yacoob's career and directed members' attention to the sterling contribution that he had made as a member of the Constitutional Court. He said that Justice Yacoob would be remembered as a humble man who overcame enormous challenges, excelled to the highest office of jurisprudence in South Africa, and commanded the respect of all members of the legal fraternity.



GCB chair Ishmael Semenya SC (right) awarding the Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award for Service to Law to Justice Zak Yacoob.

The gala dinner in honour of Justice Yacoob was attended by several eminent jurists, including Constitutional Court Justice Edwin Cameron, George Bizos SC, Judge K Mthiyane, Deputy President of the SCA, Judge Mlambo, Judge President of the North and South Gauteng High Court and Judge Ledwaba, Deputy Judge President of the North Gauteng High Court.

In reply Justice Yacoob paid tribute to former President Nelson Mandela and elaborated on his life and career as jurist. After Judge Yacoob's address, Mrs Yacoob received a bouquet of flowers. She received a standing ovation from all the delegates. The gala dinner afforded old friends and colleagues an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and to reminisce. It was a privilege and honour for the Pretoria Bar Society to host the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting Ishmael Semenya SC was re-elected as chairman of the GCB for 2013/14 with the following members of his executive: Jeremy Muller SC (deputy chairman), McCaps Motimele SC (vice chairman), Anthea Platt (honorary secretary), Johanni Barnardt (assistant honorary secretary), Tayob Aboobaker SC, Andrea Gabriel SC, Nana Makhubela, Abraham Louw SC, Craig Watt-Pringle SC, and Archie Findlay SC (*ex officio* as convenor of the National Bar Examination Board). **A**