

## Zambia to host inaugural IBA women business lawyers' event in Africa

ZAMBIA is to host the first International Bar Association (IBA) Legal Practice Division (LPD) Women Business Lawyers Initiative programme to be held in Africa. Titled, 'African women in law rising' the event will take place in Livingstone from 21–22 April 2015, in partnership with the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ).

Welcome remarks and the keynote address are to be delivered, respectively, by George Kangwa Musole Chisanga, President of the Law Association of Zambia, and Dr Tukiya Kankasa-Mabula Deputy Governor, Administration at the Bank of Zambia, and winner of the IBA 2014 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award who commented, 'I am honoured to have been asked to deliver the keynote speech for this unique event. We should continue striving to advance opportunities for women within the legal profession through such initiatives and I look forward to sharing my own experiences and learning from the other speakers and delegates present.'

A chief aim of the 'African women in law rising' is to highlight issues of particular relevance to women lawyers, including: whether the concept of risk avoidance influences female lawyers' decision-making in relation to career paths and practice areas; whether there are practice areas considered to be male-dominated or dangerous for female practitioners resulting in fewer women lawyers getting involved; why

there are so few women advocates; and overcoming gender roles and stereotypes to network effectively with both men and women.

The programme will also cover non gender-specific topics including: what to do to improve advocacy skills to become outstanding in court; how to build a reputation and a vibrant brand on the internet; an overview of the practice areas increasing in importance and creating a demand for experienced legal practitioners; developing and retaining associates that are valuable to both the firm and to clients; and what to do to move from being a locally recognised firm to an internationally recognised firm.

SUPPORTED by the IBA African Regional Forum, 'African women in law rising' has attracted high-level speakers from countries across Africa including the host nation, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The Forum's Chair, Sternford Moyo, commented, 'It is critical that from the local, to the regional, to the global level that the position of women lawyers is strengthened. In this respect, the IBA's Women Business Lawyers Initiative provides a forum for women, and men, to work towards building capacity central to benefitting the legal profession as a whole, and raising the consciousness of society on gender equality.' **A**

Readers of Advocate are invited to contribute or comment on any aspect of the law and practice in general, eg the organised Bar's role in SA (the Bar is facing regulatory changes which could drastically revolutionise the way it works), Bar life, practice management, profiles of members, pro bono work, and legislation. Humorous and other anecdotes of life at the Bar are welcome. Photos and illustrations must be of an acceptable quality – this includes size and resolution (material should be submitted in digital format).

Views need not be politically correct to qualify for publication, but must be short and to the point. Submit material to the editor or you local Bar representative or editorial committee member. Articles or letters can also at an author's request be published anonymously.

# Invitation to write

