

Free State

Henriette Murray

New Judge-President

The FS Bar wishes to extend a warm welcome to a born Bloemfonteiner appointed as the new Judge-President of the Free State Division: Madam Justice Mahube Molemela who is only the second woman to occupy that office in South Africa. Evidence of the qualities which led her to the top, besides her personal attributes of being highly motivated, dedicated to the legal profession, hard-working, well-organised and well-spoken, appears from the impressive list of her achievements set out below:

- **Academic:** Mme Justice Molemela obtained BA and B Proc degrees from the University of Fort Hare, followed by an LLB as well as an LLM in Mercantile Law from the University of the Free State. In addition she holds Certificates and Advanced Diplomas from various other institutions, including Advanced Labour Law (University of Johannesburg), Human Rights (Danish Centre of Human Rights, Denmark), Business Management (MANCOSA) and Advanced Military Law (SANDF).
- **Legal:** Her extensive professional career started in 1987 when she was appointed as a prosecutor in the Thaba Nchu Magistrates' Court. After serving articles of clerkship with E G Cooper & Sons and Peete Jake Moloi Attorneys, respectively, she was admitted as an attorney in 1993 and as a Notary and Conveyancer in 1996. She thereafter served, successively, as a director in three Free State firms: MB Molemela Attorneys, Kubushi-Molemela Attorneys and Claude Reid Inc and then moved to Johannesburg to join, as a director, Smith Tabata Buchanan Boyes Inc.
- **Leadership and managerial:** Her legal, managerial and leadership experience is not confined to the courtroom. Besides having served as a CCMA arbitrator and as a panellist for Tokiso Dispute Resolution Centre, the Military Arbitration Forum and various Bargaining Councils, she was

a part-time lecturer at the University of the Free State for two years and served as an examiner for the Law Society of SA (LSSA) Conveyancing examinations. She also served as a Councillor of the FS Law Society, as a Member of the Standing Committee of the FS Law Society; as a Member of the Board of Control of the LSSA School for Legal Practice, FS; as a Member of the Board of Control of the Attorneys' Fidelity Fund; and as a Trustee of the Legal Education Centre of the Black Lawyers Association. She has served on numerous boards, *inter alia*, as Chairman of Centlec, as a provincial board member of ABSA Bank Ltd, as a board member of the FS Rural Development Association and currently as a Council Member of the Central University of Technology (CUT).

- **Judicial:** Mme Justice Molemela's judicial career started with her appointment as chairperson of the Valuations Court in Bloemfontein. In 2004 she was appointed as a Military Judge. As from October 2005 she acted as a Judge of the FS High Court on an *ad hoc* basis, and in 2007 and 2008 acted in the South Gauteng High Court as well. She also served as an acting judge in the Competition Appeal Court. In July 2008 she was appointed as a permanent judge of the FS High Court, Bloemfontein, and in 2014 as a permanent Judge of Appeal in the Labour Appeal Court. All of these culminated in her appointment in December 2014 as the Judge-President of this Division.

Further evidence of the high esteem in which Mme Justice Molemela is held, is that, before she even had time to settle in as JP, she was invited to serve in the Constitutional Court from 1 January 2015 to 31 May 2015. On 25 June 2015, we were to have the honour of hosting an official welcoming function for her at the Free State Bar. **A**



The new Judge-President of the Free State Division: Madam Justice Mahube Molemela

Other Free State news
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In November 2014 the Bar took leave of Peet van Rooyen, SC, who in his 28 years at this Bar made his mark in many capacities, as an acting judge on many occasions, as a respected Senior Counsel who was always willing to assist with sound advice; as an enthusiastic member of the group of 'bikers': both a cyclist and as motorcyclist, and who always set an example for all of us by arriving soon after dark every morning to clear his desk by mid-afternoon. We all wish him a well-deserved rest.

- The Bar has gained a new Silk. Louis Pohl joined the Bar in July 1992 and, except for two years as a director of Honey & Partners from 2006 to 2008, has been a member for 21 years. He has also served

as an acting judge and was awarded Senior Status on 24 November 2014. We wish him well as regards his increased responsibilities.

- Seven members, Loius Pohl, Allan Williams, Stanley Reinders, Germa Wright, Celesté Reinders, Henriette Murray and Suzaan Boonzaaier, had the privilege of serving as acting judges in the Bloemfontein High Court for various terms between July 2014 and July 2015.

- And still our Bar keeps growing, having gained seven new members in the past six months. Five are 2014-pupils who took Chambers in January: Bonathi Masoka (a former High Court Registrar), Leduma Mohale, André Sander (a former attorney), Eugene Lubbe and Lungile Bomela (a former attorney); the sixth is a

former member who rejoined us from Legal Aid SA, Kenney Pretorius; and the seventh a former member of the Johannesburg Bar, Khelu Nondwangu. Of the six pupils in the 2015 intake, three, Peter Masihleho, René Bester-Hefer and Ilze Olivier, have persevered and were, at the time of writing, frantically preparing for the July Mock Exams: and looking forward to the Eastern Cape Advocacy Training week in July in PE.

- Two of our new members, Masoka and Mohale, were the fortunate recipients of LexisNexis Sponsorships for 2015. They are now the proud owners of brand-new Samsung Laptops with 3G's and a year's free access to the LexisNexis database. The company's continued and generous support of our newcomer members is highly appreciated (See also April 2015 *Advocate* at 9). 

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
(OVERSTRAND LOCAL DIVISION)

SEEFF HERMANUS - APPLICANT
And
THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BAR COUNCIL OF SA - RESPONDENTS

NOTICE TO DISCOVER

KINDLY TAKE NOTICE THAT:

- IF YOU CANNOT WORK ANY HARDER, YOU CAN STILL WORK SMARTER;
- WHILE DRAFTING COMPLICATED LEGAL OPINIONS OR PLEADINGS, YOU CAN ENJOY THIS SPECTACULAR SCENERY;
- WITH RETIRED JUDGES ON STANDBY, HERMANUS IS READY TO BECOME A PRIME DESTINATION FOR ARBITRATION HEARINGS;
- TO ACHIEVE THE AFORESAID, YOU PREFERABLY NEED TO BE A PROUD LOCAL HOME-OWNER AND DISCOVER THE EXCEPTIONAL LIFESTYLE OF THE OVERSTRAND.

DATED AT HERMANUS ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2015.

JAN EN TUTU WAGENER (SIGNED)

SEEFF HERMANUS

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