

# Eastern Cape

## GRAHAMSTOWN

Thomas Miller, Grahamstown

• **Judicial appointment:** Gerald Bloem is congratulated on his appointment to the Eastern Cape Bench.

Having initially completed a BA degree and a Secondary Teachers Diploma at the University of Western Cape, he then completed his LLB degree at Rhodes University.

After completing his articles of clerkship at the firm of B Sandi & Co in Grahamstown, Judge Bloem then joined the Grahamstown office of the Legal Resources Centre where he practised as an attorney and then as an advocate. In 1998 he went into private practice in Bhisho, where he served as a member of the Bhisho Bar Council.

Judge Bloem has practised in Grahamstown since 2001 where he has served as a member of Bar Council of the Society of Advocates of the Eastern Cape and as the Chairperson of the Society during 2012 and 2014. He was appointed as senior counsel on 1 August 2010 and has held acting appointments in the High Court of Mthata during 2000 and 2001, in Bhisho during 2003, in Bloemfontein during 2005, 2007 and 2013 and in the Eastern Cape Division during 2010, 2014 and 2015.

During his fourteen years of practice in Grahamstown Judge Bloem has provided invaluable mentorship to a number

of junior advocates not only helping them to establish their practices but also ensuring the continued growth and success of the Bar in Grahamstown.

• **Acting appointment:** Richard Brooks SC, a member of the Editorial Committee of *Advocate*, held an acting appointment as a judge of the Eastern Cape during the first and second term. Having briefly rejoined us during the July High Court recess, Brooks SC is due to take up a further acting appointment for the third and fourth terms.

• **LexisNexis Sponsorship Programme:** Akhona Baninzi was the recipient of the LexisNexis sponsorship and received a laptop with twelve months of free internet access and the My LexisNexis Platinum package. Setting up practice is often a daunting and expensive process and we appreciate LexisNexis providing sponsorship to one of our newest members (see also 2014 April *Advocate* at 9).

• **GCB Future Leaders Symposium:** One of our junior members, Matthew Mpahlwa, attended the GCB's Future Leader Symposium, held in Johannesburg on 3–4 July. Mpahlwa found the programme to be informative and insightful. **A**

## PORT ELIZABETH

Mark Euijen and Anusha Rawjee

• **Acting Appointments:** Lee-Anne Ah Shene acted in the Labour Court during the first term.

• **Sport:** Ashley Moorehouse is instrumental in keeping the Bar's cricket team in good shape. Members report for practice regularly and enjoy the much loved game. Jean Nepgen successfully completed the Two Oceans in March. The train race is back and Club Chambers has accepted the challenge from the Oasim Group. Training has commenced in earnest and bets are on as to who will emerge victorious.

• **Chambers:** Membership of both groups has increased, necessitating the building of new chambers. The second floor of the annex has now been partitioned into chambers which completes the development of the new building annexed to the old St George's club. The Oasim Group are eagerly awaiting the completion of further improvements to their building.

• **Advocacy Training and Pupilage:** Mechelle Beneke, with the assistance from the GCB, has organised the first advocacy training workshop for pupil members of the smaller bars. The training was held in Port Elizabeth during the month of July. At the time of writing pupil members were preparing in earnest for the training and the examination which is looming. **A**



# North West

John Stander, Mahikeng

A new Bar Council has been elected for the current year. Johann Pistor SC assumes the Chair, Ken Chwara is his deputy and Pieter and Danielle Smit (no relation) retain the positions of secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Two further members have been granted their Letters Patent and we congratulate Blackie Swart SC and Lawrence Lever SC on their achievement.

Lawrence has been acting in the Northern Cape Division and Ken Chwara would be acting in the North West Provincial Division this term. **A**