

Free State

Contributed by Jacyn Mitchley



Ben Bezuidenhout

Welcoming functions for new Judges

On 16 August 2018 the official welcoming ceremony was held for Judges Sharon Cheswiwe, Pitso Molisoane and Lani Opperman at the Free State High Court. The ceremony was led by Acting Judge President Cagney Musi. Touching welcoming speeches were delivered by Advocate Paul Zietsman SC on behalf of the Society, Nkopane Phalatsi on behalf of the Free State Law Society, Advocate Carel van der Merwe of the National Prosecuting Authority and Ms Babane Maranyane of the State Attorney's Office.

Later in the day the Society hosted an official welcoming and congratulations ceremony for Judges Cheswiwe, Molisoane and Opperman, and well as our former Judge President, Justice Molemela who has ascended to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The tone of the evening was set by the superb and gracious speeches by the members of the Bench as well as our

Chairman Paul Zietsman SC. The function will be remembered as a very enjoyable opportunity to engage in good conversation, spirited banter and getting to know our new judges.

Acting Appointments

A number of our members have had the honour of acting in the third term, including Neil Snellenburg SC, Seef Hefer SC, Henri Benade, Bejile Mene and Ilse van Rhyn. Their competency and experience will certainly have complimented our local bench.

Tribute to the late Judge Hattingh

The Society mourns the passing of Judge Gerhardus Arnoldus "Arrie" Hattingh on 13 August 2018. The late judge Hattingh practised as a member of this Society for an impressive 18 years spanning between 1968 – 1986, during which he took silk in 1981. Thereafter he ascended to the Bench where he presided for 22 years.

Judge Hattingh was affectionately known to be a judge who tolerated no nonsense and could decisively cut through a shaky case, with a good measure of wry humour. His innate sense of justice saw the delivery of countless excellent judgments. He will be remembered with great fondness. [A](#)