

**APPLICANT: BRUCE STANLEY MICHAEL BEDDERSON**

**COURT FOR WHICH APPLICANT APPLIES: KWAZULU-NATAL  
DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT, DURBAN AND  
PIETERMARITZBURG**

**1 The candidate's appropriate qualifications**

1.1 The candidate holds the following degrees:

1.1.1 Bachelor of Arts Degree (1992), University of Durban-Westville;  
and

1.1.2 LLB Degree (1995), University of Durban-Westville;

1.2 The candidate's career path:

**Legal**

1.2.1 27 August to 21 September 2018 – Acting Judge of the KZN  
Local Division, Durban;

1.2.2 3 June to 28 June 2019 - Acting Judge of the KZN Local  
Division, Durban;

1.2.3 2 March to 27 March 2020 - Acting Judge of the KZN Local  
Division, Durban;

1.2.4 Chairperson of Tax Appeal Board;

1.2.5 Oral examiner motion court practice for Pupil Advocates;

- 1.2.6 Pupil Mentor to approximately 10 pupils;
- 1.2.7 Served on the examination committee for pupil advocates;
- 1.2.8 Actively involved in Advocacy Training for pupil advocates;
- 1.2.9 Lecturing and mentoring of pupil advocates at the Bar;
- 1.2.10 Advocate at the Society of Advocates, KwaZulu-Natal (1 January 2000);
- 1.2.11 Admitted as an Advocate of the High Court (13 July 1999);
- 1.2.12 Admitted as an Attorney (9 June 1997);
- 1.2.13 Professional Assistant, Vassist Sewpal Attorney (1997 - 1999);
- 1.2.14 Articles of Clerkship, Vassist Sewpal Attorney (1995 - 1997).

### **Non-Legal**

- 1.2.15 Chairperson of the School Governing Body of Chelsea Preparatory School and Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee);
- 1.2.16 Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee at Chelsea Preparatory School);
- 1.2.17 Deputy Chairperson of the Finance Committee of St Michael's Committee Church.

## **2 Whether the candidate is a fit and proper person**

- 2.1 The candidate was admitted as an attorney on 9 June 1997.

2.2 On 13 July 1999, the candidate was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court. He became a member of the Society of Advocates, KwaZulu-Natal on 1 January 2000.

2.3 The KwaZulu-Natal Law Society had issued a letter of good standing for the candidate; and

### **3 Whether the candidate's appointment would help to reflect the racial and gender composition of South Africa**

3.1 The candidate is a black man.

3.2 The candidate's appointment would help to transform the racial composition of the bench but not the gender composition.

### **4 The candidate's knowledge of the law, including constitutional law**

4.1 The candidate has listed three judgments, as an Acting Judge.

4.2 The candidate has no reserved judgments that are still outstanding. None of his judgments have been taken on appeal.

4.3 The candidate has a broad array of experience over his career in different areas of law including general, civil and commercial litigation.

4.4 The candidate listed the following significant cases in which he has appeared together with Senior Counsel as a Junior Counsel:

4.4.1 *City of Johannesburg Municipality v Blue Moonlight Properties*  
2012 (2) SA 104 (CC);

4.4.2 *The Law Society of Swaziland v The Speaker of the House of Assembly and two others* – Case No 1145/2012; and

4.4.3 *Standard Bank of SA Ltd v R Bay Logistics cc* 2013 (2) SA 295 (KZD).

## **5 The candidate's commitment to the values of the Constitution**

5.1 There is nothing in the judgments of the candidate or in any publicly available information which suggests that the candidate is not committed to the values of the Constitution.

5.2 The candidate has acted in various claims for indigent plaintiffs in personal injury claims against the Road Accident Fund and for claimants in medical negligence matters.

5.3 The candidate has also acted for Probono.org and has appeared on behalf of amicus curiae in the Constitutional Court.

5.4 As a Chairperson of the school governing body of Chelsea Preparatory School, the candidate has ensured that the school complied with its constitutional obligations to employ people of colour to address the imbalances of the past.

## **6 Whether any judgments have been overturned on appeal**

6.1 The candidate has no judgments that have been taken on appeal.

## **7 The extent and breadth of the candidate's professional experience**

7.1 The candidate's experience is exclusively in his capacity as an attorney, advocate and Acting Judge. The candidate's practical experience is

substantial, spanning 20 years as counsel and he has been exposed to a wide variety of legal matters.

## **8 The candidate's linguistic and communication skills**

8.1 From the candidate's judgments it is clear that he has excellent English language skills. The candidate uses plain language in his judgments, making them easily understandable.

8.2 No adverse comments have been raised about the candidate's communication skills.

## **9 The candidate's ability to produce judgments promptly**

9.1 There is no indication from the judgments analysed that the candidate has failed to deliver any judgment within a few months.

## **10 The candidate's fairness and impartiality**

10.1 No adverse comments have been received.

10.2 The analysis of the candidate's judgments set out above indicates that the candidate carries out his role with the fairness and impartiality it requires.

## **11 The candidate's independent mindedness**

11.1 No adverse comments have been received.

11.2 The analysis of the candidate's judgments set out above indicates that the candidate has an independent mind.

## **12 The candidate's ability to conduct court proceedings**

12.1 The candidate's acting appointments indicate that he is proficient and experienced in conducting court proceedings. The candidate is more than qualified to conduct court proceedings and does in fact conduct court proceedings in accordance with the procedural rules and with the requisite decorum.

12.2 There is nothing to indicate that the candidate is unable to conduct court proceedings efficiently.

### **13 The candidate's administrative ability**

13.1 The candidate displays good administrative ability displayed especially in the delivery of prompt judgments.

13.2 No adverse comments have been received regarding the candidate's administrative ability.

### **14 The candidate's reputation for integrity and ethical behaviour**

14.1 No adverse comments have been received.

14.2 The candidate has a reputation for integrity and commitment to the ethics required of a Judge of the High Court.

### **15 The candidate's judicial temperament**

15.1 No unfavourable comments have been received.

15.2 The candidate has conducted himself judiciously and with decorum and fairness during his acting appointments.

**16 The candidate's commitment to human rights, and experience with regard to the values and needs of the community**

16.1 The candidate has been the oral examiner for motion court practice for pupil advocates.

16.2 The candidate has been a pupil mentor to approximately 10 pupils.

16.3 He has served on the examination committee for pupil advocates.

16.4 He is actively involved in Advocacy Training for pupil advocates.

16.5 He has been involved in lecturing and mentoring of pupil advocates at the Bar.

**17 The candidate's potential**

17.1 The candidate has the potential to bring 20 years of experience to the bench and to contribute to developing the law.

**18 The message that the candidate's appointment would send to the community at large**

18.1 The message that would be sent by the candidate's appointment would be that many years' service to the legal profession and the judiciary through numerous acting appointments are valued.