

Cape



Anton Katz SC of the Cape Bar has been elected as chair-rapporteur of the United Nations (UN) Working Group on the use of mercenaries.

In March 2013, the United Nations mandated the Working Group to monitor and report on the activities of private security companies that offer military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market.

Over the past 18 months the Working Group has held sessions in Geneva and

one in New York, and has held regular meetings with representatives of Member States, non-governmental organisations and experts.

It reviewed allegations regarding the activities of mercenaries and private military and/or security companies and their impact on human rights.

In the Working Group's annual report to the United Nations General Assembly it noted that the results of its study revealed widely divergent levels of regulation of the activities of these companies.

In particular, it made reference to the fact that South Africa was the only country in the study that provided for compre-

hensive legislation regulating activities of private security companies, which specifically prohibits the export of military and security services.

It noted, further, that the South African legislation is also unique in that it expressly prohibits mercenary activities.



The Working Group is due to present further findings of its on-going study to the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. **A**

Free State

By **Henriette Murray**

The Free State Bar is proud to have produced one shortlisted candidate for the JSC interviews for the Free State High Court vacancy in October, namely Bar Council member Paul Zietsman SC. The four other shortlisted candidates are two attorneys, Messrs Mhlambe and Phalatsi, and two magistrates, Mmes Naidoo and R Sepato.

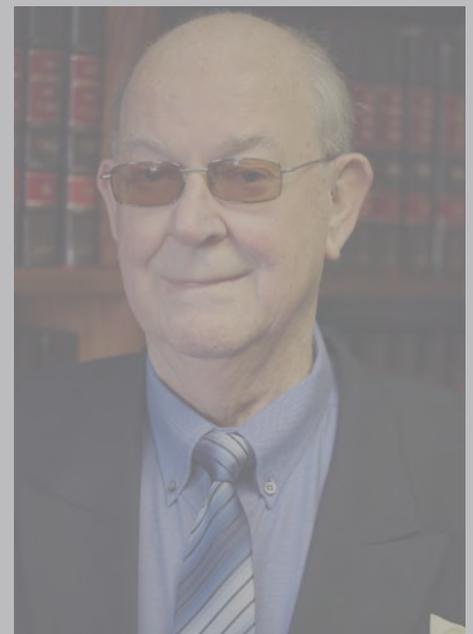
Tribute to Hans de Bruin

We also pay tribute to a member who this year celebrates his 30th year as a silk, Johannes Petrus (Hans) de Bruin SC, whose illustrious legal career of 53 years, 41 of which as advocate, few can emulate. Hans was born in Krugersdorp on 2 September 1936, matriculated from the High School Jan de Klerk (formerly Sentraal High School), and obtained both his BCom and LLB degrees from the PU for CHO (presently North West University), in 1957 and 1959, respectively. He started out as a state prosecutor in Kimberley in 1960, did his articles in 1961 and 1962, served as interim legal advisor to the Dutch Reformed Church in Pretoria, and thereafter practised as an attorney from 1965 to 1971. He lectured at the PU for CHO from 1972 to 1977 with

leave to practise as an advocate, before serving a term as *Professor Extraordinaire*.

Hans was admitted as an advocate on 3 October 1972 and was awarded senior status on 26 January 1983. He joined the Kimberley Bar in 1978 and the Bloemfontein Bar in 1990. He served as leader of the Kimberley Bar, and thereafter as leader of the Bloemfontein Bar for several terms and has acted as judge in both Kimberley and Bloemfontein.

Hans says he was privileged as attorney to brief, inter alia, Solly Miller, André Botha, Henry Moll and John Trengove, all of whom later became judges and appeal judges. He acted as junior with, inter alia, Wilfred Cooper, Johann Kriegler, Henri Viljoen and William de Villiers. He has had the privilege to appear before formidable appeal and other judges, such as Jaap Jacobs, Rumpff, Rabie, Trengrove, Galgut, Diemont, and many more. He has also acted as senior with, inter alia, the present Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, Joop Labuschagne, and retired Free State Judges Callie Cillié and Fox van Coppenhagen. Some of his formidable opponents were the late former Chief Justice Mahomed, Henry Viljoen,



Hans de Bruin SC

William de Villiers, Lang Dawid de Villiers, Meyerowitz, Willy Oshry, Ralph Zulamn and Willem Müller. Memorable names which most juniors would probably only have heard of in class or as the authors of their text books!

Indeed an inspiring example of a true professional with a legal career and a treasure trove of experience and memories that most of us can only dream of. We can only wish Hans all the best and many more ... **A**