

Pretoria

Johan Brand SC

THE END OF THE YEAR COCKTAIL

The annual end of the year cocktail of the Pretoria Bar was hosted by the Bar Council on Thursday 24 November 2016 at High Court Chambers. This cocktail was well attended by members and Judges of the Pretoria High Court.

At this function the Society paid tribute to retiring Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann, a former member and Chairperson of the Society. Judge Bertelsmann joined the Society as a member on 1 November 1972 and was awarded Silk on 13 April 1988.

He served on various committees and was the chair of the Society during the 1990's.

He was elevated to the Bench on 1 February 2000 and retired at the end of August 2016. All members who had the opportunity to work with Judge Bertelsmann when he was still at the Bar, will remember him as an energetic, if not tireless, practitioner. His zeal for the law and what was just, extended to all facets of his life, whether working until the small hours of the night, drafting papers, helping colleagues, practice the law all



From left to right: Norman Davis SC, Peet Delpport SC, Solly Sithole SC and Jan Albert Coetzee SC.

day and attending an evening rock concert with one of his children. He overcame personal adversity whenever it presented. This determination earned him the respect of every person who came into contact with him. As a Judge, he embodied the values of the Constitution in his judgments and fearlessly upheld the law.

At the same function, honorary membership was awarded to three retired esteemed senior colleagues of the Pretoria Bar. Jan Albert Coetzee SC joined the Bar

on 10 January 1978 and was awarded Silk on 13 April 1987. He retired on 31 October 2016. Peet Delpport joined the Bar on 20 December 1978 and was awarded Silk on 13 April 1988. Peet retired on 1 July 2016. Solly Sithole (Oom Sollie as he was known) joined the Bar on 3 July 1988. He was awarded Silk on the 5th of April 1997 and he retired on 28 February 2016. All three members deserved the award and this is a reflection of the esteem with which they are held by their colleagues.

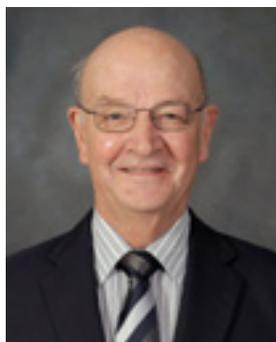
OP 'N HARTSEER NOOT

Die Pretoria Balie het met skok en leedwese verneem van die oorlye van twee van sy lede, naamlik Karel Jordt en Francois du Toit SC.

Francois het op 3 Maart 1980 'n lid geword van die Pretoria Vereniging van Advokate. Op 27 Oktober 1999 is senior status aan hom toegeken. Hy was 'n lid van die Pretoria Balie tot en met sy oorlye op Kersnag, 25 Desember 2016.

Karel het op 16 April 1991 aangesluit by die Pretoria Balie. Nadat hy 'n aantal jare gepraktiseer het, het hy vir 'n tydperk as prokureur gaan praktiseer voordat hy weer op 21 Augustus 2010 'n lid geword het van die Balie. Karel is op 9 Oktober 2016 oorlede.

Soos sal blyk uit die meegaande huldeblyke, was beide kollegas baie gewild en besondere mense in eie reg.



FRANCOIS DU TOIT
(16 Desember 1950 - 25 Desember 2016)

Francois du Toit SC is op Kersnag 2016 in sy slaap oorlede. Om Francois se veelsydige karakter in die bestek van 'n paar sinne te beskryf, is onmoontlik. Hy was 'n uiters bekwame juris, 'n gewilde kollega, 'n lojale vriend, 'n geliefde pa en eggenoot, maar bowenal 'n "mensch".

As jy met Francois kennis gemaak het, is jy onafwendbaar beïndruk - hetsy deur sy regs-kennis, sy meelewende persoonlikheid of sy besondere sin vir humor.

As twee ringkoppe op die 9de Vloer, het ek en Francois feitlik daaglik saam tee

gedrink, asem geskep en vir 'n wyle somer net gesels. Juis uit hierdie geselsies oor jare heen het ek Francois se onkreukbare integriteit ondervind. Hy het 'n hekel gehad in valsheid en geveinsdheid en was brutaal eerlik met homself.

Francois was 'n meelewende Christen. Toe hy siek geword het en die gevreesde kanker hom ook nog pak, het hy nogtans blymoedig kamers toe gekom en gewerk sonder om te kla. Toe ek vir hom gedurende Julie 2016 vra: "Francois - hoe kry jy dit reg om nog so te smile?" het hy lakonies gewys na 'n portret teen sy muur van 'n man wat biddend by 'n tafel sit en gesê: "Dis hoe ek dit regkry".

By die huldigingsdiens na sy dood was die kerk oorvol - 'n getuigskrif opsigself. Vriende had hy baie - vyande min.

"Voorlopig dan, maar onthou altyd aan jou dade grens 'n ewigheid."

(DJ Opperman - Negester en Stedelig).



A TRIBUTE TO KAREL JORDT

By Nicole Breytenbach

Karel Jordt was not just a colleague of mine. See, we shared a birthday, he and I, on the 26th

of May. Each year we would, to our great amusement, conspire to treat our fellow 14th floor members to Fizzers, Nik Naks

and “groen koeldrank” at our traditional morning coffee. In the end we always conformed to serving Common Room’s much more respectable fare.

All of us on Floor 14 looked forward to Karel dropping by unannounced at our offices to interrupt our drafting with hilarious and often heart wrenching stories about life and law. Karel was a true original, a master at social commentary and a lover of the alternative. His conversations would cover everything from last Sunday’s church service to Pink Floyd and was never complete without a reference to his

beloved friend, Judge Bertelsmann.

But what Karel loved most in this world was his son, KT. KT represented to him the belief in innocence and purity of human nature that so often gets jaded and tainted in us who practice law.

Karel, we your colleagues and friends at the Bar, will miss you dearly. And for me, the 26th of May will always carry with it a reminder that life is short. We salute you with the words of Nobel Prize Laureate and one of your all time favourites, Bob Dylan: “It is not dark yet, but it’s getting there.”

ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

The Pretoria Bar awards two medals to deserving final year students at UNISA and the University of Pretoria for outstanding academic achievements during their final year of study. This award is made after consultation with the faculties of law of the two respective universities.

The Grotius medal has been awarded to a student of the University of Pretoria since 1957 and the Johannes Voet medal has been awarded to a UNISA student since 1963.

The first recipient of the Grotius medal in 1957 was a certain IWB. de Villiers, a former Chairperson of the Society and later Judge of the Pretoria High Court. Other recipients of the medal include retired Supreme Court of Appeal Judge LTC Harms, Constitutional Court Judge van der Westhuizen, as well as various colleagues, including Bergenthuin



SC, R du Plessis SC, JP Vorster SC, et al. The Grotius medal for 2016 was awarded to Werner van der Westhuizen. The Johannes Voet medal was awarded in 1963 to JA Louw. Other recipients include the late Judge SJ Mynhardt and Judge MM Jansen. The award for 2016 was made to Holly ter Bruggen.

PUPILLAGE

The 2016 intake of pupils obtained a 96% pass rate. Only two of the 54 pupils that eventually sat for the exams, did not make the grade. Both will be repeating their pupillage in 2017.

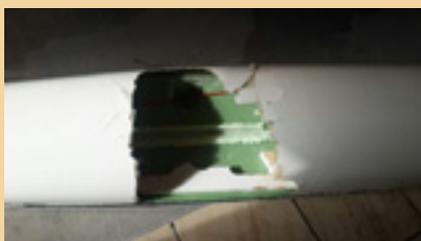
The Bar Council also resolved to increase the intake of pupils and 67 candidates out of 176 applicants have been accepted.



Ben Swart SC se roei-ski. - NSRI

NOUE ONTKOMING

Die jaar het sy kwota opwinding opgelewer vir Ben Swart SC. Hy en twee ander persone het in Desember 2016 met roei-ski’s op die see geroei by Plettenbergbaai toe ‘n haai ‘n groot stuk uit Ben se roei-ski gehap het (vir die oningelites - ‘n roei-ski is ‘n “paddle ski”). Ben is afgestamp van die roei-ski maar hy het met behulp van sy twee vriende daarin geslaag om die kant ongedeed te haal. Die roei-ski is later deur die NSRI herwin.



ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The following members of the Pretoria Bar held acting appointments in the Gauteng Division Pretoria:

Third Term:

- CJ van der Westhuizen SC
10 October to 15 December 2016
- F Diedericks SC
10 October to 11 November 2016
- JJ Strijdom SC
10 October to 15 December 2016
- HF Jacobs SC
14 November to 15 December 2016
- J du Plessis SC
31 October to 18 November 2016
- TAN Makhubele SC
21 November to 15 November 2016
- HK Kooverjie SC
28 November to 15 December 2016

