

Free State

Contributed by **Jason Johnson**



Tribute to Nico Dreyer

The Society mourns the loss of one of its members, Nico Dreyer, who passed away on 20 January 2018. Dreyer is survived by his wife, two children, family, friends and many admirers in the profession.

In 2011 Dreyer left a successful defence practice at Honey Attorneys, where he also served as a director, to undertake pupillage with the Society. After taking chambers on 1 January 2013, Dreyer was rapidly recognized as a formidable and knowledgeable counsel, as well as a genuine, kind and principled man.

Despite being plagued with ill health, Dreyer showed the utmost commitment to his matters, and in doing so earned the respect of the bench, his colleagues, opponents and clients.

On 1 February 2018, our Judge President, Mahube Molemela, encouraged newly admitted attorneys and advocates to take Dreyer as an example of a diligent and ethical advocate, and to attempt to conduct their professional careers with the same level of integrity and professional commitment.

Tribute to members of the Judiciary

In the December edition of Advocate the Society paid tribute to the late Judge Khalipi Jacob Moloi. Subsequent to the written tribute, a formal ceremonial court sitting was held on 7 December 2017. The memorial service was well attended by members of the judiciary, both retired and active, as well as members of the Free State Bar, side bar, National Prosecuting Authority, BLA and Nadel. Their presence spoke volumes for the admiration and affection in which Judge Moloi was held.

Moving speeches were delivered by Judge President Molemela, former Judge President Hendrik Musi, Chairman of the Society Adv Paul Zietsman SC, President of the Law Society Mr Vuyo Morobane, Director of Public Prosecutions Adv Xolisile Khanyile and State Attorney Mrs Babane Maranyane. The speeches were followed by an emotional sung homage by staff of the Free State High Court.

The Society further pays tribute to a retired Judge and former senior member of the Society, Judge Andries "Dries" Petrus van Coller, who passed away in November 2017. Judge Van Coller joined the Free State Bar on 16 February 1956, taking silk on 22 July 1976. Judge Van Coller was appointed to the Mthatha bench in 1980, before being transferred to the Free State division in 1983. During his twenty-three years on the bench Judge Van Coller acted in the Supreme Court of Appeal on a number of occasions, and was regarded as a fair, firm and principled judge.

A ceremonial court sitting for Judge Van Coller was held on 1 December 2017, and was marked by moving tributes by Judge President Mahube Molemela, Acting Deputy Judge President Fouche Jordaan, retired Judge Callie Cillié, Chairman of the Society Adv Paul Zietsman SC, Councillor of the Law Society Mr Jan Maree, Deputy Public Prosecutor Adv Elsa Smith and State Attorney Mrs Catherine Cawood.

Permanent and Acting Appointments

The Society congratulates Phillip Loubser SC who is now Judge Loubser after being appointed to the Bench on 15 December 2017. Judge Loubser commenced practise on 1 July 1991, and after a successful career, took Silk on 2 December 2016.

Henriette Murray SC, acted again during the fourth term of 2017. The Society is also pleased to note that Paul Heymans and Henri Benade will be acting during the first term of 2018.

New Members

The Society was pleased to see that all five of its 2017 pupils passed their bar exams. Jacyn Mitchley, Jan Nkahlle, Koenraad Pieterse and September Mphuloane have taken chambers from the beginning of the year. Sizane Jonase has elected to pursue other avenues.

The Society also welcomes Henco de la Rey, who joins us after practising for 17 years at the Cape Bar. There are 6 new Pupils, Danielle Hattingh, Kristle Peterson, Jaco van der Merwe, Pitso Chaka, Jolindie Ferreira and Mosioa Mazibuko. The Society wishes all its new and aspirant members well with their respective careers.

World AIDS Day

The staff of the Free State High Court put great effort into organising a World AIDS Day event on 1 December 2017. Neil Snellenburg SC represented the Society on the day. The event was a colourful and happy affair which saw the children from the Naledi Hospice being entertained and spoiled in the foyer of the High Court. [A](#)

