

Free State

Contributed by Jacyn Mitchley

NEW BAR COUNCIL AND LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL

The Society held its AGM on 25 April 2019, which saw the election of a new Bar Council. The Society is pleased to announce that Neil Snellenburg SC was elected as the chairperson of the Society, and is supported by our very capable Henriette Murray SC as the deputy chairperson. The Bar Council is completed by Seef Hefer SC, Willem Edeling, Henk Cilliers, Tiaan Pienaar, Andre Sander, Ilze Sander and Kristle Peterson, with Jason Johnson serving as honorary secretary.

The Society is also delighted that four of its members have been elected to the newly formed provincial Legal Practice Council (LPC). Our former Bar Council chairperson Paul Zietsman SC has taken the position of deputy chairperson, and he and the LPC are supported by Henriette Murray SC, Lungile Bomela and Kgomotso Nhlapo. We wish them well with their term and the daunting task of being the first provincial LPC in the new order.



From left to right Paul Zietsman SC, Henriette Murray SC, Lungile Bomela and Kgomotso Nhlapo.



WELCOMING

The Society hosted a reception for the newly appointed Judge President Cagney Musi on 20 March 2019. Once again members of the Society were moved by Judge President Musi's wisdom and enthusiasm. The evening was one of the highlights of the first term and was marked by thought-provoking discussions with members of the local Bench, light-hearted banter and an opportunity to unwind.

The Society's welcoming function followed the official welcoming ceremony that was held at the Free State High Court on 14 March 2019. After hearing the warm words of welcome and appreciation of Judge President Musi by representatives of our Society, the former Law Society, the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the office of the State Attorney, there was no doubt amongst the attendees that our local division has been placed in very capable hands.

ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The Society was once again pleased to see some of its members, namely Henriette Murray SC, Henri Benade and Ilse van Rhyn, acting over either or both the first and second terms. Although our colleagues have been missed during their respective absences from Chambers, their contributions to the expertise of our already adept local judiciary is appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome Maipato Shata, who became a member during the first term. Shata joins our Society after two years spent at the Johannesburg Bar. We have no doubt that the camaraderie of the Society and the general Free State hospitality will make the transition worth it.

SOCIAL AND SPORTING NEWS

Marthinus Steenkamp, with the assistance of PC Ploos van Amstel, Andre Berry and Christoff Hendricks organised a pool tournament between members of the Society and other legal practitioners on 7 May 2019, which was a roaring success. Aside from the fantastic atmosphere, lively sportsmanship and the opportunity to unwind with regular adversaries, the evening ended off on a celebratory note with two of our members being declared the champs. A hearty congratulations to Eugene Lubbe and Karlin Naidoo for their excellent performance. **A**