

Free State Bar

Contributed by Jacyn Mitchley



Adv Bejile S Mene

Adv Willem J Edeling

Adv Stefan Grobler

TRIBUTE TO MATHEALIRA MOPELI

The Society mourns the loss of one of its members, Mathealira Francis Mopeli who passed away on 2 November 2019. Mathealira is survived by his wife, children, family, friends, community and colleagues in the profession.

Mopeli was a respected traditional leader and public prosecutor hailing from Phuthaditjhaba, who embarked on his pupillage at our Society in 2012. Upon taking chambers on 1 March 2013, Mopeli established a successful trial practice. Mopeli simultaneously balanced his duties as a Chief in Phuthaditjhaba and served on the National Heritage Council of South Africa.

Despite battling ill health, Mopeli showed the utmost commitment to his matters, and in doing so garnered the respect of the bench, his colleagues, opponents and clients. He will be sorely missed.

NEW SILKS

The Free State Society of Advocates is pleased to announce that three of its members, Willem Edeling, Bejile Mene and Stefan Grobler were awarded Senior status on 30 July 2019. Willem Edeling took chambers on 8 December 1994, Bejile Mene on 1 April 2004 and Stefan Grobler on 17 November 2004. All three members have significant experience across the legal spectrum, and the Society congratulates them on their achievement.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome two new members, Kedibone Matai and René Bester. Matai joins our Society after almost two years spent at the Johannesburg Bar. Bester did her pupillage with our Society in 2015 and after working in corporate and practising independently in Cape Town and Bloemfontein, has taken up membership. We look forward to building new friendships and a stronger Bar, and wish them well with their careers and journey at the Society.

ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The Society was once again pleased to see some of its members, namely Louis Pohl SC, Henriette Murray SC and Ilse van Rhyn acting during the third term. While our colleagues have been missed during their respective absences from Chambers, their contributions to the expertise of our already adept local judiciary is appreciated.

FAREWELL

On 12 September 2019 the Society held a lovely function to bid farewell to Judge Mojalefa Rampai who embarks on his well-earned retirement. Judge Rampai was elevated to the Bench in 2001, and throughout his illustrious career has been widely regarded as a respected legal mind and a true gentleman. The evening will be remembered for the wise words imparted through amusing anecdotes by Judge Rampai, and the general merriment. We wish Judge Rampai a blessed and fulfilling retirement.