

Free State Bar

Contributed by Jacyn Mitchley

2020 will be remembered as a very challenging year for the Free State Society of Advocates and South Africans in general. While most members are perhaps feeling a bit battered, there is certainly light at the end of the tunnel, and our members continue to rise to each challenge. Some amusement can be derived from moments where not only our members but also our esteemed Judges navigated the ups and downs of videoconferencing court sessions.

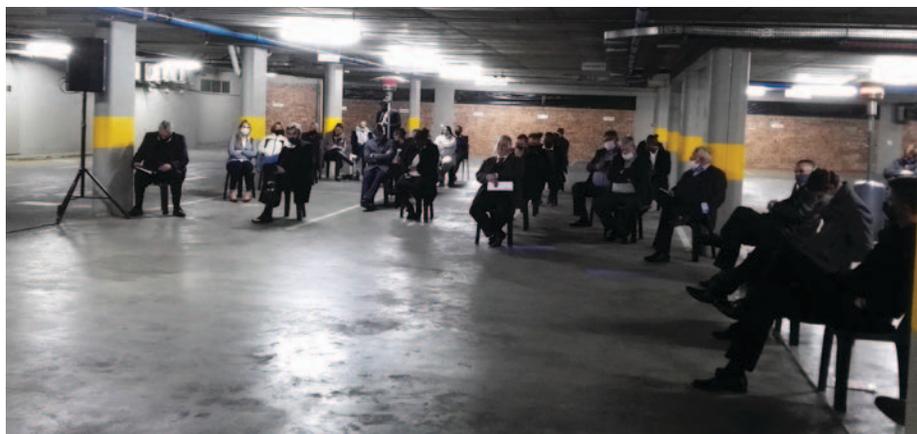
We are also cognisant of the challenges that our pupils, their mentors and lecturers have faced. Fortunately, the size of our Society permitted the continuance of classes, subject to masks and social distancing. However, it was rather surreal for all involved. We also wish our pupils the best of luck while they anxiously await the outcome of their exams.

New Bar Council

Our AGM took place on 23 June 2020, a particularly frigidly cold afternoon. Members will certainly remember the occasion, as the Society was forced to hold the AGM in our basement parking due to Covid-19 social distancing considerations. Despite the cold, our new Bar Council received a very warm welcome!

We congratulate our new Bar Council. They will be led by Neil Snellenburg SC and Stefan Grobler SC who are respectively our returning chairperson and our new deputy chairperson. They are supported by Seef Hefer SC, Willem Edeling SC, Bejile Mene SC, Tiaan Pienaar, Stelios Tsangarakis, Ilze Sander, Kristle Peterson and our honorary secretary Christoff Coetzer.

The Society wishes to thank our outgoing Bar Council. Their hard work navigating the chaos of the lockdown is certainly appreciated. We also wish the new Bar Council strength and luck with their duties going forward.



The AGM held in the basement parking due to Covid-19 social distancing considerations

New Members

The Society is delighted to welcome back Anchen Coetzee as a member. Coetzee was a member between 2011 – 2015, following which she practised privately for approximately five years before returning to the Society. We hope that her practice will flourish.

Farewells

The Society bids farewell to Henriette Murray SC, Paul Heymans and Rudi Cronje, all members for over a decade. They are sorely missed, but we look forward to running into them at court.

The Society further bids farewell to our office administrative assistant Juanita Bezuidenhout, who relocated to Pretoria at the end of June. Mrs Bezuidenhout served the Society for 21 years, and her sunny personality is already missed.

ACTING APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to see that Stefan Grobler SC has been appointed as an acting judge for the third term. While his presences at chambers is missed, his extensive knowledge of public law will surely contribute to the Free State High Court. We are also delighted to welcome back Ilze van Rhyn, who once again enriched our division while acting for the first and second terms. [A](#)



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