



GroundUp / Ashraf Hendricks

# COVID-19 LOOKING FORWARD

Advocate asked Members to reflect on how the Bar would emerge from the pandemic

## AFTER THE COVID STORM IMAGINE

by Sascha e Câmara, Cape Bar

*You may say I'm a dreamer but I sure hope I'm not the only one...*

After the misery created by the pandemic, it is very easy to focus on only that and forget how to imagine a bright future. I have therefore decided to try – here is what I would like to see for the purposes of life at the Bar:-

I imagine that, albeit there may have been a delay, everyone will be paid the fees already earned before 26 March 2020 without difficulty and that a flow of briefs will begin anew for those who experienced a drought; that this will lead to a general sense of ease among the stressed which will be clearly visible on naked faces after the ceremonial burning of the now mandatory masks.

I imagine that the new IT skills which were forced on us as a result of the lockdown will be put to good use and expanded upon; that they will be used to reduce the amount of traffic usually on the roads to the point that the earth can breathe more easily along with all of us; that online consultations and hearings will be retained for suitable matters so that we may provide more cost-effective service to our clients.

I imagine that the long-anticipated CaseLines system will reach the Western Cape Division thereby saving many trees in

lost files as well as many ZAR greenbacks in clients' pockets!

I imagine that the state referred to as 'the new normal' will allow for various ways of working, which will include hot desking, sharing of chambers and door membership alongside the antiquated and inefficient traditional model of one office, one body; that members will be allowed to choose whatever is most suitable and beneficial for them rather than for the currently very rigid system.

I imagine that those of us who excitedly rediscovered outdoor leisure activities after the hard lockdown eased will keep that fresh sense of appreciation for them even after 'the new normal' is well established; that we will retain that sense of work/life balance which skewed, at least during the early stages of lockdown, more towards life than work; that we will continue to reflect on the insights arrived at during the enforced home-based 'retreat' we unexpectedly experienced.

I hope at least some of you are ready and willing to imagine along with me and perhaps to treat yourselves to the irresistible smile of Louis Armstrong as he sings *What a Wonderful World*.