



GCB TT AND RAJ COURSE

by Megan Moodley, Pretoria Bar

This September saw members of the constituent bars of the GCB make the annual trek to Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensburg for two training courses, hosted by the GCB, namely the Recently Admitted Junior (RAJ) course and the Teacher Trainer (TT) course.

Both courses were meticulously coordinated by Penny Bosman and Paul Wallis SC, and saw participants undergo four days of rigorous training in the respective courses.

The RAJ course saw participants participate in three exercises, namely the presentation of an opposed motion; an application for leave to appeal and the subsequent appeal; and a full trial. The training was further complimented by master-class presentations by Alan Lamplough SC, on the drafting of heads of argument; Vishalan Naidu, on how to argue an opposed motion; Michelle McDonald, on performance skills; and Justice Johann Kriegler and Michelle Le Roux SC, on appeal advocacy. The contingent of training staff was further bolstered by the skill and experience of a few international trainers.

Each training session consisted of a presentation by the participant, followed by a review by the trainer using “the Method”, and a one-on-one video review, with a second trainer outside the training room.

The Pretoria Bar was once again well represented by its 20-odd members who participated as either trainers, trainees, or guinea pigs, in a week filled with learning, camaraderie and the forging of new friendships amongst colleagues who practise across the various bars under the GCB.



RECENTLY ADMITTED JUNIORS COURSE

by Keshini Govender, KZN Bar

It was an honour and a privilege to attend the GCB’s Recently Admitted Junior’s course, which was held in the Drakensburg this year. As a “baby junior” with only eight months, this course proved to be invaluable.

Participants received one-on-one training with our tutors using “the Method”. We studied video replays and were mentored by a performance coach.

Participants had the advantage of sitting in on plenary sessions, which included presentations on how to effectively prepare for and argue opposed motions, appeals and trials as well as insight on finding our own advocacy style.

This course, although intense and demanding, holds numerous benefits, one of which is networking. We received a once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with judges and counsel from abroad. I learnt a great deal from my colleagues (participants and trainers alike) and I soon realised that although we are scattered across different bars, we all share the same challenges and enjoyment.

The week of training was productive to say the least and ended with glitz and glamour at the gala dinner where we were all able to unwind and enjoy each other’s company in a more relaxed and light-hearted setting.

We will be forever grateful to the organisers for investing their valuable time in our careers and the Bar as a whole.