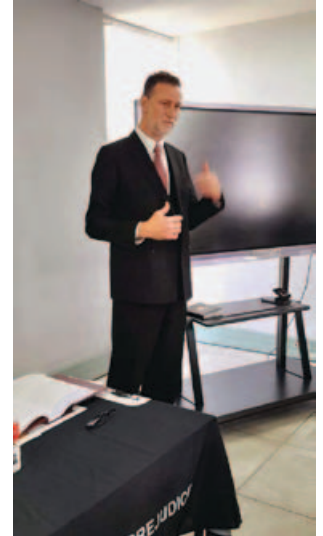


“It is easy to dodge your responsibilities, but you cannot dodge the consequences of dodging your responsibilities.”

– Joseph Stamp

This quote is especially true with reference to the advocacy profession. Advocates must be fit and proper persons to be enrolled as legal practitioners. Advocates are accountable for their actions and decisions as professionals in their practice, and shirking responsibilities can have dire professional consequences.



KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL SHARING

The members of the Free State Society of Advocates recognise and accept that in addition to their professional responsibility, they also have a responsibility to the broader legal fraternity.

Thus when the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) requested assistance from the Free State Bar to deliver *pro bono* training in conjunction with members of Advocates for Transformation (AFT) it agreed. This commitment was made even though prosecutors are generally seen as the “adversaries” of the members of the Free State Bar, whether in civil or criminal matters.

Faced with numerous lawsuits, the NPA indicated that many could have been avoided if junior prosecutors had

a better appreciation of when to enrol matters or when to oppose bail. The purpose of the training was to contribute to a better understanding of the test for malicious prosecution and unlawful detention of an accused.

On 12 April 2024, seven members of the Free State Bar, including two senior advocates, availed themselves to present training to junior prosecutors. These members included N Snellenburg SC, JJF Hefer SC, JJ Buys, LR Bomela, K Nhlapo-Merabe, TM Ngubeni and NM Phakama. The occasion was also honoured by the judge president of the Free State Provincial Division, Judge CJ Musi, who rendered a vote of support from the judiciary.

The topics for discussion included:

- (a) Malicious prosecution and unlawful detention;
- (b) Test for reasonable and probable cause;
- (c) Practical preparation of prosecutors to testify in civil proceedings;
- (d) Review applications – how to deal with them in general terms;
- (e) Civil and Criminal appeal processes; and
- (f) A brief overview of Section 342A of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Free State Bar is pleased to contribute to the improvement of expertise and knowledge in the broader legal fraternity with a view to ensuring that the values underpinning the Constitution are embraced and that the rule of law is upheld.



NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE FREE STATE BAR

The Free State Bar had its Annual General Meeting on 18 April 2024. The meeting had a full agenda. Members took part in constructive discussions and made valuable proposals and inputs on various agenda items. Members also elected a new bar council.

The members of the newly elected bar council are N Snellenburg SC (chairperson), BS Mene SC (deputy chairperson), HE de la Rey, CD Pienaar, JJ Buys, D de Kock (honorary secretary), MB Mojaki, TM Ngubeni and VM Morobane. The Free State Bar congratulates these members on their election and thanks them for their willingness to offer their time and expertise in furthering the interest of the Bar. The trust shown in these members is evident from the fact that all each were unanimously elected.



N Snellenburg SC



BS Mene SC



HE de la Rey



JJ Buys



CD Pienaar



D de Kock



MB Mojaki



TM Ngubeni



VM Morobane

ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The Free State Bar is once again honoured that two of its members had the privilege to act on the bench this term. These members are WJ Groenewald and TL Manye, who are both seasoned advocates. Groenewald took chambers in 2009 and Manye in 2010. The Free State Bar appreciates the trust shown by the judiciary in the knowledge and expertise of its members.



WJ Groenewald



TL Manye

CONFIRMATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES

The Free State Bar is proud to add two advocates to its list of senior counsel. Both SE Motloung SC and HJ Cilliers SC are longstanding members of the Free State Bar. We congratulate these members on this milestone in their careers and wish them well in expanding their practices further as senior counsel.



SE MOTLOUNG SC

SE Motloung SC studied at NUL from 1983 – 1987. He then proceeded to Natal University (presently UKZN) to complete his LLB Degree in 1990. He worked for the then-government of QwaQwa for four years in various capacities, being Legal Officer and District Court Prosecutor. He briefly served articles for a year with Legal Aid before enrolling as an advocate in 1996. He was part of the first cohort of commissioners of the CCMA when it was established during 1996. In 1999 he was called to the Bar, while he retained a position as part-time commissioner of the CCMA until 2006. He has been at the Bar since then, establishing a busy practice in labour law in the initial stages of his career, criminal law for a short period and general civil litigation. He has also acted as a judge in the High Court of the Free State. He was recommended for silk in 2021, and letters patent were conferred by the president in 2024.



HJ CILLIERS SC

HJ Cilliers studied BLuris, LLB at the University of the Free State. He commenced his professional legal career as a candidate attorney at Rossouws Attorneys, Bloemfontein between 1995 and 1997. Thereafter he was appointed as an attorney at Claud Reid Attorneys in Bloemfontein. In 2006 he got an opportunity to work as an attorney at MacRobert Attorneys in Pretoria. Here he obtained invaluable experience in dealing with medical negligence matters. In 2004 he was called to the Bar. He did his pupillage and on 17 November 2004 commenced with his practice. He has a busy and diverse practice dealing with, for example, delictual matters (including medical negligence), contractual disputes and estates. He was recommended for silk in 2021, and letters patent were conferred by the president in 2024.



The proud winning members: GS Janse van Rensburg, CJ Hendricks, N Snellenburg SC and GC Steenkamp.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Members of the Free State Bar enjoy playing and supporting the business leagues of local bowls clubs. The interest in this activity has grown and during the recent leagues, the Free State Bar enrolled two teams and even had additional players on reserve. The “A-Team” showed its strength again by winning the Orangia Bowls Club Business League. The fact that the team did not only win the league, but also received an award for the spirit in which they played their games, is testament to their endurance, skills and sportsmanship. **A**