

Free State Bar

Contributed by Amelia Swanepoel

FAREWELL TO BERTUS VAN RHYN SC

Bertus van Rhyn SC is a person who believes in upholding the integrity of the judicial process and who throughout his long legal career worked attentively to sustain its integrity. On 12 September 2024, the FS Bar was sad to bid farewell to Van Rhyn SC, or Bertus as he is more affectionately known.

Van Rhyn SC resigned as a member of the FS Bar with effect from 30 June 2024, after practising as advocate at the FS Bar for 42 years and as senior counsel for 21 years.

He attended Grey College until standard six (grade eight) and thereafter Diamantveld High School, where he matriculated. However, being a true son of the Free State, Van Rhyn SC returned during 1973 to study law, at what is now



known as the University of the Free State. His B-Juris degree was conferred on him during 1975.

In January 1976, he commenced working full time as a public prosecutor in the District Court, Magistrate's Court Bloemfontein, and in December 1976, he was elevated to the Regional Court. In November 1977, he was appointed as a magistrate.

Van Rhyn SC continued with his LLB degree as a part-time student, which was conferred on him in November 1978.

He was admitted as an advocate of the High Court on 30 March 1979.

After completing compulsory military service on 1 January 1981, he was appointed as a state advocate in the Office of the Attorney-General (now known as the National Prosecuting Authority).

Van Rhyn SC was called to the Bar and commenced pupillage at the FS Bar on 1 March 1982, taking chambers on 5 July 1982. He took Silk on 2 October 2003.

He excelled in all aspects of being an advocate, but at heart he was a born "trial lawyer", and according to his colleagues, was one of the most effective cross-examiners you would ever come across. He served various terms on the bar council and served as chairman from April 2004 to April 2005. During his practice and when called upon to do so, Van Rhyn SC also acted with distinction as a judge in this division.

The members of the FS Bar will miss Van Rhyn as a colleague, mentor and friend, but wish him well with the next chapter of his life.



HANDOVER OF LETTERS PATENT

In the previous edition it was reported that Sehapi Motloug SC and Henk Cilliers SC had been confirmed as senior counsel. On 12 September 2024, the FS Bar, in accordance with its tradition, handed over the letters patent to the new silks and celebrated their confirmation of silk status.

The honour to read the letters patent and to hand them to the respective members was given to the most senior member, Corrie Ploos van Amstel SC. The FS Bar commends these members on their well-deserved success.



ACTING APPOINTMENTS

During this term, the honour to act on the bench was bestowed upon two members of the FS Bar: Seef Hefer SC and Danita de Kock. Neither advocates are strangers to the bench, both having acted before. The FS Bar values the trust and support of the judiciary in its members.



Seef Hefer SC



Danita de Kock



Leandro Paes Leme

Advocate: The South African Bar Journal Guidelines for writers

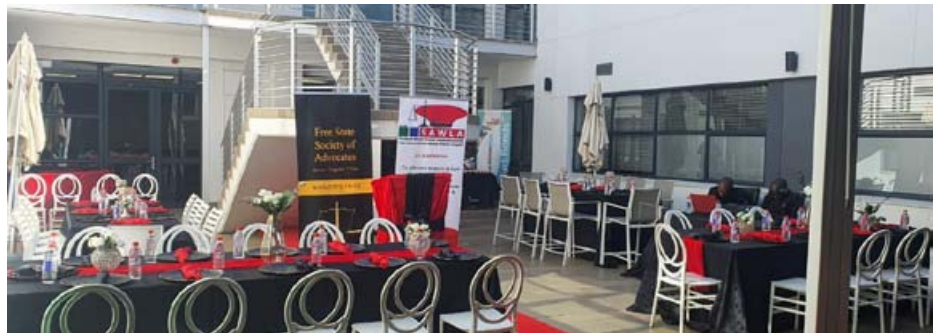
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Further queries may be made to the editor at the above address. [A](#)

WOMEN'S DIALOGUE

In keeping with its theme "I Am My Sister's Keeper", the Women's Desk of the FS Bar, hosted a Women's Day brunch at its chambers on 9 August 2024. The event included other organisations, including the Legal Practice Council, the South African Women Lawyers Association, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Black Lawyers Association. Over brunch, the attendees of the event engaged in dialogue on matters that affect women in our profession.

As part of giving back to the community, the Women's Desk also participated in an outreach initiative to Rea Phela Women's Shelter. Members of the FS Bar made financial and other donations, which included a new door and geyser. The shelter accepted the support and contributions with open arms and appreciation.



SPORT AND RECREATION

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” is an old proverb that means without time off from work, a person becomes both bored and boring. This proverb is definitely not applicable to the members of the FS Bar. They participate in various social and sporting events, such as running, soccer, golf and lawn bowling. The FS Bar has for a second year entered two teams in the Engo Charity Day lawn bowling event, held at the Bloemfontein Bowling Club.

Even during weekday lunchtimes, the members create opportunities for recreational purposes. However, in accordance with the nature of our profession, more often than not, the friendly recreational pool games prove to be highly competitive. **A**

