Western Cape Bar

Contributed by **Gregory Solik**

Stacey Webb in Brisbane, Australia.

Janet McCurdie SC and Jenine Khan in Namibia.

CAPE BAR MEMBERS TRAVEL ABROAD

by **Janine Janssen**

The Cape Bar Advocacy Training Committee has been hard at work this past year and is currently getting ready for its annual regional advocacy training course for pupils. In the interim, some of its members have been privileged to travel abroad as part of the global advocacy training family.

In January 2026, Stacey Webb was fortunate to attend the Australian Bar Association's advanced trial advocacy training course (criminal stream) in Brisbane. The course, although challenging, was an immense learning experience and gave her exposure to being trained on an international level. Practically, the course provided many new valuable training resources including a better understanding of cross-examination and case analysis (taught by Sharon Hall SC), how to be more genuine in engagement with witnesses and how to effectively communicate with body language. Experiences like this come once in a lifetime and should be grabbed if ever given the opportunity. Special mention to Warren Shapiro SC from the KwaZulu-Natal Bar, who ensured that no South African was left behind and became a valued friend.

In February 2026, Madidimalo Chauke and I, together with other South African trainers from the GCB constituent bars, were invited to train on the Hong Kong Advocacy Training Council's pupils core advocacy course. The faculty consisted of trainers and judges from across the world, all coming together with the common goal of improving advocacy skills. The trainers were warmly welcomed by members of the Hong Kong Advocacy Training Council, who went out of their way to ensure that our time spent in Hong Kong was memorable.

In April 2026, the Law Society of Namibia hosted two courses. The advocacy training course was convened by Nyoko Muvangua and the teacher training course was convened by Jenine Khan. Janet McCurdie SC of the Cape Bar was invited to train together with trainers from the GCB constituent bars. This was the second advocacy training course in Namibia and the first teacher training course. As much as we love teaching in Namibia and are thoroughly spoilt by our host, sharing and transferring skills to our colleagues in Namibia will mean that they will be self-sufficient within the next few years in respect of advocacy training. We hope that they will still invite us to teach on their courses and look forward to inviting them to teach on ours.

In May 2026, William King SC and Rudi Van Rooyen SC attended the International Advocacy Training Conference in Penang, Malaysia together with a large contingent of advocates from the GCB constituent bars. The conference, with the theme *The art of Advocacy*, was highly insightful and provided for networking and socialising with members from the various Bars across the world whilst engaging with effective advocacy tools and topics facing legal practitioners today.

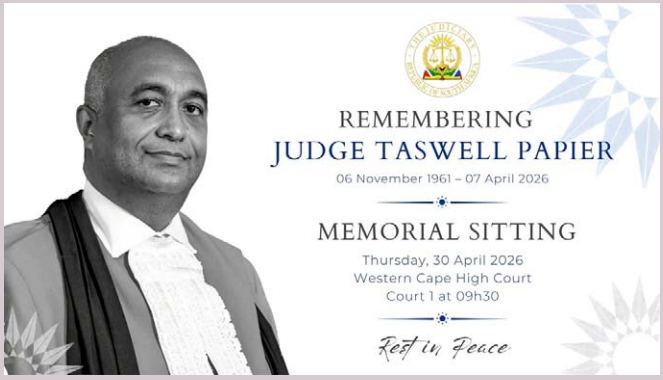
CAPE BAR'S JUNIOR BAR COUNCIL **BOWLS DAY**

by **Jan-Hendrik Gous**

On 26 March 2026, the Cape Bar's Junior Bar Council hosted a bowls day at the Gardens Bowling Club in Cape Town. The event was attended by junior and senior members of the Cape Bar, as well as pupils. Attendees were treated to a spectacular evening in Cape Town, with the lush green lawns of the club and the backdrop of Table Mountain providing a fitting location for members and pupils to interact and network and also to have some fun. Attendees were randomly divided into teams who competed against each other in a very relaxed manner. A demonstration from the local expert was provided beforehand as to how to perfectly deliver your bowling action; however, many unorthodox techniques were on display, some more successful than others! Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a sundowner drink at the club whilst continuing to socialise and network. Safe to say this was a very enjoyable evening and hopefully there are many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TASWELL PAPIER

by **Mohamed Salie SC**



Judge Taswell Papier lived a life defined by service to humanity and justice encompassing the enduring principles of dignity, equality and freedom.

The Cape Bar Council, together with the broader legal community, mourns the passing of Judge Papier – a remarkable jurist and an exceptional human being, whose life's work left an indelible mark on both the legal profession and society at large.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, at a time of profound social and political upheaval in South Africa, Judge Papier played more than a meaningful role in reshaping the concept of access to justice. He worked tirelessly and selflessly to support the underprivileged, guided by a deep and unwavering conviction to restore fairness and justice to those most in need. His commitment was not theoretical – it was lived through action, courage and compassion.

His early legal practice was rooted in Mitchells Plain (commonly known as the Town Centre) where he became a steadfast advocate for the marginalised communities.

Judge Papier frequently represented students and individuals who had been arbitrarily arrested under the draconian and oppressive regime, at the time whilst the nation faced a possible bloodshed. Through his selfless and significant contributions, he uplifted the downtrodden and reaffirmed the fundamental values of justice and human dignity.

He was actively involved in defending students across the board, from Mitchells Plain, Gugulethu, Khayelitsha, Wynberg and as far as the platteland. He stood shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Judges Desai, Majiedt, Saldanha and Potgieter, and current counsel Donald Jacobs SC, Anwar Albertus SC, Norman Arendse SC and John Whitehead SC, in defending students at a time when they were denied bail and sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

Judge Papier's absence will be felt along all corridors and constitutes a profound loss to the legal fraternity and to the many communities he served. His legacy endures in the lives he has touched, in the principles upheld and in the examples he set for future generations.

On behalf of the Cape Bar Council, and as executive member of the GCB, including its current deputy chair Jacobs SC and its chair Kissoon Singh SC, we extend our deepest and sincerest condolences to Joy and the family.

Gone but never forgotten and may his legacy and memory be a source of strength and inspiration to all. May his dear soul rest in peace and rise in eternal glory as he has reached the "summit of a life's journey". A

Photations