ORDER OF EVENTS PROBONO
AWARDS CEREMONY
7 OCTOBER 2014

Arrival, Register and Drinks and Refreshments

Welcome – Emma Sadleir

Key Note Speech – Judge Kathleen Satchwell

Awards Presentations

Thanks – Erica Emdon

Drinks and Refreshments

MC Emma Sadleir is a media law specialist attorney. Her areas of expertise include all aspects of print and electronic media law, with a particular focus on social media law. She has a BA LLB (with distinction) from Wits University and an LLM in Information Technology, Media and Communications Law from London School of Economics. She develops social media strategies and policies for corporates and schools, drafting social media agency agreements and providing training and workshops on social media law. She also teaches media law to journalists, and students of law and journalism.
The Ford Foundation took the plunge earlier this year by deciding to contribute to the inaugural Pro Bono Awards Ceremony. This indicates a firm commitment, which is greatly appreciated, to support the work of ProBono.Org and this event. The aim of the event is to enhance and expand the involvement of the private legal profession in the lives of impoverished people living in South Africa. ProBono.Org shares with the Ford Foundation a desire to transform the private legal profession and make it more attuned to the needs of the most numerous segment of the population. The objective is to create a greater sense of commitment to doing pro bono work among the profession. Lawyers must be encouraged to make their contribution with willingness and enthusiasm. Together this will create a greater adherence to the rule of law and the tenets of the South African Constitution.

Katy’s Palace Bar, enables you to build your own traditions within Katy’s palace walls. This is the space for many grand events. In ancient times palaces were built as places of princely pleasure. Honoured guests from all across the land were invited to banquets, balls, concerts and ceremonial gatherings.

Katy’s Palace is a place of architectural greatness with spacious halls, courtyards, secluded nooks and galleries. It takes its inspiration from the great palaces of India and the towers and turrets of the Sandton skyline. Katy’s Palace is one of Joburg’s foremost attractions catering to urban royals, fashionable courtiers and aristocrats of fun. Keeping with tradition, her great hall and well-appointed guest areas play host to parties, weddings, private functions, exhibitions, markets ... and Award Ceremonies!!
This is the first Annual Pro Bono Awards Ceremony. The awards recognise the contribution made by pro bono attorneys, both part time and full time, law firms and advocates to the lives of low-income people living in South Africa. Journalists that report on matters done on a pro bono basis, which draw the public’s attention to cases that change the lives of the poor, are also being recognised. The aim is to celebrate this important work and increase and grow it over time. By publicly acknowledging pro bono work, we are encouraging the legal profession to give back to their society, on a sustainable and long-term basis.
NIC SWART

Nic is the CEO of the Law Society of SA (LSSA) in addition to being the founder and director of Legal Aid and Development (LEAD) which is responsible for the on-going professional training of around 11 000 attorneys per annum across South Africa. He is a member of various law faculties, including UNISA and Fort Hare, and sits on a number of boards. He was a professor at the University of Pretoria, and a senior lecturer at the North West University Law Faculty. In addition, he practices as an attorney, an advocate and mediator. He holds a BA LLB and B Com degrees from the University of Pretoria and UNISA.

ALICE BROWN

Alice is an international human rights advocate and an expert on the use of law for the public good. She has extensive experience in civil rights litigation and social justice philanthropy and currently advises, speaks and does research on public interest law, philanthropy, social justice and non-governmental organisational effectiveness. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Advisory Committees for the Wits Justice Project and Lawyers against Abuse and serves on the boards of Corruption Watch and Section 27. She convenes the annual Public Interest Law Gathering (PILG) at Wits University, was the director of the Ford Foundation (South African) for many years, and holds a law degree from New York University, as well as history degrees from Dartmouth College and North-Western University.

JONATHAN KLAAREN

Jonathan is a Professor of Law at Wits University Law School and is based at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER). He teaches, researches and writes in the areas of human rights, law and sociology. He has published over 40 articles, has co-authored several books and has supervised 14 dissertations. He has served on the editorial committees and boards of the SA Journal of Human Rights, the Law and Society Review and Law and Policy. He served as Dean of the Wits Law School from 2010 – 2013 and as Director of the Mandela Institute from 2005 – 2007. He holds a PhD in sociology from Yale University and law degrees from Wits and Columbia Universities.

AUDITOR

Grant Thornton was founded in 1920 (previously Kessel Feinstein). It is the fifth largest auditing, tax, outsourcing and advisory firm in South Africa, with 10 offices across the country. It provides assurance, tax, advisory and outsourcing services to listed companies, large businesses, as well as private and public sector organisations.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JUDGE KATHLEEN SATCHWELL

Kathie Satchwell started out as a student activist at Rhodes University during the apartheid years playing a support role for Steve Biko, his family and other detainees. Once she started practicing as an attorney, which she continued to do for 18 years, she dealt with pass law courts alongside the Black Sash and CALS, represented detainees, political activists and prisoners, as well as conscientious objectors.

She appeared at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission presenting a memorandum on human rights abuses during apartheid.

Since being appointed to the bench in 1996, many innovative and path breaking judgements, a number of which have been reported, have been handed down by Judge Satchwell.

She has sat on the Commission of Enquiry into the road accident system, has contributed to numerous journals and publications on a wide range of topics, including the “cautionary rule” in rape cases, the treatment of juvenile detainees in prison, family law and the bill of rights.

Over the years, she has had an association with a number of NGOs, including POWA, the Black Sash, Learn and Teach and the Media Defence Trust. Currently she serves as a trustee and member of the management committee of the Nelson Mandela’s Children Fund.
AWARD CATEGORIES 2014

LAW FIRM AWARDS
presented by Max Boqwana,
President of the Law Society of South Africa
• Highest number of pro bono hours by a law firm with over 50 professionals
• Highest number of pro bono hours by a law firm with 10 – 50 professionals
• Highest number of pro bono hours by a law firm with fewer than 10 professionals

INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEY AWARDS
presented by Nicolette Naylor,
Senior Programme Officer, Ford Foundation
• Highest number hours by a full time pro bono attorney
• Highest number of hours by a part time pro bono attorney

ADVOCATE AWARD
presented by Adv Aboobaker SC,
Chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the General Bar Council
• Highest number of pro bono hours by an advocate

MEDIA AWARD
presented by Ferial Haffajee editor of City Press
• Most comprehensive coverage by a journalist of pro bono legal cases or projects

DIRECTOR’S SPECIAL MENTIONS
presented by Andy Bester, Chair of ProBono.Org
Fasken Martineau

Fasken Martineau has a rich history of involvement in pro bono work, resulting in a dedicated pro bono department being established in 2010, providing access to justice to indigent clients. The pro bono department provides legal advice and representation in employment, housing, refugee, maintenance and domestic violence matters. All the attorneys in the firm participate in pro bono work. One of Fasken’s pro bono projects involves providing legal support to emerging artists, culminating in an annual art exhibition hosted by the firm.

Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa

Norton Rose Fulbright SA has a long history of social responsibility and human rights work, dating back to the 1980s. They have consistently offered advice and legal representation to not only indigent individuals and communities, but to non-governmental community based organisations, public benefit organisations, trusts, charities and foundations working to secure or protect human rights. These individuals or groups would have been denied access to justice if not for the enthusiasm of attorneys within the firm who take on regular pro bono work as well as the commitment by the pro bono department itself.

Webber Wentzel

In 2003, Webber Wentzel established a pro bono department to provide free legal services to a variety of communities. The need to narrow the divide between the advantaged and the disadvantaged members of our society guides the work within this department. The pro bono practice provides essential legal services on issues related to land reform, housing, education, healthcare, children’s rights, gender equality and service provision. One of their core projects aims to secure constitutional equality for women.
Mervyn Taback Inc

Mervyn Taback Inc is a boutique firm whose pro bono work covers an array of labour matters and includes litigation, arbitration, the drafting of documents and appearing in court and tribunals for clients. In 2013 the firm successfully litigated against Ford Motor Company South Africa, securing a favourable settlement for 13 former employees. Directors of the firm sit in court as acting judges on a pro bono basis. Tabacks provides pro bono expertise and strives for service excellence and attorney responsiveness to an array of clients.

Schindlers Attorneys

Schindlers Attorneys is a dynamic firm offering a range of services in legal areas including commercial, litigation, conveyancing, labour, intellectual property and consumer law. Schindlers has been working and continues to work to save the Zoo Lake Bowls Club and as recently as September 2014 secured an order halting the eviction of the tenants. The Bowls Club will continue to operate as it has been for the past 82 years. The firm represents Stobbs and Clark who are seeking to have medical marijuana legalised.
Mabaso Attorneys

Mabaso Attorneys is a specialist firm dealing exclusively with employment and labour law issues. The firm has been involved in a great many pro bono cases. Some have involved obtaining writs of execution in order to enforce compensation awards; others have involved opposing review applications. The firm’s legal services include consultations, drafting of employment contracts, negotiating employment contracts and legal representation in various courts and tribunals. The firm has litigated against both private and government employers for their clients.

Dlamini Attorneys

Dlamini Attorneys’ expertise includes corporate litigation, labour law, energy law and competition law. Should a pro bono matter not fall within the expertise of the firm, clients are not turned away. The attorneys consult with peers and familiarise themselves with the area of law to provide clients with advice and steer them in the direction of an individual or organisation who may assist. Pro bono work is further used as a teaching opportunity for candidate attorneys. Despite being a corporate firm, Dlamini Attorneys makes a point of providing advice and representation to its indigent clients.

Clarks Attorneys

Clarks Attorneys believes that all practitioners should do pro bono work, in one way or another, to assist those in society who cannot afford legal advice. The firm’s pro bono work includes assisting at the Randburg Domestic Violence Helpdesk, as well as taking on other family and personal law matters which are referred to the firm by the Law Society, ProBono.Org, colleagues at other law firms, and sometimes matters which come to the firm directly. The clients (including those who are being assisted pro bono), are often going through the most difficult times of their lives. The attorneys approach matters not only with their specialist legal training and expertise, but also with compassion and sensitivity for the parties involved.
Tricia Erasmus (DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr)

Tricia Erasmus is a senior associate in the pro bono department at DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr. Her areas of expertise include refugee law, access to information, general High Court litigation, constitutional and human rights law. She has been instrumental in the case of SAHA and R2K v Minister of Police and Another, where she assisted the applicants in bringing a High Court review application in terms of PAIA to provide information on places or areas declared as a National Key Point Complex in terms of the National Key Points Act.

Ayanda Khumalo (Webber Wentzel)

Ayanda Khumalo is a senior associate in the pro bono department at Webber Wentzel. She actively deals with issues related to socio-economic rights, administrative law, labour law, insurance litigation, non-profit organisations and refugees. Ayanda recently represented a vocal gay rights activist, Dr Semugoma facing improper deportation to Uganda and persecution under the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. She and her team brought proceedings in the South Gauteng High Court to prevent the Department of Home Affairs from deporting Dr Semugoma. The legal interventions by Ayanda ultimately lead to the Government undertaking to grant Dr Semugoma a specialised skills work permit on 20 February 2014.

Moray Hathorn (Webber Wentzel)

Moray Hathorn was appointed to the helm of the pro bono department at Webber Wentzel in 2003. Using constitutional and administrative law, Moray has guided the department to also take on cases related to gender based violence, traditional leadership, HIV discrimination in the workplace, post-restitution support to land reform beneficiaries and evictions. Moray and his team represented the Protea South informal settlement in eviction proceedings against the City of Johannesburg and resulted in an interdict to stop demolitions and an order to provide services.
**FINALISTS**

**HIGHEST NUMBER OF PRO BONO HOURS BY A PART TIME PRO BONO ATTORNEY**

**Tiny Musesengwa** (Bowman Gilfillan)

Tiny started doing pro bono work during articles and continues to do so as an associate. Pro bono clients have benefited from Tiny’s specialised knowledge of corporate law, through her work at Ishishini Lethu (a law clinic for SMMEs) and for NPOs. Tiny has also ventured out of her comfort zone, dedicating significant hours to the emotionally trying areas of family law, domestic violence and housing law, which areas go to the heart of the struggles of poor people in South Africa.

**Sandile Mabaso** (Mabaso Attorneys)

Despite working at a relatively small firm of fewer than ten people, Sandile completed many hours of pro bono work in 2013. Work of this volume for a small firm entails not only an enormous sacrifice of time, but also of financial resources. As a labour law specialist, Sandile has found it hard to stay away from pro bono work, taking on many matters from the SASLAW advice office, staffing it regularly, making himself available on short notice, and offering assistance whenever required at the Labour Court. The extent of his involvement shows a genuine commitment to access to justice. His work has already been acknowledged by SASLAW.

**Elze Lamprecht** (Norton Rose Fulbright SA)

Elze carries out her pro bono work at the same time as running a busy practice. In her own words:

“I believe that giving back to society is not a responsibility; it’s the only way of living that makes sense. There are vulnerable people in society whose rights we must protect. I feel privileged to be used for this purpose.

The pro bono matter I’ve been involved with has come with many challenges as well as opportunities for growth and development as a lawyer. It’s brought home to me how critically important it is to fight for the rights of victims of abuse in a country like ours.”
Nadine Fourie

Nadine is an advocate, in Group One who serves on the group’s Pro Bono Committee and shows great willingness to provide various individuals and NGOs with pro bono legal assistance. She has acted as a judge at the SASLAW pro bono labour court and is available to assist DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr on a regular basis in finding suitable counsel for their pro bono matters. Her areas of expertise include constitutional and human rights law, public and administrative law, labour, pension fund and media law.

Emile Van der Merwe

Emile is a junior advocate based at Pitje Chambers, Johannesburg. He has demonstrated remarkable commitment to pro bono work and has frequently been congratulated by judges, magistrates and other lawyers for his eagerness to assist on a pro bono basis. For example, he has often done 5 of his own divorce matters on the roll, followed by 5 more pro bono divorces, staying behind to assist. He has taken on numerous time-consuming intestate and estate related matters with a commitment to the children, widows and others left behind.

Catherine Welsch

Catherine is an advocate based in Johannesburg. She has assisted with a number of matters at the Pro Bono.Org Family Law Clinic. She is dedicated to providing counsel for disadvantaged women and children. Her most notable case, related to the murder of Brenda Hedges by the estranged husband of the deceased’s daughter. Catherine worked tirelessly for over a year to obtain Domestic Violence Protection orders and to ensure that the accused was arrested and the matter brought to trial.
**Victoria John** *(Mail & Guardian)*

The Legal Resources Centre nominated Victoria for her extensive, in depth and excellent coverage of all issues relating to children and the right to education. Her technical but accessible analyses of education cases, including the LRCs class action against the Department of Education, Eastern Cape, has managed to keep one of the greatest post-apartheid challenges in South Africa in the public eye. Her regular columns on children’s rights have also been excellent, and she writes not only with journalistic skill and legal understanding, but also with outrage at the problems faced by children.

**Shain Germaner** *(The Star)*

Shain ensured that ProBono.Org’s One Child a Year Campaign received excellent exposure, and so played a crucial role in raising awareness. He has recently became involved in reporting cases handled by ProBono.Org and wrote an in depth piece looking at a domestic violence case. Shain’s focus on the most vulnerable sectors of society, and his ability to tell stories of survivors of abuse cannot be underrated at a time when people often become statistics. His contribution to pro bono reporting has been unique for focusing on individuals, and not only high-impact litigation.

**Nomfundo Manyathi-Jele** *(De Rebus)*

Writing for a magazine, which targets the legal profession, Nomfundo has played a crucial role in cultivating an awareness of and enthusiasm for pro bono work amongst its members. She has written countless articles on pro bono work, its importance, and how to go about it. Put simply, she has ensured the relevance of pro bono pursuits for a profession, which could otherwise become wholly profit-driven. In this way, Nomfundo, as a legal journalist, has also played an integral role in access to justice for poor people in South Africa.
Patrick Bracher of Norton Rose Fulbright SA for his 8-year commitment to hosting ProBono.Org’s Constitutional Law radio programme every fortnight on Radio Today.

Christine Jesseman for her service on the board of ProBono.Org and exceptional role at DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in promoting and actively assisting in pro bono matters.

Hoosen Sader of Saders Attorneys for his long-standing and lifelong dedication to pro bono work, which started during the apartheid years, and has continued unabated.

Teresa Swart a Magistrate at the Germiston Children’s Court for going beyond the call of duty in ensuring that children in her court are treated with respect and dignity and are properly represented.

Alfred Wolpe of South African Mediators cc, for his involvement in providing pro bono mediations and training for ProBono.Org and our beneficiaries for the past 8 years.
ProBono.Org enables pro bono legal services to be provided to thousands of impoverished people living in South Africa through its network of private law firms and members of the bar. The first organisation of its kind in the country, its innovative model channels millions of rands worth of top quality legal assistance from the private legal profession to the most vulnerable and marginalised. The work of ProBono.Org aims not only to ameliorate the lack of legal resources for low income people, but also to facilitate a transformation of the legal profession. It should become more engaged and active in promoting the rights of the poor, and the rule of law.
PROBONO.ORG PEOPLE

PROBONO.ORG TEAM

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