

We pay tribute to our pro bono legal practitioners

Welcoming the guests at the fourth annual awards ceremony, Chair of the Board Mohamed Randera explained that we approached things slightly differently this year. Instead of calling for nominations and submitting these to a judging panel in a competitive way, we chose winners from our list of over 85 legal practitioners who volunteered at our legal clinics and help desks and took

on referred cases in 2016. We looked for those who had made an outstanding effort in the various areas of law that we deal with.

The event was held at The Social Kitchen, Exclusive Books, Hyde Park Corner on 7 September 2017, where the former Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan gave the keynote address. He remarked that ProBono.Org reminds us of the old activist

structures in the '70s and '80s such as community advice offices, and that we should not leave organisations like ProBono.Org to chance but we should nurture them. The lawyers present represent the spirit of activism and the spirit of the integrity of the profession. The delight and joy that clients receive from pro bono service is immeasurable and rare. Despite having a good Constitution,



Main Prize Winners

Pravin Gordhan




PRO BONO 2017

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



Charmaine Masake, Sune Bosch (Ramsden Small Attorneys - Child Law) & Adv. Elsabe Steenhuisen



Lesego Vakalisa, Naledi Motsiri (Werksmans Attorneys - Labour Law & Swazi Malinga



Sanele Sonkosi (Sonkozi & Ngalonkulu Attorneys - Housing Law) & Tshenolo Masha



Serialong Lebasa (Law Society of Northern Provinces) & Humphrey Shivamba

good laws and a modern society, transformation has been lagging behind. We have to address the state of inequality in our society. Solidarity with the poor is key, and the offer of pro bono assistance is a show of the calibre of the legal profession. Gordhan stressed the need to regenerate legal professionals, especially the younger ones, to participate in social justice initiatives.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Michael Motsoeneng-Bill, well known for his programme The Law Report, aired on Kaya FM on Wednesday evenings.

This year, ProBono.Org staff and interns all participated in the awards by presenting the winners with their prizes.

Here are all the winners:

- **Refugee Law** – Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr
- **Housing Law** – Sanele Sonkozi, Sonkozi & Ngalonkulu Inc.
- **Deceased Estates** – Majara Mojela, Mojela Hlazo Attorneys
- **Community Advice Office** – Seth Mnguni, Ntsu Advice Office, Mabopane
- **Family Law** – Riva Lange, Riva Lange Attorney
- **Labour Law** – Naledi Motsiri, Werksmans
- **Wills** – Norton Rose Fulbright SA
- **Police Brutality** – Hogan Lovells
- **Child Law** – Suné Bosch, Ramsden Small Attorneys
- **Advocate Award** – Carol Steinberg, Musa Musandiwa and Hephshibah Rajah of the Thulamela Group
- **Large Law Firm** – Fasken Martineau
- **Medium Law Firm** – Schindlers
- **Small Law Firm** – Boela van der Merwe Attorneys
- **Law Student at a University**

Law Clinic – Lutho Klaas, University of Fort Hare

- **Law Society of the Northern Provinces Award** – Serialong Lebasa
- **Legal Aid South Africa Award** – Khanyisa Ngobeni

In addition, there were a number of Director's Special Mentions:

- *Reg Joubert of Reg Joubert Attorney, Claire Thomson of WCIS Attorneys, Susan Harris of Susan Harris Attorney, Leana Elliott of Klopper Jonker Attorneys and Robin Twaddle of Robin Twaddle Attorneys* have all given consistent support to ProBono.Org's clients at its help desks, by taking on matters, giving presentations at workshops and by always being available to assist our clients.
- *Baker & McKenzie Attorneys* were recognised for the firm's willingness to provide ongoing legal support to ProBono.Org in the form of labour policies, staff contracts, pro bono advice and general legal work.
- *Fatima Laher of Bowmans* received a mention for her outstanding support and involvement in help desks, children's matters and NGO support.

Four people who were given awards at the 2014 Pro Bono Awards Ceremony were awarded again this year. This indicates that all four have continued to remain involved and committed, as much now as they were then:

- *Alfred Wolpe* received a Special Mention for his continual work in providing pro bono mediations and mediation training.
- *Clarks Attorneys* was acknowledged for its availability and willingness to take on our clients' cases



Director's Special Mentions

We would like to thank Shereno Printers, AJS Business Management Services, Standard Bank and Lexis Nexis who donated items for our gift bags.

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the success of the event this year:

- Michele Dean of Limeblue Design
- Paul Egberink and Refilwe Lekitlane of Freshly Minced
- The Social Kitchen
- Yonela Mnama for the entertainment
- Samuel Baloi for the beautiful prizes
- Grateful thanks to our generous sponsors:
- Legal Aid South Africa
- The Law Society of the Northern Provinces
- Juta Law
- AJS Business Management Services
- Spier Wines
- Lexis Nexis
- Discovery Health
- Exclusive Books
- Without Prejudice ●

Section 29 of the Legal Practice Act – Consultative Workshops

The LSSA, provincial law societies and NADEL are hosting workshops on community service and pro bono. The aim is to consult with legal practitioners and stakeholders on Section 29 of the Legal Practice Act, the present Rule 25 of the rules of the attorneys profession and the new draft rule. It is hoped to solicit the views of participants on what the core content of community service and pro bono should be and how it should work, so that submissions to the Minister can be made.

These will be as follows:

11 October – Pietermaritzburg, [KZN Law Society Boardroom]: 12h30 to 15h30

12 October – Bloemfontein, [venue to be confirmed]: 12h30 to 15h30

17 October – Johannesburg, [Sunnyside Park Hotel]: 12h30 to 15h30

18 October – Cape Town, [Cape Law Society, 29th floor, ABSA Centre, 2 Riebeeck Street]: 12h30 to 15h30

19 October – East London, [East London Golf Club, 22 Gleneagles Road, Bunkers Hill]: 12h30 to 15h30

and its consistent stance in championing the rights of women and children.

Hoossen Sader was once again awarded for repeatedly taking on family law matters. At the 2014 event he was mentioned because of "his long-standing and lifelong dedication to pro bono work, which started during the apartheid years, and has continued unabated."

- *Patrick Bracher* of Norton Rose Fulbright was recognised as before for hosting Pro Bono Law, our constitutional law radio programme on Radio Today, now in its 11th year.

This year was also the first time we held a raffle, with prizes generously donated by Discovery Health/Integrity Life, Juta Law, the i-Store, AJS Business Management Systems, Lexis Nexis and the Spier Hotel.

