

Candice Pillay joins the ProBono.Org Board

Candice Pillay is a litigation lawyer with Norton Rose Fulbright SA Inc. and the co-head of the Social Impact team with Liesl Williams. In this role she works on pro bono litigation and access to justice projects.

Candice has experience as an insurance and risk litigation lawyer with a specific focus on personal injury, medical negligence and public and product liability cases. She also has an extensive human rights practice dealing with strategic and impact litigation in the public interest. Candice received the African Legal Awards in 2016 for her work with child victims of sexual violence and again in 2019 for her solar education projects in schools.



She recently won Probono.Org awards for her contribution to police assault cases and for her outstanding contribution to access to justice for the poor and vulnerable. We are honoured to have her join the board, where she will make a valuable contribution to our strategy and governance. ●

Durban Regional Manager appointment

We extend congratulations to **Nicole Laljit (nee Dayanand)** who has been appointed as the **Regional Manager in the Durban Office.**

Nicole completed her degree at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. She has 10 years of experience in the legal profession and has practised as an attorney for 7 of those years. She was previously a staff attorney



in the Durban office and specialises in Property Law, Deceased Estates and Consumer Law.

Nicole believes that access to justice is an important ingredient in the rule of law. We wish her every success in her new role, which she has already embraced with enthusiasm. ●

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Write for us



We would like to invite legal practitioners to contribute to our bi-monthly newsletters by writing an article of up to 400 words (one page) on a topical issue of law. Please indicate your interest to the editor at

margaret@probono.org.za

The deadline for articles for the next issue will be:

1 December 2022

Welcome to the new interns in Durban and Joburg



Nolwazi Khambule

Nolwazi holds a BA Law degree and LLB degree from UKZN. She is 25 years old and spends her free time serving the community through an organisation called Touch I-future. Nolwazi believes access to justice is an important ingredient of the rule of law. People need to be able to access the courts and the legal processes. If they cannot, the law cannot enforce people's rights and responsibilities. Nolwazi is particularly interested in property law and is excited to have joined the ProBono.Org team.



Abia Mukandama

After matriculating from Queensburgh Girls High School, Abia enrolled for an LLB degree at the University of South Africa. During her studies she participated in moot court competitions and volunteered at a number of organisations. She completed vacation work at Singh and Associates where she acquired practical legal experience. Abia was drawn to the legal profession because of the ability to use the law to ensure access to justice for marginalised communities. Bringing justice to clients and upholding the law has always been her passion. In her spare time she enjoys teaching online and hiking. Abia looks forward to working at ProBono.Org



Welcome to Jabulani Manqele in Joburg

Jabulani Manqele was born in KwaZulu-Natal and raised in Lenasia, Johannesburg South. In 2021, he graduated with an LLB from the University of South Africa (UNISA). Jabu is passionate about helping people and regularly volunteers his services at a soup kitchen in Soweto.

He is grateful for the opportunity that ProBono.Org has afforded to him and looks forward to making a contribution towards limiting social injustices in South Africa. ●



Tembisa/Kempton Park Community Advice Office Torched

JoJo Mashaba, the paralegal who runs the Tembisa Community Advice Office, reports that their office in the municipal building was looted on 1 August 2022 during a service delivery protest that saw the torching of the municipal offices, an electrical substation and a number of vehicles. Four people were killed during the violence.

Roads leading to the townships were barricaded with rocks and burning tyres by protesters who were angry over high electricity costs and rates increases.

They accused the mayor of ignoring their demands and failing to appear at a community meeting on 29 July 2022.

Since the start of the service delivery protests the Tembisa Customer Care Centre has been looted and set alight, along with vehicles belonging to the staff.

The protests have badly affected the work of the Tembisa/Kempton Park Advice Office, which is now operating at the Sedibeng Old Hall in Tuda Crescent, Tembisa. ●



Musina Refugee Project



The Refugee Project visits partners in Musina

By Xoliswa Maaroganye,
Communications Intern

As part of our Refugee project with Misereor, our paralegal in the Johannesburg office, Zama Mbatha, and the legal intern in the Refugee department, Kgomotso Leshabane, conducted a three-day workshop in Musina in collaboration with our local partner, the Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO). The workshop was aimed at informing community members about the rights of stateless people in South Africa. Our team also sought to build capacity for community advice office (CAO) paralegals by giving report writing training during their visit.

The Refugee project seeks to ensure that undocumented migrants and refugees, especially minors at the border of Zimbabwe (Polokwane), have access to legal representation. ProBono.Org attempts to address the issue of lack of representation for children in court cases by

securing pro bono legal interventions and representation. The non-implementation of the constitutional rights of undocumented minors (born to SA citizens or foreign nationals) will be addressed through impact litigation to highlight the need to amend policies that do not serve the needs of minors and migrants.

Some of the topics covered in the three-day workshop included *What is Statelessness and the Right to Nationality; Borders and Statelessness; Childhood and Statelessness*. On day three of the workshop, we had a discussion on the topic of *Nationality evidence and Migration and Nationality*. In addition, we had an insightful dialogue on solutions for stateless persons, particularly on the determination of statelessness as well as nationality procedures. The community members were particularly interested in engaging on case studies and discussing the causes

and consequences of statelessness within the community. They shared their views and challenges while also engaging the speakers on a few ideas for possible solutions to statelessness and ways in which the issue of statelessness in South Africa could be eradicated.

We had an estimated 150 people in attendance including over 20 different organisations as well as the Grade 10 scholars from one of the local schools in the area.

The success of the workshop is thanks to the dedication of the legal practitioners who volunteered to collaborate with ProBono.Org in educating and empowering members of the community of Musina on Statelessness in South Africa. Special thanks to Elgene Roos of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr; Thandeka Chauke of Lawyers for Human Rights; Sarah Goldman of Lawtons Africa; and Stanley Tiffah Zauya, a paralegal with the MLAO. ●

Mediation Feedback Session



By Adv Elsabe Steenhuisen, Children's Project Manager

After a mediation training session for community leaders on 20 May 2022 by Adv Mabel Slabbert, ProBono.Org held a feedback session at the Joburg office on 26 September 2022. The leaders who attended gave insightful feedback on how the training assisted them in their community advice offices.

The discussion dealt with five (5) questions: 1. What was the most valuable point in the training for you? 2. What specific mediation aspects could you implement in your work? 3. What mediation principle did you struggle to apply in practice? 4. Would you say that the training assisted you in a more general way, or in a very specific way? 5. Do you have a specific mediation issue that you would like to receive training on?

All leaders participated and the most important remark

was that they want to be trained as mediators. It was clear that that forms a large part of their work. Some found the training to be a good refresher of their existing knowledge; others strengthened skills like patience; being good listeners; getting parties to a middle ground; note-taking; and questioning the parties. Many found the training helpful in giving direction to time-management. Specific needs mentioned were training in high-conflict cases; how to deal with divorces regarding division of property; dealing with enforcing divorce orders; and training in labour issues in the informal workplace.

More training is planned for the coming year, and hopefully funds will be secured for accredited mediators' training. ●



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