

GAUTENG SOCIETY JULY NEWSLETTER OF ADVOCATES



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1. WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Gauteng Society of Advocates is pleased to welcome our new members to the Bar. We are delighted to have you join our professional community and look forward to your contributions to the work, values, of the Society. Becoming part of the Bar is both a significant achievement and the beginning of a demanding but rewarding professional journey. We trust that you will find the Society a supportive environment as you develop your practice, and we encourage you to participate actively in the life of the Bar. Please join us in warmly welcoming the following new members:



ADV ADRIAN GROBLER



ADV RORISANG ONIACH KGOSANA



ADV RONALDO LOBO



ADV NASIRUDEEN ISMAIL

2. WEBINAR FEEDBACK

Navigating the Medical Complexities of Head Injury Litigation - Presentation by Dr Edeling (28 May 2026)

On 28 May 2026, members attended an insightful webinar presented by Dr Edeling on the topic “Navigating the Medical Complexities of Head Injury Litigation.” The presentation provided valuable guidance on the medical and legal considerations involved in head injury claims, with particular emphasis on the assessment, diagnosis, and long-term implications of traumatic brain injuries. Dr Edeling shared his extensive expertise and highlighted the importance of understanding the medical evidence required to effectively evaluate and litigate these matters. Members greatly appreciated the practical insights and expert knowledge shared during the session, which contributed to a deeper understanding of this specialised area of litigation.

3. MANDELA DAY COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mzuvele High School, KwaMashu (KZN)

In the spirit of Mandela Day and the enduring legacy of service championed by former President Nelson Mandela, the Law Society of South Africa’s Youth Committee will be undertaking a community upliftment project at Mzuvele High School in KwaMashu, KwaZulu-Natal.

Mzuvele High School is currently facing significant infrastructure and resource challenges that adversely affect the learning environment and educational experience of its learners. Through this initiative, the Youth Committee aims to make a meaningful contribution towards improving the school’s facilities and supporting its learners.

Members of the Gauteng Society of Advocates are warmly invited to participate in this worthy cause by donating any of the items identified on the project’s needs list. Every contribution, no matter how small, will assist in creating a more conducive environment for learning and will make a tangible difference in the lives of the learners.

Those who wish to contribute are welcome to deliver their donations to the offices of the Law Society of South Africa at:

**304 Brooks Street
Menlo Park
Pretoria**

We encourage members to embrace the spirit of Mandela Day by giving 67 minutes of service through acts of generosity and community support.

Together, we can contribute to positive change and help empower the next generation through education.

4. MEDIATION AND ADVOCACY

Complementary, not competing, disciplines – The Third Way

There is a persistent misconception within parts of the legal profession that mediation and advocacy occupy opposing ends of the dispute resolution spectrum. The perception is that mediation seeks compromise, while advocacy seeks victory. In reality, the two disciplines are not competitors; they are complementary tools serving the same overarching objective: the resolution of disputes in a manner that promotes justice.

At its core, advocacy is about assisting clients to navigate legal conflict. While this often involves litigation, litigation itself is not the end goal. The true objective is the achievement of a lawful, fair and practical outcome for the client. Mediation serves precisely the same purpose.

Far from diminishing the role of the advocate, mediation frequently highlights the skills that advocates bring to dispute resolution. Effective advocates analyse risks, identify strengths and weaknesses in a case, evaluate evidence and assist clients to make informed decisions. These are the very skills that enable meaningful participation in mediation. A well-prepared advocate can help a client understand not only the merits of a claim but also the commercial, financial and emotional realities of prolonged litigation. Often a grounded advocate and mediator brings dysregulated clients or parties to a more grounded and regulated state. We provide the calm and grounded presence.

The modern justice system increasingly recognises that not every dispute requires a judicial determination. Courts face growing caseloads, litigation costs continue to rise and delays remain a reality for many litigants. Mediation offers parties an opportunity to resolve disputes more efficiently while preserving relationships and reducing the financial and emotional burden associated with lengthy court proceedings.

Importantly, the growth of mediation should not be viewed as a threat to the referral advocacy profession. On the contrary, it creates opportunities for advocates to expand their skill sets and continue serving clients in diverse ways. Whether acting as counsel in a mediation, advising clients on settlement proposals or serving as mediators themselves, advocates remain integral to the administration of justice.

The future of dispute resolution is unlikely to be a choice between litigation and mediation. Rather, it will require legal practitioners who understand when each process is appropriate and how they can work together to achieve the best outcome. Advocacy and mediation share a common foundation: careful analysis, principled engagement and a commitment to resolving disputes fairly. Viewed through that lens, they are not competing disciplines at all. They are partners in the pursuit of justice.

Adv Alexia Vosloo-De Witt

The Gauteng Society of Advocates would like to express its appreciation to Adv Alexia Vosloo-De Witt for her insightful article, "Mediation and Advocacy: Complementary, Not Competing Disciplines – The Third Way."

We are grateful for her contribution and for sharing her knowledge and perspectives with our members. We thank Alexia for her time, effort, and commitment to advancing professional discourse within the legal profession.

5. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEGAL PRACTICE

The Gauteng Society of Advocates has received correspondence from the Legal Practice Council (LPC) expressing its interest in engaging with members of the Society.

Further information regarding any engagement with the LPC will be shared with members as and when it becomes available.

6. YEAR-END FUNCTION – TIME SQUARE HOTEL

Members are reminded of the upcoming year-end function, which will take place on 28 November 2026 at the Time Square Hotel.

Members are kindly requested to confirm their attendance with Adv Ntsizi November at their earliest convenience.

The Society also takes this opportunity to extend its appreciation to Adv November for the dedication and hard work throughout the year.

7. NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to address you in this edition of our newsletter as Chairperson of the Gauteng Society of Advocates.

As we reach the midpoint of the year, the Gauteng Society of Advocates takes this opportunity to extend its appreciation to all members for their continued dedication to the profession and to the work of the Society.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the EXCO management team for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the effective administration and continued success of the Society. Your efforts, often carried out behind the scenes, are greatly appreciated and make a meaningful difference to the functioning of our organisation.

We look forward to the remainder of the year with optimism and to continued collaboration in advancing the interests of our members and strengthening the Society.



Maryke Pienaar

Chairperson of the Gauteng Society Advocates

Kindly contact or email Adv. Zethu Mpama if you would like to contribute an article or share interesting information for our next newsletter edition.

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