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**LAW SOCIETY SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE, IMPARTIALITY AND DIGNITY
OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE COURTS**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) has noted both the majority and minority decisions of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) on the impasse involving Judge President John Hlophe and the justices of the Constitutional Court. The LSSA has also noted the statement by the justices of the Constitutional Court of 1 September 2009.

'The attorneys' profession will support the current and the future leadership of the judiciary in upholding the independence, impartiality and dignity of the judiciary and the courts,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons, Thoba Poyo-Dlwati and Henri van Rooyen.

'We are facing interviews for and appointments of the leadership of our judiciary in the person of a new Chief Justice and a number of new Constitutional Court judges. It is imperative that the new leaders of the judiciary ensure the continuing independence, impartiality, dignity, accessibility and effectiveness of the judiciary and of our courts. The integrity of the judiciary is paramount. It must, at all times, remain above suspicion otherwise its credibility will be threatened.

As the body duly mandated by the Constitution to pronounce on complaints regarding judges, the LSSA accepts the JSC's ruling not to proceed with formal hearings on the complaint by Judge President Hlophe or the counter-complaint by the Constitutional Court justices.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Editor's note:

The Law Society of South Africa brings together its six constituent members – the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces, the Black Lawyers Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers – in representing South Africa's 18 600 attorneys and 4 800 candidate attorneys.

In Afrikaans items, please refer to the 'Prokureursorde van Suid-Afrika'.