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COMMITTED TO **BUILDING** A BETTER LEGAL PROFESSION FOR ALL

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LATEST ON THE LEGAL PRACTICE ACT

Having received a six-month extension from Justice Minister Michael Masutha to submit its recommendations to him, the National Forum (NF) on the Legal Profession is racing against time to finalise its recommendations before the extended deadline of 1 August 2017.

Although it has finalised most of the rules and regulations required, an impasse between attorneys and advocates on practical vocational training is holding back some of the education-related rules, and thus the entire set from being gazetted for comment.

[Read more on](#) the latest developments relating to the Legal Practice Act and the National Forum.

FIC AMENDMENT ACT: HOW IT IMPACTS ON YOU

The [Financial Intelligence Centre Amendment Act 1 of 2017](#) was published in *Government Gazette* 40821 of 2 May 2017. Attorneys, as accounting institutions, are required to comply with the new provisions introduced by the Amendment Act and must familiarise themselves with the relevant provisions, in particular, the insertion of ss 21A to 21H.

[Read more](#)

NATIONAL WILLS WEEK: 11 TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

- REGISTER NOW TO PARTICIPATE

National Wills Week will be held from **11 to 15 September** this year. Attorneys are invited to register now to participate. This is your opportunity to provide free basic wills to members of the public and also to introduce your firm to new, potential clients.

[Read more and register online here.](#)

RECENT LSSA PRESS RELEASES

The LSSA has voiced its concerns on three topical issues recently. It has issued press releases -

- Strongly condemning the disturbing personal attacks on Judge Bashier Vally and on the judiciary in general. [Read the press release here.](#)
- Urging the JSC to scrutinise judicial candidates for racist tendencies and once again condemned any form of racism in our society and particularly within the judiciary. This came after the DoJ&CD announced the resignation of Judge Mabel Jansen. [Read the press release here.](#)
- Calling on Council on Higher Education to consult the legal profession on issues relating to the LLB degree. [Read the press release here.](#)

NEW CO-CHAIRPERSONS TAKE THE HELM AT LSSA

Cape Town attorney Walid Brown and Harrismith attorney David Bekker were elected Co-Chairpersons of the LSSA at its annual general meeting on 22 April 2017.

Find out more about them and their objectives for the coming year. [Read more here.](#)

The Annual Report of the LSSA: April 2016 to March 2017 was adopted at the AGM on 21 April 2017. This covers the activities of the LSSA and all its specialist committees for the reporting period. [View the LSSA Annual Report here.](#)

The following presentations from the LSSA AGM on 21 and 22 April can be downloaded:

- Update on Legal Practice Act by Jan Stemmett [Download here.](#)
- Case management by Ettienne Barnard [Download here.](#)
- Developments in legal technology by Brendan Hughes [Download here.](#)
- Decolonisation: meaning and impact by Prof R Songca (Unisa) [Download here](#)
- Role of the SASSETA in the provision of skills development by Jenni Irish-Qhobosheane [Download here.](#)

LEGAL PROCESS OUTSOURCING HALF-DAY INFO SESSION

Over the next five years, the global legal process outsourcing (LPO) market is anticipated to grow more than 600% to become a \$4 billion industry by 2022. South Africa has emerged as a key future cross-border LPO region due to the region's lower-cost legal professionals, advanced technologies, advantageous time zone and English-language proficiencies.

LEAD is presenting a half-day information session conference discussing global LPO trends, developments and opportunities for both local legal service providers to grow their client base and for clients to reduce internal legal costs and obtain access to specialised legal resources on an outsourced basis.

Midrand: 2 June 2017; Cape Town: 9 June 2017 and Durban: 23 June 2017.

[Read more](#)

SUBMISSIONS ON LEGISLATION BY THE LSSA

The LSSA has recently submitted comments on the [Property Practitioners Bill](#); on the proposed amendments to the [Magistrate's Courts Rule 63](#) - filing, preparation and inspection of documents; and on the [Electronic Deeds Registration Systems Bill](#). [View all the LSSA submissions here.](#)

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT TRAINING: DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 2 JUNE 2017

If you were issued with your first Fidelity Fund certificate in 2016 or earlier this year, you are reminded that you need to comply with the mandatory practice management training (PMT) requirements in terms of the Judicial Matters Second Amendment Act, 2003, in order to receive your subsequent certificates. The deadline for the second LEAD PMT course this year is 2 June. The course starts in July 2017.

[Download the information brochure and registration form here.](#)

[View the training schedule here.](#)

Please note: **Extensions:** The prerogative to grant an extension lies solely within the discretion of the relevant provincial law society. Practitioners may apply for extension if they realise that they have not yet completed the PMT course and their first Fidelity Fund certificate is about to expire. If the extension is granted, the attorney will get a second Fidelity Fund certificate, but will have to complete the course before the second certificate expires.

Exemptions: Practitioners who have prior experience in practice management or the necessary qualifications, can approach their relevant provincial law society to apply for exemption from attending the practice management training course. [Read more.](#)

REGISTER SOON: PALU CONFERENCE BRINGS AFRICAN LAWYERS TO DURBAN IN JULY

The Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) will host its annual conference and triennial general assembly at the Elangeni/Maharani Hotel in Durban from 5 - 8 July 2017. The conference will bring together lawyers from across the African continent to discuss matters relevant to the practice of law, as well as economic, political and social development of the continent.

There will be three parallel streams:

- Business law - the most pertinent issues in corporate and commercial law on the continent.
- Legal practice - the growing opportunities in the legal field for African lawyers and foreign lawyers practising in Africa.
- Public interest and development law - emerging strategies for protecting lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders, as well as recent developments and opportunities for the Rule of Law on the continent.

[Read more](#) on the conference.

[Click here](#) to register for the conference.

Should you be interested in showcasing your firm by being featured as a sponsor, please e-mail us at LSSA@LSSA.org.za.

JUDICIAL SKILLS TRAINING COURSE FOR ATTORNEYS

LEAD and Nadel are presenting an enrichment course aimed at empowering attorneys by introducing them to the skills required of judicial officers.

The course will be conducted over six days and will be held in two regions, namely, KwaZulu-Natal: 23 July to 28 July 2017 and Gauteng: 1 to 6 October 2017. The closing date for applications is 19 May and 2 August 2017 respectively.

[Download the information brochure here.](#)

LSSA SYNERGY LINK EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE: CAPE TOWN LINK OFFERED

The LSSA's Synergy Link is a mentorship initiative for law firms. The objective is the empowerment of 'growing' firms - especially black-owned law firms - to specialise in fields of practice or enter new fields with confidence. The LSSA Synergy Link sees this being achieved through creative relationships where one firm transfers skills and leadership competency to another. The 'transferring' firm will provide guidance in business models, systems and strategy development and transfer of skills in specialised areas of legal work. [Read more here](#) on the LSSA Synergy Link initiative.

Cape Town firm SchoemanLaw Inc is offering to mentor a 'growing' firm from Cape Town. [Read more here](#) on the SchoemanLaw Inc link offer.

If you are an experienced firm and wish to participate in this initiative by transferring skills to a growing firm - and also include this initiative as part of your enterprise development points in your B-BBEE scorecard - [Read more here](#).

OTHER RECENT PRESS RELEASES BY THE LSSA AND ITS CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

9 May: BLA mourns the death of Advocate Imrann Moosa. [Read press release](#).

5 May: BLA welcomes the rather delayed resignation by Judge Mabel Jansen. [Read press release](#).

21 April 2017: CLS: Placing the blame for medical malpractice suits at the door of attorneys will not lead to the improvement of the standard of public health care for the majority in South Africa. [Read press release](#).

12 April 2017: BLA welcomes the JSC's decision to refer Judge Jansen's conduct to the Judicial Conduct Tribunal. [Read press release](#).

30 March 2017: Nadel: Ahmed Mohammed Kathrada, an ethical leader and inspiration to all. [Read press release](#).

27 March 2017: LSSA seriously concerned at unsubstantiated allegations against attorneys regarding medical negligence claims. [Read press release](#).

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERTISE: ATTEND A LEAD TRAINING EVENT

Divorce mediation. - [Read more here](#).

Civil mediation - [Read more here](#).

Opinion writing - [Read more here](#).

Wills and testamentary trusts - [Read more here](#).

Stress - how to handle it - [Read more here](#).

Legal process outsourcing half-day conference - [Read more here](#).

For corporate and government practitioners:

Commercial drafting - [Read more here](#).

Writing documents for litigation - [Read more here](#).

SUPPORT STAFF TRAINING - THE LEGAL SECRETARY

Pretoria - 6 to 8 June 2017

The course provides general business skills and practical approaches as well as the broad knowledge and skills needed to assist your secretary to support you and your firm.

[Read more here.](#)

AIIF RISK ALERT BULLETIN

Have you had a look at the May issue of the AIIF's *Risk Alert Bulletin*?

In this issue:

Pointers on the preparation for the year-end trust audit: a recent judgment on the prescription of a PI claim - RAF claims: more allegations of fraudulent practices

- Settlement negotiations: has an appropriate mandate been obtained from your client?

- Ponzi schemes: Practitioners beware!

[View the May Risk Alert Bulletin here.](#)



Did you miss the May issue of *De Rebus*? Highlights from the May issue:

- Editorial: Legal education in crisis?
- Vicarious liability: Easy to understand, difficult to adjudicate
- Unpacking the affirmative action equation from a constitutional perspective
- Impossible no more: The demise of the common law defence of impossibility for spoliation
- *In duplum rule*: Another view of *Paulsen v Slip Knot*
- Legal practitioners fighting for constitutional democracy

And lots more of the usual law reports, recent labour law judgments and news from the profession.

[View the May issue here.](#)

Download the FREE De Rebus app from the [AppStore](#) or [Googleplay](#).



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