

Rules for the Attorneys' Profession



ADVISORY FROM THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Colleagues

We are pleased to inform you that, after a seven-year process, the uniform, national Rules for the Attorneys' Profession have been gazetted in *Government Gazette* 39740 of 26 February 2016. The rules come into operation on 1 March 2016.

[Download Government Gazette 39740 of 26 February 2016 here.](#)

Historically, the current four statutory law societies had separate sets of rules which applied to their specific members. In more recent times, with the advent of national firms with offices and branches in various provinces, the application of different rules led to some untenable situations. The move towards a new, national dispensation under the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014 also requires standardisation in policies and processes.

The process of unifying the four sets of rules was long and complex, involving several years of discussions and negotiations. The approval of attorneys was also required at the annual general meetings of the law societies. Approval then had to be obtained from the various Judges President and ultimately the Chief Justice.

That process was completed and the uniform, national Rules for the Attorneys' Profession come into effect on 1 March 2016.

This is a historic occasion for our profession. We thank all those at all the constituent bodies and at the LSSA who worked tirelessly to steer and finalise this process.

Regards

BUSANI MABUNDA AND RICHARD SCOTT
CO-CHAIRPERSONS
LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Visit our website - www.LSSA.org.za Tel: (012) 366 8800 E-mail: contact@LSSA.org.za

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