



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE

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**LAW SOCIETY ELECTS MATOLO-DLEPU AND BEKKER AS
CO-CHAIRPERSONS**

Johannesburg attorney and Black Lawyers Association Vice -President Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu and Harrismith attorney David Bekker have been elected Co-Chairpersons of the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA).

Both Ms Matolo-Dlepu and Mr Bekker have placed the finalisation of the Legal Practice Bill high on their agenda for their term as Co-Chairpersons, which runs from 14 April 2013 until March 2014. Mr Bekker was one of the co-signatories on the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding – an agreement between the then Association of Law Societies, the statutory provincial law societies, the BLA and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers – setting up LSSA. The main objective of the LSSA was to bring about new legislation to regulate the legal profession. 'I would like to finalise this issue, with special emphasis on smaller law firms and access by rural communities to legal practitioners,' says Mr Bekker.

Besides the focus on the Legal Practice Bill, Ms Matolo-Dlepu says: 'I plan to encourage women lawyers to participate actively in the affairs of the legal profession and also to encourage the mentorship of young lawyers.'

Mr Bekker adds: 'My secondary objective is to improve and develop ubuntu between the different constituents of the LSSA so as to serve as an example to all of the role that attorneys play in building a unified nation in a diverse community.'



*Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu (left)
and David Bekker.*

About Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu:

Ms Matolo-Dlepu serves on the Council, Management Committee and Gender Committee of the LSSA. In addition, she is a Board member of the Attorney Insurance Indemnity Fund as well as the Attorney's Fidelity Fund Board of Control. She read for her law degrees at the University of the North, is an admitted attorney and conveyancer, and is currently the senior partner at Molefe-Dlepu Inc in Johannesburg.

She served as a council member of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces for a number of years and was chairperson of its Gender and Transformation. Ms Matolo-Dlepu was the National General Secretary of the Black Lawyers Association until her election as Vice-President in 2011.

About David Bekker:

David Bekker has been involved in law society matters as a councilor since 1989. He serves on the Council and Management Committee of the LSSA, as well as on several LSSA specialist committees, including the Deceased Estates, Trusts and Planning Committee, Competition Law Committee and Practice Development Committee. In addition, he chairs the Communications and Financial Intelligence Centre Act Committees.

Mr Bekker obtained his law degree from the University of the Free State and has been a practising attorney and conveyancer since 1977. He is the senior partner of Harrismith firm Cloete & Neveling Inc, a member of the Phatshoane Henney Group of attorneys. He was President of the Law Society of the Free State from 1994 to 1996. Mr Bekker is a member of the Appeal Board of the Financial Intelligence Center (FIC), a trustee of the Legal Provident Fund and, last week, was appointed the representative of the LSSA on the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, KATHLEEN MATOLO-DLEPU AND DAVID BEKKER

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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 21 400 attorneys and 5 800 candidate attorneys.