

## Second meeting of the National Forum on the Legal Profession

18 July 2015

Parts 1 and 2 of Chapter 10 of the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014 came into effect on 1 February 2015.

This brought into being the National Forum on the Legal Profession.

Dear Colleagues

The National Forum on the Legal Profession (NF) – established in terms of Chapter 10 of the Legal Practice Act – met in Centurion on Saturday, 18 July 2015. This was the NF's second meeting since that section of the Act came into operation earlier this year. The NF is scheduled to meet at least four times a year and its first report to the Justice Minister was due in early August.

At this meeting, the NF membership was confirmed ([membership](#)) and it was resolved that members will not have alternates as the Act does not allow for these. Meeting dates are set well ahead of time, with the next meeting scheduled for 19 September 2015. NF members who cannot attend a meeting can present written comments and discuss these with the Chairperson, Ms Kgomotso Moroka and Deputy Chairperson, Max Boqwana.

The NF has the duty to set in place the framework to ensure a smooth transition from the current dispensation to the Legal Practice Council. In order to deal with its [extensive list of tasks](#) which it should complete in 24 months (with an option to approach the Minister for a further year's lifespan). To best utilise the time and skills of the members of the NF, four working committees have been established and the NF members divided into these committees to start work immediately.

**The four committees** are as follows:

The **Admin and Human Resources Committee** will deal with the administration and staffing aspects as well as stakeholder relations. Its first duty was to consider applications for the positions of chief executive and financial officer, which were expected to be filled early in August, in consultation with the Justice Director General. The rest of the staff complement would follow. The NF has been provided office space in Centurion, in the same building as the SA Law Reform Commission, but independent from the Justice Department. This committee will also deal with the issue of a consolidated database of all legal practitioners – attorneys and advocates – that will comprise the rolls of the new LPC.

It is critical that practitioners ensure that their details are current and complete with their present regulatory body (for attorneys that will be your current provincial law society) to ensure that they are captured on the roll at the Legal Practice Council once it comes into being. The committee will draft a handover plan from the current dispensation to the new dispensation.

Admin and Human Resources Committee members	
Mr Lutendo Sigogo	LSSA (Black Lawyers Association)
Adv Dali Mpofu SC	General Council of the Bar (GCB)
Adv Dumisa Ntsebeza SC	Advocates for Transformation (AFT)
Mr Krish Govender	LSSA (Nadel)
Ms Janine Myburgh	LSSA (Cape Law Society)

**Read more on**

► [the composition of the National Forum](#)

► [the tasks of the National Forum](#)

► [Download the Legal Practice Act](#)

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The **Governance Committee** will consider the structure of the LPC and delegation of powers to the provincial councils, as well as the areas of jurisdiction of the latter. In addition it will make recommendations on the election of members to both the national and provincial councils. The complex issue of funding of the new structures will also be considered by this committee and proposals made to the Minister.

Governance Committee members	
Mr Jan Stemmett	LSSA (Law Society of the Northern Provinces)
Mr Jan Maree	LSSA (Law Society of the Free State)
Ms Martha Mbhele	LSSA (BLA)
Mr Abe Mathebula	Attorneys Fidelity Fund
Adv Jurgens Prinsloo SC	National Forum of Advocates
Ms Thina Siwendu	Minister's nominee
Adv Greg Harpur SC	GCB
Adv Willem van der Linde SC	GCB
Adv Dumisa Ntsebeza SC	AFT
Adv Thami Ncongwane SC	GCB

The **Rules and Code of Conduct Committee** will develop a code of conduct as well as rules relating to disciplinary bodies, the lodging of complaints against legal practitioners and any other rules. These must all be gazetted for comment. In the course of its work, the committee – and all the other committees – may come across aspects of the Act which may not translate well into the implementation. This committee will be responsible for proposing amendments to the Act, if necessary.

Rules and Code of Conduct Committee members	
Mr Jan Stemmett	LSSA (LSNP)
Ms Janine Myburgh	LSSA (CLS)
Adv Jurgens Prinsloo SC	National Forum of Advocates
Adv Mark Hawyes	National Bar Council of South Africa
Mr Lutendo Sigogo	LSSA (BLA)
Ms Thina Siwendu	Minister's nominee
Adv Greg Harpur SC	GCB
Ms Manette Strauss	LSSA (KZNLS)

The **Education, Standards and Accreditation Committee** will deal with various aspects of and the rules relating to practical vocational training, competency-based examinations/assessments and institutions that will qualify to conduct assessments. The rules must be gazetted for comment. It will also make recommendations on the right of appearance of candidate legal practitioners. Other aspects that it may consider are the LLB degree, compulsory post-qualification professional development and practice management, foreign qualifications, as well as the mobility between the branches of the profession as the Act permits easy movement between the roll of attorneys and the roll of advocates.

<b>Education, Standards and Accreditation Committee members</b>	
Mr Jan Maree	LSSA (LSFS)
Adv Brian Nair	Legal Aid SA
Prof Managay Reddi	SA Law Deans Association
Adv Mark Hawyes	National Bar Council of South Africa
Mr Abe Mathebula	Attorneys Fidelity Fund
Adv Ismail Jamie SC	GCB
Adv Dali Mpofu SC	GCB
Adv Willem van der Linde SC	GCB
Mr Krish Govender	LSSA (Nadel)
Ms Martha Mbhele	LSSA (BLA)

An **Executive Committee** comprising the Chairperson, Ms Kgomotso Moroka SC (Minster's nominee), the Deputy Chairperson, Max Boqwana (LSSA, Nadel) and the executive officer will oversee the work of the NF and report to the Minister at the required intervals.

We invite you to communicate with us if you have questions or require information. We also undertake to keep you updated and invite your input at the appropriate stages.

► You are welcome to e-mail us at [LSSA@LSSA.org.za](mailto:LSSA@LSSA.org.za).

**MAX BOQWANA and JAN STEMMETT**

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the LSSA National Forum Committee

4 August 2015