



Communiqué No. 16

INTRODUCTION

The SASLAW pro bono project is in its 11th year and is managing to continue to offer assistance to indigent clients in the four Labour Courts in South Africa. The administrators have coped very well with keeping the project operational, in a fully online, hybrid and safe physical manner. The Directors are very grateful to them for their work and commitment to the project.

The attorneys have been flexible and responsive to working online, and this has been very much appreciated. Hours are sent to the relevant law societies, bi-annually on the attorneys' behalf.

The project has had a LinkedIn page since January 2020. To date there are 210 followers. Please follow the LinkedIn page on the link below.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/saslawprobono/>

ADVICE OFFICE UPDATES

Office Updates

a. Johannesburg

For the Johannesburg office, the hybrid system of operating has been functioning well. Most clients seen to be happy. One of our good stories is from Fermel Gumede + 3 Others who were helped by one of our attorneys (Peter Mosebo - Werksmans) to negotiate a 12 months settlement agreement which will see each of them receiving R91 000.

One of our challenges has been unhappy clients, who upon receiving the news of having no merit in their matters become angry. We have had to call in the security officers on numerous occasions to help as one staged a sit in, while another who was physically aggressive had to be man handled by the security officers and escorted out just to name a few incidents.

The Johannesburg office has closed from the 28 June to the 16 July and is working online.

b. Cape Town

The Western Cape NPC office is still closed to physical consulting with clients. The current western cape COVID19 infection rates indicate to remain closed, and attorneys are happy to be rostered on a weekly basis. The labour court staff is also appreciative that we are still operating remotely and have been very supportive to assist clients who come into the court to enquire about the SASLAW NPC office. All client queries are received via-email, WhatsApp, and telephone. Walk in clients at the labour court completes a form which is emailed to the office from the Labour Court Registrar then directed to the attorney for consultation. Clients are asked to email a brief of their matter or where they are not able to the list of names are sent to the office where we set up consult with clients who pass the means test.

We have in the past month had to roster two attorneys for the week as we have had an increase in clients requesting assistance with labour matters, the process that we are following up until now has been working seamlessly. The attorneys and labour court are also grateful that we can assist clients remotely. We do anticipate reopening the office in August 2021, pending the covid19 climate in the Western Cape Chapter. now the office will remain closed, and attorneys will be consulting via email or virtual consultation. We shall continue to follow up and provide as many clients with remote advice support as possible in this time until the office resumes normal operations and would like to thank our attorneys for their support during this time.

The Western Cape Pro-Bono office has rostered 29 attorneys and consulted with 329 clients virtually since June 2020.

c. Durban

The KZN Pro Bono advice office has been open and running 'in-person' (i.e., allowing clients to physically attend the advice office) since March 2021. The 'in-person functioning' has been going well and our attorneys

are given the choice of attending physically or consulting on the day via teams. The number of clients being seen is now steadily increasing again.

In addition, this year saw the implementation of both the 'KZN SASLAW/ Durban Labour Court Virtual Hearing Initiative' and the 'KZN SASLAW/ UKZN Street Law Initiative'.

The Virtual Hearing Initiative, made possible by the sponsorship and volunteer members, provides litigants who do not otherwise have access to virtual platforms for the hearing of their matters, access to facilities such as Wi-Fi, computers, and virtual platforms. Volunteer members offer their own facilities on their premises for this purpose. By way of sponsorship and donations, the Pro Bono advice office offers access to Wi-Fi and a laptop computer, with strict COVID-19 protocols such as screens, social distance marked seating and tables, and hand sanitiser. The generous sponsorship of our members should allow for the running of the initiative for at least the next 12 to 18 months.

The Street Law Initiative has seen UKZN Street Law students placed on a rotation at the advice office, providing in-take, translations, and related assistance. The students will also create easily understandable educational material (translated into different languages) for the benefit of those seeking advice from the office. Not only is this initiative to the benefit of the clients of the advice office, but also allows for law students to be exposed to the practicalities of litigation and labour law.

d. Port Elizabeth

We are hoping to open our office for walk in clients at the beginning of the 3rd term, Monday, 19 July 2021. However due to the third Covid-19 wave rising rapidly Ms Gerber (Registrar) has just advised me that she would like to talk it over with the JP as she would prefer to have as little movement as possible around court. When Ms Gerber initially informed that we should plan to open at

the beginning of the 3rd term there was no talk of a third wave at that point. If the JP does allow us to open out office we will of course ensure that strict protocols will be in place and will deep clean our office on Friday, 16 July 2021.

We have not had many clients that we have been able to assist of late as they have either not completed their CCMA / bargaining counsel process or do not fall within our scope. We do however give guidance to those that have a labour related query despite not having a matter set down in the Labour Court.

Our attorneys continue to assist clients remotely and are emailed throughout the week on which they are rostered with any new potential clients.

STATISTICS

SASLAW PRO BONO STATISTICS					
- NATIONAL 4 February 2011					
- 30 June 2021					
Region	Cape Town	Durban	Johannesburg	Port Elizabeth	Total
Clients seen	4954	3667	18 128	879	27628
Hours spent in office/online	2142	2949	12990	1321	19402
No of attorneys	49	56	115	17	263
No of firms	27	32	71	12	142
No of matters taken on by attorneys	746	700	782	97	2325
No of matters taken on by Legal Aid	209	229	953	3	1394
No of new clients seen by the Permanent Attorney in the Johannesburg Advice Office since January 2017			1187		1187

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

CANADIAN STUDENTS VIRTUAL PROGRAMME 2021

WEEK	DATE	WHERE	WEBSITE
Week 1			
Monday	21-Jun	LabourNet	Online
Tuesday	22-Jun	LabourNet	Online
Wednesday	23-Jun	LabourNet	Online
Thursday	24-Jun	LabourNet	Online
Friday	25-Jun	LabourNet	Online
Week 2			
Monday	28-Jun	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Tuesday	29-Jun	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Wednesday	30-Jun	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Thursday	01-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Friday	02-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Week 3			
Monday	05-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Tuesday	06-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Wednesday	07-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Thursday	08-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Friday	09-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Week 4			
Monday	12-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Tuesday	13-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Wednesday	14-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Thursday	15-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Friday	16-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Week 5			
Monday	19-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Tuesday	20-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Wednesday	21-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Thursday	22-Jul	Pro bono office live	Live project
Friday	23-Jul	Legal Resources Centre	Remote project
Week 6			
Monday	26-Jul	Lawtons	Remote project
Tuesday	27-Jul	Lawtons	Remote project

Wednesday	28-Jul	Lawtons	Remote project
Thursday	29-Jul	Lawtons	Remote project
Friday	30-Jul	Lawtons	Remote project
Friday	30-Jul	Coffee with SASLAW Young Scholar Society committee members	Remote project
Week 7			
Monday	02-Aug	Holiday in Canada	
Tuesday	03-Aug	Le Clair & Associates	Physical - London
Wednesday	04-Aug	Le Clair & Associates	Physical - London
Thursday	05-Aug	Arbitration with Chris Albertyn	Zoom
Friday	06-Aug	Arbitration with Chris Albertyn	Zoom
Week 8			
Monday	09-Aug	Holiday in South Africa	
Tuesday	10-Aug	Lawtons	Remote project
Wednesday	11-Aug	Lawtons	Remote project
Thursday	12-Aug	Lawtons	Remote project
Friday	13-Aug	Lawtons	Remote project
Week 9			
Monday	16-Aug	Norton Rose Fulbright Toronto	Physical
Tuesday	17-Aug	Pro bono office live	Live project
Wednesday	18-Aug	Pro bono office live	Live project
Thursday	19-Aug	Norton Rose Fulbright Toronto	Physical
Friday	20-Aug	Norton Rose Fulbright Toronto	Physical
Week 10			
Monday	23-Aug	Cheadle Thompson Haysom	Remote project
Tuesday	24-Aug	Cheadle Thompson Haysom	
Week 11			
Monday	30-Aug	Tokiso	Online
Tuesday	31-Aug	Tokiso	Online
Wednesday	01-Sep	Tokiso	Online
Thursday	02-Sep	Tokiso	Online
Friday	03-Sep	Tokiso	Online

The online fellowship programme is going as well as can be expected. We will have to move the involvement of the students in the Johannesburg pro bono office activities out by a few weeks, until the office is opened again.

In the meantime, there is a lot of work for them to do on the LRC projects - education and land, and two Lawtons projects coming up. Thank you to Nersan Govender at the LRC, and Candice Pillay from Lawtons Pro bono department for engaging with the students and finding relevant and meaningful projects for them to work on .

The students are enthusiastic and interested. They will spend 2 days with Le Clair & Associates in London, Ontario in early August. They will observe an arbitration with Chris Albertyn online.



Nicky Young ,Ivy Xu, and Jacqueline Huang

Sincere thanks must go to LabourNet for giving complimentary training to the students, and especially for fitting in with time difference between Canada and South Africa. The pro bono directors are very grateful.

FUNDING

The project has required extra funding to assist the students will travelling to the offices. The Johannesburg office requires 3 students at the time, as the online work and follow up has increased. Huge thanks to Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, for donating R30 000 to the project, and to Bowmans - Fatima Laher and her pro bono team, for donating R20 000, as they do annually. Anton Myburgh SC donated the royalties of his book, via Lexis Nexis, again, and the project is very grateful for this continued support.

JOHANNESBURG STUDENTS



FEEDBACK FROM CLIENTS

Afternoon, Helen, I just want to thank you all for being our pillars of South African Society when coming to Labour Law. May God please keep you all for helping people like me who don't even have a representatives.

Thank you, a lot, and keep up the excellent work.

Thank you for your wonderful contributions in time and energy to the project around the country. If you have any questions, **wish to participate in the project, or donate and receive a Section 18A certificate**, please contact Helen at joburgprobono@saslaw.org.za

Directors

SASLAW Pro Bono NPC

July 2021

The SASLAW pro bono project at the Labour Courts serves to deliver a quality advisory service and defined Labour law legal services to those who otherwise do not have access to justice

Directors: Nick Robb, Shamima Gaibie; Ludwig Frahm-Arp; Ebrahim Abrahams; Michael Yeates, Lusanda Raphulu

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