



**THE LAW SOCIETY OF THE  
NORTHERN PROVINCES**

Incorporated as the Law Society of the Transvaal  
Serving Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo & North West Provinces

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS  
2 APRIL 2015**

To: All Members,

**PRO BONO PRETORIA OFFICE**

The LSNP is collaborating with ProBono.Org, a public interest law organisation that enables *pro bono* legal services to be provided to thousands of impoverished South Africans through its network of law firms and members of the Bar.

Rule 79A of the Rules of the LSNP requires of practising members, who have practiced for less than 40 years and who are less than 60 years of age, to perform *pro bono* services of not less than 24 hours per calendar year. Rule 79A provides that *pro bono* referrals should be done on the basis that such work would fall within the professional competence of the practitioners concerned.

The LSNP and ProBono.Org have therefore established a Pretoria Office, situated at **Kutlwanong Democracy Centre, 357 Visagie Street, Pretoria**. This office will be tasked with the duty to ensure the involvement of all practitioners in *pro bono* work. In execution of its duties, this office will, amongst others:

- conduct a means test on each matter received by the office to ensure that the client qualifies for assistance on a *pro bono* basis and that the merits of the matter warrant further action;
- act as a general legal clearing house where clients are consulted, assessed and referred to attorneys for free legal assistance and ongoing monitoring;
- conduct free weekly legal clinics staffed by *pro bono* attorneys;
- host seminars to inform communities of their rights and responsibilities in various fields of the law;
- hold regular training workshops on public interest law and human rights for attorneys, NGO's and stakeholders.
- conduct a free help desk at the High Court North Gauteng, Pretoria staffed by *pro bono* attorneys and members of the Bar;
- provide a service focussed on women and children's rights, assisting in matters through conducting family, domestic violence and divorce law legal clinics;
- make available *pro bono* trained mediators to mediate disputes;

- work with networks of NGO's and CBO's for client referrals and to strengthen their organisational capacity by providing them with legal service;
- assist Community Advice Offices in Gauteng, North West and Limpopo by recruiting volunteers to assist paralegals; and
- assist law firms in identifying *pro bono* opportunities and signature projects.

All LSNP members will be required to make available their services on the aforesaid basis and become involved in *pro bono* matters. For this purpose, representatives from the LSNP and ProBono.Org will meet with members to discuss their preference with regards to geographical areas, field of specialisation and their manner of involvement. A database from which referrals will be made and monitored on an ongoing basis, will be constructed.

Members are encouraged to look at this great initiative as a measure of creating a variety of ways in which legal practitioners can contribute to the promotion of access to justice, by giving back to the communities they serve. The LSNP will acknowledge all hours spent on *pro bono* work referred through the office, which hours will be deducted from the 24 hours per year required from all members.

The concept of doing *pro bono* work is a gift by the legal profession to communities. The partnership of the two organisations in this regard, is aimed at creating flexible methods for attorneys (members of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces) to easily engage in *pro bono* activities.



**HUMPHREY SHIVAMBA**  
*Pro Bono* Co-ordinator