



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT

(HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG DIVISION, JOHANNESBURG)
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NOTICE

TO:

1. Judges of the Gauteng Division, Johannesburg
2. Chief Registrar, Gauteng Division, Johannesburg
3. Secretariat – Judicial Case Flow Management, Office of the Chief Justice
4. Registrars – Gauteng Division of the High Court, Johannesburg
5. Legal Practice Council – Gauteng
6. Law Society of South Africa
7. Gauteng Family Law Forum
8. Gauteng Attorneys Association
9. Pretoria Attorneys Association
10. Johannesburg Attorneys Association
11. West Rand Attorneys Association
12. South African Black Women in Law
13. National Association of Democratic Lawyers
14. Black Lawyers Association
15. South African Women Lawyers Association
16. South African Medical Malpractice Lawyers Association
17. Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyers Association
18. South African Medico-Legal Association
19. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Pretoria and Johannesburg
20. Office of the State Attorneys, Pretoria and Johannesburg
21. Solicitor General
22. Office of the Family Advocate, Pretoria and Johannesburg
23. Legal Aid South Africa

24. Johannesburg Society of Advocates
25. Pretoria Society of Advocates
26. Gauteng Society of Advocates
27. Tshwane Society of Advocates
28. Pan African Bar Association of South Africa
29. General Council of the Bar of South Africa
30. National Bar Council of South Africa
31. South African Bar Association
32. National Forum of Advocates
33. North Gauteng Association of Advocates
34. Church Square Association of Advocates
35. Advocates for Transformation
36. Legal Division of the Department of Health: Gauteng
37. Legal Division of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
38. Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
39. Legal Services - Gauteng Provincial Department of Education
40. South African Board of Sheriffs
41. South African Sheriff Society
42. Road Accident Fund

DATE : 02 June 2025

OUR REF : DJP/21/2012/lt

RE : **STATE OF THE WORKFLOW IN JOHANNESBURG
HIGH COURT AS AT 30 MAY 2025**

1. Attached is the bulletin of the lead times for hearings in several categories of cases.
2. This bulletin reflects the re-composition of the civil trial rolls in consequence of the introduction of the Gauteng mediation directive and protocol.
 - 2.1. For all types of cases other than RAF trials, dates are available no longer in 2032, but in January 2027 (an 18-months' wait, excluding recesses)
 - 2.2. For RAF trials, dates are available, not in 2032, but in January 2026. (a 6-months wait excluding recesses).
 - 2.3. This reform has eliminated the absurdity of a 5-6 year wait for a hearing, thereby enhancing effective access to a court hearing within a reasonable time, once it is established that mediation cannot resolve one or more issues fit for trial.

3. RAF trials in 2025 remain on the roll and all other civil trials in 2025 and 2026 remain on the roll. Parties must however produce a mediator's report to declare the outstanding issues fit for trial.
4. Divorce trials are always prioritised and are heard within 12 months of a request for a date.
5. The Special Interlocutory Court is available to address any legitimate applications to remedy delinquency in respect of the mediation protocol and the special RAF Default Judgment Court is available to offer rapid access to a judgment.
6. In the category of unopposed motions, as a result of the big bang, in June 2025, to reduce lead times, the lead time is now 4 weeks (excluding recesses) instead of 25 weeks.
7. A tightening up of the requirements to ensure ripeness in opposed motions, eliminate unripe cases clogging the opposed motion roll and pushing out the available slots for cases that are indeed ripe, has yet to show visible results but will, over the next six months, shrink the existing 25-week lead time to acceptable levels. The target is to manage opposed motions within a 10 to 12 week turnaround from date of requesting a hearing date.
8. The new Insolvency Court which commenced in May 2025 and functions on a 4-week cycle, will be staffed by two judges from term 3 and shall hear all insolvency cases in the Gauteng Division. This innovation shall accelerate hearings in this category from 25 to 4 weeks lead time.
9. The cooperation of all legal practitioners who have demonstrated a commitment to the Division in our endeavour to render an effective litigation service by their professional conduct of matters and by serving as acting judges is much appreciated.

*Dictated by the Deputy Judge President
Electronically transmitted, therefore no signature*

**ROLAND SUTHERLAND
DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT**