**OFFICE OF THE ACTING DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT**

(HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG DIVISION, JOHANNESBURG)
OFFICE 1210

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# M E M O R A N D U M

TO:

1. **Legal Practice Council – Gauteng**
2. **Law Society of South Africa**
3. **Gauteng Family Law Forum**
4. **Gauteng Attorneys Association**
5. **Pretoria Attorneys Association**
6. **Johannesburg Attorneys Association**
7. **West Rand Attorneys Association**
8. **South African Black Women in Law**
9. **National Association of Democratic Lawyers**
10. **Black Lawyers Association**
11. **South African Women Lawyers Association**
12. **South African Medical Malpractice Lawyers Association**
13. **Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyers Association**
14. **Johannesburg Society of Advocates**
15. **Pretoria Society of Advocates**
16. **Gauteng Society of Advocates**
17. **Tshwane Society of Advocates**
18. **Pan African Bar Association of South Africa**
19. **General Council of the Bar of South Africa**
20. **National Bar Council of South Africa**
21. **South African Bar Association**
22. **National Forum of Advocates**
23. **North Gauteng Association of Advocates**
24. **Church Square Association of Advocates**
25. **Advocates for Transformation**

DATE : 16 November 2026

OUR REF : DJP/215/2016/lt

RE : **FOLLOW-UP MEMORANDUM – LETTERS OF CLEARANCE FROM PROFESSIONAL BODIES FOR PRO BONO ACTING JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS, FIRST TERM 2027**

## 1. REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS INVITATION

This memorandum follows the invitation issued by this Office on 21 October 2026, in which legal practitioners with 12 years' standing or more, preferably with High Court experience, were invited to indicate their availability to serve as acting judges on a pro bono or stipendiary basis during the first term of 2027, pursuant to **section 174(1) and (2)** read with **section 175(2)** of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THIS FOLLOW-UP

Several remaining slots for the first term of 2027 as indicated below have become available and will be provided to candidates who have indicated their availability. This memorandum reminds practitioners that, in addition to a curriculum vitae and a letter of motivation, a letter of clearance (certificate of good standing) from the practitioner's respective professional body is mandatory for consideration. Applications that are not accompanied by a valid clearance letter cannot be processed.

## 3. REQUIREMENT: LETTER OF CLEARANCE / CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

Practitioners are required to furnish a certificate of good standing from their statutory body or recognised Bar association. The recognised issuing bodies are:

- **The Legal Practice Council (LPC)** for attorneys and advocates;
- **A recognised Bar Association** (such as the Johannesburg Bar Association / Johannesburg Society of Advocates, the General Council of the Bar, the Black Lawyers Association, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, or the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa) — for practitioners who are members of a Bar;
- **The Magistrates Commission** — where applicable to judicial officers.

The certificate must be **no older than three months** at the time of submission. No application will be processed without a letter of good standing. The LPC issues

certificates upon request, subject to proof of payment of the prescribed fee. Practitioners who are members of a recognized Bar association may obtain the certificate from that association.

**4. REMAINING SLOTS — FIRST TERM 2027**

The remaining slots will be allocated on a rolling basis. Practitioners who have already submitted a curriculum vitae and motivation but have not yet provided a clearance letter are requested to submit the outstanding letter **urgently**. Practitioners who have not yet indicated their availability are still welcome to do so, provided they submit the full complement of documents (curriculum vitae, motivation, and clearance letter) together.

Current slots on the Duty Roster to fill:

| | |
|---|---|
| Week 1 (18 January 2027 – 22 January 2027) | 1 slot in the Summary Judgment Court<br>3 slots in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>2 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Insolvency Court |
| Week 2 (25 January 2027 – 29 January 2027) | 1 slot in the Urgent Court<br>3 slots in the Opposed Motion Court<br>2 slots in the Summary Judgment Court<br>2 slots in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>3 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Full Bench Appeal Court (appeals from the lower courts)<br>1 slot in the Full Court Appeal Court |
| Week 3 (01 February 2027 – 05 February 2027) | 1 slot in the Urgent Court<br>1 slot in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>1 slot in the Family Court<br>3 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Full Bench Appeal Court (appeals from the lower courts)<br>2 slots in the Full Court Appeal Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court |
| Week 4 (08 February 2027 – 12 February 2027) | 1 slot in the Opposed Motion Court<br>1 slot in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>4 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>2 slots in the Full Court Appeal Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court |

| | |
|---|---|
| Week 5 (15 February 2027 – 19 February 2027) | 1 slot in the Opposed Motion Court<br>3 slots in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court<br>4 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Full Court Appeal Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court |
| Week 6 (22 February 2027 – 26 February 2027) | 2 slots in the Opposed Motion Court<br>3 slots in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court<br>4 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Full Court Appeal Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court |
| Week 7 (01 March 2027 – 05 March 2027) | 2 slots in the Urgent Court<br>1 slot in the Opposed Motion Court<br>1 slot in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>2 slots in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court<br>4 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Full Court Appeal Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court |
| Week 8 (08 March 2027 – 12 March 2027) | 2 slots in the Urgent Court<br>2 slots in the Opposed Motion Court<br>3 slots in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>3 slots in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court<br>2 slots in the Civil Trial Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court (to be available for ten (10) days |
| Week 9 (15 March 2027 – 19 March 2027 | 1 slot in the Opposed Motion Court<br>2 slots in the Unopposed Motion Court<br>1 slot in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court<br>1 slot in the Tax Court (to be available for ten (10) days |
| Week 10 (22 March 2027 – 26 March 2027) | 3 slots in the Urgent Court<br>1 slot in the Road Accident Fund Default Judgment Court |

## 5. CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Document | Status |
|---|---|
| Curriculum Vitae | Required |

| | |
|---|---|
| Letter of Motivation (indicating availability and pro bono/stipendiary preference) | Required |
| Certificate of Good Standing/Letter of clearance from Professional Body (not older than three (3) months) | Outstanding – mandatory |
| Contact details of two professional referees | |

**6. SUBMISSION AND ENQUIRIES**

Documents should be addressed to the Office of the Acting Deputy Judge President and sent by email to:
**Email:** SecretaryDJP@judiciary.org.za
**Enquiries:** 010 494 8491

**Deadline for submission of outstanding clearance letters:** 20 November 2026.

**7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This Office appreciates the continued commitment of the Johannesburg Bar and the broader legal profession to strengthening the judiciary and access to justice in South Africa. Practitioners who have previously served as acting judges are also encouraged to respond to this follow-up memorandum.

Yours faithfully

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

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**T P MUDAU**
**ACTING DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT**