



**OFFICE OF THE ACTING JUDGE PRESIDENT
HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG PROVINCIAL DIVISION, PRETORIA**

Gauteng High Court Building, Cnr. Madiba & Paul Kruger Strs, Room 7.15, Seventh Floor
Tel. (012) 315 7572/(012) 492 6811– E-mail: AMbelani@judiciary.org.za

23 February 2022

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. South African Medico-Legal Association**
- 15. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
- 16. Office of the State Attorneys, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
- 17. Solicitor General**
- 18. Office of the Family Advocate, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
- 19. Legal Aid South Africa**
- 20. Johannesburg Society of Advocates**
- 21. Pretoria Society of Advocates**
- 22. Gauteng Society of Advocates**
- 23. Pan African Bar Association of South Africa**

- 24. General Council of the Bar of South Africa**
- 25. National Bar Council of South Africa**
- 26. South African Bar Association**
- 27. National Forum of Advocates**
- 28. North Gauteng Association of Advocates**
- 29. Church Square Association of Advocates**
- 30. Advocates for Transformation**
- 31. Legal Division of the Department of Health: Gauteng**
- 32. Legal Division of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation**
- 33. Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**
- 34. Legal Services - Gauteng Provincial Department of Education**

NOTICE

Re: The implementation of the Court Online Pilot Project in the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Pretoria and Gauteng Local Division of the High Court, Johannesburg

1. The Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) has completed the development of the COURT ONLINE electronic platform, (an advanced cloud-based collaboration solution); that is aimed at providing a platform for Law Firms (LFs) and Litigants in general, to file pleadings and documents to the Courts electronically over the internet from anywhere. This is the long awaited E Filing solution. COURT ONLINE is an end-to-end E-Filing, Digital Case Management, and Evidence Management system for the Superior Courts of South Africa. It provides Law Practitioners and Litigants in general with the opportunity to file documentation electronically online anywhere and anytime without being physically present at court. It also affords Law Practitioners and Litigants the ease of managing their court appearance diaries and court evidence instantaneously online.
2. Court Online has been configured to function seamlessly with CaseLines regarding hearing ready matters.
3. COURT ONLINE aims to:
 - Minimise the physical movement of people to and within the court buildings and thus immensely reduce the general office section queues.

- Minimise paper submissions of court documents from parties to the court.
 - Leverage the benefits of electronic storage that leads to faster document filing and retrieval, and in the process the eradication of the misplacement of court files.
 - Concurrent easy access to view the same court file filed by different parties.
4. Within the Courts, the COURT ONLINE system will allow electronic documents to be automatically routed to the appropriate Registrars and Registrars Clerks for processing.
 5. The system will also allow further routing within the courts e.g. for approvals by the Registrar and a reply is then sent out by the Registrar's Clerk, which is then routed back to the originating LF/ Litigant. This shall enable improvements in efficiency by minimising paper flow to shorten case processing time. The process is fast, convenient, and efficient.
 6. For the LFs / Litigants, the COURT ONLINE system will provide an electronic case file, showing upcoming hearing dates and documents filed by them or served on them or any other important notifications received from the courts. It shall also provide an electronic platform for the exchange and sharing of documents with other LFs / parties. The Court Online system will allow for faster response as well as accurate and real-time information. The other benefits of the COURT ONLINE system include the speedy electronic inspection of documents and the ability to request for and receive electronic extracts of documents via the internet. Litigants will also obtain details of hearing fixtures via a Short Messaging Service (SMS), or email using their mobile phones.
 7. Within the courtroom and chambers, Judges will make use of the COURT ONLINE system to adjudicate disputes electronically.
 8. We are pleased to announce that the much anticipated Court Online system is being piloted in the Gauteng Division of the High Court as follows:

8.1 Gauteng Local Division, Johannesburg: 10 March 2022

8.2 Gauteng Division, Pretoria: 17 March 2022

9. A limited number of cases will be subjected to the pilot phase of Court Online and all law firms whose cases have been identified, will receive notification thereof.
10. The effective implementation (rollout) of Court Online for all court users may be as early as April 2022 but this will be communicated formally once the date is known.
11. It is important for Practitioners to note that, apart from the cases identified for the pilot, all cases initiated on CaseLines will be finalised on CaseLines. Implementation of Court Online will only affect new matters initiated after the implementation date.

A.P. LEDWABA
ACTING JUDGE PRESIDENT
GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT
OF SOUTH AFRICA
Electronically submitted therefore unsigned