



LAW  
LETTER  
*Supplement*  
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EST 1812



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## ■ *Personality Profile*

A RECENT welcome appointment at Fairbridges is André van Rensburg who brings valuable experience, legal expertise and specialist know-how to the firm.



With a BA law degree from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, and an LLB from the University of Cape Town, André served his articles in Cape Town and was admitted as an attorney in 1995. He has eight years of experience as a director of a smaller firm, and has concentrated on commercial litigation, insolvency and corporate law, as well as family law and debt recovery.

In his leisure time, André enjoys canoeing, swimming, surf-and water skiing. His engaging personality, diligence and business skills have enabled him to fit into our Fairbridges teams from the word go.

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## ■ *Sound Familiar?*

“CRIMINALS ARE receiving suspended sentences repeatedly. There may be conditions attached, but they are constantly breached. The criminal justice system is failing the public, the police and crime victims.

“It is becoming a laughing stock to criminals who on a daily basis are given a licence to re-offend by judges. There are too many loopholes and get-out clauses the judiciary use to avoid sending offenders to jail.”

– Norman Brennan of the Victims of Crime Trust,  
United Kingdom (November 2006).



## ■ *Fairbridges Older Than Breakfast*

THE “TRADITIONAL ENGLISH breakfast” of bacon and eggs only surfaced in England in 1840. Later additions include baked beans, mushrooms, and grilled tomato. Toast was only included when American electric toasters became available. Tea and marmalade made up the “full English breakfast”. That has now all gone out of fashion as muesli, fruit and yoghurt provide a more healthy option for rushed workers, all washed down with instant coffee.

When Fairbridges was established in 1812, the English breakfast probably consisted of that Scottish staple, oats, with cold boiled meat, and, if you were lucky, honey and berries.



## ■ *Labour Pains*

“LAWYERS ARE milking our labour market regime to death by unnecessarily complicating, and consequently prolonging, cases to the detriment of both employers and employees.”

– *Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana (May 2007).*



## ■ *Pro Bono*

“AT U2 we’ve surrounded ourselves with the best people in the business. Lawyers and accountants, and record company, and people who run our companies are the best at their job, and I think that makes overcoming the obstacles a lot easier.”

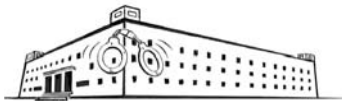
– *Irish Rock Star Bono (2005).*



### ■ *Czech Mate*

“THE WORK OF all judges is very responsible, demanding and hard, requiring great discipline and attention to detail. I have been persuaded that judges should be chosen from the most experienced, honourable lawyers who have proven to be competent and have achieved something. The elite corps must originate from selection and competition.”

– *Vojtech Cepl, Professor at Charles University, Prague, and former judge of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic (2005).*



### ■ *Inside Story*

“I KNOW not whether laws be right,  
Or whether laws be wrong,  
All that we know who lie in gaol  
Is that the wall is strong;  
And that each day is like a year  
A year whose days are long.”

– *Oscar Wilde, The Ballad of Reading Gaol (1898).*



### ■ *Ivory Tower*

“THE LAW we were taught at university, lots of property law and commercial law and nothing to do with the Immorality Act and the lack of human rights. We were reading about private international law and public international law and dealing with marine law and bills of exchange and corporations, but outside people were being charged for sleeping together.”

*Judge Navanethem Pillay (Durban, August 2006).*



## ■ *Clear-eyed View*

“EVEN WARS on terror should be built on the rule of law and respect for basic human rights.”

– 41 year old Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (November 2006).



## ■ *Drinkers and Thinkers*

“NOT ALL WINE enthusiasts can be trained to make good wine judges – just as not all students of the law make good lawyers.”

– Michael Fridjhon, chairman, Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show (February 2007).

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