



LAW
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■ *Transformation by Tortoise*

“MEMBERS of the profession from previously disadvantaged communities are still victims of the past discriminatory policies and as a result they are operating on the margins and have not been fully integrated into the mainstream of the legal profession – they are victims of the inequitable patterns of work distribution.”

- *Pumzile Majeke, President of the Cape Law Society
(October 2009).*



Chairman of Fairbridges, Louis Rood, with the President of the Cape Law Society, Pumzile Majeke, at the Annual General Meeting of the Cape Law Society held in Kimberley.



■ *Benchmark*

“I WOULD rather have a poor constitution in the hands of the best legal minds, than have a liberal constitution with poor legal minds to interpret it.”

- *Judge President Bernard Ngoepe
of the North and South Gauteng High Court (August 2009).*



■ *Power Failure*

“WHEN people feel that the law reflects, at least partly, their own aspirations and identity, they are more likely to respect it. As the apartheid government discovered, in the long run it is impossible to enforce the law through the application of state power. No matter how vicious your police force is, people will not respect the law and will hence not obey it.”

- *Professor Pierre de Vos, Chair of Constitutional Governance, University of Cape Town (October 2009).*



■ *A Life of Learning*

“TO BE a good lawyer is difficult. To master the law is impossible. But I should have thought that the first rule of conduct for counsel, the first and paramount ethical rule, was to do his best to acquire such knowledge of the law that he really knows what he is doing when he stands between his client and the court and advises for or against entering the temple of justice.”

- *Sir Owen Dixon, former Chief Justice of Australia.*



■ *Gateway between Two Oceans*

THE UNIQUE role played by Fairbridges as South Africa’s senior law firm was again evident in a fascinating 21 page lead article in the August 2009 edition of the glossy magazine SADJ, (South African Deeds Journal), published by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Illustrated by full colour pictures of 16 historic charts, deeds and diagrams, and 28 aerial photographs, it sets out the history of the Simon’s Town naval

base and dockyards from a deed's registry perspective (available on website www.dla.pwv.gov.za).

The first sea-going vessel to seek shelter in Simon's Bay was in 1671, and it has a long and rich heritage reaching to this very day, as a premier strategic naval base. The Simonstown Agreement after World War II eventually transferred the naval facilities from the control of the Royal Navy of Britain to South Africa but the only land transaction registered in respect of the entire dockyard area, including the quays, wharfs, dry dock facilities and reclaimed land, from the British Admiralty to the Government of South Africa, from the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910 until 2008, was Deed of Transfer 13427 / 1957 drawn and registered by David Blaine of Fairbridges.

Our founding father, Charles Fairbridge, who in 1861 was appointed Admiralty Proctor at the Cape by Queen Victoria, would have been proud.



■ *Straight Talk*

“ANY unjustified attack on the judiciary signals an attack on the rule of law and must be resisted strenuously. Regrettably, there are still sporadic instances of unjustified criticisms against the judiciary, and civil society, especially lawyers, must be vigilant and must ensure that the credibility and independence of the judiciary are maintained and safeguarded at all costs.”

*- Mohamed Husain, South African attorney and
President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (June 2009).*



■ *Without Prejudice*

“MY experiences with the courts didn't exactly engender a feeling of trust in me. Of all the judges and magistrates I saw from the dock, only one was straight and didn't have political orders.”

- former editor of Vrye Weekblad, Max du Preez, in Pale Native (2003).



■ *Oath of Office*

“OUR entire system of justice relies on people telling the truth. And if a person does not tell the truth, particularly if he serves in government and holds the public trust, he must be held accountable.”

- former US President George W. Bush (2007).



■ *Be Nice*

NOTICE outside a country attorney's office:

“Fees may be adjusted according to client's attitude.”

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- Winner of the *Professional Management Review (PMR) Diamond Arrow Awards* for 2009 and 2010 as the best law firm in its category in South Africa.



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