

## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MY NOMINATION TO THE LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL:**

### **NOLITHA JALI**

I am a black female Attorney practicing as such at Legal Aid South Africa Mthatha Office, Eastern Cape, where I am also the head of office. I was admitted as an Attorney on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and I have been ensuring that legal services are consumed by all especially the poor.

I am the Secretary General of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, a human rights lawyers organization which part of its vision is to ensure access to justice for all, transformation of society in general and the legal fraternity in particular. I use this platform to ensure that the rights enshrined in the constitution are realized for all. We receive calls from people who need legal assistance and we ensure they are assisted either through legal aid or our own members.

I came into office in March 2018m and we have to date organized training for more than 800 Legal Practitioners country wide free of charge. From time to time I go to communities, schools and places of safety where I educate children about their rights and give career guidance to some. I am conscious about my own development and I ensure I read new legislation, attend training and read recent case law.

Consumer Affairs: as part of my duties at legal aid I oversee that we provide quality legal services to our clients. Some of our clients come with consumer affairs and we have to provide some assistance therefore it became important that I become conversant with the Consumer Protection Act.

I have done a lot of civil work especially in my earlier years. In 2005 I joined legal aid and I have done more than 300 criminal matters some up to Appeal stage. Currently I oversee both the civil department the criminal department and a High court Unit with a staff complement of more than 70 employees. I sit in case flow meetings for both the Magistrates Court and the High Court where we discuss the functioning of the courts and ensure our courts run smoothly.

Throughout my career I have maintained professional standards. Recently I was part of a team that worked on a practice manual for our division. I always ensure that I am accountable to my employer, colleagues and most of all members of the public. Everything I do I act with integrity, to protect my name and importantly that of our profession.

I have handled a lot of complaints and on each I always make sure that I hear both sides before I take a decision (*the audi alteram partem rule*). Once I have taken a decision I communicate it to both parties and then close the file both on the system and the physical file. It is always my desire that complaints are dealt with speedily and professionally. During the period 2011 – 2015 I was a Councilor at the Free State Law Society and we dealt with a lot of complaints emanating from members of the public. I am currently a Council member of the Law Society of South Africa and there we oversee the complaints from the 4 law societies. I am also a member

Competition law: In my period at both the FSLs and the LSSA we have dealt with certain matter on competition law and touting. At legal Aid SA I have learnt a lot on corporate governance and I have been a part of the team that has attained unqualified report for 16 years. In my position at Mthatha we have the main office and 3 satellite offices and I oversee the drafting and servicing of all the contracts of these offices including insurance matters for each office.



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