

Rahube v Rahube and Others [2018] ZACC 42

Goliath, AJ

"During apartheid, the African woman was a particularly vulnerable figure in society and she suffered three-fold discrimination based on her race, her class and her gender. Reflecting upon the present, we must ask ourselves whether the African woman truly benefits from the full protection of the Constitution. Moreover, we must establish whether enough has been done to eradicate the discrimination and inequality that so many women face daily. Laws and policies must seek to do more than merely regulate formalistically. The Legislature is enjoined to ensure that laws and policies promote the participation of women in social, economic and political spheres while also advancing the spirit, purport and objects of the Constitution. This is a case where a woman seeks to vindicate her right to access to housing – a right which is intrinsically linked to her dignity - by challenging a piece of legislation, which she contends perpetuates apartheid legislation that precluded her, and countless African women like her, from holding land tenure rights, simply because of her race and gender."

ANNUAL REPORT **2018**

ProBono.Org®

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Letter from the Chair of the Board

The new
Legal Practice
Act will place
pro bono
work under
the category
of Community
Service.

2018 has been yet another busy year for ProBono.Org, as well as one of change. Erica Emdon, national director since 2013, left the organisation in December 2017.

The board embarked on an extensive recruitment drive and interviewed many well-qualified and eminent candidates to lead the organisation. This resulted in the appointment of Michelle Odayan, an advocate, a justice reform specialist and social activist with vast experience, having worked with government, the private sector, donor agencies and civil society for the past 25 years.

With Michelle's appointment to lead ProBono.Org from April 2018, the organisation embarked on a critical reflection process to review its impact in a changing social, economic and legal context with a view to identifying strategic areas for improvement.

The result is a three-year medium term strategy that ensures we plan to retain the core focus of ProBono. Org as a clearing house providing much-needed legal assistance and access to justice for the needy and marginalised, and also stretching beyond pro bono to include special development programmes for young lawyers, especially women.

The new Legal Practice Act will place pro bono work under the category of Community Service. Whereas the old legislation made pro bono work mandatory for the legal profession, there is no such provision in the new Act. We sincerely hope that this will not result in legal practitioners doing less pro bono work and we encourage the profession to commit to doing even more to alleviate the ever-increasing need for access to justice. We are sincerely grateful to the many who have given their time and resources to the organisation over the past year.

Mohamed Randera



National Director's Report

2018 has been a year characterised by transition and transformation for our organisation, the private legal profession and the public interest law sector more generally in a context where access to justice and the role of law in society has been under the spotlight in South Africa.

Motivated by the compelling purpose that all people are entitled to equal protection under the law and that pro bono contributions is a critical enabler of access to justice, my leadership journey with the organisation began mid way into the 2018 year. The early months were filled with important conversations to learn and uncover our significant value, incredible learning moments around the power of connection and networks within the sector and the usual challenges associated with a change intervention.

The clearing house functions remain core to our work and we have observed increased demand for legal support on issues of employment, land, property and rental housing, refugee and asylum rights, safety

and security of children and family disputes, amongst others.

Our focus on legal empowerment and community justice through community based paralegals remained a critical component of our work.

The value of our work to people that cannot afford private legal services and with few alternatives for free state-funded legal services is often described as priceless. Similarly we have also confirmed that our work remains highly valued by and valuable to the legal profession irrespective of whether pro bono is mandatory or not. We are inspired by the spirit and transformative aspirations of the Legal Practice Act that came into effect this year and we look forward to amplifying our work through pro bono and more in the next year.

We remain committed to playing our role in transforming the way in which civil legal justice is delivered across the legal spectrum as the demand for civil legal needs outstrips the current supply of state civil legal aid and other public interest offerings. We will continue to work towards harnessing the skills and

expertise of the legal profession and associated stakeholders (government, community based organisations, civil society, private sector) to strengthen and transform how all parts of the sector work together in the delivery of civil justice.

My gratitude to the Board and staff, and to the many donors and stakeholders that provided invaluable support that enabled me to navigate the early months of 2018 with relative ease.

Michelle Odayan

Legal
practitioners
provided a
total of 28,270
pro bono
hours in 2018,
with a value of
almost
R40 million.



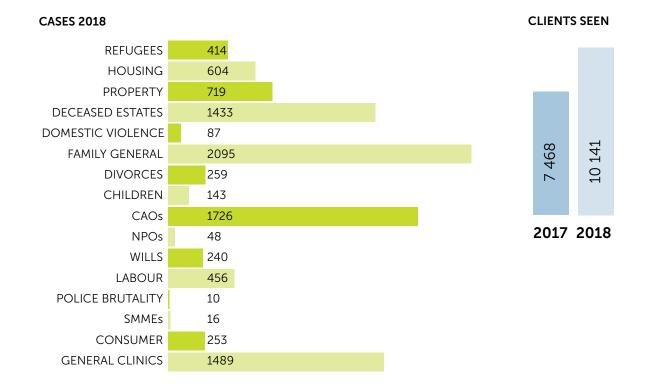




ProBono.Org conducts over 25 free weekly legal clinics at its offices and at off-site venues such as magistrates' courts, the Deeds Offices and Masters' Offices, as well as various community advice offices.

Legal Clinics and clients

ProBono.Org conducts over 25 free weekly legal clinics at its offices and at off-site venues such as magistrate's courts, the Deeds Offices and Masters' Offices, as well as various community advice offices. Since the move to the centre of town in 2017, the Cape Town office has started running legal clinics in the townships of Kuilsriver, Gleemore, Langa, Brackenfell, Gatesville and Heideveld which will greatly increase its reach into marginalised communities.





Legal empowerment



LEGAL PROFESSION

TOPICS

- Amended CCMA Rules
- Cyber crimes
- Drawing and taxing high court bills of costs
- Mediation v. litigation in divorce disputes
- Custody applications
- Land expropriation

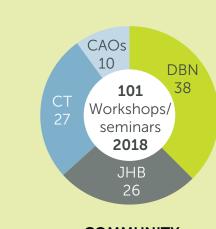
628 legal practitioners attended

Workshops and Seminars for the legal profession

In order to ensure that attorneys are familiar with areas of the law that affect our clients, and which many young lawyers may find difficult, such as refugee law, we conduct a number of workshops and seminars throughout the year.

Community empowerment

Our education programmes for community members form an important part of our work and are held to address legal issues that confront our clients and that we see regularly.



COMMUNITY

TOPICS

- Family law
- Property rights
- Domestic violence
- Types of marriages
- The Children's Act
- Evictions
- Employee rights
- The CCMA process
- Refugee law
- Maintenance
- Housing
- Deceased estates
- Debt counselling
- Labour law
- Property rights
- The Consumer Protection Act

4,669 community members attended



Child-focused justice



"ProBono.Org
provides a warm,
friendly hostilefree environment to
communicate legal
issues. Their utmost
patience is applied
to challenging legal
issues and clients,
always providing the
best legal advice and
solutions."

- Attorney Mellisha Hurchand

Children's Project - One Child a Year (OCAY)

While the provision of legal services has been paramount in the protection of children, the project has also focused on training, advocacy and capacity building, all of which support our internal organisational objectives to build expertise within the social justice space. Several workshops on the Children's Act were held for attorneys and communities alike. We published articles on interesting cases and issues that affect children as part of our OCAY project, while looking for opportunities to advocate or make submissions on different levels that effect real change.

Media reports about the plight of children have been constant and shocking. The project has experienced that while families - whether nuclear, extended, single-person households or child-headed households - have enormous potential to protect children, they can also be places of extreme risk for them.

It is challenging to secure the services of legal practitioners to engage in these gruelling and emotionally draining types of cases that usually extend over lengthy periods of time. However, the list of practitioners accepting cases dealing with children has been growing steadily.

Although OCAY is a project in itself, we have initiated a startup special project (the Children's Court mediation project), as well as continuing with two existing projects (uMazisi Wethu and LEAD graduates). The uMazisi Wethu project attempts to assist undocumented minors in cooperation with other stakeholders. The project has now partnered with Lawyers for Human Rights to address the non-implementation of the constitutional rights of undocumented minors (born to SA citizen/s or illegal immigrants). The first step will be to compile a database, which will categorise the different cases to enable partners to institute class actions.



The LEAD graduates' project had 12 participating volunteers during 2018. Their involvement included attending to the Johannesburg Regional Divorce Help Desk under supervision of the project manager and assisting at head office with pressing cases dealt with by the project and the Family Law department. The LEAD graduates were also introduced to mediation through the Young Mediators' Forum at the court.

The project aims to develop the young graduates and secure employment for them in the legal profession. As a result, this group has become a source for intern appointments at ProBono.Org and for law firms wanting candidate attorneys. Feedback from the graduates was that their exposure during the project increased their knowledge, skills, professional responsibility and self-confidence. Practitioners at the court noticed them and referral letters by ProBono. Org were often requested. Three of the former graduates, who secured articles, have been participating

at the clinic. Other graduates now serving articles have become very successful in convincing their principals to accept family and children's case referrals from us.

Discussions to start a mediation project at the Johannesburg Children's Court were held in the first quarter of 2018. The OCAY project and SAAM (the South African Association of Mediators) partnered to assist the Court and the Office of the Family Advocate with mediations. Due to the heavy workload at the Family Advocate's Office, they experienced large backlogs, which had a ripple effect for the Children's Court. As the Children's Court on average refers between eight and twelve cases a day to the Family Advocate's office for mediation, it was clear that the OCAY project had to start immediately. Apart from working with SAAM, it secured co-operation from Mediate Works. The mediation project was finalised during the third quarter of 2018 and the OCAY project commenced its pro bono part of the project in September 2018.

The OCAY project has provided ProBono.Org with a platform to create and participate in forums focusing on children's rights, prepare strategies, identify case trends, capture information, advocate for children's rights and actively participate in the child protection sector.







Client stories

"It's been such a pleasure to work with Pro Bono. Org and their staff. Your guys are well organised and very professional. Keep up your much-needed and good work in our communities that need it the most. We are looking forward to continuing our association with Pro Bono.Ora".

- Willie Pretorius, Pretorius Attorneys Case 25212 was brought to ProBono. Org by the paternal grandmother and paternal aunt of two young sisters. Both parents, never married and no longer in a relationship, were drug addicts and were using the two sisters to manipulate one another and each other's family. The children were neglected, abused and ended up in need of care and protection. Intense efforts by the clients and their legal team have been ongoing

since August 2016. The case was complicated by a social worker not being neutral and objective, and acting in such an obstructive way that an application to remove her had to be brought. The system further failed the sisters as no follow-up report was prepared which caused the placement order not to be timeously enrolled at court. The case is ongoing.

Case 38636 involves the maternal grandparents of three children, one aged 9 and twins aged 8. The grandparents raised them together with their unmarried mother since birth. Upon the mother's demise, the father applied to court for and obtained primary residence of the children. However, after having

to care for them for less than two months, he returned them to the grandparents. The legal team is in the process of applying for a variation of the court order, placing the children in the grandparents' permanent care as interested parties with parental rights and responsibilities.

Advocacy

The changing landscape in the practice of law, and the question of community service and legal empowerment that encompasses direct legal services, has brought about a renewed perspective on pro bono. This has influenced project development and the use of trends to inform project direction, particularly as it relates to advocacy.

Launch of the Family House **position paper** - A partnership with the University of Birmingham through the Economic Research Council saw the production of a paper that explored a concept that has its roots in the apartheid administration, intertwined with popular understanding and custom. The position paper was launched in July 2018 and demonstrates how the current debates regarding land tend to be removed from the everyday reality of a majority of South Africans who are unable to access land and secure tenure on the terms that are identifiable to them. This project will see a policy toolkit being developed to outline legislative and policy reform. This concept

was first identified when evaluating clients' matters, particularly from the Master's Office help desk, since 2015. We are proud of the work that has gone into the paper as it serves as a resource for legal practitioners encountering this process, and for some key considerations on legislative reform. We hope to take this forward as a formal call for change, especially for secure tenure in urban spaces.

A further advocacy project which developed from client data is from our Deeds Office help desks, which identified systematic blockages in pro bono conveyancing instructions. We noted an increased demand for conveyancing services and the slow uptake of instructions. In an internal survey of all files, we found that 75% of the requests for pro bono assistance are by African women who are above the age of 55. The properties in question were mostly located within the four major metros in Gauteng, with the City of Joburg leading the numbers at 86%. The slow rate of referral was not directly related to the lack of legal professionals available to take

"It has been inspiring collaborating with ProBono.Org on initiatives where we are able to contribute towards access to justice."

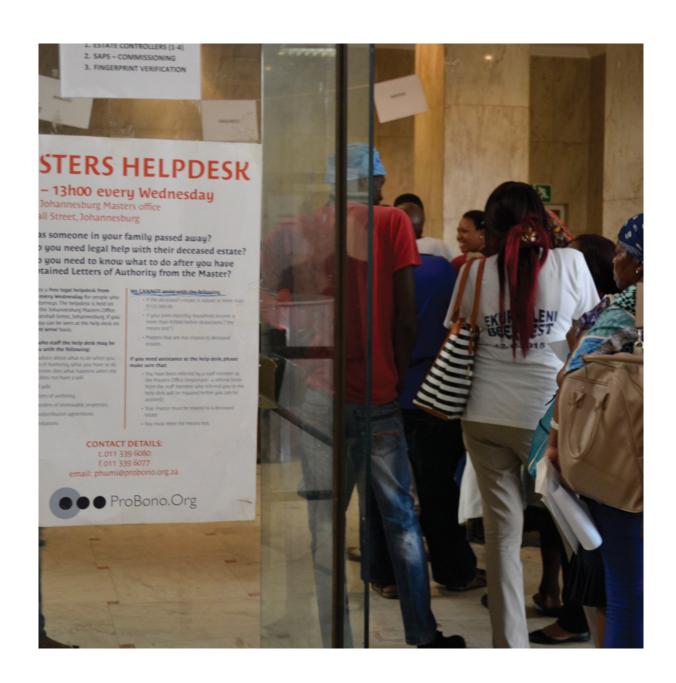
 Natasha Wagiet, Pro Bono Co-Ordinator, ENSafrica

on instructions but was mainly related to the question of historic debt, clearance figures and other disbursements payable in pro bono instructions. This demonstrated the vacuum in law in ensuring that access to justice also translates to processes that are related to the acquisition of rights; in this instance, access to property rights. The project is rightly called the Good Deeds project and will look at legislative reform but also at practical and creative mechanisms for corporates and social justice organisations to provide immediate material resources to ensure that these women obtain title over their properties. The project is in its formative stages and we hope to amplify the work to all three offices in the 2019/2020 year.

We initiated a pro bono project in the Musina area around bringing in pro bono support for local organisations that assist refugees and migrants. Musina is a town located in the northernmost part of the Limpopo province and is 10km from the Beit Bridge border gate into Zimbabwe and some 100km from the Pontdrift border crossing into Botswana. The town attracts many migrants transiting in and out of South Africa for various reasons and it is equally worth noting that many displaced persons access South Africa through these two border posts. There is a need for direct legal services related to the asylum application process and also the high number of arrests of undocumented persons and minors. We are in discussion with the Polokwane Bar to develop and coordinate a pro bono help desk in partnership with the Messina Legal Advice Office. The pro bono help desk has demonstrated its efficiency in enabling legal practitioners to service the public in a manner that is coordinated and supported by local civil society organisations to ensure that the offering is holistic and well rounded.







Successful cases

"ProBono.Org has assisted our firm through its initiatives, not only to achieve our pro bono hour requirements but also for us to impact the most vulnerable members of our community such as the deaf and blind, women and children, the elderly and the LGBTI community. We couldn't reach as many communities as we do if it were not for ProBono.Org."

Sanelisiwe Nyasulu, Director,
 Garlicke & Bousfield Inc.

It is trite to note that many pro bono lawyers and firms dedicate themselves to matters that are often drawn out due to the complexities involved in these cases. For this period we take note of the following matters that were finalised by the end of September 2018:

In the matter of DN, a family approached the Joburg office through the Master's help desk for assistance with the administration of their late mother's estate.

We noted that the property of the deceased had already been transferred to one of the siblings and his wife, unbeknown to the other four siblings. The next-of-kin affidavit filed with the Master's Office falsely stated the current title holder as the only child of the deceased. The matter was referred to Robin Twaddle attorneys who brought an application for reversal of transfer of title before the South Gauteng High Court. The matter was finalised on 1 March 2018, with an order requiring that title revert back into the name of the deceased for proper administration of the estate and for all the entitled heirs to inherit as provided for in terms of intestate succession. To this end, the firm agreed to extend the brief to include an application to the Registrar of Deeds to effect the court order.

The Dobsonville Human Rights Centre presented an all too familiar picture of a spouse being disinherited by in-laws after the death of the other spouse. The difference in this matter was that it was the husband who was subjected to this unlawful act. Mr. R approached the office for urgent assistance. We drafted a letter to the clerk of the domestic violence court as the disinheritance was initiated using physical violence and further threats of violence should he attempt to access the property. A further complication was that the immovable property, an RDP house, had yet to be transferred to the client and his wife by the provincial department responsible. We wrote a letter to the clerk of the court detailing the circumstances around the unlawful eviction and the issue regarding access to the immovable property. The communitybased paralegal accompanied Mr. R to the court and ensured that he completed the application in terms of the Harassment Act and that service on the perpetrators was effected. The matter is pending but an interim order has been awarded allowing Mr. R back into the common home until the next court hearing.

An issue that has been prevalent in the refugee clinic is the blocking of identity numbers, which sees citizens and permanent residents being unable to submit their applications for ID documents. In the matter of S, a law graduate married to a South African citizen, she approached the clinic for assistance after being informed by Home Affairs that her ID number was blocked. The client was verbally informed of this block and was not given written reasons for the decision or advised of any appeal processes that she could undertake to challenge the decision. Our office wrote to the Regional Manager advising of the client's rights to just administrative action and that the blocking of her ID number is a decision that she was entitled to challenge within the department and take to court should the decision be upheld. S advised that she was told by the Regional Manager's office to submit a new application and that her previous application had been sent back because there was an issue with her fingerprints and that she must avail herself with her husband for an interview with the immigration officer. S advised in August 2018 that she attended the interview and her

application was successfully processed. Since finalising this matter S has gone on to open her own firm and volunteers her services to pro bono clients on a regular basis.





Wills Week

"It has been a pleasure working with the ProBono.Org Durban branch. All the staff are helpful, courteous and friendly to not only the attorneys, but also the clients. Their help desks at the various institutions are well run and organised."

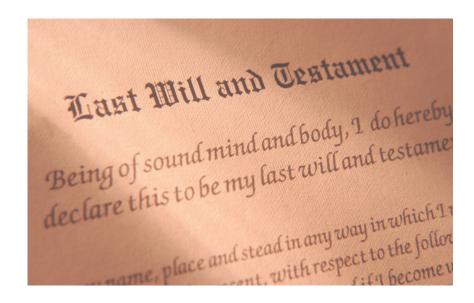
- Attorney Vinay Yetwaru

All three of our offices held a Wills Week in 2018 to assist with the large number of requests for wills resulting from our numerous wills workshops to highlight the importance of having a will and what needs to be included in one.

The Durban office saw a total of 60 clients at three locations in KZN. In addition, the seven wills workshops that were held reached an audience of 234 senior citizens. Overall, 145 wills were drafted by the Durban office in 2018.

The Johannesburg office conducted 11 wills training workshops in and around Johannesburg, Kagiso, Soweto, Orange Farm, Palm Ridge, Tembisa and the Chris Hani Baragwanath Palliative Care Unit. Our Wills Week saw a total of 100 wills being drafted for clients.

Five attorney firms participated in the Cape Town office Wills Week and drafted 46 wills.





Cape Town Staff 2018

Cape Town Office

Uzair Adams Naeelah Williams Asanda Conjwa

Regional Director Staff Attorney Administrator











Durban Staff 2018

Durban Office

Shamika Dwarika Trisha Dhoda Seshni Govender Gugulethu Makhanya Regional Director StaffAttorney Staff Attorney Administrator



Neliswa Ncama Akhona Mthembu Londeka Ndukuda





Johannesburg Staff 2018

Johannesburg Office

Michelle Odayan National Director Pretica Singh Finance Manager

Elsabe Steenhuisen Children's Project Manager

Family, labour and deceased estates attorney Nomaswazi Malinga

Phumzile Ngenelwa Office Manager

Margaret Fish Operations, Grants & Communications Manager

Tshenolo Masha Housing, Refugee and CAO paralegal

Lorraine Mashaba Data Capturer Fina Diba Administrator Nonkulumo Zuke Receptionist Nonkululeko Nomatshaka General Worker

Jhb interns:

Daphne Makombe Nelson Kesa Suraya McKenzie-Pillay Molebogeng Manyako Tshepiso Tsele





Volunteers 2018

Durban volunteers:

Juwairiya Ayhassin

Phumlani Buthelezi

Unathi Dlamini

Andile Cele

Sanele Zondi

Sphelele Mngoma

Nolwazi Gasa

Naseeha Momla

Mapuleng Mahlatsi

Ryan Grunder

Salesh Premjith Phumzile Mkhize

Bhekisa Mbhamali

Jade Faltain

Nthabiseng Kgomo

Pearl Khumalo

Sinenhlanhla

Makhanya

Ntombenhle Gumede Sinethemba Mkhize

Sanelisiwe Shangase

Sriya Harrishun

Tesslyn Lawrence

Zanele Ngema

Mandisah Mbense

Siphelele Xaba

Nomqhele Ndawonde

Oupa Khuzwayo

Ndondo Mtolo

Phindile Gwiji

Lindani Mazibuko

Cape Town volunteers:

Ilhaam Soeker

Gadija Fakier

Neetu Chadha

Joburg volunteers:

Zandi Mahlangu

Mukhethwa Chauke

Muchengeti Hwacha

Jorleyn Seloana

Nazaire Nduku

Pat Nkosi

Nomahlubi Radebe



Directors 2018



Ayanda Ngubo



Michelle Odayan



Erica Emdon (resigned December 2017)



Mohamed Randera



Ilan Lax



Seleka Morwe



Janet Love



Sushila Dhever



Wendel Bloem



Khalik Mayet



Donors 2018





































Financials 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

PROFIT COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 2007/002099/08

	2018	2017
	R	R
ASSETS	12 980 909	12 415 444
Non current assets	225 791	180 307
Equipment	225 791	180 307
Current assets	12 755 118	12 235 137
Accounts receivable	282 062	173 273
Investments	9 071 913	8 611 111
Cash and cash equivalents	3 401 143	3 450 753
Total assets	12 980 909	12 415 444
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	12 980 909	12 415 444
Reserves	3 885 679	2 764 706
Accumulated surplus	3 659 888	2 584 399
Equipment fund	225 791	180 307
Current liabilities	9 095 230	9 650 738
Accounts payable	85 228	159 062
Deferred income	8 768 000	9 290 000
Provision for leave pay	242 002	201 676
Total reserves and liabilities	12 980 909	12 415 444

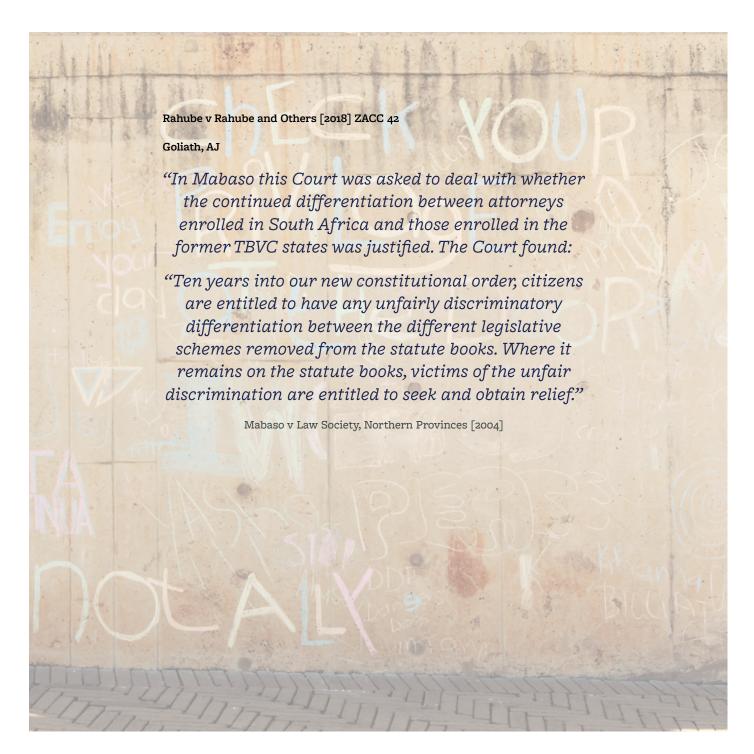
	2018	2017
	R	R
INCOME	12 082 724	11 713 881
Grants and donations	11 470 542	11 059 508
Interest received	612 182	654 373
Administration fees received	-	-
EXPENDITURE	10 854 195	11 061 207
Advertising and marketing	-	1 961
Annual report	34 869	58 701
Assets expensed directly	7 246	32 591
Audit fees	49 168	80 480
Award ceremony	6 147	127 998
Bad debts	-	1 558
Bank charges	22 148	21 522
Computer expenses	53 367	48 475
Consulting fees	154 331	374 337
Courier and postage	5 185	6 708
Directors emoluments	1 610 375	1 215 795
Equipment hire and maintenance	287 607	252 532
Evaluation	-	31 500
Insurance	66 385	54 561
Interest and penalties - SARS	-	7 083
Office supplies	85 665	116 497
Printing and stationery	72 591	53 124
Provision for leave pay	40 326	-
Refreshments and entertainment	25 520	24 538
Rent, parking, water and electricity	1 144 191	1 068 583
Repairs and maintenance	10 101	14 765
Salaries, wages and contributions	5 696 538	5 444 114
Secretarial fees	8 545	4 921
Seminars and workshops	861 382	1 266 801
Staff recruitment	96 170	63 596
Staff training	34 101	58 568
Subscriptions	16 323	18 239
Telephone	259 940	392 708
Travel and accommodation	156 993	175 977
Website costs	27 983	42 974
Workmen's Compensation	20 998	_
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	1 228 529	652 674
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	2 584 399	2 047 571
TRANSFER TO EQUIPMENT FUND	(153 040)	(115 846)
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	3 659 888	2 584 399

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE **INCOME FOR YEAR** ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

REGISTRATION NO. 2007/002099/08

GRANTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

GRANTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED	2018	2017
	R	R
GRANTS		
Anglo American Chairman's Fund	200 000	200 000
Claude Leon Foundation	-	400 000
Constitutionalism Fund	2 000 000	2 000 000
CS. Mott Foundation	978 134	983 586
Ford Foundation	-	942 199
H C I Foundation	229 000	50 000
Millennium Trust	1 390 000	1 236 800
Open Society Foundation	-	650 000
Raith Foundation	2 728 000	2 306 522
The ELMA Foundation	1 855 000	1 520 000
DONATIONS		
Bowmans	-	200 000
Butterworth LexisNexis	40 000	-
Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr	50 000	-
Fasken	150 000	140 000
Foundation for Human Rights	93 000	11 000
Investec Women's Trust	50 000	-
Johannesburg Bar Council	-	200 000
KwaZulu-Natal Law Society	73 500	42 000
Legal Aid SA	30 000	-
Open Society Foundation for South Africa NPC	1 303 288	
Webber Wentzel	200 000	
Werksmans Attorneys	40 000	40 000
Sundry donors	60 620	137 401
	11 470 542	11 059 508





JOHANNESBURG: 1st Floor West Wing,

Women's Gaol, 1 Kotze Street, Braamfontein 2017 **telephone:** 011 339 6080 **fax**: 086 512 2222

DURBAN: 303 Anton Lembede Street, Suite 701, 7th Floor, Durban Club Chambers, Durban 4001 **telephone:** 031 301 6178 **fax:** 031 301 6941

CAPE TOWN: Suite 200, 57 on Strand,

Strand Street Cape Town 8001

telephone: 087 806 6070 fax: 086 665 6740

