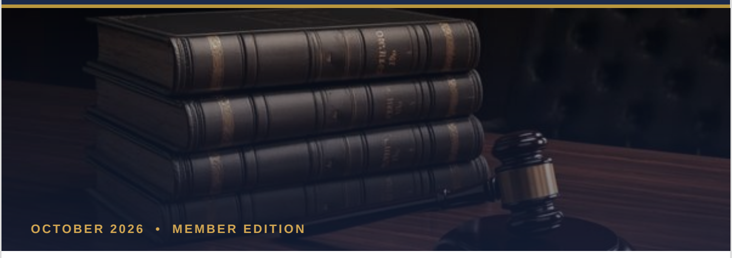
JOHANNESBURG
— ATTORNEYS' ASSOCIATION —

MEMBER NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2026


OCTOBER 2026 • MEMBER EDITION

FROM THE CHAIR

Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

It has been a busy few months for the JAA, with opportunities to come together, engage on issues affecting practice and take the Association forward. This edition brings together our updates from August, September and October, along with a look at what is still to come.

For now, I continue to serve as Acting Chairperson until the new Executive Committee, appointed at our 84th Annual General Meeting (AGM), holds its first meeting. That meeting will take place soon, and our December newsletter will introduce the Executive Committee members and the roles they will serve in for the new term.

One of the highlights of October was our 4th Annual Judges Function, held on Thursday, 1 October 2026, at The Garden Venue in Northriding. With a Great Gatsby theme, it was an opportunity to step away from our busy practices and spend time together. Thank you to everyone who joined us, our sponsors, Legal Serve, LexisNexis, Juta and Merhaba Legal Innovation Consultants, and our media partner, Venomized Media, for helping bring the evening together.

We then held our AGM on Wednesday, 7 October 2026, with members joining us at Baker McKenzie in Rosebank and online via MS Teams. Thank you to Baker McKenzie for hosting us as our venue sponsor, and to Legal Serve for sponsoring the catering.

At the AGM, we heard from Jozi My Jozi about their work to revitalise the Johannesburg High Court Precinct. Members also approved the constitutional changes circulated ahead of the meeting. These include changes to our membership tiers, which will take effect from the next membership renewal. The Executive Committee will share the details in early 2027, in line with the amended constitution. You will find a link to the resolution containing the updated constitution wording (which will be updated on our website during December), the AGM reports and full AGM pack further down in this newsletter.

We also look back at our Ladies High Tea, with thanks to Rodel Bridging Finance Co, C Van Dyk Attorneys, Karla Strydom Attorneys, Neil Stuart Attorneys, FicaFit and Incorporate Digital Solutions for their support.

Alongside these events, this edition includes developments relating to the Road Accident Fund (RAF) Damages Conference and a round-up of practice updates that are important for you to stay on top of. We know how important it is to have these updates when you need them, so please join the JAA's members-only WhatsApp Community if you have not already done so. Simply email info@jaa.org.za to request to join.

I'm also excited to share that the Criminal Court and Labour Court rolls are now available on our website. The journey of improving your digital experience with the JAA on our website is far from complete. We have appointed a new vendor, with great promise of improved security and website features to come in the next few months.

There is still plenty on the calendar before the year draws to a close. The JAA is a non-commercial association partner of Legal Innovation & Tech Fest 2026, taking place on 9 and 10 November 2026, giving our members access to a special discount. Our much-loved Court Online Practical Workshop returns on Wednesday, 11 November 2026, followed by our Lunch and Learn with Co-Operative Computing on Tuesday, 17 November 2026. The Gauteng Attorneys Association (GAA), of which you are automatically a member as a member of the JAA, is holding its AGM on 18 November 2026. More details on this are included later in this newsletter.

We are also working towards launching a Law Student Essentials campaign across our social media channels, with a focus on those preparing to enter the profession.

None of this happens without the people and organisations who support the JAA. To all our sponsors and partners this year, thank you: Anchor Capital, Legal Serve, Lamna, C Van Dyk Attorneys, Karla Strydom Attorneys, Neil Stuart Attorneys, FicaFit, Rodel Bridging Finance Co, LexisNexis, Juta, Sabinet, Incorporate Digital Solutions, Mzansi Ballet, Virgin Active, Merhaba Legal Innovation Consultants, Co-Operative Computing, Venomized Media, Clio, Echo Advisory, Baker McKenzie and HBGSchindlers.

And to our members, thank you for continuing to be part of the JAA. Whether you attend an event, share a concern, offer an idea or give us honest feedback, you help shape the Association and the work we do. That is what keeps the JAA a place where tradition and innovation meet.

Azhar Aziz-Ismail
Acting Chairperson, Johannesburg Attorneys' Association

EVENT RECAP

EVENT RECAP

4th Annual Judges Function

The Johannesburg Attorneys' Association (the JAA) held its 4th Annual Judges Function on Thursday, 1 October 2026 at The Garden Venue, Northriding. The evening had a Great Gatsby theme and brought the Johannesburg legal community together. Thank you to every member and guest who attended, and to our sponsors, Legal Serve, LexisNexis, Juta and Merhaba Legal Innovation Consultants. We also thank our Media Partner, Venomized Media. More from the evening is on our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026

Venue: The Garden Venue, Northriding

Sponsors: Legal Serve, LexisNexis, Juta and Merhaba Legal Innovation Consultants

Media Partner: Venomized Media

EVENT RECAP

EVENT RECAP

84th Annual General Meeting

The 84th Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg Attorneys' Association took place on Wednesday, 7 October 2026. The meeting was held as a hybrid event, in person at Baker McKenzie in Rosebank, and virtually on MS Teams.

The keynote address came from Jozi My Jozi about their work to revitalise the Johannesburg High Court Precinct. Members also approved the constitutional changes circulated ahead of the meeting.

Thank you to everyone who attended, to our Venue Sponsor, Baker McKenzie, and to our Catering Sponsor, Legal Serve.

Date: Wednesday, 7 October 2026

Venue: Baker McKenzie, Rosebank, and virtually on MS Teams

Venue Sponsor: Baker McKenzie

Catering Sponsor: Legal Serve

ACCESS THE FULL AGM PACK HERE

EVENT RECAP

East Rand Attorneys Social, 23 October 2026

An informal Friday afternoon social for East Rand attorneys was held on Friday, 23 October 2026 at Polpetta, The Neighbourhood Square, Linksfield. It started at 13:30 and had no speeches or agendas, just good company and conversation. Members of the JAA and non-members were all welcome.

Date: Friday, 23 October 2026

Venue: Polpetta, The Neighbourhood Square, Linksfield

EVENT RECAP

Gauteng Attorneys Association Golf Day, 23 October 2026

The Gauteng Attorneys Association hosted a golf day on Friday, 23 October 2026 at Randpark Golf Club, Firethorn Course. The day began with a shotgun start at 11:00, played as Better Ball Stableford, and ended with the prize giving dinner.

Date: Friday, 23 October 2026

Venue: Randpark Golf Club, Firethorn Course

EVENT RECAP • AUGUST

EVENT RECAP

Ladies High Tea, 22 August 2026

Our High Tea celebrating “the women we are and the ones we are becoming” sold out ahead of the day. Thank you to everyone who joined us at Lago Puccini Cafe & Lounge, Boksburg. Our guest speaker, Talitha Oosthuizen, Mrs South Africa First Princess 2026 and founder of the Bush Whisper Foundation, shared a memorable address with attendees. We thank our sponsors, Rodel Bridging Finance Co, C Van Dyk Attorneys, Karla Strydom Attorneys, Neil Stuart Attorneys, FicaFit and Incorporate Digital Solutions.

EVENT RECAP

RAF Damages Conference, 19 August 2026

The RAF Damages Conference: Earnings Under Scrutiny, hosted by Munro Forensic Actuaries, sold out ahead of its 19 August 2026 Johannesburg event. The JAA was formally represented by Yusuf Wadee, Treasurer of the JAA, RAF Subcommittee Lead and member of the Executive Committee, who used a five-minute slot to introduce the work of the JAA and its role in the RAF space. The conference covered how quantum is assessed and investigated in personal injury claims, including the hierarchy of proof and the experts needed for claims for loss of support and loss of earnings. Thank you to Rowan Harhoff, Dean Berndt, Kyle Stemmet, Julie Valentini and the team at Munro Forensic Actuaries.

LEGAL UPDATES • AUGUST TO OCTOBER

LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL

Direct Personal Supervision of Candidate Attorneys, Rule 22.1.3.1

The Legal Practice Council issued a directive on 31 July 2026, effective 3 August 2026, withdrawing its 23 November 2022 notice on remote working by candidate attorneys. A candidate attorney must serve in the office of their principal under the direct personal supervision of the principal or another admitted attorney in that office. Remote work as a standing arrangement, or supervision only by phone, email or video call, no longer satisfies the rule. Non-compliance is misconduct under the Code of Conduct, and service outside the rule may not count toward admission.

> MEMBER ACTION
>
> **Principals and candidate attorneys with non-compliant arrangements should have regularised them by 3 August 2026.**

READ THE FULL DIRECTIVE

GAUTENG DIVISION

Right of Audience Before the Taxing Master

The Judge President of the Gauteng Division, Judge A P Ledwaba, issued a directive dated 5 August 2026 on who may appear before the Taxing Master. It is in force in the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Pretoria, from 30 September 2026. Any attorney permitted to practise may appear before the Taxing Master. Candidate attorneys may not appear. Costs consultants who are not legal practitioners may only assist in the presence of an attorney or advocate permitted to practise, who takes responsibility for presenting the bill.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Candidate attorneys may not appear before the Taxing Master.**

READ THE DIRECTIVE AND NOTICE

SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

Monetary Jurisdiction Now R30,000

From 1 August 2026, the monetary jurisdiction of the Small Claims Courts increased from R20,000 to R30,000. There are 418 Small Claims Courts throughout South Africa, and matters are presided over by Commissioners appointed by the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. Anyone wishing to bring a claim may approach the Clerk of the nearest Small Claims Court, situated at a Magistrates' Court, for assistance.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **The R30,000 limit has been in effect since 1 August 2026.**

READ THE MEDIA RELEASE

LABOUR AND LABOUR APPEAL COURTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enhanced Case Management: Motion Proceedings and Urgent Court Administration

Directive 02 of 2026, effective 27 July 2026, introduces enhanced case management for motion proceedings and urgent court administration. A matter will not be enrolled unless it is procedurally compliant, with a complete, properly sequenced and updated Caselines bundle. Court Online remains the official filing platform. Caselines is the adjudication bundle used at the hearing, and scheduling on Court Online does not mean final enrolment.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Unopposed motions: the Caselines bundle must be uploaded within 5 court days of allocation and finalised 14 court days before the hearing. Urgent roll: full compliance by 13:00 on the Thursday before a Tuesday hearing week.**

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

GAUTENG DIVISION

Court Order of 28 September 2026 on the July 2026 Jurisdiction Determination

A court order was made by agreement on 28 September 2026 in case number 2026-217318. The application was brought by the Pretoria Society of Advocates and the Pretoria Attorneys Association. The order sets aside the determination published in Government Gazette 54935, Notice No. 7648, on 2 July 2026, as far as it relates to areas of jurisdiction under the Gauteng Division, Pretoria. The setting aside does not apply to the Gauteng Division, Johannesburg. The previous concurrent jurisdiction between Johannesburg and Pretoria continues to apply.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **The 2016 and 2018 notices continue to govern the areas of jurisdiction of the main seat and the local seat of the Gauteng Division.**

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

ROAD ACCIDENT FUND

The RAF Letter of 18 September 2026

Following the stakeholder engagement of 15 September 2026, the RAF wrote to the organised legal profession on 18 September 2026. The letter says the RAF has begun validating and reconciling its records, and that it intends to establish a joint technical committee. It also sets out matters the RAF has undertaken to consider, including an automated payment queue ordered by the date of a valid court order or settlement, a practitioner portal with a disputes desk, and a review of payment holds on valid court orders.

> PLEASE NOTE
>
> **The letter sets out undertakings to validate, review, evaluate and consider. It does not state that any new payment process is in place. This is a summary only and not legal advice.**

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

RANDBURG MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Liaison Meeting of 29 July 2026

The JAA reported back to members on 4 August 2026 on its liaison meeting with the Randburg Magistrate's Court. The court acknowledged that files take too long to become available after default judgment. Practitioners who cannot locate a file can report it to Ms Mazibuko, and the filing room keeps an arch-lever register of when default judgment files are allocated to and returned by Magistrates. Duplicate files must be initialled on the cover by the office manager and consolidated where the original is found. The turnaround for maintenance investigations is approximately 60 days, and a new investigator, Rosemary Skosana, has been appointed. Practitioners who encounter suspected bribery or misconduct can report it to a member of the EXCO of the JAA, and anonymous reports are welcome.

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

JOHANNESBURG HIGH COURT

Lead Times as at 31 August 2026

The Office of the Acting Deputy Judge President has published the lead times for the Johannesburg High Court. All periods exclude recesses. As at 31 August 2026, the opposed motions roll was running at 16 weeks, excluding the September and December recess periods, with an exact date of 15 February 2027. The unopposed motions roll was at 9 weeks, with an exact date of 10 November 2026.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Full turnaround times for every roll are in the bulletin on the JAA website.**

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

GAUTENG DIVISION

Practice Note on Actions Against the Road Accident Fund

On 26 October 2026, the Judge President of the Gauteng Division, Judge A P Ledwaba, issued a Practice Note on the institution of actions against the Road Accident Fund (RAF). The RAF has designated officials in Pretoria and Johannesburg, with dedicated email addresses, to identify, allocate and manage summonses issued against it. Practitioners are asked to invite these officials by email, preferably within five court days of issuing a summons via Court Online. The administrative measures do not replace the Rules on service of summonses. The email addresses are in the Practice Note.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Invite the designated RAF officials by email, preferably within five court days of issuing a summons via Court Online.**

READ THE PRACTICE NOTE

MEMBER RESOURCES

Useful Resources

Casual interpreter database. The Office of the Chief Justice's Language Service Provincial Service Centre, Gauteng, has published its updated list of casual interpreters available to the Gauteng Local Division, Johannesburg, covering local and foreign languages.

ACCESS THE DOCUMENT HERE

PARTNER EVENT

Legal Innovation & Tech Fest 2026

The JAA is proud to be a non-commercial association partner of Legal Innovation & Tech Fest 2026, where leaders from law firms and corporate legal departments come together to explore the ideas, technologies and strategies shaping the future of legal services. Members receive a R1,000 discount on tickets. Quote the code JAA1000 and email Dan Haynes to secure your discounted ticket.

Date: 9 and 10 November 2026

Venue: The Marriott Hotel, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg

Member discount: R1,000, with the code JAA1000

Tickets: dan@eventfulpeople.com

EMAIL FOR YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKET

COMING SOON

Law Student Essentials

The JAA will shortly be launching our Law Student Essentials campaign across our social media channels. Follow the JAA on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn so you do not miss it.

COMING UP

Save the Date

Three events to note in your diary.

11 Nov

NATIONAL COURTONLINE PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, 11 November 2026 • Online on Teams

The JAA's second Court Online Practical Workshop guides you on how to use the Court Online and Caselines systems efficiently. It addresses the Revised Consolidated Practice Directive for Gauteng and guides practitioners in other Divisions on issuing, filing, creating bundles and more. Time: 13:00 to 17:00. Price incl. VAT: R1,250.00 per person (members of the JAA R1,000.00). An exclusive step-by-step Court Online guidebook in electronic format is available after the workshop: R650.00 (members of the JAA R500.00). Questions at the end. No recording link will be provided. Limited space available.

To register, email viv@jaa.org.za

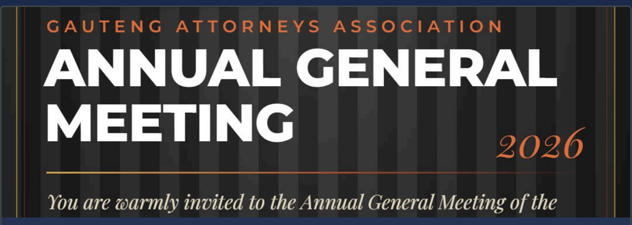
17 Nov

LUNCH AND LEARN

Tuesday, 17 November 2026 • The Capital Hotel, Melrose

Law firms hold a huge amount of valuable knowledge across matters, documents, emails and past work. The challenge is making it easy to find, reuse and act on when it matters. The Johannesburg Attorneys' Association and Co-Operative Computing invite legal professionals to a Lunch and Learn on how better document and email management, knowledge sharing and AI can help firms work more efficiently. The session looks at practical ways to make previous work easier to reuse, reduce the time spent searching and filing, and give attorneys better access to the information they need without compromising security or confidentiality. Time: 12:00. Seats are limited.

Register here


GAUTENG ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2026
You are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of the

Wednesday, 18 November 2026 • Melrose Arch, Johannesburg

The Gauteng Attorneys Association (GAA) invites you to its Annual General Meeting 2026 at 18:00. As a member of the JAA, you automatically have membership of the GAA. Further venue details are shared upon registration. RSVPs close on Monday, 16 November 2026 at 17:00.

To register, visit luma.com/425806oq

GAA AGM documents: Second notice of the AGM, Treasurer's report and annual financial statements

Did You Know?

Did you know you can access the latest court rolls, now including the Criminal Court and Labour Court rolls, reclassified and made easy to navigate, on the JAA website? Visit jaa.org.za

VISIT JAA.ORG.ZA

Member Benefit

As a member of the JAA you have access to exclusive WhatsApp groups where you can engage with the legal community, receive urgent updates, and stay connected with your peers across practice areas. Email viv@jaa.org.za to get added.

EMAIL VIV@JAA.ORG.ZA

Did You Know You Can Engage with the JAA on Social Media?

Click the icons below to follow, engage, and stay connected with the JAA community across our social platforms.

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

LINKEDIN

JOHANNESBURG
– ATTORNEYS' ASSOCIATION –

CONTACT US

HEAD OFFICE

Room 028, High Court Building
Von Brandis Square
Corner Von Brandis and Pritchard
Johannesburg, 2001

GET IN TOUCH

010 449 3023
viv@jaa.org.za
jaa.org.za
Office hours: 09:00 to 15:30

© 2026 Johannesburg Attorneys' Association. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the JAA.

Unsubscribe