JOHANNESBURG
ATTORNEYS' ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER • JULY 2026



FROM THE CHAIR

Message from the Chair

It has been a busy and productive July for the JAA. On the litigation front, the Johannesburg and Pretoria divisions of the High Court no longer have concurrent jurisdiction as of 1 July, and our High Court Sub-Committee met with the OCJ and the Court Online Technical team to escalate the Court Online and CaseLines issues so many of you have raised with us. Looking ahead, we are hosting an intimate Wine Pairing Evening on 30 July at The Grillhouse in Sandton, a relaxed evening in collaboration with Anchor to connect outside the courtroom.

Behind the scenes, our subcommittees have been hard at work, and soon you will start seeing a regular Subcommittee Spotlight series so you can see the full breadth

of what is being done on your behalf.

A reminder that the JAA website now works like an app on your phone, simply add jaa.org.za to your home screen for quick access to court rolls and member resources wherever you are. Save the date for our 4th annual Judges Function on 1 October, ticket sales open soon.

Thank you for your continued membership and support; your participation and feedback ensure that the JAA remains a space where tradition and innovation meet, and where our community continues to thrive.

Azhar Aziz-Ismail
Chairperson, Johannesburg Attorneys' Association



UPCOMING EVENT

A Delicious Wine Pairing Evening - 30 July 2026

The JAA, in collaboration with Anchor Capital, invites you to a delicious wine pairing evening at The Grillhouse, Sandton. A relaxed way to connect with fellow members outside the courtroom.

> **Date: Thursday, 30 July 2026**
>
> **Time: 17:30 for 18:00**
>
> **Venue: The Grillhouse, Sandton**
>
> **Cost: JAA member R200 | JAA non-member R250**
>
> **Sponsored by: Anchor Capital**

Limited seats available

EMAIL VIV@JAA.ORG.ZA TO BOOK

UPCOMING EVENT

JAA to Address Sold-Out RAF Damages Conference of Leading Quantification Experts

The upcoming RAF Damages Conference: Earnings Under Scrutiny, hosted by Munro Forensic Actuaries, has officially sold out ahead of its 19 August 2026 Johannesburg event. The fully booked conference will bring together a room of practising RAF attorneys alongside leading quantification experts for a focused, cross-disciplinary engagement on RAF earnings claims.

As part of this collaboration, the JAA will be formally represented at the conference, with a dedicated address to attendees. Yusuf Wadee, JAA Treasurer and RAF Subcommittee Lead, will introduce the work of the JAA, with a particular focus on its role and initiatives within the RAF space, and engage directly with both practitioners and expert panellists.

The conference itself responds to increasing scrutiny around RAF earnings claims, particularly where inconsistencies arise between industrial psychology assessments, financial evidence, and actuarial calculations. In a practical, case-driven format, an industrial psychologist, forensic accountant, and actuary will jointly interrogate real matters, covering earnings capacity assessments, financial records and earnings assumptions, and contingency versus direct loss adjustments.

Designed for attorneys seeking a more integrated and defensible approach to earnings evidence, the event prioritises practical insight over theory, with a focus on real-world application. Further insights and key takeaways from the conference will be shared with JAA members following the event.

Date: 19 August 2026

Venue: Johannesburg

Hosted by: Munro Forensic Actuaries

JAA Representative: Yusuf Wadee, Treasurer and RAF Subcommittee Lead

Status: Sold Out



PADEL UPDATE

JAA Social Padel Day: Rackets and Rulings - Padel Update

A huge congratulations to all of the winners at our JAA Social Padel Day. Thank you to everyone who came out to play, and a special thank you to our two sponsors, Anchor Capital and Legal Serve, for making the day possible.

Winners of the Plaintiffs Cup: Dane Cloete and Collin Arendse

Runners Up: Razina Seedat and Wasim Seedat

Winners of the Defendants Cup: Arshad Essop and Mohammed Quassim Khatani

Runners Up: Yusuf Saloojee and Salim Ebrahim



HIGH COURT SUB-COMMITTEE

Court Online / Caselines Stakeholders Meeting Report - 3 July 2026

The JAA's High Court Sub-Committee met with representatives of the OCJ and SITA on 3 July 2026 to raise ongoing Court Online and Caselines issues reported by members. Key points from the meeting: a system infrastructure upgrade is planned to address slowness caused by a surge in new user registrations (upgrade date still to be confirmed), missing case files are usually the result of a file being marked "inactive" and can be logged via the Teams link for correction, the high volume of email notifications is being investigated by SITA, and there is a document issuing backlog in both Johannesburg and Pretoria, driven partly by more than 20,000 new matters issued in Johannesburg alone in May 2026. Monthly technical meetings with SITA have now been agreed to resolve issues faster.

> MEMBER ACTION
>
> **Experiencing Court Online or Caselines issues? Keep escalating them to the JAA so they can be raised with SITA.**

READ FULL REPORT



LEGAL UPDATE

Johannesburg and Pretoria divisions of the High Court no longer have Concurrent Jurisdiction - Effective 1 July 2026

Government Gazette No. 54935 (GN 7648), published 2 July 2026 and signed by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, redetermines the areas of jurisdiction for the Gauteng Division of the High Court, effective 1 July 2026. Pretoria remains the main seat, covering the Tshwane Magisterial District, while Johannesburg is confirmed as the local seat, covering the Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, Sedibeng and West Rand Magisterial Districts. The notice withdraws the previous 2018 determination that covered Gauteng and North West jurisdiction jointly. Matters already on the court roll before 1 July 2026 will continue under the previous jurisdiction rules.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Confirm which seat now has jurisdiction over your matters before filing, particularly for anything issued after 1 July 2026.**

READ FULL NOTICE

HIGH COURT DIVISION

Caseflow Turnaround Times Bulletin - 15 June 2026

The Office of the Acting Deputy Judge President, Judge LT Modiba, has published updated caseflow turnaround times for the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Johannesburg, covering set down volumes and lead times across the major rolls, including opposed and unopposed motions, summary judgment, trial rolls and appeals. All periods exclude court recesses.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **Opposed Motions Roll: approximately 14 weeks to set down (excluding June and September recess). Unopposed Motions Roll: approximately 5 weeks.**

VIEW FULL BULLETIN

LEGAL UPDATE

Small Claims Courts Monetary Jurisdiction Increased to R30 000

The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development has confirmed that, from 1 August 2026, applicants may institute a claim of up to R30,000 in the Small Claims Courts, up from the current R20,000 limit. Small Claims Courts allow minor civil claims to be brought in a speedy, affordable and simple manner without using an attorney, with matters presided over by Small Claims Courts Commissioners drawn from a pool of experienced legal professionals and academics who provide their services free of charge.

> KEY UPDATE
>
> **The new R30,000 limit takes effect 1 August 2026, up from the current R20,000 cap.**

READ THE MEDIA RELEASE

MEMBER TIP

JAA on the Go: Add the JAA to your Home Screen

Did you know you can access the JAA like an app, without downloading anything? Add jaa.org.za to your home screen on Apple or Android and get quick access to court rolls, member resources and updates wherever you are.

> **Apple: Tap Share, then Add to Home Screen**
>
> **Android: Tap Menu, then Add to Home Screen**

VISIT JAA.ORG.ZA

MEMBER BENEFIT

JAA Exclusive WhatsApp Groups

As a JAA member 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

COMING UP

Save the Date

Two unmissable JAA events on the horizon. Mark your calendar and watch this space for full details.



Save the Date • 22 August 2026

Join us for a High Tea celebrating "the women we were then, the women we are now, and those who we are becoming." Our guest speaker is Talitha Oosthuizen, Mrs South Africa First Princess 2026. Venue: Lago Puccini Cafe & Lounge, Park Road, Parkhaven, Boksburg, inside La Como Estate.

Watch this space for full details.



Save the Date • 1 October 2026

The JAA's 4th annual Judges Function returns this October. Ticket sales open soon, venue and full details to follow. For sponsorship enquiries, email **events@jaa.org.za**.

Watch this space for full details.

Did You Know?

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

VISIT 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.



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LINKEDIN

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