

14 December 2022

Dear Legal Practitioners

### **A review of 2022 and marginal fee increase for the year 2023**

The current Council of the LPC commenced its tenure of office on 01 November 2021, becoming the second elected Council that is required to serve for a period of three years ending on 31 October 2024.

From 2018 to 2021, it was all about getting the basics in place – which includes but not limited to the establishment of offices in all nine (9) Provinces, mapping out LPC operations and ensuring that there is enough capacity to execute our mandate as outlined by the Legal Practice Act of 28 of 2014 (LPA).

As part of building on the excellent foundational work done by the previous Council, the current Council continues to work studiously to take the LPC to the next level. The first step is prioritizing on crucial milestones set out by the LPA and in March, we held a successful election process for the 9 Provincial Councils. Similar to the election of the national council, this process is vital to the functioning and regulation process of the LPC. The Council oversees our work in each province and ensures that the LPC is accessible and close to the ground across all provinces. Other successful initiatives include the: Introduction of digital ID cards, gazetting of the Legal Sector Code and continued legal educational support through our collaboration with SASSETA.

Furthermore, since coming into office, the current Council took to heart the complaints received from the profession and has focused on improving the efficiencies within the LPC. To this end, earlier this year we invested in a new telephone system which aimed to address problems such as: processes not being uniform; Unanswered Calls or Calls being disconnected and Engaged Calls. Our telephone system is now in place and a significant number of concerns are getting resolved, although we keep being affected by loadshedding - we will continue to work to ensure legal practitioners can reach the LPC when they need to do so.

Strengthening the quality and efficiency of our service will remain a priority and our team of over 350 staff, continues to work hard to improve our turnaround times and responses to queries raised by legal practitioners. On average, we handle 2 000 calls a week and on average we are dealing with 6 000 to 8 000 submissions, requests or complaints at any given point.

The LPC will also continue to support the profession through processes such as: Facilitating enrolment of legal practitioners, registration of Practical Vocational Training contracts, conversions, Competency Based Examinations and Fidelity Fund Certificates as well as providing information on our platforms including our website.

## A marginal fee increase for the year 2023

There has been no increase in the fees charged since the Council came into operation four years ago, in November 2018, and the Council has resolved that an increase of 15% has to be levied to sustain the operations of Council.

This is also taking into account the expanding mandate of the LPC (especially the Appeals system which will be introduced by the appointment of the Ombudsman), the increasing expectations on the LPC as the regulator of the legal profession. Given the changes in expectations and the challenging global environment, the Council of the LPC has resolved that certain number of **the fees that are provided for in terms of the Legal Practice Act and Rules will be increased with effect from 1 January 2023.**

In the interests of assisting candidate attorneys, the Council is not increasing the fees for the registration of practical vocational training contracts (Rule 2.1) and examinations (Rule 5).

The following table shows the fees that will be increased, including the fees that have been charged to date:

### Proposed fees to LPC for 2023

	<b>Rule: 2 Application fees</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
1	Registration of a practical vocational training contract, and the examination fee	R345	<b>R345</b>
2	Issuing of a certificate of good standing	R175	R200
3	Cession of a practical vocational training contract, and the examination fee	R345	<b>R345</b>
4	Enrolment of a legal practitioner or re-enrolment of a person whose name was removed from the roll as a legal practitioner or as a notary or conveyancer at his or her own request	R460	R530
5	Re-enrolment as a legal practitioner, and/or as a notary or conveyancer, after the name of that legal practitioner being struck off the roll	R2 875	R3 305
6	Enrolment as a notary	R690	R795
7	Enrolment as a conveyancer	R690	R795
8	Registration for the legal practice management course in terms of section 26(1)(c)(ii) of the Act or application for exemption from attendance at the course	R460	R530
9	Conversion of enrolment in terms of section 32(1)(a) of the Act	R690	R795
10	Conversion of enrolment by an advocate in terms of section 32(1)(b) of the Act	R690	R795
	<b>Rule 3: Annual fees for Fidelity Fund certificates</b>		
	The fee payable on application for a Fidelity Fund Certificate	R345	R395
	<b>Rule 4: Annual Fees payable by all legal practitioners</b>		
	Annual fees payable by practising legal practitioners who have been on the roll for the first two years	R1 725	R1 985
	Annual fees payable to the Council by practising legal practitioners who have been on the roll for more than two years	R4 025	R4 630

	<b>Rule 5: Fees payable in respect of examinations conducted by the Council</b>		
	1. The examination referred to in section 26(1)(d) of the Act (candidate legal practitioners); 2. The examination referred to in section 26(2) of the Act (conveyancers); 3. The examination referred to in section 26(3) of the Act (notaries).	R345	R345

You are reminded that in terms of clause 3.16 of the Code of Conduct legal practitioners and candidate legal practitioners shall pay promptly all amounts which are legally due or payable in respect of fees, charges, levies, subscriptions, penalties, fines or any other amounts of whatsoever nature levied in terms of any powers arising under the Act or the rules.

**Issued by the Legal Practice Council**